

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH

December 18, 2025  
Notice Issue Date

Chatham County  
City / County

January 20, 2026  
Notice Close Date

TISPP-2026  
Control Number

Sec. 401 Water Quality Certification  
Tybee Island Shoreline Protection Project – US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Project

This notice is issued to inform the public that a request has been received for water quality certification (WQC) in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The public is invited to comment during this 30-day period on the proposed activity. Information pertaining to the project is attached to this notice. Since the request is specific to 401 WQC, only comments pertaining to water quality are considered under the certification review process. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to: [EPD.WQC@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPD.WQC@dnr.ga.gov). Comments may also be provided in writing to: Program Manager, Wetlands Unit, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. SE, Suite 1052 East, Atlanta, GA 30334. Include the words “Water Quality Certification Comment” and the Control Number above in the e-mail subject line or on the top of the first page of written comments to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate staff. For additional information, contact Dewey Richardson at [dewey.richardson@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:dewey.richardson@dnr.ga.gov).

Type of Permit Application: 401 Water Quality Certification

Applicable Law: Federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1341

Applicable Rules: 40 CFR part 121

Description and Location of Proposed Activity:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, is seeking a Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the periodic and emergency renourishment of the federal template as currently authorized through 2036, as defined by the 13,200 linear feet of beach along Front Beach, 1,100 linear ft along the South Tip (South Tip Beach), and the 1,800 linear feet of the eastern bank of Tybee Creek to the city fishing pier (referred to as Back River Beach). Periodic nourishments would occur approximately every 7 years or as needed based on rate of erosion, with the first anticipated in 2026-2027. Emergency nourishments would occur based on supplemental funding and authorizations provided as needed (i.e., in the event of damages incurred by a tropical storm system). Placement will occur with a hydraulic cutterhead dredge. Heavy equipment such as bulldozers will be used to shape the material to design specifications. The Front Beach design includes a berm at elevation 11.2 ft MLLW with a tolerance of +0.5 ft and a slope of 1-vertical to 25: horizontal. The design for the Back River and South Tip Beach includes a berm at elevation 11.2 ft MLLW with a tolerance of +0.5 ft and a slope of 1-vertical to 15-horizontal. Beach tilling and sand compaction testing is required upon completion of fill placement.

Name and Address of Permit Applicant: Ms. Suzanne Hill, Environmental Section Chief  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District  
Planning Branch  
100 West Oglethorpe Ave.  
Savannah, GA 31401

## **1. Description of the Proposed Action**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (USACE) proposes to place beach-quality sand along the federal template as defined by the 13,200 linear feet of beach along Front Beach, 1,100 linear ft along the South Tip (South Tip Beach), and the 1,800 linear feet of the eastern bank of Tybee Creek to the city fishing pier (referred to as Back River Beach). The proposed federal action includes beach nourishments that will occur periodically or as needed under emergency conditions for the remaining duration of the Tybee Island Shoreline Protection Project (TISPP) (through 2036). Periodic nourishments would occur approximately every 7 years or as needed based on rate of erosion, with the first anticipated in 2026-2027. Emergency nourishments would occur based on supplemental funding and authorizations provided as needed (i.e., in the event of damages incurred by a tropical storm system).

The original Federal TISPP was authorized by Senate and House Resolutions dated June 22 and June 23, 1971, respectively, pursuant to Section 201 of the Flood Control Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-298), as presented in House Document No. 92-105, for a life of 10 years. The authority for Federal participation in periodic renourishment of beach projects was increased from 10 years to 15 years by Section 156 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 1976 (P.L. 94-587, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5f)). Since these initial authorizations, there were several revisions to the WRDA with the most recent occurring in WRDA 2022.

USACE has previously placed material within the federal template with the first renourishment occurring in 1975, the latest renourishment was an emergency renourishment occurring in 2020 as a result of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. USACE recently received Congressional authorization to extend the project through 2036, the initial placement under the reauthorization is expected to occur in 2026-2027.

TISPP will replenish the volume of sand lost due to erosion and storm events, increase the storm protection function of the beaches, and maintain or improve resiliency of the beaches within the project limits and over the project's lifetime. USACE will utilize hydraulic cutterhead dredges for this project. USACE will place approximately 1.5 million cubic yard (cy) of dredged material from the 2019 Expansion Area in the Tybee Island Borrow Area onto the degraded beach.

