

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1998

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STAFF WRITER

**NAGS HEAD** — More than 100 residents and businesses will get a telephone invitation this week from the local government.

Some will have already received a postcard.

The invitation is to a Nags Head planning board meeting Tuesday night on a proposed storage and recycling site for dredge material, on 39 undeveloped acres just south of Jockey's Ridge State Park.

The state department of Environment and Natural Resources wants to buy the privately owned land for a permanent site for sand and silt dredged from the Manteo and Wanchese channels.

It is asking Nags Head to amend its zoning ordinance to allow for dredge storage, which has not been permitted here before, said Bruce Bortz, town planner.

Representatives from the state presented the proposal at a planning board meeting in mid-March, drawing questions from the public and from board members, Bortz said.

Would the storage site smell? Would the operation be noisy? How would it look? How might property values be affected?

"There is quite a bit of concern," he said.

The public meeting at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the south wing of the Nags Head fire station will give more people a chance to express their views, Bortz said.

Their comments will help planners recommend a course of action to the town's board of commissioners, which would schedule a public hearing for additional comment, before making a decision.

The proposed site — now rolling dunes — is just west of U.S. Route 158 and north of the Nags Head Post Office. There are subdivisions along W. Southside Road, to the north, and W. Deering Street, to the south.

People living and in business in the immediate area received the postcards and will get phone calls reminding them of the meeting — their opportunity to speak. State representatives will present their plans and answer questions, Bortz said.

The state looked at many sites before making its proposal, said

# Jockey's Ridge may get dredged sand as a neighbor

## Residents and businesses are invited to attend a meeting Tuesday.

John N. Morris, director of the division of water resources for the environmental department.

The Nags Head property is "very desirable," he said, because it is undeveloped, free from environmental restrictions and near the sources of the dredge material.

The channels must be cleaned every few years.

As the county has grown, Morris said, it has become more difficult to find sites for depositing dredge material. Pirate's Cove development and College of the Albemarle in Manteo are previous dredge sites.

Unlike at those sites, however, dredge material deposited in Nags Head would be recycled for other uses, perhaps sold or given to developers to build up sites, for example.

"It's a very important project for boating and navigation in Dare County," Morris said.

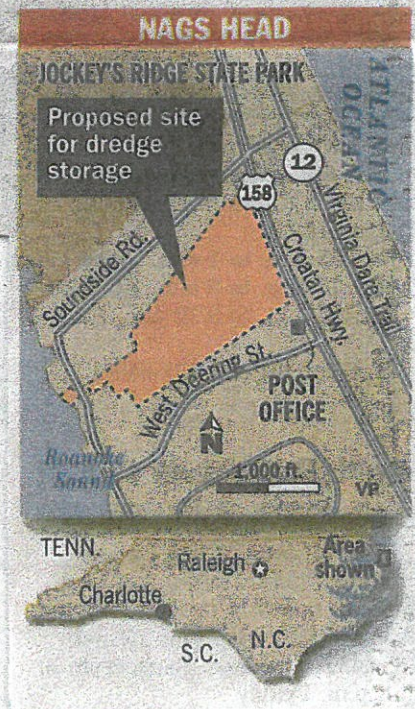
If approved, work would begin this winter. Bulldozers would be used to create berms around the site. A pipeline would pump the dredge and water into it. The water would then be drained off, leaving behind the dry, brownish dredge material.

Noise would be minimal, Morris said. The material itself doesn't smell, unless a person were to pick it up and put it to his or her nose.

"Fresh dredge material has a marshy smell — very mild," he said.

When complete, the site would be surrounded by grassy dunes and would likely attract birds and other wildlife, Morris said.

"It's a very benign neighbor to have."



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