CENWS-OD-TS-DMMO

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD 20 October 1998

SUBJECT: FINAL DETERMINATION ON THE SUITABILITY OF MAINTENANCE DREDGED MATERIAL FROM THE WILLAPA HARBOR PROJECT, BAY CENTER ENTRANCE CHANNEL (CENPS-OP-NP-90), WILLAPA BAY, EVALUATED UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA) FOR OPEN-WATER DISPOSAL (SIDE CASTING) ADJACENT TO THE FEDERAL CHANNEL.

1. This memorandum reflects the consensus determination of the Agencies' (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency) with jurisdiction for dredging and disposal, on the suitability of an estimated 15,000 cubic yards of maintenance material proposed for dredging from the Willapa Harbor Project, Bay Center Entrance Channel, Willapa Bay, to be disposed by side casting immediately adjacent to the federal channel.
2. There currently exists an ongoing shoaling/navigation hazard at the Bay Center Entrance Channel that warrants maintenance dredging (enclosure 1). Past federal maintenance dredging at the Bay Center Entrance Channel occurred in 1977, 1978, 1984, 1993 (23 February 1993 Recency Determination), and 1995 (20 March 1995 Recency Determination). Recent surveys by the Shoalhunter have determined that the controlling depths in the channel are currently about -3 ft MLLW (authorized depth is -10 ft MLLW), which is currently causing extreme tide delays and hardships to local fishermen. The most recent maintenance dredging in 1995 at the Bay Center Entrance involved dredging approximately 38,000 cy of material with disposal at the Goose Point disposal site. The very limited access to the dredging site now requires side cast disposal to promote dredge production. The proposed maintenance dredging of approximately 15,000 cy over a five day period would attempt to improve the navigable depths beyond the current controlling depths of -3 ft MLLW, but will not restore the channel to its authorized depth of -10 ft MLLW during this dredging effort.
3. The grain size of the Bay Center Entrance dredged material was previously characterized with two samples in 1993 and found to be poorly graded clean sand (99.7 % sand for both samples). Based on this testing the dredged material in the Entrance Channel area was ranked low by the DMMP agencies and deemed not to require further chemical testing based on the exclusionary criteria under the CWA (40 CFR 230.60, subparagraphs a, b, and c). The exclusionary criteria state that material meets the criteria and can be excluded from further testing if it is: (1) predominantly sand from a high current/wave energy area; and (2) dredging area is sufficiently removed from contaminant sources; and (3) where the disposal site is adjacent to the dredging site. The dredging/disposal area is in a highly dynamic current/tidal area, and is free from any known sources of contamination.
4. Based on the above information, the agencies with regulatory jurisdiction agree that the material from the Bay Center Entrance dredged material does not require further testing under Section 404 of the CWA.

5. This memorandum documents the final suitability of proposed dredged sediments from the Willapa Harbor Bay Center Entrance Channel under the CWA for unconfined open-water side cast disposal immediately adjacent to the channel. It constitutes final agency approval on the suitability of the dredged material for unconfined open-water disposal immediately adjacent to the Bay Center Entrance Channel. The maintenance of the entrance channel was authorized per the details contained in Public Notice CENPS-OP-NP-90, approved in 1995. The PN did not, however, provide for the disposal option of side casting. Thus, special coordination was initiated with state resource agencies pertaining to the 1998 work and the side casting disposal alternative. The state agencies provided input on the overall project that resulted in revisions and renewal of the water quality modification and revisions to the existing HPA. This final suitability determination on the suitability of the material was made after full consideration of state and federal agency input under the DMMP.

Concur:

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Enclosures

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DMMO File