

USACE SI National Support Center, USACE Mobile District, (877) 840-8024, <http://si.usace.army.mil>



NAD SI Meeting and Harbor Inspection

In July, The SI Center met with representatives from the NAD Operations team, SAIC, and General Riley's Office to have a direct dialogue about the diversity of the NAD Navigation and Dredging Program. The goal was to gain an understanding of the technical issues and challenges inherent in the New York/New Jersey Harbor. The meeting was followed by and inspection of the Harbor to learn of the challenges and environmental requirements NAD faces in managing the Harbor.



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SI Training for NAE Dredging Community

SI training sessions were held in June for the Dredging Community which supports USACE New England District (NAE). The first session was held at the University of Rhode Island's Kingston Campus, with the session slated towards those dredging contractors in Southern New England, especially in Connecticut and Rhode Island. The second session was held at the NAE District Office in Concord, MA, and was attended by the dredging contractors who operate primarily in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. In addition, environmental agencies as well as state and federal regulatory and resource agencies were invited.

SI Streamlines for Field Operations

The SI Center is currently undergoing a re-organization to implement a new management structure, Policy Guidance, develop a Program Management Plan, and implement an aggressive 90-Day Action Plan in order to meet the needs and requests of the SI Board of Directors, SI User Group, USACE Divisions and Districts, and Dredging Contractors of America. The re-organization will improve the integration, management, and leadership of the interdisciplinary SI Center and Mobile District (SAM) Geospatial Data and Systems (GD&S) teams. The SAM Operations Division will oversee the operational aspects of the SI Program, and the US Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory (CHL) will oversee the Research and Development aspects of the SI Program. The goal of the new SAM-ERDC parallel management and leadership structure is an improved synergistic program which meets the USACE needs for the SI Implementation nationwide.

The Joint SAM-ERDC Policy Guidance for SI Activities provides the strategic direction for operations, technology infusion, and continued development of the SI technology. The guidance applies to all SI Operations and R&D activities and addresses the following: Production versus Development Platforms; SI Architecture, Business Process, Database, and Software Documentation; Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure and GIS Resources; Research versus Operational Scope; Communications; and Independent Technical Review (ITR).

The ITR will be conducted to review the SI IT Architecture, Business Process, Applications, and PMP. The goal of the ITR is to move toward a more sustainable, standardized, transparent, and easily supportable program. A limited internal review will be conducted on the SI Architecture, Business Process, and Applications. Based on the comments and knowledge gained from the internal review, a larger external review will be conducted on the technical documentation, software and data management plans, PMP, staffing and resource needs, and review of similar applications in use worldwide to explore collaborative opportunities. The ITRs will be conducted in the 1st quarter of FY09 with final ITR proceedings and recommendations submitted to HQ, SAM, and ERDC for review and update of SI policy guidance. The SI and GD&S Teams will report on the ITR Process, recommendations, updated policy guidance, and PMP execution at the Spring 2009 SI BoD meeting.



SI Program Management Plan (PMP)

The SI PMP provides for a comprehensive, longer term plan of activities for the SI Center. The PMP describes the manner in which prioritized tasks and subtasks of the SI Operational and R&D Deployment will be implemented in FY 09 and beyond. The goal of the PMP is to provide the essential "road map" required assuring the effective and efficient management of the SI Program and to identify the timeline within which product and service deliverables will occur for deployment Corps-wide. At the Fall 2008 SI Board meeting, the SI and GD&S Teams will report on the PMP development process, management measures for advancing progress against the PMP, near-term successes accomplished, active challenges, and expectations for products, service development, and deployment by Spring 2009.



SI Website – Latest and Greatest Info

The SI website got a makeover in May 2008 and continues to be updated with the latest information and downloads regarding the implementation of SI. The SI website address is: <http://si.usace.army.mil>

Are You Using The Latest SI Specifications?

In order to move toward a Nationwide SI Implementation and to reduce the potential for issues with data and data access, the SI Center requests that all Districts ensure they are using the most up-to-date SI Specifications on dredging contracts. The latests specifications are dated May 2008, and are available for download from the SI website: <http://si.usace.army.mil/specifications.aspx>



SI Database Settles in New Home

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The SI database is now fully operational in its new home at the SI National Support Center located at the Mobile District. The data transfer and access has been implemented successfully for USACE and contract customers. All testing has been completed and the current software is ready for distribution. All SI users will need to install/upgrade the SI client tools by Aug 29, 2008 which redirects the data transfer from ERDC-CHL in Vicksburg, MS to the SI Center in the Mobile District. Please download the latest installation file from the following location:
ftp://erdcftp.erdcc.usace.army.mil/pub/chl/SI/Installation/SI_Manager_media.exe For further assistance, please contact the SI National Support Center, 1-877-840-8024 or si-support@usace.army.mil.

