



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Seattle District

Special Public Notice

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for BP Cherry Point Previously Authorized and Constructed Dock (North Wing), an extension to the existing BP Cherry Point dock, in Strait of Georgia at Cherry Point, Near Ferndale, Whatcom County, Washington. Reference No.: NWS-1992-0435

ISSUE DATE: May 29, 2014

EXPIRATION DATE: August 6, 2014

AUTHORITY: Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Seattle District is the Federal lead agency for this action. The U.S. Coast Guard is a cooperating agency. The Corps is announcing the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Corps' regulations for NEPA implementation (33 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] part 230 and 325, Appendices B and C), and in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.9. A Notice of Availability will be published by the Corps and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on June 6, 2014, announcing a 60 day public comment period ending on August 6, 2014. Please submit comments by August 6, 2014.

PUBLIC MEETING DATES AND LOCTIONS: The Corps will hold two public meetings on the following dates and the following locations:

1. Bellingham, Washington: July 16, 2014 from 7pm to 9pm with open house from 6pm to 7pm, at Shuksan Middle School Gymnasium, 2717 Alderwood Avenue, Bellingham, Washington 98225.

2. Seattle, Washington: July 24, 2014: from 7pm to 9pm with open house from 6pm to 7pm at Federal Center South Galaxy Room, 4735 East Marginal Way South, Seattle, Washington 98134. Note: A valid government-issued photo identification (for example, a driver's license) will be required for entrance to the building.

Written comments on the DEIS or requests for information should be sent to Ms. Olivia Romano, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle Regulatory Branch, P. O. Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755, or via email to olivia.h.romano@usace.army.mil.

The DEIS can be downloaded at:

<http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Portals/27/docs/regulatory/NewsUpdates/BPDock2014/BP%20Cherry%20Point%20Dock%20DEIS%20May%202014.pdf>

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Corps has prepared a DEIS to examine the incremental environmental risk, principally from vessel traffic, related to operation of the previously authorized and constructed North Wing of the BP Cherry Point dock. *Incremental environmental risk* is defined in the DEIS as the change in environmental risk between operating the BP Cherry Point dock at maximum capacity with a single berth (the South Wing) and operating the dock with two berths (the North Wing and South Wing) at projected future vessel traffic levels. Three alternatives are analyzed in the DEIS: Proposed Action, No Action and Alternative A. The Proposed Action is the continued operation of the North Wing, with conditions including prohibiting the use of the North Wing for unloading or loading of crude oil. The No Action alternative is revoking the current permit and requiring the removal of the North Wing. Alternative A is identical to the Proposed Action except that the condition prohibiting unloading and loading crude oil would not be included for operations of the North Wing. The Corps has been directed by Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to complete an EIS on the impacts of the permitted dock. The purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is to provide decision-makers and the public with information pertaining to the incremental environmental risk related to operations of the dock, the proposed action and alternatives, disclose environmental impacts from potential vessel traffic accidents and oil spills in Puget Sound region, and identify mitigation measures.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Olivia Romano, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle Regulatory Branch, P. O. Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755, or via email to olivia.h.romano@usace.army.mil.