JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107
and
THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

NOTE: THIS IS A CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT

CESAW-TS-PE
Refer to: P/N # 2005-1R-326

November 18, 2005

Morris Island Lighthouse Section 103
Charleston County, South Carolina

The Charleston District, Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, proposes to perform the work described herein with due consideration and review given to the relevant provisions of the following laws and others as applicable:

1. The Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, et. seq.).

2. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et. seq.).

3. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (U.S.C. 470, et. seq.) and the Preservation of Historical Archeological Data Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469, et. seq.).

4. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (42 U.S.C. 4321).

5. Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et. seq.).

6. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1801, et. seq.), Public Law 94-265.

7. Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended (U.S.C. 3501-3510).

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties of proposed construction for protection of the Morris Island Lighthouse, which is bounded on the north by the Charleston Harbor entrance channel, to the west by Morris Island, to the south by Lighthouse Inlet and Folly Island, and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean (see Figure 1).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received at this office until

12 0'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2005

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Morris Island Lighthouse (MILH) was originally constructed between the period of March 1873 and October 1876 on high ground (approximately 8 feet MLLW) on Morris Island. Progressive erosion along the coast has resulted in the lighthouse sitting approximately 1500 feet offshore in the shallow waters of Lighthouse Inlet. Access to the lighthouse is restricted to small draft vessels only.

The lighthouse was originally built on a timber foundation of 264 pilings. Marine borers have damaged 74 of the pilings, which are no longer available to carry their portion of the 3200-ton lighthouse. Much of the construction and design information of the original lighthouse is not available; however, reasonable assumptions indicate that, at present, the factor of safety is approximately 1.3. General engineering practice is to design for bearing capacity factors of safety in the range of two to three. Subsequently, it is concluded that the MILH is in jeopardy, over the long term, due to continued disintegration of the wood foundation.

The current plan of protection is to install a steel sheet pile wall in a circle around the lighthouse approximately ten feet outside of an existing sheet pile wall that was installed in 1939 (see Figure 2). This sheet pile wall would be encased in concrete down to a level approximately 3 feet below mean low tide. The finished appearance of the concrete will simulate brick through the use of a tinted admixture and a formwork pattern. The new sheet pile wall will be located approximately 36 feet from the center

of the lighthouse and will be surrounded by a rock scour apron using 1¾ ft. diameter rock. The scour apron will extend approximately 25½ ft. beyond the new sheet pile wall. The total footprint of the protection for the lighthouse will be approximately 7800 square feet.

Access to the lighthouse presents considerable challenges. The shallow water, shifting sand bars, tidal currents and ocean forces combine to create access and safety problems. Therefore, it is expected that a channel will be dredged from the deeper water of lighthouse inlet to the lighthouse. The exact location of this channel will be determined at the time of construction; however, its location will be inside the Area of Potential Effects shown in Figure 3. The maximum dimensions of the channel will be 2000 feet in length x 100 feet in width x 10 feet deep. The maximum quantity of dredge material is expected to be approximately 70,000 cubic yards. It is expected that dredge material will be pumped up around the lighthouse to provide better access for equipment and materials and pumped onto the north end of Folly Beach to facilitate access to the deeper water of lighthouse inlet. Some of the sand will also be placed into temporary geotubes to provide safety protection and erosion control at both the lighthouse and the north end of Folly Beach. The geotubes would remain in place until completion of the project, at which time they would be removed. Temporary mooring piles and bulkheads would be installed at the end of Folly and at the lighthouse end of the newly dredged channel to facilitate the access by the required marine equipment and materials being used during the construction of the project. These piles and bulkheads would also be removed when the project is completed. All of the work will occur inside the Area of Potential Effects shown in Figure 3.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This document serves as a public notice on behalf of the SCDHEC for water quality certification. A certification is required from DHEC stating that the proposed construction will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Clean Water Act. By this notice, the Charleston District requests DHEC to issue that certification. Persons wishing to comment on State Certification are invited to submit same in writing to SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, within 30 days of the date of this notice.

This project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program. By this notice, the Charleston District requests concurrence from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) that the proposed activity is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. Concurrence is conclusively presumed if no state action is received within 45 days of receipt of this notice.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein. This worksite is included as a registered property and further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office is on-going.

