

GENERAL DYNAMICS

Electric Boat

Jeffrey S. Geiger
President

October 14, 2015

Ms. Meghan Quinn, LIS DMMP/PEIS Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Dear Ms. Quinn:

I write this letter to express General Dynamics Electric Boat's support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Draft Dredge Material Management Plan (DMMP) and Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for Long Island Sound (LIS), which was released on August 17, 2015.

Electric Boat's shipyard is located on the Thames River, downstream of the Naval Submarine Base. Electric Boat has built submarines for the U.S. Navy for over 100 years, and is the only shipyard in the U.S. focused primarily on building submarines.

As stated in the DMMP, navigation-dependent activity in the LIS region is approximately \$9.4 billion per year, and this includes Electric Boat's shipbuilding activities. Electric Boat and its employees also make a significant contribution to federal and state revenues. Our shipyard currently employs approximately 10,000 people in its Groton and New London, CT locations.

Economic activity at Electric Boat is forecasted to grow substantially in the next ten years, providing thousands of new jobs to the area. Over 5,000 submarine suppliers in all 50 states across the country will also see economic growth during this time period. Much of this predicted growth will be generated by a new submarine program, the Ohio Replacement program. Programs such as this one come along only once every other generation. The Ohio Replacement program is of great strategic importance not only to the U.S. Navy, but also to U.S. national security.

This program will require dredging both in the next three to four years and in the foreseeable future. The DMMP offers many options to support cost effective and environmentally safe dredging disposal, which in turn, will support the economic growth predicted in the submarine shipbuilding industry in Connecticut and across the country.

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Further, Electric Boat relies on maintenance of deep-water access for delivery of construction materials and submarine modules to the shipyard, transit of submarines for maintenance and modernization, and for final ship delivery to the Navy. Ensuring sufficient and cost-effective disposal options for dredged material is important to maintain these activities to support the U.S. Navy and our country's national defense.

Electric Boat strongly supports the USACE DMMP. The DMMP is a thorough product, which offers many options for dredging material disposal that take into consideration our country's national defense while balancing environmental and economic concerns.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in providing additional information that may be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey S. Geiger', written over a printed name.

Jeffrey S. Geiger

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