



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers.**

Seattle District

# Public Notice

Navigation Section  
PO Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755  
ATTN: Hiram Arden (OD-TS-NS)

Notice Date: January 19, 2007  
Expiration Date: February 19, 2007  
Reference: CENWS-OD-TS-NS-27

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SEATTLE DISTRICT FISCAL YEAR 2007 TEST  
HOPPER DREDGE FOR POTENTIAL ENTRANCE CHANNEL REALIGNMENT, GRAYS  
HARBOR AND CHEHALIS RIVER FEDERAL NAVIGATION PROJECT, WASHINGTON

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) proposes to test hopper dredge for a potential entrance channel realignment of the Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Federal navigation channel. The test effort for fiscal year 2007 is to remove approximately 110,000 cubic yards of sandy materials from the sea floor at the Grays Harbor coastal inlet during the routine Government hopper dredge ESSAYONS assignment at Grays Harbor scheduled in April 2007. The proposed test effort would dredge a section of the potential realigned entrance channel, 800 feet wide by 2000 feet long, to a depth of -46 feet below mean lower low water. The test dredge location and existing Point Chehalis open water disposal site are shown on the attached plans. The purpose of this Public Notice is to solicit comments from interested persons, groups and agencies.

#### PURPOSE AND PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Port of Grays Harbor utilizes the Federal, authorized navigation channel to provide sea-going vessels with commercial access to the cities of Aberdeen, Hoquiam, and Cosmopolis. Without annual maintenance dredging, shoaling would lead to a shallower channel that would reduce the ability of large ships to enter and leave Grays Harbor safely. The purpose of test hopper dredging along the selected test area of the potential channel realignment is to establish a set of baseline conditions for determining if realignment would significantly decrease channel maintenance dredging requirements, without significant adverse impact on the estuary's habitat and resources, by monitoring the shoaling rate and patterns over the course of the year following completion of the dredging. During this proposed evaluation period, the Corps would also investigate whether the potential entrance channel realignment would also and enhance safety of deep-draft water transportation in Grays Harbor.

#### AUTHORITY

The Grays Harbor and Chehalis River Project and maintenance dredging by the Department of the Army were authorized by the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945, the Act of September 3, 1954 (House Document 412, 83<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session), and the Water Resources Development Act of November 17, 1986 (Public Law 662). The proposed test dredge effort would rely on the Corps' authority to alter the location of a completed channel during the course of the periodic maintenance program, if maintenance can be more economically accomplished by doing so.

This public notice is being issued in accordance with rules and regulations published as 33 CFR 335 "Operation and Maintenance of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Project Involving the Discharge of Dredge or Fill Material into Waters of the United States and Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 336 "Factors to be Considered in Evaluation of Army Corps of Engineers Dredging Projects Involving the Discharge of Dredged Material into Waters of the United States and Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 337 "Practice and Procedure"; and 33 CFR 338 "Other Corps Activities Involving the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material into Waters of the United States." The proposed test maintenance dredging and dredged material disposal activities will be reviewed in accordance with Section 313 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1323, 86 Stat. 816); Section 404 of the same act (33 U.S.C. 1344); the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 14560 (1) and (2), 86 Stat. 1280), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347); and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 668a-668cc-6, 87 Stat. 884).

#### DREDGED DISPOSAL ANALYSIS

The proposed dredged material has been tested according to the "Dredged Material Evaluation Procedures and Disposal Site Management Manual, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay, Washington," dated June 1995. These evaluation procedures were compiled by the regulatory agencies which have jurisdiction over dredged material disposal in open-water sites associated with Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay. Samples from the potential entrance channel realignment in the test dredge area confirm the coarse grain size materials meet exclusionary criteria specified under either Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Resources and Sanctuaries Act. All sediment testing data are available at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Dredge Material Management Office.

#### MITIGATION

During the formulation of the test-dredging plan, much care was taken to reduce environmental impacts. Several impact avoidance, minimization, and compensation measures have been incorporated into the proposed test plan, including:

1. To reduce entrainment of Dungeness crabs, no hopper dredging occurs in outer harbor reaches during periods of peak crab abundance.
2. To avoid significant impacts to Dungeness crab and marine fishes, trawl surveys shall occur in the test dredge area in advance of test dredging activities.
3. Test dredging and disposal is coordinated with commercial crab fisherman to minimize disruption to their harvest activities.
4. To compensate for the loss of Dungeness crabs to the commercial fishery, the Corps places oyster shell on intertidal mudflats in order to improve survival rates for young-of-the-year crabs.

