CENWS-OD-TS-DMMO

MEMORADUM FOR RECORD 24 May 2005

SUBJECT: SUITABILITY DETERMINATION RECENCY EXTENSION FOR PROPOSED MAINTENANCE DREDGE MATERIAL AT OLYMPIA HARBOR, LOWER BUDD INLET, OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON (Public Notice #23) EVALUATED UNDER SECTION 404 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT FOR OPEN-WATER DISPOSAL AT AN APPROVED PSDDA (ANDERSON ISLAND) SITE.

1. Background. The proposed dredge material at Olympia Harbor underwent DMMP characterization through April, May, and August 1999. The results of that characterization are documented in a May 17, 2000 suitability determination memorandum (SDM), in which 624,000 cubic yards (cy) were found to be suitable for disposal at a PSDDA open water disposal site or for beneficial use. The consensus determination of the DMMP agencies was that all 624,000 cy from the federal, Olympia Harbor Navigation Channel and the Port of Olympia's berthing area are suitable for open-water disposal. Note: The May 17, 2000 suitability determination included characterization of two feet of potential advance maintenance dredging and areas of minor widening at the bend, entrance and turning basin for the free movement of vessels.

The Corps of Engineers proposes to dredge the deep-draft, navigation channel at Olympia, Washington. In addition, the Port of Olympia proposes to maintenance dredge their existing berthing area. However, the total proposed dredged volume is approximately 478,000 cubic yards which is less that the 624,000 characterization volume because the advance maintenance dredging could not be justified; however, the characterization does confirm that materials below the maintenance dredge cut (Z material) are clean for the resulting sediment / water interface. The following summary reflects the DMMP agencies (Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency) consensus decision on the acceptability of all relevant test data to make a determination of suitability for the disposal of the material at a PSDDA open-water disposal site.

The proposed dredging area is ranked "low" based on sediment chemistry data and the lack of any ongoing sources of chemical contamination. There has been no change in adjacent land use or other potential sources of contaminants and no significant (>5 gallons) spills of petroleum or hazardous materials in the immediate vicinity of the proposed dredged area. The amount of sediment accumulation since the original characterization was evaluated by comparing data from bathymetry surveys conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in May 1998 and in April 2004. There has been no or minimal sediment accumulation (±0.5 feet) between 1999 and 2004 in much of the proposed dredged area. In some areas, there has been up to 1 foot of sediment accumulation, with a maximum accumulation of up to 1.24 feet in small, isolated spots.

Permitting for this project is expected to be complete in time to dredge during the 2006-2007 dredging season. To meet this schedule, the applicant (Corps Navigation & Port, local sponsor) requests that the DMMP suitability for unconfined open-water disposal be extended through May 2008.

2. Analysis. In a 2002 Clarification Paper, the DMMP outlined an approach for considering recency extensions for projects that could not be dredged during the standard recency window due to permitting requirements. That approach considers 1) previous characterization data; 2) any new data from the dredge site or vicinity; and 3) site use and character.

The additional areas of Corps minor widening at the bend, entrance channel and turning basin, were included in the 1999 sediment characterization. There were no exceedances of 1999 DMMP screening levels for the standard list of chemicals of concern. All detection limits were below the screening levels. A tiered approach was used in the analysis for Tributyltin (TBT). Composites for the berthing area exceeded the screening level for TBT. Two DMMUs exceeded BT for TBT but passed bioaccumulation testing. A separate sampling and analysis effort was undertaken for the bioaccumulation testing. Sampling for TBT bioaccumulation analysis was completed in August 1999. Sediments from the two DMMUs are suitable because all TBT tissue concentrations are significantly less than the target tissue level.

Based on the above review, the DMMP determined that there is little risk in granting the requested recency extension.

3. Suitability. This summary reflects a 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, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources. The DMMP agencies concurred that an extension of the recency date of the suitable DMMUs through May 2008 is acceptable. Thus approximately 478,000 cubic yards remain suitable for open water disposal. This recency extension is contingent upon no significant perturbations or unanticipated impacts occurring that would affect the quality of the sediments between the dated of this memorandum and the dredging dates.

This memorandum documents the suitability of sediment to be dredged from the Olympia Harbor Navigation project for disposal at a PSDDA 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.

Reference:

Warner, L.C. 2002. DMMP Clarification Paper: Recency Guidelines – Program Considerations. Prepared by Lauran Cole Warner (US Army Corps of Engineers) for the DMMP agencies, SMARM 2002.

Concur:

6/2/2005
Date

Gwyn Puckett, Seattle District Corps of Engineers

6/2/2005
Date

Jonathan Freedman, Environmental Protection Agency

6/2/05
Date

Cinde Donoghue, Washington Department of Ecology

June 2, 2005
Date

Peter Leon, Washington Department of Natural Resources

Copies Furnished:
Randal Perry, Regulatory Branch Project Manager
John Malek, EPA
Jonathan Freedman, EPA
Cinde Donoghue, Ecology
Tom Gries, Ecology
Peter Leon, DNR
Jim Amador, DNR
Hiram Arden, COE
Vicki Fagerness, Integral Consulting
George Hart, COE
Bob Burkle, WDFW
DMMO File