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STATEMENT ON THE MEETING BETWEEN SAVANNAH DISTRICT AND TYBEE ISLAND OFFICIALS ON JAN. 11, 2011

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA – Officials from Tybee Island, Ga., and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources met with leaders and technical staff members of the Savannah District today to clarify issues related to the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project.

The Savannah District issues this statement:

“We met with officials from Tybee Island and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources about the Corps’ proposal to place dredged material in various locations off of Tybee Island, including near, but not on, the beach. The draft General Re-evaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project named a number of sites which could be used for dredged material placement. We discussed the composition of material we would expect to dredge from shipping channel and its potential benefits to Tybee Island’s beaches.

“After a cordial and candid discussion we determined that finding a beneficial use of the dredged material may be in the best interest of Tybee Island, but that the details of placement need further refinement.

“The Corps of Engineers committed to giving Tybee Island officials further clarification to their questions in time for elected officials there to decide on a formal response before the end of the current public comment period, on Jan. 25.

“We welcomed the discussion with Tybee Island officials today. One purpose of the public comment period was to allow the Corps to receive suggestions for improving the plans for a possible Savannah Harbor deepening. Our plans to place dredged material on the nearshore of Tybee Island has been proposed as part of that project. The decision to place it near the shore or elsewhere will be made in the final report.”

– 30 –