

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

13 July 2004

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF THE SUITABILITY OF SEDIMENT PROPOSED TO BE DREDGED FROM THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM HARRIS AVENUE SHIPYARD MTCA CLEANUP DREDGING PROJECT FOR OPEN-WATER DISPOSAL AT A PSDDA OPEN-WATER DISPOSAL SITE OR BENEFICIAL REUSE, AS EVALUATED UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

1. The following summary reflects the consensus determination of the Agencies that comprise the regional Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) for the State of Washington. The agencies include the Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency. The agencies are charged with determining the suitability of dredged material for in-water disposal and have evaluated the proposed dredging of 15,432 cubic yards from the Harris Avenue Shipyard MTCA cleanup dredging project in Bellingham Bay, Washington. This project is part of an Agreed Order Cleanup Action between the Department of Ecology and the Port of Bellingham.
2. The project was ranked high for testing purposes. The sampling and analysis plan was approved on July 14, 2003 by the DMMP agencies for an estimated total dredged material footprint volume of 15,432 cubic yards. The sampling was accomplished between February 24-25, 2004, and the approved SAP called for collecting two subsamples within each of the five Dredged Material Management Units (DMMU's.) using a 4-inch outside diameter vibracore sampler. Z-samples were also collected underlying each DMMU, each representing the top one-foot of the proposed new sediment surface after the dredging has been completed. The Z-samples were archived pending the analyses of the overlying DMMUs. Figures 1 and 2 depicts the vicinity map and location of each sample collected among the DMMUs being characterized. The composited samples were collected for both chemistry and potential biological testing. A tiered testing approach was used, and all samples for potential biological testing were archived at 4°C pending completion of the chemical analyses.
3. Relevant dates for regulatory tracking purposes are included in Table 1.

Table 1. Regulatory Tracking Information and Dates

Initial SAP submittal date:	June 19, 2003
Revised SAP submittal date:	September 15, 2003
SAP approval letter date:	July 14, 2003
Sampling date(s):	February 24-25, 2004
Sediment data characterization report submittal date:	June 25, 2004
DAIS Tracking Number	HARAS-1-A-F-200
Recency Determination Date: High (2 years)	February 2006

4. The Sampling and Analysis Plan approved by the Agencies for testing for the six DMMUs was followed, and quality assurance/quality control guidelines specified by the PSDDA Users Manual were generally complied with. The data gathered were deemed sufficient and acceptable for decision-making by the DMMP agencies based on best professional judgment.
5. Table 2 provides an analysis summary of the results of the conventional parameters analyzed for the five composited DMMUs and the results of the Z-sample analyzed for DMMU-2, and all analytes exceeding DMMP and SMS chemical guidelines. Table 3 contains a complete inventory of chemical testing results for the five composited DMMUs. Chemical analysis of the five DMMUs indicated that four of the five DMMUs had no detected or undetected DMMP exceedances of chemicals of concern. For the

remaining DMMU-2, arsenic and zinc exceeded the SL, Acenaphthene, Fluorene, Phenanthrene, Total LPAH's, Fluoranthene, Pyrene, Benzo(a)anthracene, Total HPAH's exceeded the SL. Within DMMU-2 the Bioaccumulation Trigger was exceeded for Fluoranthene. Examining the chemistry quantitated in the DMMU-2 underlying Z-sample indicted that the TOC was extremely low at 0.081%. Because of the low TOC's the carbon-normalized PCBs indicated that the PCB bioaccumulation trigger was exceeded in this sample. However, carbon normalizing chemistry should not be accomplished when TOC's are less than 0.5 %. Therefore the BT exceedance noted is not a cause for concern. Also, as noted in Table 2, other carbon normalized chemicals exceeding SMS guidelines were an artifact of the low TOC's and the dry weight LAET's are the appropriate comparison. No SMS exceedances are noted using the AET values in Table 2 for the Z-sample underlying DMMU-2. Also, the slight SMS exceedance of PCB SQS in DMMU-3 is also an artifact of the low TOCs (0.25%), and the AET comparison is the appropriate comparison. No bioassay or bioaccumulation testing was performed on DMMU-2 and therefore this DMMU is determined to be unsuitable for unconfined-open-water disposal without that testing using Best-Professional-Judgement (BPJ).

