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J. Randy Forbes
United States Congress

4th District, Virginia

December 3, 2010

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LAKE CENTER II - SUITE 104
CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320
(757) 382-0080

Mr. Clyde Tysor
117 Bennetts Creek Landing
Suffolk, Virginia 23435

Dear Mr. Tysor:

Enclosed is correspondence I have received in response to my inquiry on your behalf.

I appreciate the opportunity to be of service and I hope you will not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

With kind personal regards, I am

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Randy Forbes".

J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress

JRF:BY

Enclosure



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NORFOLK DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT NORFOLK 803 FRONT STREET
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23510-1096

November 29, 2010

RECEIVED
DEC 02 2010

J. Randy Forbes, M.C.
Chesapeake, VA

Executive Office

Honorable J. Randy Forbes
Representative in Congress
505 Independence Parkway
Lake Center II-Suite 104
Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

Dear Representative Forbes:

I am replying to your letter dated November 16, 2010, which enclosed correspondence from Mr. Clyde Tysor and Mr. Jeffrey Lynch, expressing interest in the Bennetts Creek Federal Navigation Project located in Suffolk, Virginia.

Bennetts Creek is a shallow-draft, low-use Federal navigation channel within the Norfolk District, and was last dredged in fiscal year 2007. The project supports commercial fishermen and a commercial boatyard. The City of Suffolk, as local sponsor, pays 41% of the cost of dredging and pays for the cost of placement of dredged material at the Craney Island Dredged Material Management Area.

We continue to monitor the condition of the project since the last maintenance dredging event, in coordination and cooperation with the U.S. Coast Guard and City of Suffolk. Our most recent survey reveals that the Bennetts Creek channel is shoaling significantly. Project users are having a very difficult time using the channel in a safe and efficient manner. Dredging is needed to remove the shoals and restore the channel to a maintained depth of 6 feet below mean lower low water.

As you know, the President's budget has given low priority in the last few years to funding shallow draft projects with low tonnage and usage, such as Bennetts Creek. We continue to express our capability through the Federal budget process for the remaining 59% Federal portion to dredge the project. For your reference, the most recent Project Fact Sheet is enclosed and was also provided to the local sponsor in May 2010. Until these funds are specifically allocated for us to perform maintenance dredging, we can only monitor the channel shoaling through periodic surveys. Recent budgets have provided funding for condition surveys of the channel, but not the funding for our portion to dredge Bennetts Creek.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Backus, P.E., PMP
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

Enclosure

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DEC 02 2011

FACT SHEET
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, GENERAL

J. Randy Forbes, M.C.
Chesapeake, VA

PROJECT NAME AND STATE: Bennetts Creek, Virginia

AUTHORIZATION: The project was approved by the Chief of Engineers in 1992 under authority of Section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960.

<u>SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA:</u>	FY 2011
Estimated Federal Cost	\$ 447,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$ 310,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ 757,000
Allocation for FY 2008	\$ 0
Allocation for FY 2009	\$ 0
Proposed Allocation for FY 2010	\$ 0
Budget Request for FY 2011	\$ 0
Balance to Complete After FY 2011	\$ n/a
FY 2011 Capability	\$ 447,000

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: In Suffolk, Virginia, Bennetts Creek is a tributary of the Nansemond River. The authorized navigation project provides for a channel 6 feet deep and 60 feet wide from the 6-foot contour in the Nansemond River to the 6-foot contour within the mouth of Bennetts Creek and extending upstream to the city boat ramp at Bennetts Creek Park, a distance of approximately 2.4 miles.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2010: Funds in the amount of \$50,000 could be used to start work on pre-dredging permit compliance, and preparing contract plans and specifications.

APPLICATION OF THE AMOUNT THAT COULD BE USED IN FY 2011: The Bennetts Creek navigation project requires maintenance dredging to remove hazardous shoals within the entrance channel. The requested funding will be used to prepare plans and specifications, advertise and award a dredging contract, perform hydrographic surveys, pay contractor's earnings, perform contract administration and related activities.

ISSUES AND OTHER INFORMATION: The project supports commercial fishermen and a commercial boatyard located on Bennetts Creek. The Bennetts Creek channel was last dredged on in FY2007 by contract. The controlling depth in the channel was reported to be 3.1 feet at low water in February 2008 and conditions have significantly worsened. The City of Suffolk, as local sponsor, pays 41% of the cost of dredging and pays for the cost of placement of dredged material at the Craney Island facility.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: The Administration supports commercial navigation.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Warner (VA) and Webb (VA). Congressman Randy Forbes (VA-4.)

PROJECT MANAGER: Gregg Williams, P.E.
CENAO-TS-OD

Date: 21 May 2010