

Port of Houston Authority Proposal-PART 4

December 2, 2014

Subject: Proposal for Authorization to Operate Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels, Texas and Federally-maintained tributaries of Houston Ship Channel, Texas system at the studied Mean Low Tide equivalent depth

1. Non-Federal Sponsor. Port of Houston Authority in Harris County, Texas
2. Description of Request.
 - a. The Houston-Galveston Ship Channels project was studied, designed, and authorized as a 45' channel with a depth determined according to Mean Low Tide datum. The USACE has a requirement to convert the datum to Mean Lower Low Water, which would result in a different reported depth than that authorized by WRDA 1996.
3. Project Purpose. Facilitate operations and future planning activities for the Houston Ship Channel and its tributary channels.
4. Estimate of Cost. None
5. Description of Anticipated Benefits.
 - a. This request restates the intent of Congress to authorize the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels project (WRDA 1996) and clarifies the project depth in relation to the currently mandated datum.
 - b. Authorization facilitates and potentially streamlines future planning activities for channel improvements.
6. Statement of Local Support. This request is expected to have strong local and maritime industry support.
7. NFS Statement of Financial Capability. The Port of Houston Authority is the non-federal sponsor of the Houston Ship Channel (part of the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels project) and its tributary channels, and has the financial capability for continued support of the waterways as described by the existing project agreements for each channel and the Project Cooperation Agreement for the Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels project.
8. Statement of Support. The Port of Houston Authority fully supports this clarification of the intent of Congress regarding project depth.
9. Specific Request.
 - a. The Houston-Galveston Navigation project is authorized and shall be operated at the equivalent depth to the studied and authorized depth of 45' Mean Low Tide, with that equivalent depth henceforth reported according to the Mean Lower Low Water or such other datum as directed.