

SUBJECT: RECENCY EXTENSION DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED SUBSURFACE DREDGED MATERIAL PREVIOUSLY CHARACTERIZED AS SUITABLE UNDER THE EAST WATERWAY TERMINAL 18 PROJECT AND THE STAGE II CHARACTERIZATION PROJECT, EVALUATED UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT (CWA) FOR OPEN-WATER DISPOSAL AT THE ELLIOTT BAY DISPOSAL SITE.

1. The following summary bearing on the recency extension request from the Port of Seattle (Attachment 1), 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 on dredging and disposal on the suitability for unconfined open-water disposal at the Elliott Bay disposal site of an estimated 175,260 cy of subsurface (<4 ft depth at the mudline) dredged material previously tested and found suitable for unconfined open-water disposal at the Elliott Bay disposal site during two large characterization efforts. The purpose of this memorandum and recency extension request is to address subsurface material previously characterized under the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP), which lies within the East Waterway non-time-critical CERCLA removal action. The Phase I Removal area was identified and characterized in a recently produced EE/CA (Windward 2003).

2. The subset of DMMP characterized subsurface material which is subject to recency extension consideration through this memorandum were previously characterized through the two separate sampling efforts, and the dredged material management units (DMMUs) identified in the Phase I Removal Action Area are depicted in Figure 1. The first one consisted of 95,340 cy of subsurface suitable material identified within the Port of Seattle Terminal 18 Project (SDM dated March 17, 1997). The second project consisted of an additional 79,920 cy of subsurface suitable material characterized within the Corps of Engineers/Port of Seattle East Waterway Stage II Channel Deepening Project (SDM dated November 2, 1999). Both projects are located within the East Waterway Superfund area identified as the Phase I Removal Action Area (Figure 1).

3. Relevant dates for recency tracking purposes are included in Table 1.

Table 1. Recency Tracking Dates

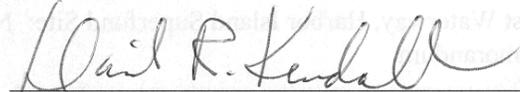
Port of Seattle Terminal 18 Characterization sampling date(s): Phase I (DMMUs: 1C53, 2C22, 1C57): Phase 2 (DMMU: 1C43B):	March 11-30, 1996 May 30 – June 12, 1996
USACE/Port of Seattle East Waterway Stage II Characterization sampling date(s): (DMMUs: D11, D12, D16, D17, D18, D19, D26, D27, D28, D29, D30, D31, D39)	July 27 – August 28, 1998
Recency Determination Date: High (2 years): Terminal-18 Project: Stage II Channel Deepening: Recency Extension:	March 1998 (expired) August 2000 (expired) August 2005 (proposed)

4. As noted in Table 1, recency expired for the four Terminal 18 DMMUs in March 1998, and for the thirteen Stage II DMMUs in August 2000.
 5. The subsurface DMMUs are physically isolated from potential sources of contamination and therefore, the physical and chemical characteristics of these sediments have not likely changed since they were characterized.
 6. The testing summary for the seventeen subsurface DMMUs is provided in Attachment 2. It shows that there were few DMMUs with any chemical exceedances of screening level and no bioaccumulation trigger and maximum level exceedances. All seventeen DMMUs underwent concurrent bioassays testing, and the results confirmed that all DMMUs passed the nondispersive disposal site testing guidelines. All DMMUs were found suitable for unconfined-open-water disposal at the Elliott Bay disposal site.
 7. Based on the discussion above the DMMP agencies concluded based on best-professional-judgement that extending the recency expiration date for these data to August 2005 is warranted based on the facts presented. However, any future information bearing on sediment quality within the Phase I Removal Action area, such as ‘spills’ or activities that might result in sediment quality impacts, may alter this determination.
 8. This memorandum documents that the DMMP suitability of the 175,260 cubic yards of subsurface material previously tested within the East Waterway within the Phase I Removal Action area is still considered valid, and the recency for these data will be extended to August 2005 for the ongoing EPA CERCLA action. These sediments under the recency extension are considered suitable for dredging and disposal at the Elliott Bay non-dispersive open-water disposal site. However, this suitability determination does not constitute final agency approval of the project. A dredging plan for this project must be completed as part of the final project approval process. A final decision will be made after full consideration of agency input, and after an alternatives analysis is done under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.
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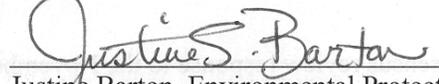
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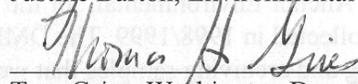
David Kendall, Ph.D., Seattle District Corps of Engineers