Upcoming Events

WEDA Eastern Chapter Fall Meeting, Charleston, SC	7-9 Oct 2008
SI Internal Review, Mobile, AL, TBD	Oct-Nov 2008
SI Board of Directors Meeting, TBD	Oct-Nov 2008
WEDA Pacific Chapter Fall Meeting, Seattle, WA	5-7 Nov 2008
SI External Review, Mobile, AL - TBD	Nov 2008
SI User Group Meeting - TBD	Jan-Feb 2009
SI User Group (West Coast) Meeting - TBD	Jan-Feb 2009

SI Certifications

During the past quarter a total of 15 inspections were performed, and two additional site visits were made to install SI software on new computers. Four hopper dredges were re-certified in July, and re-inspection of 2 hopper dredges nearing expiration has been scheduled within the next month. Re-inspection of 2 additional hopper dredges nearing expiration have yet to be scheduled. A total of 23 scows were inspected from May-July. Only 2 scows require final DPIP's to be submitted for full certification. The majority of the scows were certified for tracking profiles with 2 scows requiring a monitoring profile. Current SI certification status for various plant can be viewed on the SI Website(<http://si.usace.army.mil>)under Dredge Status and Information. A summary of certification status is summarized below:



Hopper Hopper Dredges	Certification Status	
	Last Inspection	Fully Certified
Westport	7/24/2007	
Bayport	8/13/2007	X
Dodge Island	8/23/2007	X
Columbia	8/28/2007	X
Essayons	8/30/2007	
Liberty Island	11/15/2007	X
Padre Island	11/19/2007	X
Atchafalaya	12/03/2007	X
Terrapin Island	2/7/2008	X
Glenn Edwards	2/21/2008	X
B. E. Lindholm	7/9/2008	X
Newport	7/9/2008	X
R. N. Weeks	7/10/2008	X
McFarland	7/17/2008	X
Wheeler		
Yaquina		

Scow	Certification Status	
	Last Inspection	Fully Certified
DPS-023, DPS-070, DPS-073 (Luedtke Engineering)	5/7/2008	X
GL-5, GL-6 (MCM Marine)	5/8/2008	X
BR-8, N4002 (Norfolk Dredging)	5/12/2008	X
MTS-16, MTS-17 (Marine Tech)	5/15/2008	
GL 63, GL 65 (GLDD)	5/15/2008	X
AMR-A2, AMR-A3, AMR-A4 (Roen Salvage)	5/17/2008	X
N4001 (Norfolk Dredging)	5/18/2008	X
OB-185, SC-18, SC-40 (Ryba Marine Construction)	6/4/2008	X
DPS-017, DPS-022 (Luedtke Engineering)	6/18/2008	X
W251, W252 (Ryba Marine Construction)	6/19/2008	X
Liberty, Lummi Island (American Construction)	7/25/2008	X



What is the Silent Inspector (SI)?

The Silent Inspector (SI) is an automated dredging monitoring system operating on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging projects. Onboard sensors continually monitor dredge activities, operations and efficiency. Information from these sensors is then routed to the SI Support Center for data retrieval and storage. Corps-provided software can then be utilized to prepare summary reports, plots or spreadsheet compilations of dredge operations. In addition to assisting dredge inspectors for monitoring performance, the data can be used to improve business practice, ensure environmental compliance, provide dredging information and data to support the National Dredging Mission and increase our understanding of dredging science and technology.



SI Mission Statement

The mission of the SI Support Center is to provide Corps-wide technical support for SI implementation including dredge certifications, data quality control, database management, and support for the SI desktop software; and to continue to evolve capabilities to support Corps dredging needs. Operational support includes tools and services to assimilate, analyze, and report dredging quality assurance data. The SI Center can be contacted directly at 251-690-3011, toll free at 1-877-840-8024, or by e-mail at si-support@usace.army.mil. Additional information can be found at <http://si.usace.army.mil>

