

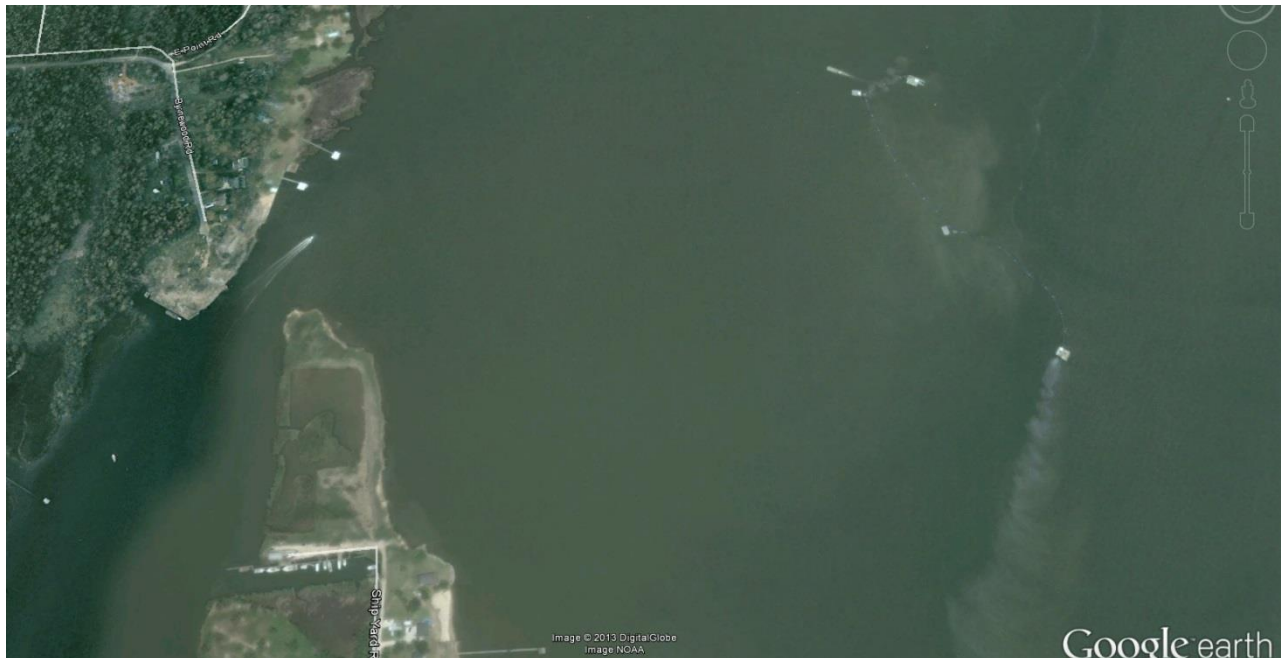
## Questions/Responses from Northern MLI Potential Engineering Contractors

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to Labor Day and the scheduling of the Alabama Water Resources Conference on September 4-6, interviews with firms/teams submitting the top three proposals **will not** be conducted that week.

We anticipate interviews **on Thursday, September 12 from nine to noon at the Killian Room, International Trade Center on 250 N. Water Street.** We'll draw to determine assignments for one-hour blocks at 0900, 1000, and 1100. We will provide notifications to the distribution list by end of business on Tuesday, September 3. Pending confirmations from the selection committee members, we'll nail this (or another) date down on Monday, August 19. Please stand by.

### **What is the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging protocol or routine for East Fowl River and its mouth at Mobile Bay?**

On Wednesday morning, August 14, I spoke with Nate Lovelace, a lead engineer who oversees dredging operations for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Nate said that the “normal” Corps protocol for Fowl River involved dredging at three year intervals with disposal at either an upland site across Hwy 193 or an open water site about 2,000 feet from shore where depths are greater than minus four feet (see the Google Earth image below from August 31, 2005 where dredging operations and the disposal plume are visible).



Nate said that currently, with “the funding faucet having run dry,” only navigation channels that support transport of tonnage are currently included on the Corps dredging schedule, and that no dredging operations in Fowl River are foreseen unless stimulated by “an event” which facilitates funding opportunities.

While Nate is not involved in regulatory processes, he said that the Corps' only concerns related to this project would be that "no negative impacts" (and he mentioned strewn rock and reflected wave energy as examples) resulted from its implementation.

Nate is actively involved in the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material program, and while he is not in a decision-making position, he felt that any opportunity to employ BUDM in wetlands creation or restoration would be favorably considered by the Corps.