CENPS-OP-TS
Dredged Material Management Office

4 February 1997

Memorandum for Record

SUBJECT: FREQUENCY DETERMINATION ON THE SUITABILITY OF DREDGED MATERIAL FROM THE RAYONIER INC. DOCK (96-2-02109) FOR DISPOSAL AT EITHER THE SOUTH JETTY OR POINT CHEHALIS ESTUARINE OPEN-WATER DISPOSAL SITES.

1. Rayonier Inc. proposes to maintenance dredge approximately 20,000 cubic yards of material near its dock at Hoquiam, Washington in February/March 1997. The following summary reflects the consensus determination of the agencies (Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Ecology, Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency) with jurisdiction over dredging and disposal regarding the applicability of frequency guidelines to this project.

2. The initial ranking for this area was "low-moderate" based on guidance provided in the *Dredged Material Evaluation Procedures and Disposal Site Management Manual, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay*, June 1995, page 47.

3. Sampling and testing were completed in 1989 and in September 1991. This testing showed minor exceedances of Grays Harbor screening levels (SLs). This testing was completed prior to implementation of the Grays Harbor Manual. Since these levels were well below known biological effects levels, no biological testing was required. For chemicals-of-concern that were undetected, all detection limits were reported below SLs. Dioxin testing was completed in 1991, with an additional round of dioxin testing completed in 1993. In 1991 detected levels of 2,3,7,8 TCDD (Tetrachloro-Dibenzo-p-Dioxin) were at 3.0 and 2.8 parts per trillion. In 1993, the detected levels for this congener were at 0.66 parts per trillion. Based on the agencies' best professional judgment, these low concentrations are unlikely to be environmentally harmful.

4. Two cycles of dredged material sampling and testing are required before frequency guidelines take effect, as provided for on page 56 of the Manual. For low-moderate ranked areas in Grays Harbor, the frequency guideline specifies that existing information remains adequate and valid for decision-making without further testing for six years from the most recent sampling event. This determination is also contingent upon a finding that no significant condition has occurred that might impact the quality of the proposed dredged material, such as a contaminant spill or discharge. The frequency for this project expires in September 1997. Sampling and testing will be required for any dredging following that date.

5. The agencies have determined that additional sediment characterization is not required prior to dredging 20,000 cubic yards from the Rayonier in February/March 1997.

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