



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

March 7, 1996

Waterways & Ports Branch

Mr. Myles E. Standish  
City Manager, City of Suffolk  
Post Office Box 1858  
Suffolk, Virginia 23439

Dear Mr. Standish:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you the status of Bennetts Creek, an active navigation project within the City of Suffolk. The Bennetts Creek channel was approved as a new Federal project in 1991, leading to new work dredging by the Corps of Engineers in 1992. The construction and maintenance dredging of this channel are covered by a Local Cooperation Agreement. A copy of that agreement is enclosed for your use.

The channel has been actively used since 1992. In August, 1995, we surveyed the channel and found shoaling. The depth of 6 feet that was available after the dredging in 1992, is now reduced to a minimum depth of 4 feet. We have heard reports from Mr. Walter Price, a local resident and supporter of the project, that some of the larger boats are beginning to encounter navigation difficulties as a result of the shoaling in the channel. Also enclosed for your use, are a copy of the channel condition report and August, 1995, survey.

The maintenance of the Bennetts Creek project is the joint responsibility of the Corps of Engineers and the City of Suffolk, as spelled out in the Local Cooperation Agreement. Two major items are, the need for the City to provide an area for dredged material placement, and the City's 41% share of the cost of maintenance dredging, including engineering, supervision, and associated expenses. Obtaining a dredged material placement site can be very time consuming. Therefore, I recommend that an acceptable site be identified and secured before we request dredging funds from our higher authority. Without an identified dredged material site, we do not yet have a current cost estimate for the maintenance dredging. Based on similar projects, we would expect the total cost of the City's responsibilities for one maintenance dredging cycle to be in the range of \$150,000 to \$225,000. Please indicate if the City intends to continue its support of the Bennetts Creek project. If you or your staff need additional information, our point of contact for this project is Richard Klein at 804-441-7243.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ronald G. Vann".

Ronald G. Vann, P.E.  
Chief, Waterways and Ports Branch

Enclosures