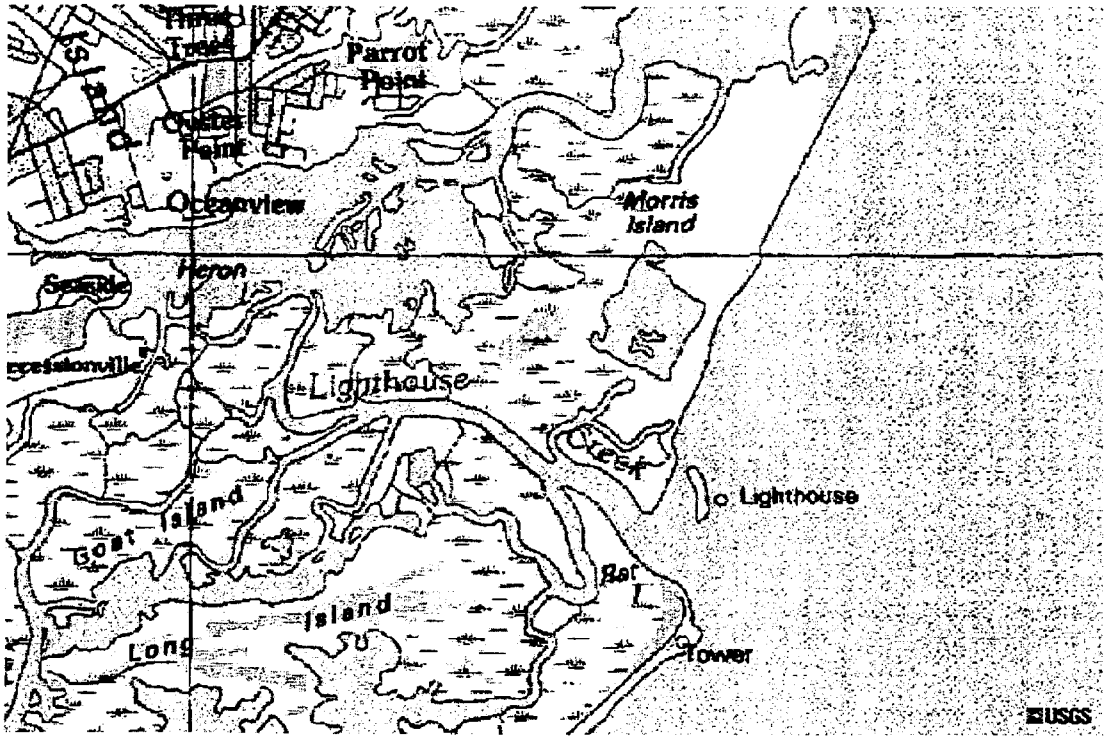
Section 7 Coordination has been initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding threatened and endangered species. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity, pursuant to Section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act or 1973 (as amended). Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act have been initiated. Coordination with NMFS is on-going.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed project. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. These requests should be made to DHEC at the address listed above.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to proceed with the project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Questions or comments concerning this notice should be directed to Mr. Bob Chappell or Mr. Alan Shirey at telephone numbers (843) 329-8162 or (843) 329-8166, respectively.

