



# Beneficial Use of Stockpiles Dredged Material Calumet Harbor

## ERDC Dredging Operations Technical Support Program (DOTS)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

### Response Summary:

Chicago District Corps of Engineers has a small confined disposal facility with 22,000 cy of clean fill at Calumet Harbor, Lake Michigan and CAWS. The District had environmental contaminants analysis to demonstrate the material met background standards for the region and was seeking regulatory authority and partners to find beneficial use for the material. The District pursued a plan to use the material to improve berms and drainage in the large CDF adjacent to their location. They sought Illinois EPA approval under a beneficial use authority review (90 days) which concluded that a different review was needed. After another review period, the District was informed they should seek the authority under their new operating permit application. Chicago District will continue to propose to off load the material and make improvements at the larger site.



ERDC investigated off site uses of the material in soil manufacturing, park management, and brownfield development. The small amount of material made it challenging to consider large projects and the regulatory burden on small projects limited those projects. Soil manufacturing using Metropolitan Water Reclamation District biosolids compost was initially envisioned as a large, long-term solution to recycle material locally, but it was discovered that the biosolids compost was not meeting regulatory compliance and had other concerns. Local acceptance of that practice was low and none of the partners wanted to pay transport costs. The Chicago Park District was contacted but they did not have needs in their local parks. The Park District would partner on brownfield restoration if someone else was covering the cost for transportation.

The small volume of legacy dredged material at Calumet Harbor represents an operational burden that can be relieved if beneficial use can be approved. Multiple alternatives were investigated and seeking authority to move material to an adjacent CDF under the next operating permit review was recommended as the best option.

### Period of Performance:

January FY20 – September FY20

### Benefits of the Response to the USACE Dredging/Navigation Program:

Chicago District has a path forward on local dredging operations; Soil manufacturing alternatives were explored with end users

### Deliverable:

Chicago District regulatory policy documentation



Providing environmental and engineering technical support to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations and Maintenance navigation and dredging missions

Chuck Theiling  
Environmental Laboratory • [Charles.H.Theiling@usace.army.mil](mailto:Charles.H.Theiling@usace.army.mil)

DOTS ID: DOTS-20-R24.