## **2. Specific Location of Any Discharge(s)**

The proposed placement site is along the federal template on Tybee Island, including the Front Beach, South Beach Tip, and Back River Beach. Placement will occur with hydraulic cutterhead pipeline and support equipment. A submerged pipeline will extend from the borrow site to the southerly tip of Tybee Island. Shore pipe will be progressively added to perform fill placement along the federal template areas to be renourished. Temporary toe dikes will be utilized in a shore parallel direction to control the hydraulic effluent and reduce turbidity. The sand will be placed in the form of varying

design templates based upon longshore volumetric fill requirements which reflect beach conditions at the time of construction. Additional beach fill will be strategically placed in areas of documented highest erosional stress such as the 2nd Street “hot spot”. Heavy equipment such as bulldozers will be used to shape the material to design specifications.

The Front Beach design includes a berm at elevation 11.2 ft MLLW with a tolerance of +0.5 ft and a slope of 1-vertical to 25: horizontal. The design for the Back River and South Tip Beach includes a berm at elevation 11.2 ft MLLW with a tolerance of +0.5 ft and a slope of 1-vertical to 15-horizontal. Beach tilling and sand compaction testing is required upon completion of fill placement.

### **3. Map or Diagram of the Proposed Activity Site**

Figure 1. Beach Nourishment Locations on Tybee Island

Figure 2. Tybee Offshore Borrow Area. The purple 2019 Expansion Area is the source of material for this effort.

### **4. Description of Current Site Conditions**

The shoreline of Tybee Island experiences significant erosional loss along the Oceanfront area and the Back River. The risks from coastal storms have increased in the area because of the historic erosion rates across the beach, in areas known as hot spots, have decreased available protection. Recent surveys indicate that the shoreline loses approximately an average of 178,432 cy of material annually. These hot spots create areas that are vulnerable to storm surge and wave attack. This can cause damage to infrastructure and existing dunes, which would lead to breaches in the federal template.

### **5. Proposed Construction Dates**

- Start of Construction: Late 2026
- Completion Date: Early 2027
- Approximate Date of Discharge: Discharge of fill material onto the placement site would approximately begin in late 2026, as soon as issuance of required permits and dredge timelines. Estimated construction duration is approximately 65 days.

### **6. Other Agency Authorizations Required**

The USACE will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act through the completion of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action. The public comment period for the EA will be January 10 through January 24, 2026. The USACE will obtain concurrence for CZMA from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Department. USACE is also consulting under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for ESA-listed species within the project area. The project is covered by the

2020 SARBO, and therefore section 7 consultation with NMFS is completed. Finally, the USACE is consulting with NMFS Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) for essential fish habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Act in the project area.

## **7. Pre-Filing Meeting Request Documentation**

USACE conducted a pre-filing meeting for the project on August 14, 2025.



**Figure 1. Beach Nourishment Locations on Tybee Island**



**Figure 2. Tybee Island Offshore Borrow Area. The purple 2019 Expansion Area is the source of material for this effort.**