Joseph A. Jones for
Chief, Planning Branch



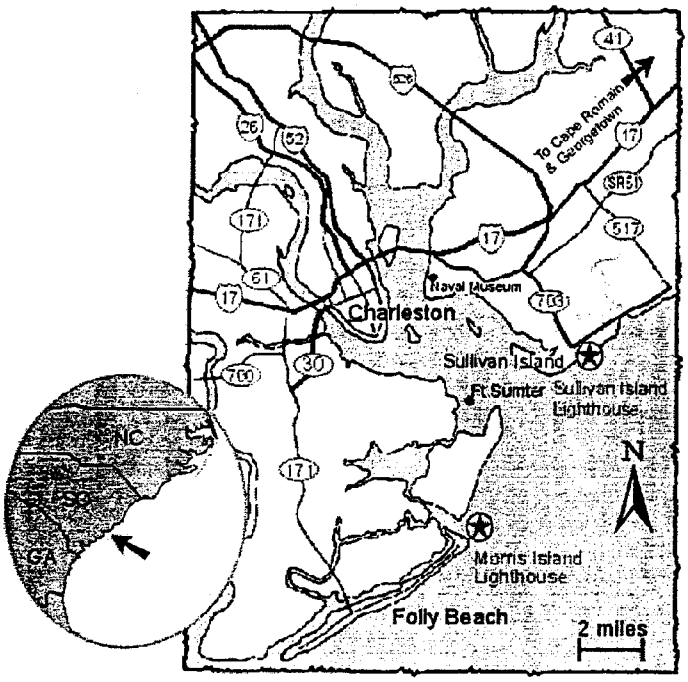


FIGURE 1: PROJECT LOCATION MAP

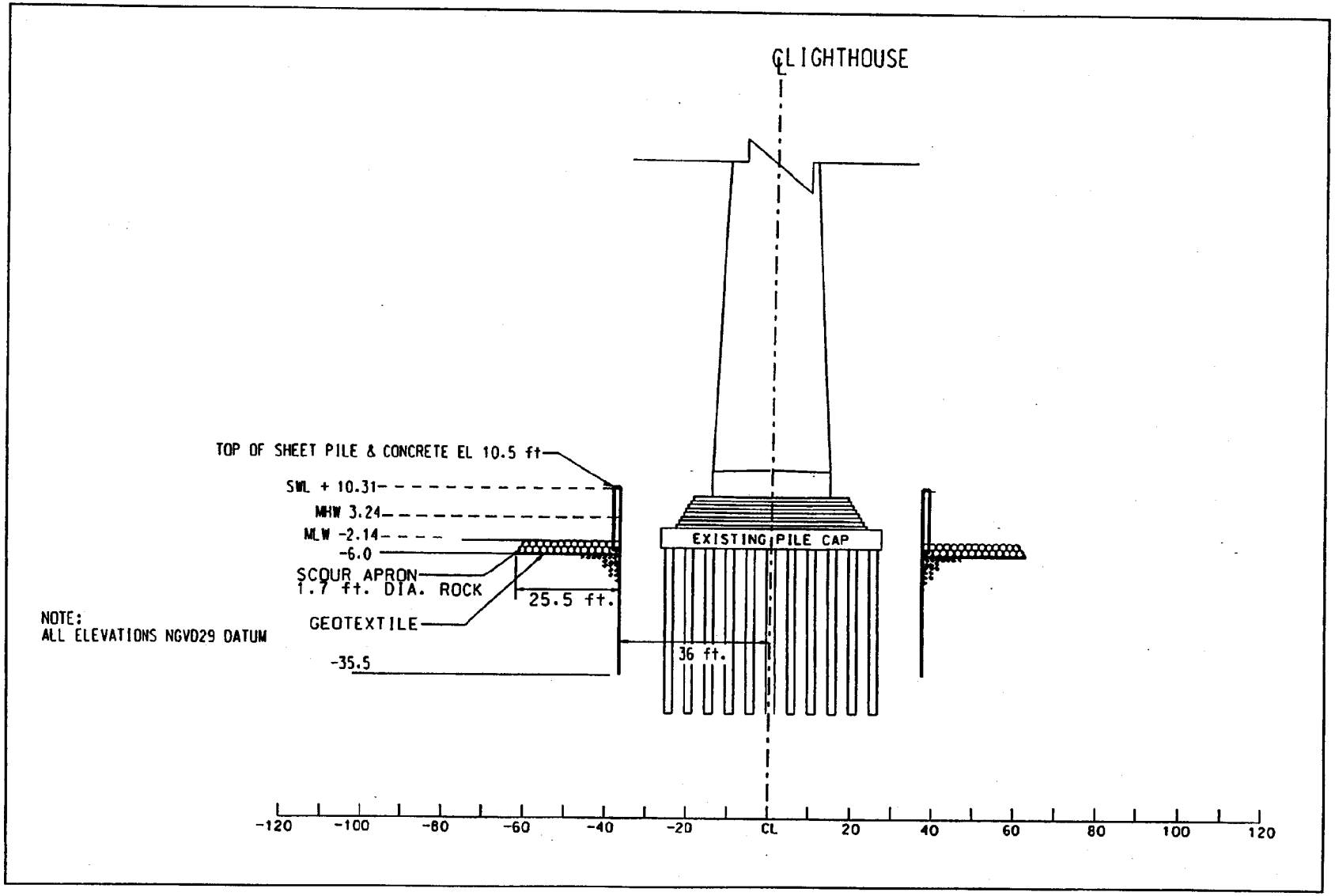


