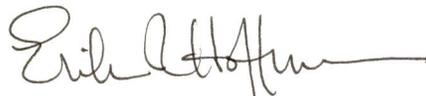


Memorandum for Record

SUBJECT: RECENCY DETERMINATION ON THE SUITABILITY OF DREDGED MATERIAL FROM THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM'S SQUALICUM CREEK WATERWAY (95-2-00323) FOR DISPOSAL AT BELLINGHAM BAY DISPOSAL SITE

1. The Port of Bellingham has requested an extension on their maintenance dredging permit (CENPS-OP-NP-89 / 95-2-00323) for the Squalicum Creek Waterway navigation channel and adjacent berthing areas. The original permit was issued in 1995 but it is not expected that dredging will be completed before the permit's expiration in August 1998. The requested extension applies to approximately 1200 cubic yards of material located in an area adjacent to Bellingham Cold Storage (BCS).
2. The following summary reflects the consensus determination of the agencies (Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency) with jurisdiction over dredging and disposal regarding the applicability of recency guidelines to the proposed project.
3. The berth adjacent to BCF has areas of both "moderate" and "high" ranking. However, the ranking for the area associated with this extension request is "moderate" based on the guidance provided in Evaluation Procedures Technical Appendix (1988) page II-44.
4. Sampling and testing of sediments in Bellingham Harbor took place in 1994. All the material tested for this project (258,000 cy) was found suitable for disposal at a non-dispersive site and that most of it (including the area in question) was also suitable for dispersive site disposal. The area that is the subject of the extension request is located within the 1994 testing DMMU identified as "C20" (located between 8+12 and 9+62). Results of chemical testing demonstrated no SL exceedances in the C20 composite.
5. Recency guidelines for existing information refer to the duration of time for which chemical and biological characterization for a given sediment remains valid and adequate for decision-making. Recency guidelines are based on project rank. For a moderate ranked project, the recency guideline is generally 5-7 years.
6. No known changes have occurred in the condition of the project area (e.g., accidental spills or new discharges). Therefore, the agencies have determined that the recency guidelines apply, and additional sediment testing is not required for the area covered under this extension request.



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