

Environmental Impact Statement for Marine Container Terminal Development South Carolina State Ports Authority, Port of Charleston

Services Rendered

- Access Roadway Feasibility Study
- Community Impact Assessment
- Air Dispersion Modeling
- 3-D Hydrodynamic, Salinity, and Sediment Transport Modeling
- Contamination Assessment
- Ecological Impact Assessment and Mitigation Plan

Project Summary

When the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SCSPA) applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District, for a permit to construct and operate a marine container terminal at the Charleston Naval Complex (CNC), the USACE had to evaluate the application in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). ATM was selected by both the USACE and SCSPA to facilitate compliance with NEPA (and other federal and state regulations, laws and executive orders) by developing a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of the EIS was to identify and evaluate the potential social, economic, and environmental impacts from the proposed project along with project alternatives.

The challenge of the project was the size and complexity of the port terminal project that will have capital costs of about \$1 billion. The container terminal project includes a 286.5-acre terminal with a 3,510-foot-long wharf fronting on the Cooper River. The construction of the project would require dredging 6.5 million cubic yards of material. It would also require placement of 6.5 million cubic yards of suitable material from off-site borrow sources to bring the terminal elevation up to the required grade. To reduce the impact of port traffic on local roads, the project also includes a four-lane limited access highway that would directly connect the terminal to the interstate highway one mile from the site.

In a comment letter issued on the Final EIS, EPA wrote that the public participation process used for this EIS should serve as a model for port development projects throughout the U.S.