12/4/03
Date



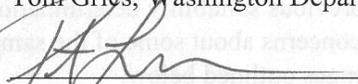
Justine Barton, Environmental Protection Agency

11/26/03
Date



Tom Gries, Washington Department of Ecology

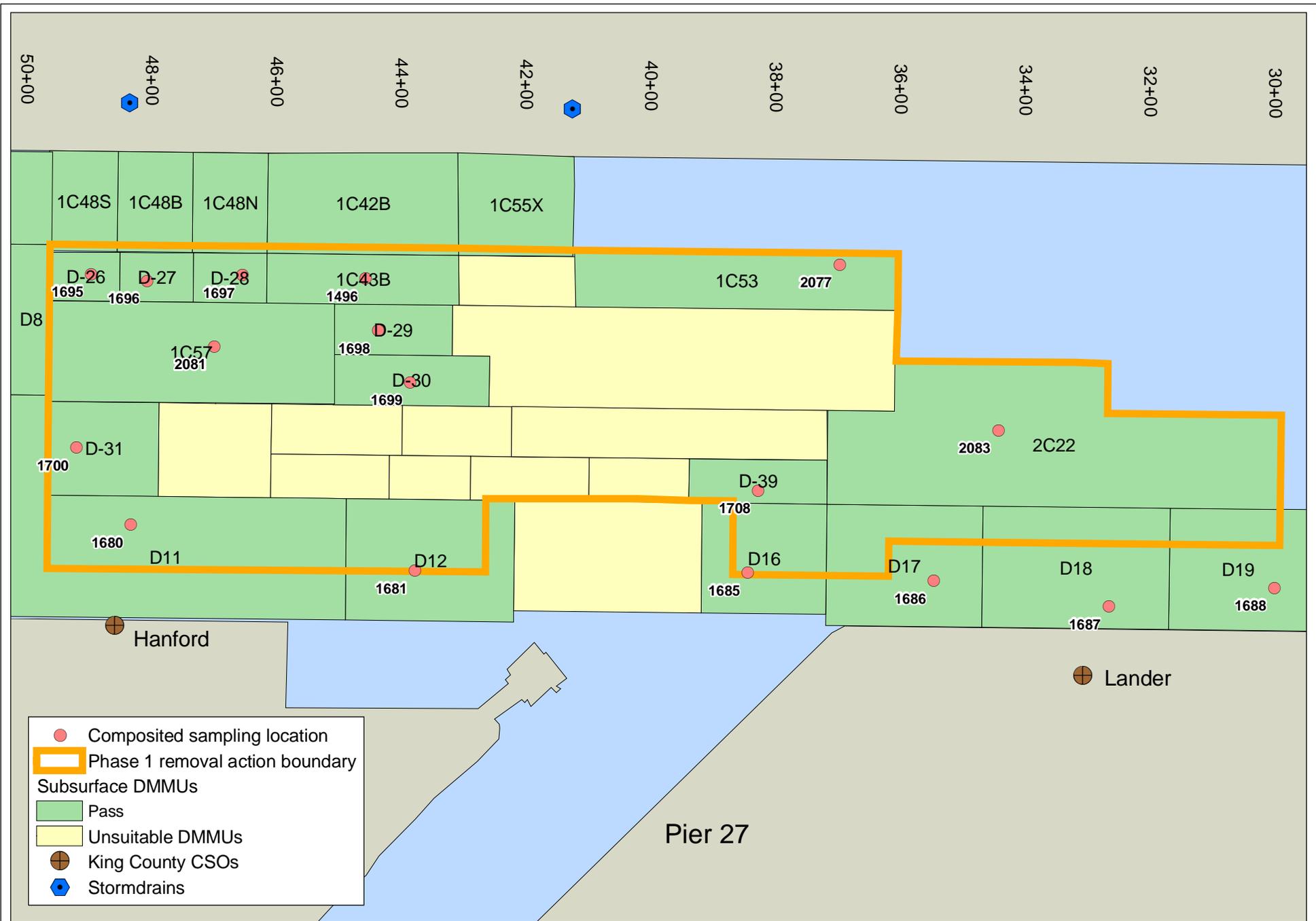
12/4/2003
Date



Peter Leon, Washington Department of Natural Resources

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DMMO File



Map 1. East Waterway subsurface (>4ft) DMMUs that met PSDDA criteria for open-water disposal





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MEMORANDUM

To: Dave Kendall, USACE
From: Doug Hotchkiss, Port of Seattle, Susan McGroddy, Windward
Subject: East Waterway non-time critical removal action: Phase 1 Removal area
Date: November 7, 2003

The purpose of this memorandum is to request a recency evaluation for subsurface DMMUs within the East Waterway non-time-critical removal action Phase 1 Removal area. The Phase 1 Removal area has been characterized in a recently produced EE/CA (Windward 2003). This memo summarizes the sediment characterization of subsurface DMMUs previously tested and approved within the Phase 1 Removal area (Map 1). Subsurface DMMUs are physically isolated from potential sources of contamination and therefore, the physical and chemical characteristics of these sediments have not changed since they were characterized. Therefore, the initial characterization of these DMMUs as suitable for open-water disposal should be considered valid.