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires assessment of potential impacts to listed and proposed species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service identified several federally listed species which may occur in the project vicinity. Included on this list were: Coastal/Puget Sound bull trout and their critical habitat (*Salvelinus confluentus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), marbled murrelet

(*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*), Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrius nivosus*), brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), Southern resident killer whale (*Orcinus orca*), Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*), blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*), fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*), Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).

The U.S. Army Corps has evaluated potential impacts of the proposed action to the listed species. A preliminary determination has been made that the proposed work may affect, but will not likely adversely affect several species. Informal consultation under Section 7 of the Act is required. Concurrence letters were received from USFWS on May 24, 2006 and from NMFS on May 16, 2006.

#### CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

The District Commander has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

Since the proposed dredging and disposal activities are confined to the removal of recently deposited sediments within the previously dredged channel width and depth boundaries or placement of material within existing disposal sites, little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge on an undisturbed historic property.

The District Commander invites responses to this Public Notice from Federal, State and local agencies, historical and archeological societies, Indian Tribes and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area.

#### PUBLIC HEARING

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

#### EVALUATION

The decision to allow test hopper dredging for potential entrance channel realignment at Grays Harbor will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, historic values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs safety, food production and, in general, the needs, and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other

interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the effects of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to conduct the proposed test dredging. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above.

The proposed discharge has been evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

#### ADDITIONAL EVALUATION

The State of Washington is reviewing this work for compliance with the applicable State and Federal water quality standards pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The Corps has made a determination that the proposed work is consistent to the maximum practicable extent with the State of Washington Coastal Zone Management Program.

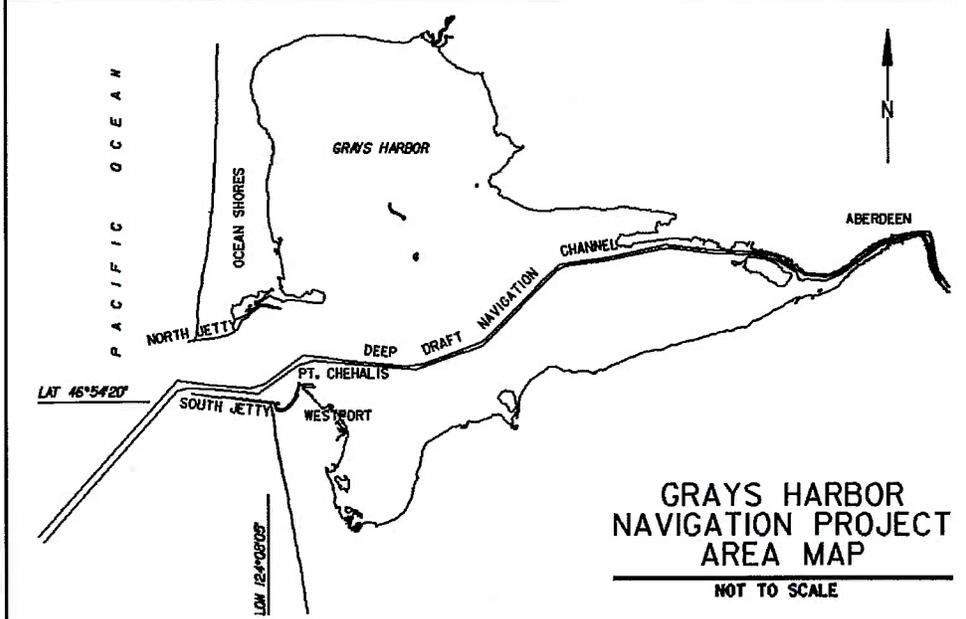
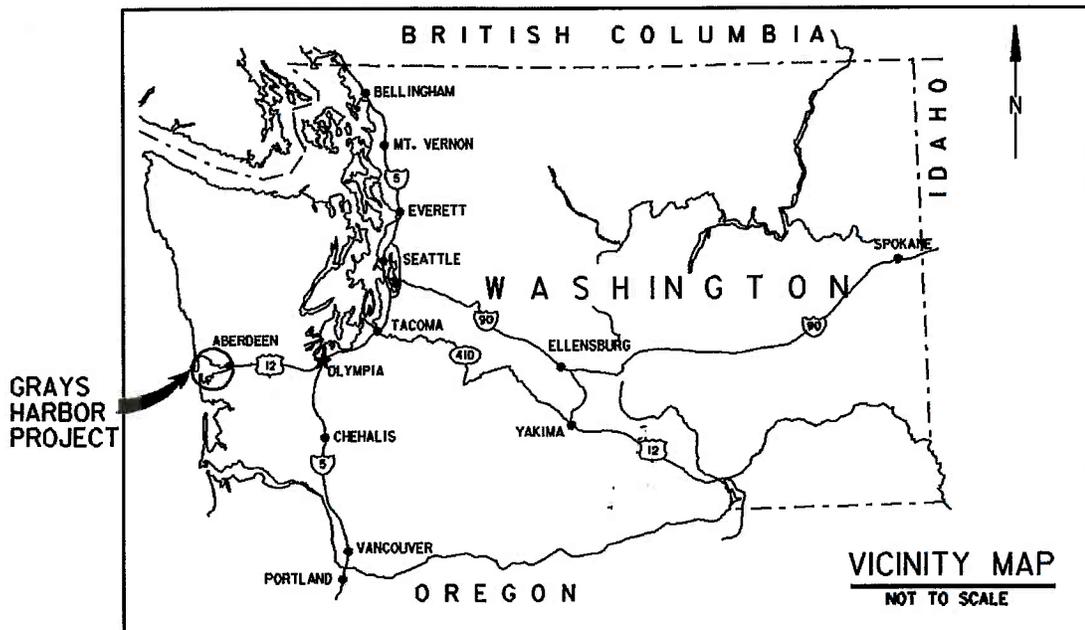
A draft environmental assessment (EA), tiered from previous Grays Harbor Environmental Impact Statements and EAs, is titled DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, Grays Harbor Test Dredge for Potential Entrance Channel Realignment, Grays Harbor Navigation Project, Grays harbor County, Washington dated December 2006 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The draft EA's public comment period expires on January 27, 2007. The comment period for this notice expires on February 19, 2007. The draft EA is available on the Seattle District's web site, <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil> (follow links to Environmental Resources Section, Environmental Documents page).

#### COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD

Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to allow continued dredge material disposal. All email comments should be sent to [Hiram.T.Arden@usace.army.mil](mailto:Hiram.T.Arden@usace.army.mil). Conventional mail comments should be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Navigation Section, P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755. All comments must reach this office no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration. Telephone inquiries should be directed to Hiram Arden, Project Manager, (206) 764-3401.



Hiram Arden  
Project Manager  
Navigation Section



HORIZONTAL DATUM: NAD 83

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

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WESTPORT, WA & VICINITY  
GRAYS HARBOR DREDGING/DISPOSAL

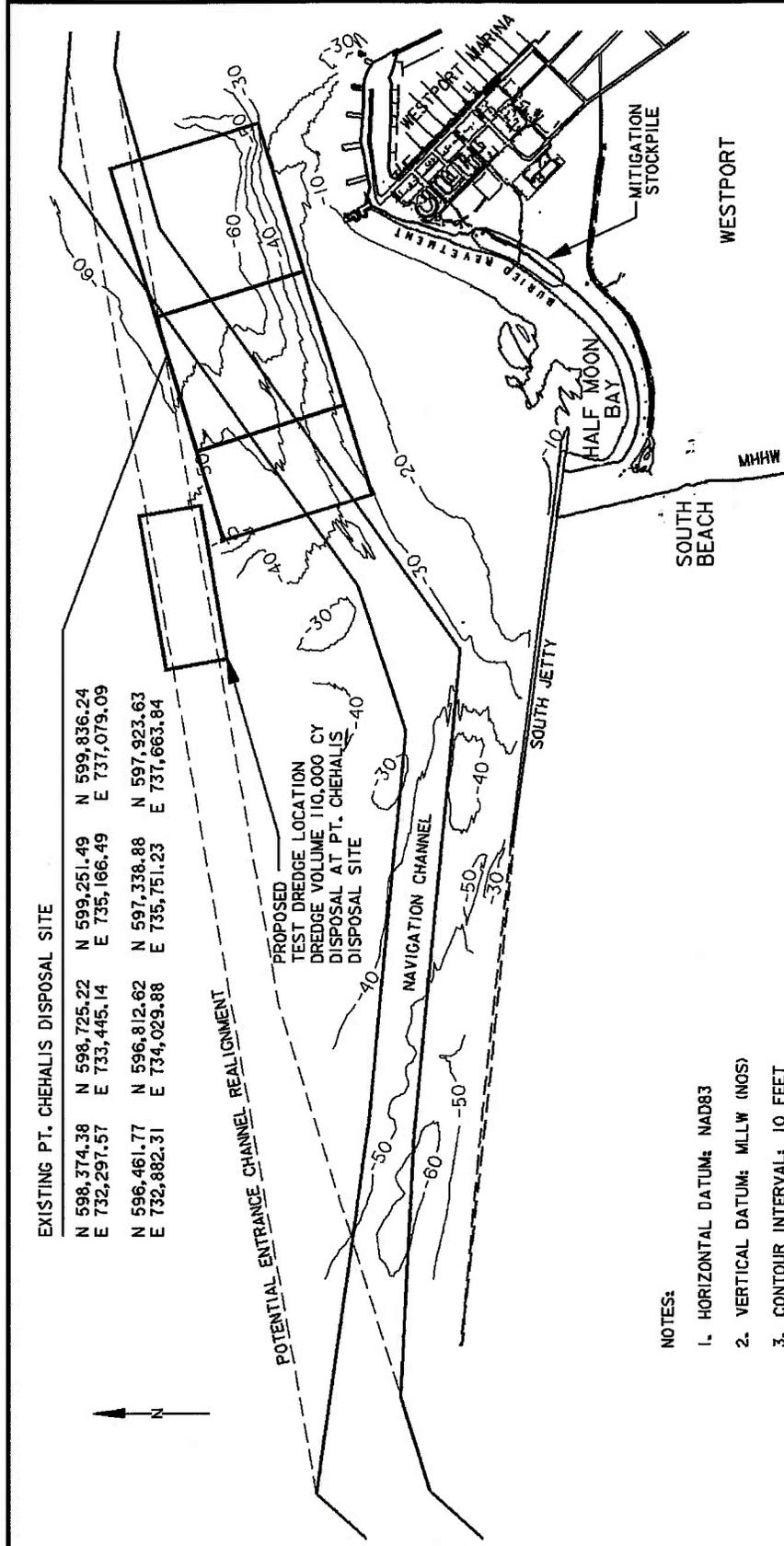
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VICINITY AND AREA MAP

|             |                   |          |
|-------------|-------------------|----------|
| DATE:       | PUBLIC NOTICE:    | FIGURE 1 |
| 17 JAN 2007 | CDNWS-00-TS-NS-27 |          |

EXISTING PT. CHEHALIS DISPOSAL SITE

|              |              |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| N 598,374.38 | N 598,725.22 | N 599,251.49 | N 599,836.24 |
| E 732,297.57 | E 733,445.14 | E 735,166.49 | E 737,079.09 |
| N 596,461.77 | N 596,812.62 | N 597,338.88 | N 597,923.63 |
| E 732,882.31 | E 734,029.88 | E 735,751.23 | E 737,663.84 |