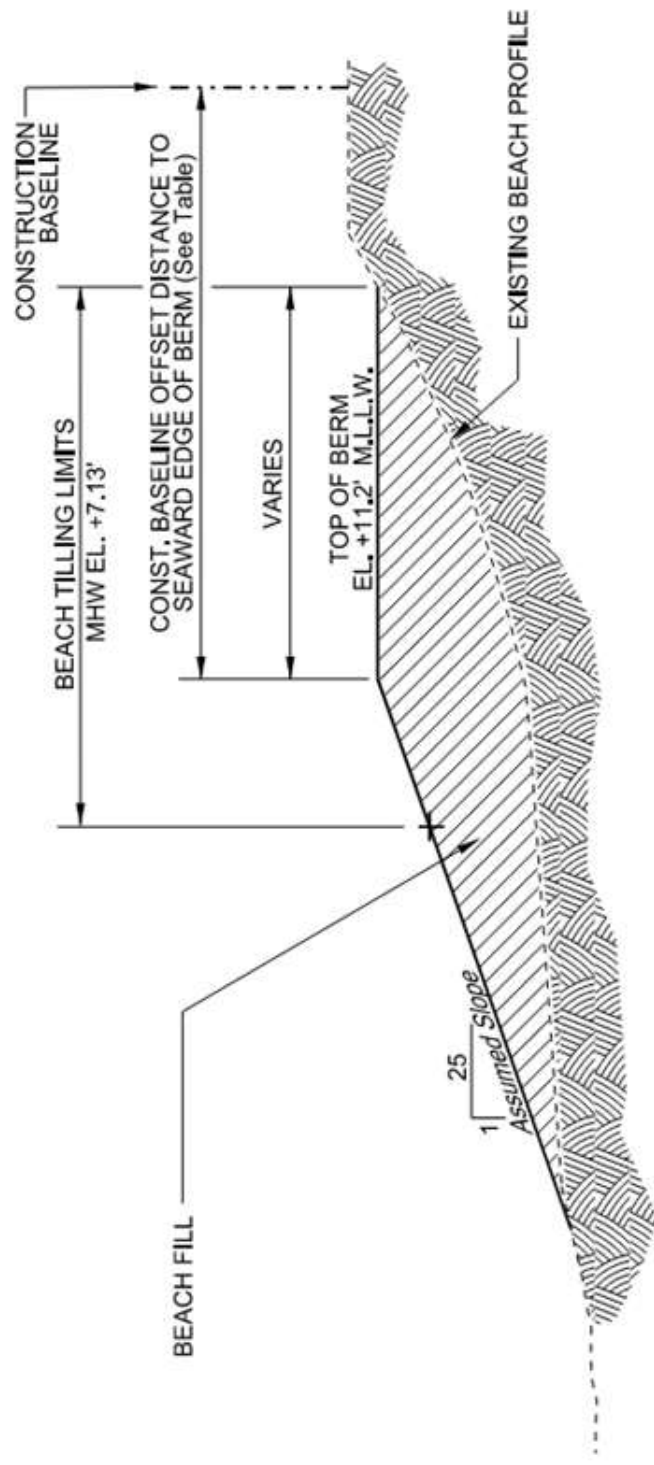


Figure 3. Front Beach and South Tip Beach Example Cross Section

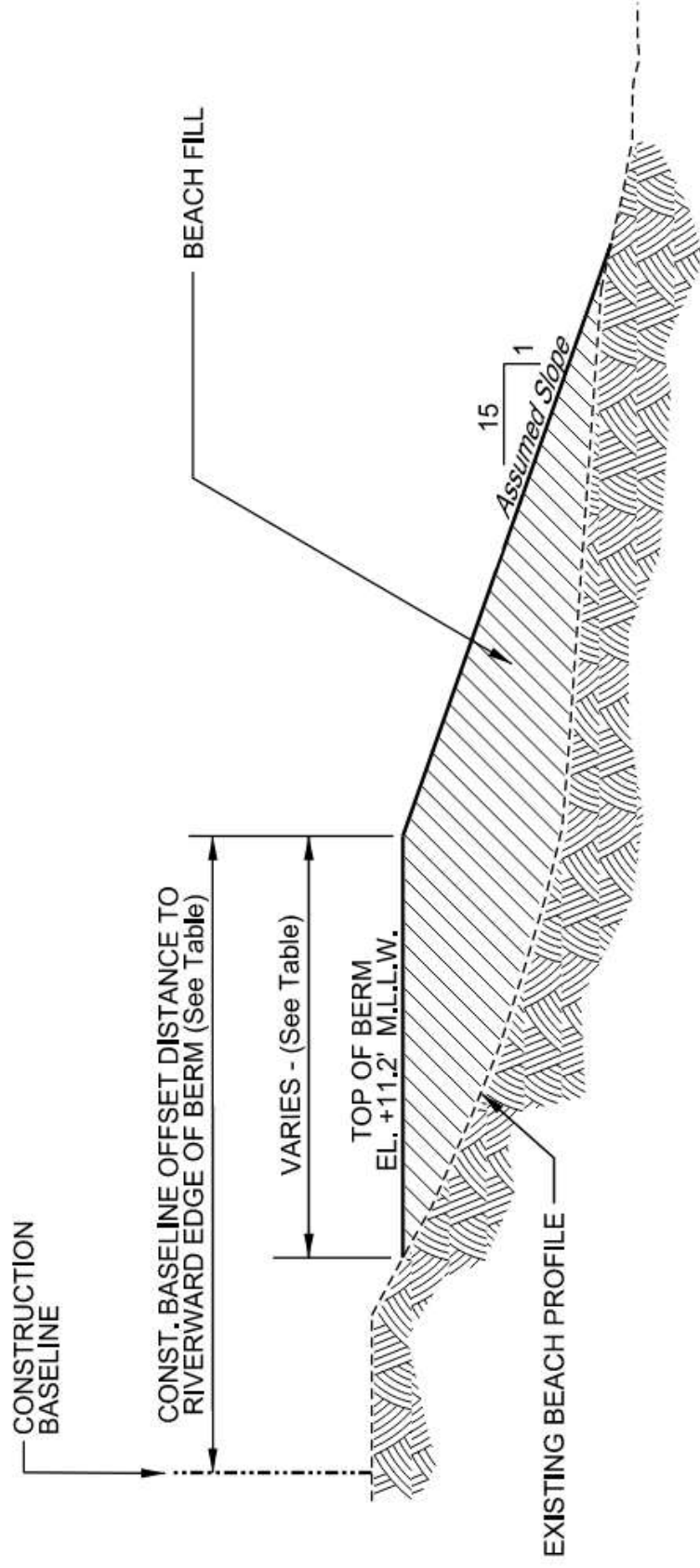


Figure 4. Back River Beach Example Cross Section