

SUBJECT: REGENCY DETERMINATION FOR THE PROPOSED 2015/2016 DREDGING OF THE SNOHOMISH RIVER, EVERETT FOR UNCONFINED OPEN-WATER DISPOSAL AT THE PORT GARDNER NONDISPERSIVE SITE OR AT AN APPROVED BENEFICIAL USE OR UPLAND SITE.

- 1) **Introduction.** This memorandum reflects the consensus determination of the Dredged Material Management Program agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency) regarding the application of the DMMP recency guidelines to proposed dredging of the Snohomish River with in-water disposal at the Port Gardner nondispersive disposal site or at an approved beneficial use or upland site.

This recency determination applies to the USACE proposed plan to dredge 210,000 cubic yards from the downstream settling basin and approach channel between stations 50+00 and 90+00 (Figure 1). Dredging will occur from December 2015 to February 2016.

- 2) **Background.**

The USACE routinely maintains the lower 6.5 miles of the Snohomish river channel and settling basins with dredging to authorized depths and placement of the dredged material at approved upland, beneficial use, or open-water disposal sites. The Snohomish River is characterized by rapid and routine shoaling that requires frequent dredging to maintain safe navigation.

The lower settling basin and approach channel in the Lower Snohomish River require maintenance dredging every 1-2 years. In-water disposal of maintenance dredged material from these two areas was most recently approved in a DMMP suitability determination for the Snohomish River Project on January 30, 2012 (DMMP, 2012). In that determination, the ranking of the downstream settling basin and approach channel were documented as low, and a recency period of 5 to 7 years (September 2016-2018) was provided.

- 3) **Recency Determination.** The recency guidelines indicate how often a project needs to conduct sediment characterization. Recency guidelines apply to both projects that have been tested but not yet dredged, and to projects that have been maintained with repeated dredging since previous testing. Under the recency guidelines, sediment sampling and testing would not be needed for this cycle of dredging.
- 4) **References.**

DMMP, 2012. *DMMP Suitability Determination for Proposed Maintenance Dredged Material from the Snohomish River, Everett, Snohomish County, Everett (CENWS OD-TS-NS-35, Dated July 20, 2011) for Unconfined Open-Water Disposal at the Port Gardner Nondispersive Site or at an Approved Beneficial Use or Upland Site.* Prepared by the USACE for the DMMP Agencies, January 30, 2012.

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