GreenPort of Baltimore

Potential Projects

FOR DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

Quick Facts

- Placement capacity is needed for at least 5 million cubic yards of dredged material every year
- The MPA is required to have a rolling, 20-year plan for managing dredged material
- The MPA is exploring potential options through Coke Point, Confined Aquatic Disposal, and Innovative Reuse

Every year, approximately 5 million cubic yards of sediment are dredged from the Chesapeake Bay and Baltimore Harbor to maintain the current 50-foot depth of shipping channels. And every year, the dredged material must be moved to a new location.

Finding sites with enough capacity for this volume of dredged material is an on-going challenge — and state law requires the Maryland Port Administration (MPA) to have a rolling 20-year plan. Anticipated growth in both the volume of cargo and the size of the ships expected to call on the Port of Baltimore in the future has added pressure to the task. Three interesting options are currently being explored.

- **Coke Point:** The MPA would like to purchase 300 acres of the Sparrows Point property known as Coke Point for a new dredged material placement site. The area would be restored from its current degraded condition and diked to contain up to 20 million cubic yards of dredged material over a 20-year timeframe. Once filled to capacity, the new land could be used as additional terminal space for cargo. Negotiations to secure the property are ongoing.
- **Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD):** A demonstration project near the Masonville dredged material placement site will test a technique called Confined Aquatic Disposal, which has been used successfully in other ports. The project involves dredging clean sand from an underwater site and moving it to a staging area for reuse. The resulting underwater cavity will be filled with dredged material. The underlying layer of clay serves as a barrier that prevents deposited sediments from spreading to adjacent water or aquifers. The project is expected to begin in 2016.
- **Innovative Reuse:** The MPA is exploring technologies that could potentially recycle substantial amounts of dredged material. Examples include using dredged material to mitigate mined-out sand and gravel pits; restore eroded farmland; produce bricks, blocks, and other construction materials; create topsoil; cover landfills; and cap brownfields. MPA demonstration projects include the development of lightweight aggregate and roadbuilding material. The economics of producing and marketing new products over a sustained period of time, however, has delayed the launch of a large-scale project.

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