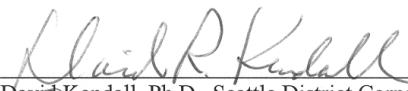
6. The results of the chemical analysis for the five composited DMMUs, representing a total of 15,432 cy indicate that 3,697 cy is unsuitable for unconfined open-water disposal (e.g., DMMU-2) and 11,735 cy is suitable for unconfined open-water disposal (e.g., DMMU's 1A, 1B, 3, 4) at either the Bellingham open-water disposal site or the Rosario Straits dispersive disposal site.
7. This memorandum documents the suitability of sediment to be dredged from the Port of Bellingham's Harris Avenue Shipyard MTCA Cleanup Dredging Project for disposal at either the Bellingham Bay nondispersive or the Rosario Straits dispersive open-water disposal sites. 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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DISPOSAL SITE OR BENEFICIAL REUSE, AS EVALUATED UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE
CLEAN WATER ACT.**

Concur:

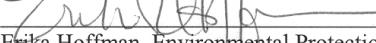
7/28/2004

Date


David Kendall, Ph.D., Seattle District Corps of Engineers

7/22/04

Date


Erika Hoffman, Environmental Protection Agency

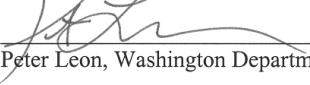
7/21/04

Date


Tom Gries/Cinde Donahue, Washington Department of Ecology

7/28/2004

Date


Peter Leon, Washington Department of Natural Resources

Copies Furnished:

Randel Perry, Regulatory Branch Project Manager

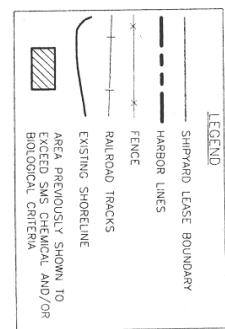
Erika Hoffman, EPA

Tom Gries/Cinde Donoghue, Ecology

Loree Randall, Ecology

Peter Leon, DNR

DMMO File



125
0
250
SCALE IN FEET

LEGEND

SHIPYARD LEASE BOUNDARY

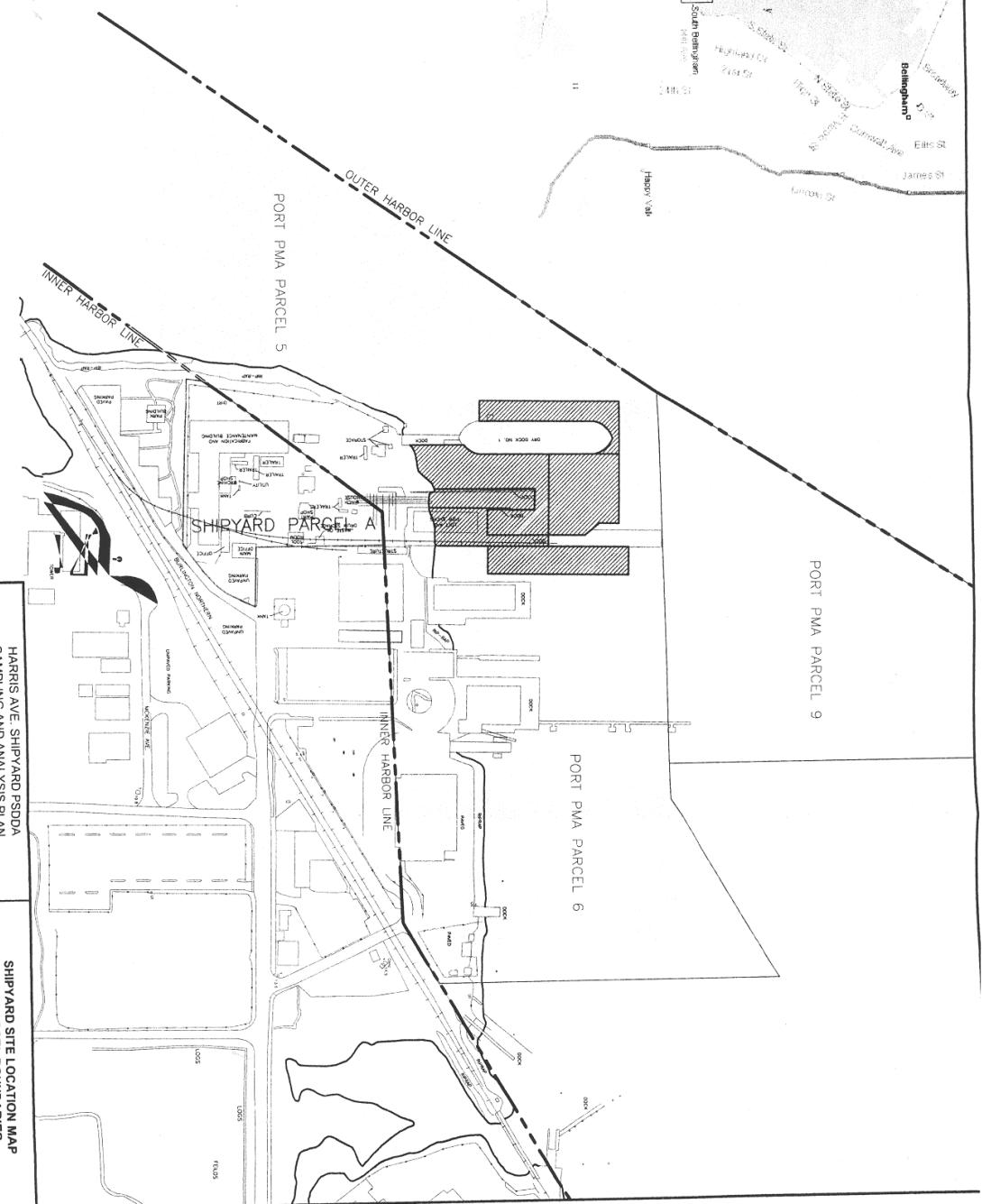
HARBOR LINES

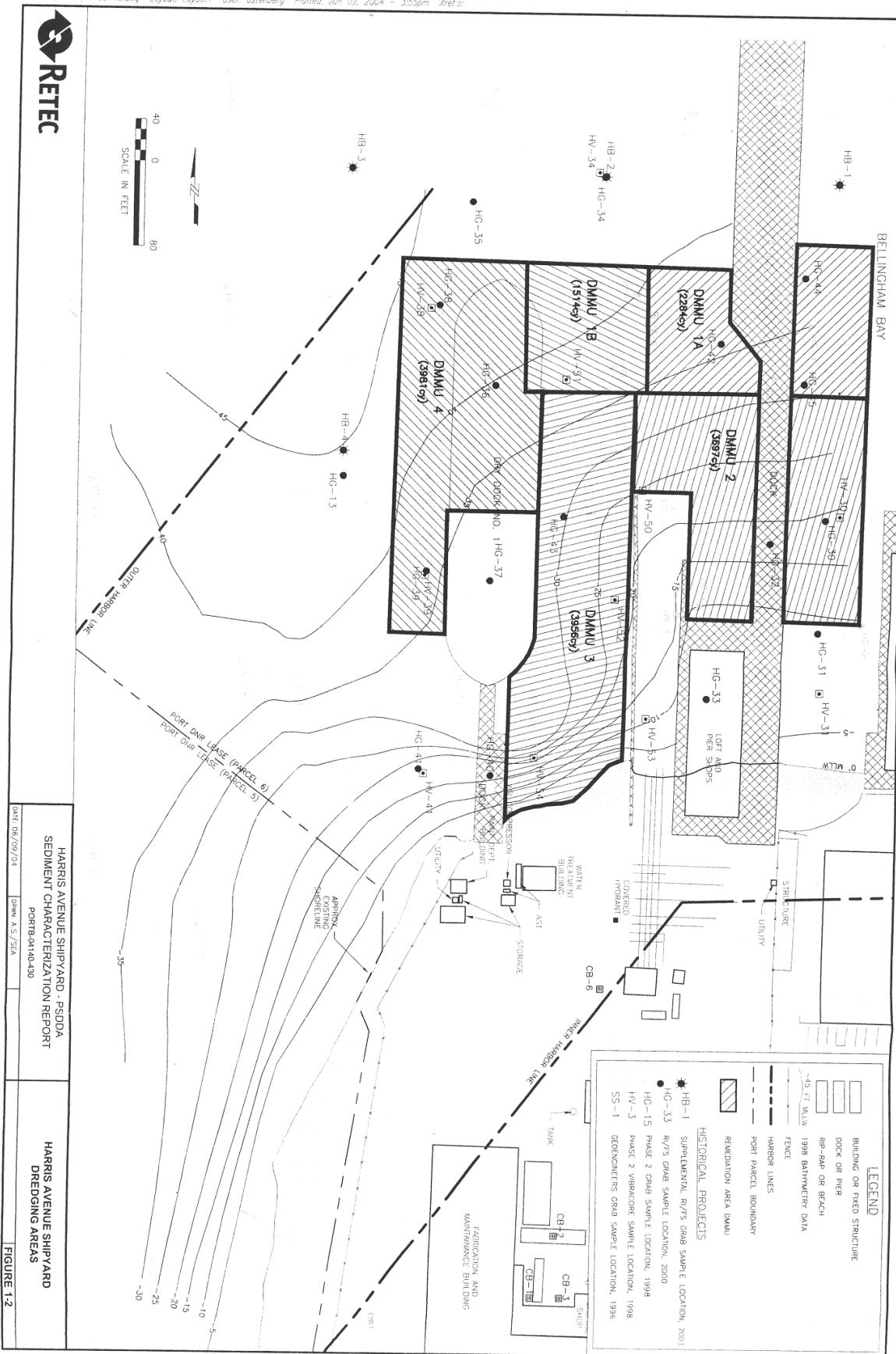
RAILROAD TRACKS

EXISTING SHORELINE

AREA PREVIOUSLY SHOWN TO EXCEED SAMS CHEMICAL AND/OR BIOLOGICAL CRITERIA

HARRIS AVE. SHIPYARD PSDA SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS PLAN PORT-04140-10	
SHIPYARD SITE LOCATION MAP AND PARCEL BOUNDARIES	
DATE: 02/27/3/03	DRAWN: A.S./SEA
FIGURE 1-1	







HARRIS AVENUE SHIPYARD - PSDA
SEDIMENT CHARACTERIZATION REPORT
PORTB-04-04-030

HARRIS AVENUE SHIPYARD
DMMU SAMPLING LOCATIONS

FIGURE 2-1