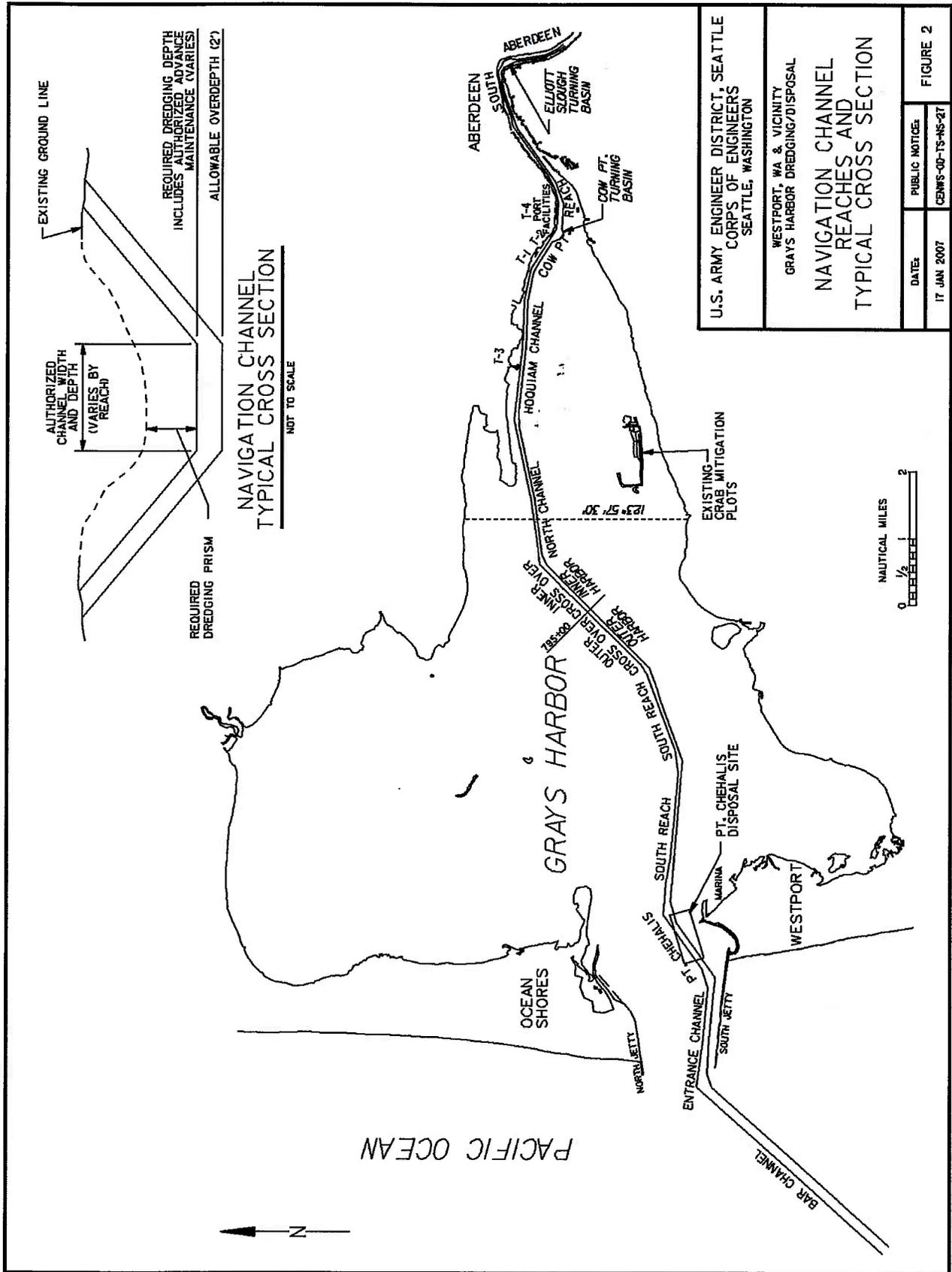


NOTES:

1. HORIZONTAL DATUM: NAD83
2. VERTICAL DATUM: MLLW (NOS)
3. CONTOUR INTERVAL: 10 FEET
4. CONTOURS REPRESENT MAR 2006 CONDITIONS



|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE<br>CORPS OF ENGINEERS<br>SEATTLE, WASHINGTON                               |                  |
| WESTPORT, WA & VICINITY<br>GRAYS HARBOR DREDGING/DISPOSAL<br>HALF MOON BAY AND<br>SOUTH BEACH<br>DISPOSAL SITES |                  |
| DATE:   | PUBLIC NOTICE    |
| 17 JAN 2007   | CEHW-00-TS-MS-27 |
| FIGURE 3  |                  |



|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SEATTLE<br>CORPS OF ENGINEERS<br>SEATTLE, WASHINGTON |                   |
| WESTPORT, WA & VICINITY<br>GRAYS HARBOR DREDGING/DISPOSAL                         |                   |
| NAVIGATION CHANNEL<br>REACHES AND<br>TYPICAL CROSS SECTION                        |                   |
| DATE:   | PUBLIC NOTICE:    |
| 17 JAN 2007   | CENWS-02-TS-MS-27 |
| FIGURE 2  |                   |



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
*P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600*  
*(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006*

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Notice of Application for  
Water Quality Certification  
and for  
Certification of Consistency with the  
Washington Coastal Zone Management Program

Date: January 19, 2007:

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENWS-OD-TS-NS-27 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 307© of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), to certify that the above referenced project will comply with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program and that the project will be conducted in a manner consistent with that program.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to the project on either or both (1) compliance with water pollution control laws or (2) the project's compliance or consistency with the Washington State Coastal Zone Management Program may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator  
Department of Ecology  
SEA Program  
Post Office Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600