Terminal 18 (T-18) sediment characterizations following the DMMP process were conducted in two main stages. The first-stage area (Stage 1) was characterized in 1996 and the second-stage area (Stage 2) was characterized in 1998. In addition, sediments within this area were characterized as part of the the East Waterway Deepening project in 1998. Map 1 identifies the suitable subsurface DMMUs within the Phase 1 Removal area.

DMMUs within the Phase 1 Removal area were characterized as part of the T-18 sediment characterization (EVS 1998) and the East Waterway channel deepening sediment characterization (SAIC 1999). The results of these characterizations are summarized in Table 1. The chemicals that were present at concentrations above the screening level (SL) as well as the results of bioassay testing conducted with these samples.

Sediment PCB concentrations most commonly exceeded the SL value with a maximum EF of 3.0 in DMMU 1C43B. Two exceedances of the mercury SL were reported as well

as one exceedances of the DDT SL. All of the sediment samples passed the bioassay testing.

Table 1. Subsurface (>4ft) DMMU chemistry and bioassay results summary

DMMU	Loc #	# OF SAMPLE LOCATIONS COMPOSITED IN DMMU	CHEMICALS EXCEEDING SL	SL EF	BIOASSAY
D11 ^a	1680	4	none		pass
D12 ^a	1681	3	none		pass
D16 ^a	1685	2	none		pass
D17 ^a	1686	2	PCBs	1.2	pass
D18 ^a	1687	2	PCBs	1.6	pass
D19 ^a	1688	2	PCBs	1.3	pass
D26 ^a	1695	1	Mercury	1.9	pass
D27 ^a	1696	1	none		pass
D28 ^a	1697	1	none		pass
D29 ^a	1698	1	none		pass
D30 ^a	1699	1	none		pass
D31a	1700	1	none		pass
D39a	1708	1	PCBs	1.7	pass
1C53 ^b	2077	4	Mercury	1.2	pass
			DDTs	1.7	
			PCBs	3.0	
1C43B ^c	1496	4	none		pass
2C22 ^b	2083	5	none		pass
1C57 ^b	2081	4	none		pass

^a East Waterway channel deepening SAIC (1999)

^b T-18 phase 1 EVS (1998)

^c T-18 phase 2 EVS (1998)

