DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

JACKSONVILLE HARBOR (MILE POINT) NAVIGATION STUDY

DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed action. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the Environmental Assessment enclosed hereto. Based on information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from agencies having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

a. Per the Recommended Plan, the existing Mile Point training wall would be reconfigured in order to redirect difficult crosscurrents. This should reduce or eliminate navigation restrictions impeding the movement of deep draft vessels. Dredged material resulting from the project would be used to restore salt marsh at nearby Great Marsh Island. This beneficial use of dredged material is also the least cost disposal option. A Flow Improvement Channel is being proposed in order to restore the historical connection between Chicopit Bay and the Intracoastal Waterway and St. Johns River. Reconfiguration of the training wall would result in the loss of approximately 8.15 acres of salt marsh and approximately 0.75 acres of oyster habitat; however, this loss would be more than offset by the restoration of up to 53 acres of salt marsh at Great Marsh Island and approximately 2.77 acres of oyster habitat at the island and along the reconfigured wall.

b. Coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service has been completed per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

c. An Environmental Resource Permit (Water Quality Certification) shall be obtained from the State of Florida, and the proposed work would be performed in compliance with Water Quality Certification conditions. A final determination of whether the project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program shall be made by the State with issuance of the permit.

d. A significant cultural resource is located within the project area; however, there should be no adverse effects to this resource with the current project design. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and appropriate Federally recognized tribes has been completed with no adverse effect.

e. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to environmental and cultural resources shall be implemented.

BARKER, BRIAN C.
LTC, EN
DEPUTY COMMANDER

17 APR 12
Date

FOR: ALFRED A. PANTANO, JR.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding