DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 31, 2002

Operations Division/Technical Support Branch
Dredged Material Management Office

Commander R.F. Beseler
U.S. Coast Guard
Facilities Design and Construction Center Pacific
Jackson Federal Building
915 Second Avenue, Room 2664
Seattle, WA 98174-1011

Subject: East Waterway (Duwamish River) Channel Deepening Project

Dear Commander Beseler:

This letter provides the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) consensus response to your letter dated December 12, 2001. As you are probably aware data from a high ranked project area such as the U.S. Coast Guard Slip 36 deepening project has a 2-year recency timeline in the DMMP program. The data collection effort for the Slip 36 deepening characterization took place during August 1998, and therefore these data have now exceeded the 2-year recency guideline.

The DMMP agencies reviewed the sediment quality data collected in 1998 for the Slip 36 deepening project, including recently collected data (March 2001) for the Pier 36 rebuild / dredging project (berth alpha) to evaluate whether additional data collection efforts will be required to document whether surface sediment quality documented in the November 2, 1999 DMMP suitability determination memorandum have changed prior to dredging/construction. To accomplish this evaluation, the DMMP agencies have re-evaluated the initial data from surface sediments from within the Slip 36 dredging footprint, as well as sediment quality data collected from the adjacent Pier 36 rebuild project.

These data indicate that there are sediment quality concerns[1] in surface sediments underlying the existing pier, which are immediately adjacent to the western portion of the proposed dredging area for the Slip 36 deepening project. The existing sediment quality in the three surface Dredged Material Management Units (DMMU) that passed the DMMP open-water disposal guidelines during the 1998 characterization paralleled the chemicals observed underneath the Pier, suggesting that activities occurring at the Pier and adjacent properties are the probable source of the chemicals underneath the pier and adjacent to the pier in the proposed deepening area.

After reviewing these data, the DMMP agencies feel that some limited retesting of the three surface DMMUs passing the open-water disposal guidelines (e.g., DMMU S61, DMMU S62,

[1] Multiple chemical bioaccumulation trigger and maximum level exceedances for: TBT, Hg, DDT, Benzo(a)pyrene, Acenanpthene, Benzo(a)anthracene, and Fluoranthene, including screening level exceedances for PCBs, PAH's, Pb, and Zn.

and DMMU S67) is warranted. This recharacterization should include a surface chemical characterization for the DMMP chemicals of concern, including TBT. Biological testing will also be required if chemical guidelines are exceeded. A sampling and analysis plan documenting the surface resampling/testing approach should be submitted to the Dredged Material Management Office for DMMP review and approval before initiating the resampling effort.

Please call me (206/764-3768) if you have any questions about our response.

Sincerely,

David R. Kendall, Ph.D.
Chief, Dredged Material Management Office

Copies Furnished:
Justine Barton, EPA
Erica Hoffman, EPA
Rick Vining, Ecology
Robert Brenner, DNR
DMMO File