FIGURE 2: PLAN CROSS-SECTION

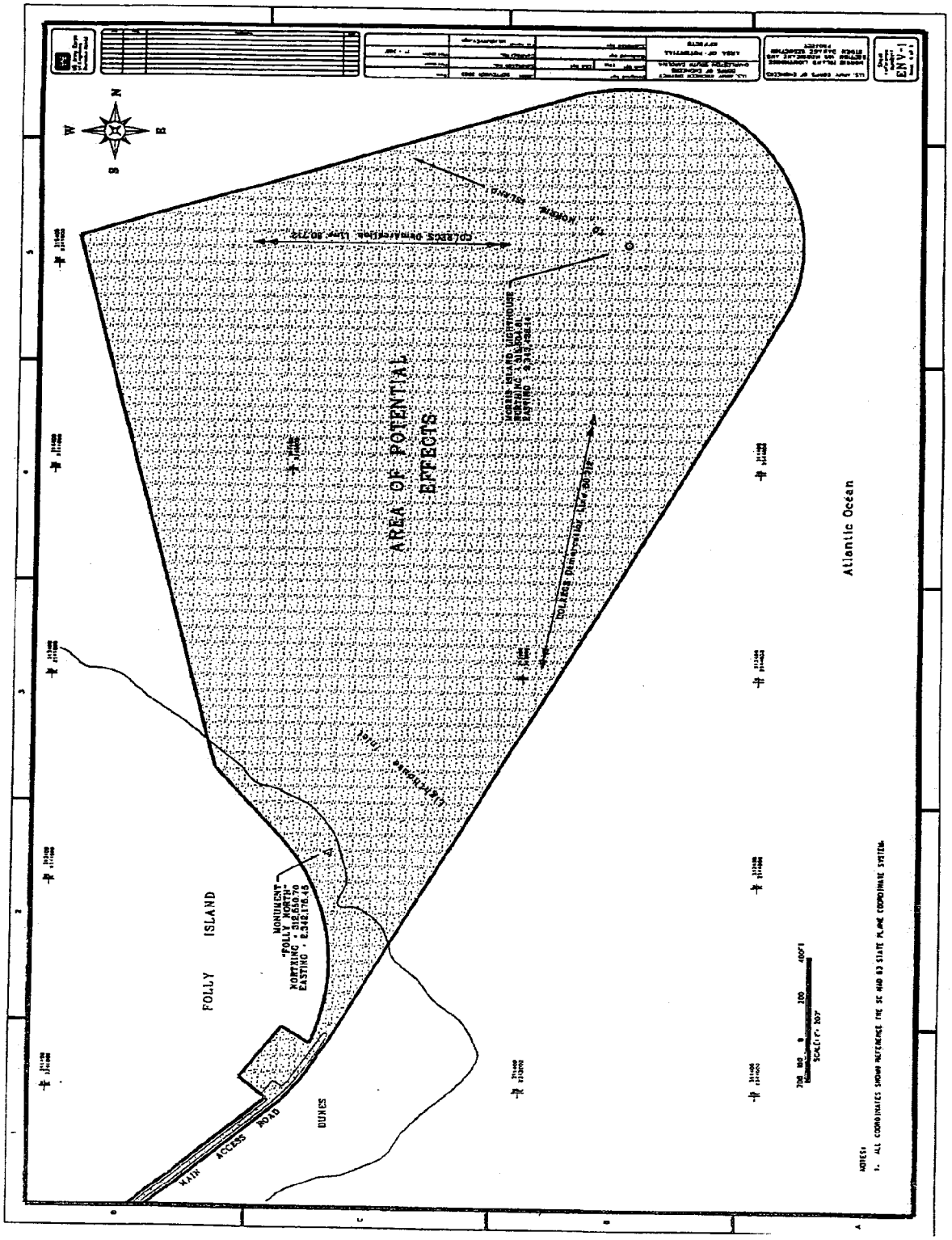


FIGURE 3: AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS