



## **Joint Public Notice**

Application for a Department of the Army Permit and a Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence

US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Branch

Post Office Box 3755 Seattle, WA 98124-3755 Telephone: (206) 764-6960 ATTN: Ms. Olivia Romano, Project Manager WA Department of Ecology SEA Program Post Office Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504-7600 Telephone: (360) 407-6068 ATTN: SEA Program, Federal Permit Coordinator Public Notice Date: January 9, 2015 Expiration Date: February 8, 2015

Reference No.: NWS-2014-00413-WRD Name: Seattle, Port of

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) have received an application to perform work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed drawings dated April 2014.

The Corps will review the work in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. Ecology will review the work pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

<u>APPLICANT</u>: Port of Seattle Attention: Mr. Jon H. Sloan Seaport Environmental Programs P.O. Box 1209 Seattle, Washington 98111 Telephone: (206) 787-3675

LOCATION: In Duwamish East Waterway and Elliott Bay, Terminals 25, 18, 30, 46, and Pier 28/Slip 27 in Seattle, Washington.

<u>WORK</u>: Maintenance dredging over a 10 year period to remove up to 160,000 cubic yards of sediments from the waterways, including periodically removing of "high spots" or shoaling that develop from vessel movement, natural sedimentation, and/or periodic under pier slope sloughing. Up to 21,000 cubic yards of clean sand or gravel may be placed within the dredge prism footprint, over the 10 year period, at a thickness of six inches to one foot in certain areas to meet anti-degradation requirements.

The dredge areas include the berth areas from pier face to the Federal channel and the Federal navigation channel, which covers about 123.6 acres. The sediments would be removed via mechanical bucket dredge (either clamshell bucket or enclosed environmental bucket). All dredging would occur between -34 and -54 Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) line, including a one-foot advance maintenance depth and a two-foot allowable overdredge. The "overdredge" provisions are not intended to increase the overall depth, but to ensure that authorized depths are achieved and would allow for shoaling and/or the placement of sand/gravel to maintain authorized depths between dredging events. It is anticipated that most of the dredged sediments would not be suitable for unconfined open

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water disposal. Dredged sediments unsuitable for open water disposal would be placed by the dredge equipment into a haul barge for transport to a contractor provided upland offloading facility. Any dredged areas that may contain sediments that may be suitable for open water disposal would be sampled and characterized, and approved for open water disposal through the dredge material management program prior to any disposal.

A clean layer of imported sand and gravel may be placed within the dredge prism footprint after each dredging event either to meet Washington State Anti-Degradation Policies or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) related to the Environmental Protection Agency requirements or ensure slope stability adjacent to the existing submarine retaining walls or toe of riprap slope. Final surface elevations within the dredge prism after the placement of the sand/gravel layer would be - 34 to -51 feet MLLW depending on project elevations at the specific site. Sand/gravel fill would be placed with the same equipment used for dredging. Sand/gravel fill would be picked up from haul barge with dredge bucket and lowered to within 10 feet of the bottom and placed.

<u>PURPOSE</u>: To maintain authorized depths in Terminal berth areas and for navigation of deep draft vessels in the East Waterway.

<u>Dredged Material Testing</u>: The applicant has chosen not to complete the testing before this Public Notice was published. Prior to implementation of any particular dredging event, the proposed dredged material must be tested according to the procedures specified by the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP). The DMMP evaluation may include both chemical and biological testing of sediments. For this project, the DMMP agencies will determine whether the dredged material is suitable for disposal at a DMMP open-water disposal site or must be disposed of at an upland location. The sediment testing data will be available at the Corps, Seattle District, Dredged Material Management Office.

<u>Disposal Site Use Conditions</u>: The following standard site-use conditions will be specified by the Corps and the Washington Department of Natural Resources as part of the Federal/State permitting processes: (1) disposal operations must not interfere with Indian treaty fishing at the disposal site, including gill nets and other fishing gear; (2) the permittee must coordinate any nighttime disposal with the Corps, Seattle District, Regulatory Branch Project Manager; and (3) approval must be received from the District Engineer prior to conducting nighttime disposal. Other appropriate special conditions may be added as a result of comments received during the public review period for this public notice.

<u>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</u>: Copies of this public notice which have been mailed or otherwise physically distributed feature project drawings in black and white. The electronic version features those drawings in color, which we think more accurately communicates the scope of project impacts. To access the electronic version of this public notice, go to the Seattle District's web page at <u>http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/</u> and under the heading Open Public Comment Periods select Regulatory Public Notices. Recently-issued public notices are listed in chronological order of the date of issuance. Select and view the listing for this project.

<u>ENDANGERED SPECIES</u>: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. After receipt of comments from this public notice, the Corps will evaluate the potential impacts to proposed and/or listed species and their designated critical habitat.

<u>ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT</u>: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed action would impact EFH in the project area. If the Corps determines that the proposed

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action may adversely affect EFH for federally managed fisheries in Washington waters, the Corps will initiate EFH consultation with the NMFS. The Corps' final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

<u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>: The Corps has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible and other sources of information. There are no recorded historic properties within the permit area. The permit area was created in modern times and there is little likelihood that the proposed project will impinge on any historic property. The Corps invites responses to this public notice from Native American Tribes or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns regarding historic properties and sites of religious and cultural significance at or near the project area. After receipt of comments from this public notice, the Corps will evaluate potential impacts and consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and Native American Tribes in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as appropriate.

<u>PUBLIC HEARING</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

<u>EVALUATION – CORPS</u>: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

The described discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. These guidelines require an alternatives analysis for any proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

<u>SOURCE OF FILL MATERIAL</u>: The applicant has not yet identified the source of the fill material. Should a permit be issued, the Corps will evaluate the fill material source prior to the start of construction.

<u>EVALUATION</u> – <u>ECOLOGY</u>: Ecology is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Ecology will be considering all comments to determine whether to certify or deny certification for the proposed project.

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<u>ADDITIONAL EVALUATION</u>: Port of Seattle has issued an exemption from the requirement of obtaining a Shorelines Substantial Development permit for this project.

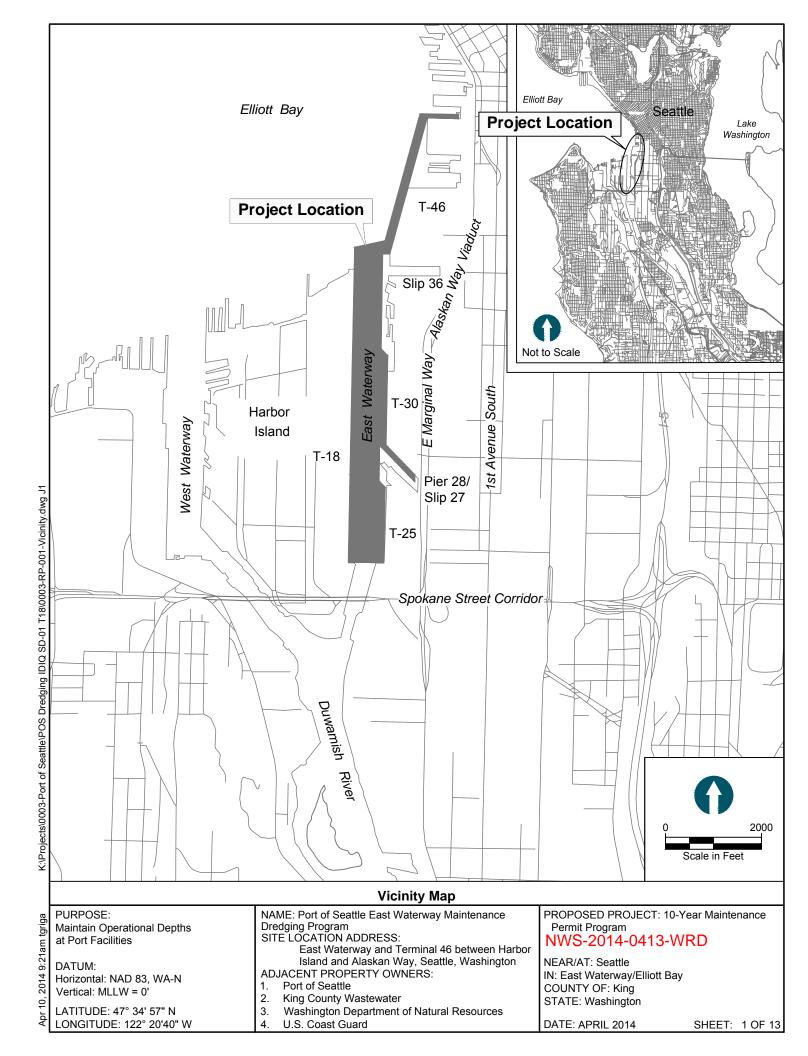
<u>COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD</u>: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. Either conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commentator's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration.

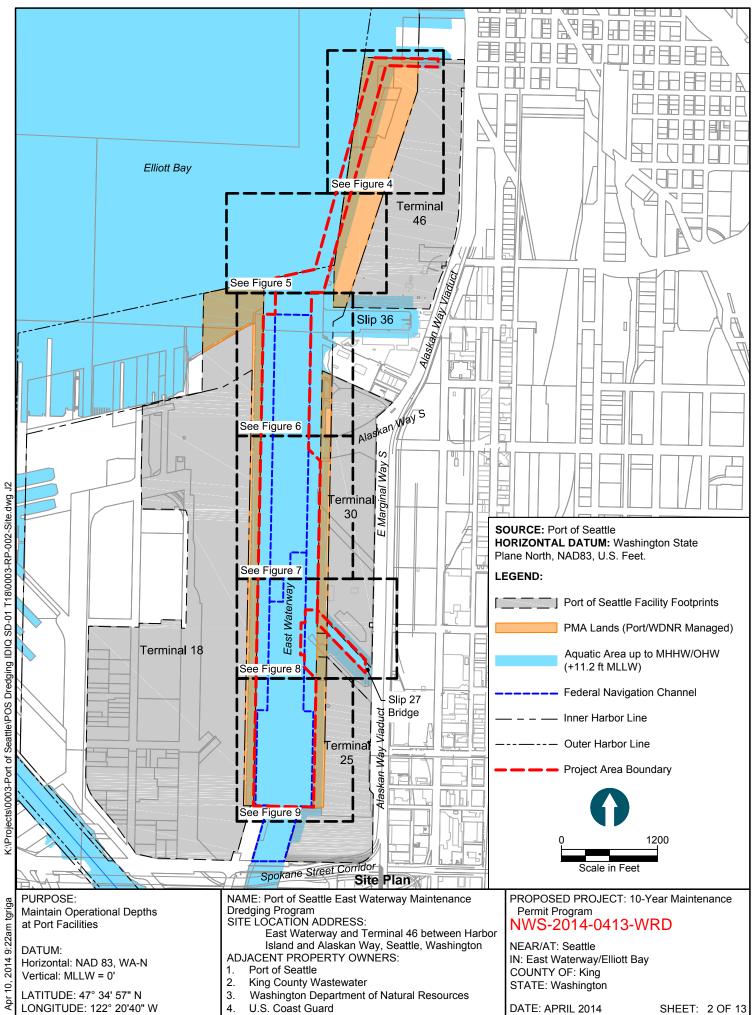
<u>CORPS COMMENTS</u>: All e-mail comments should be sent to olivia.h.romano@usace.army.mil or conventional mail comments should be sent to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Attention: Ms. Olivia Romano at P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, Washington 98124-3755. All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act including any personally identifiable information such as names, phone numbers, and addresses.

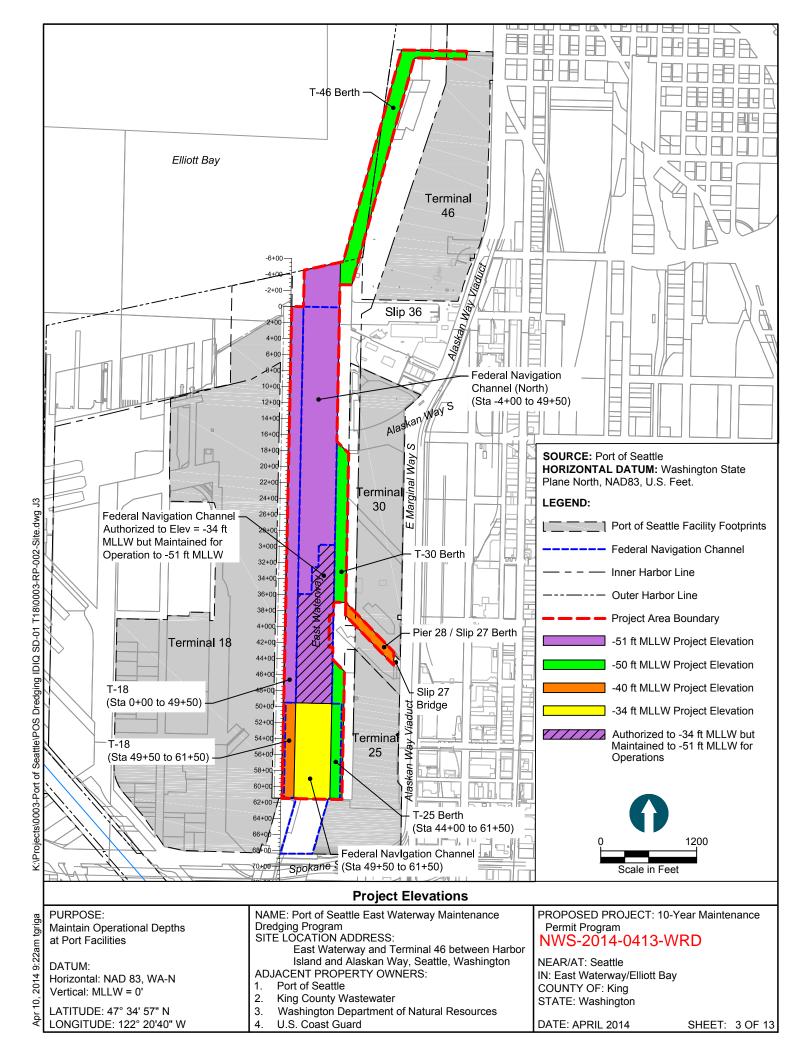
<u>ECOLOGY COMMENTS</u>: Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to a request for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA and/or Coastal Zone Management consistency concurrence, may do so by submitting written comments to the following address: Washington State Department of Ecology, Attention: Federal Permit Coordinator, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600, or e-mail to <u>ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov</u>.

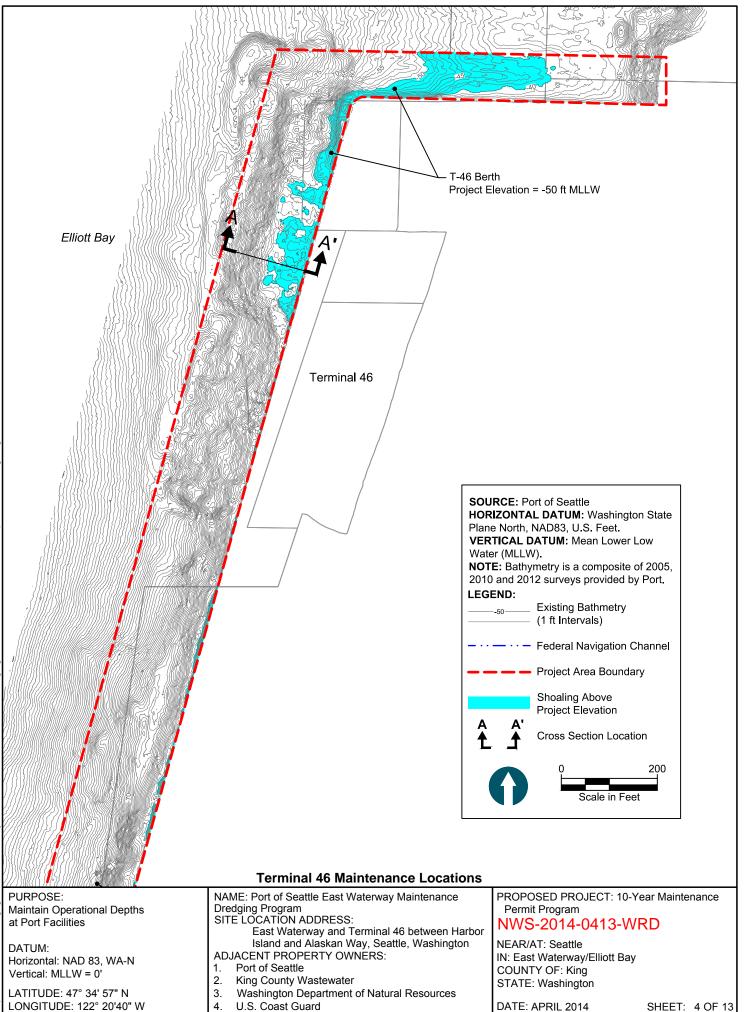
To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: Seattle, Port of; NWS-2014-00413-WRD.

Encl: Figures 13



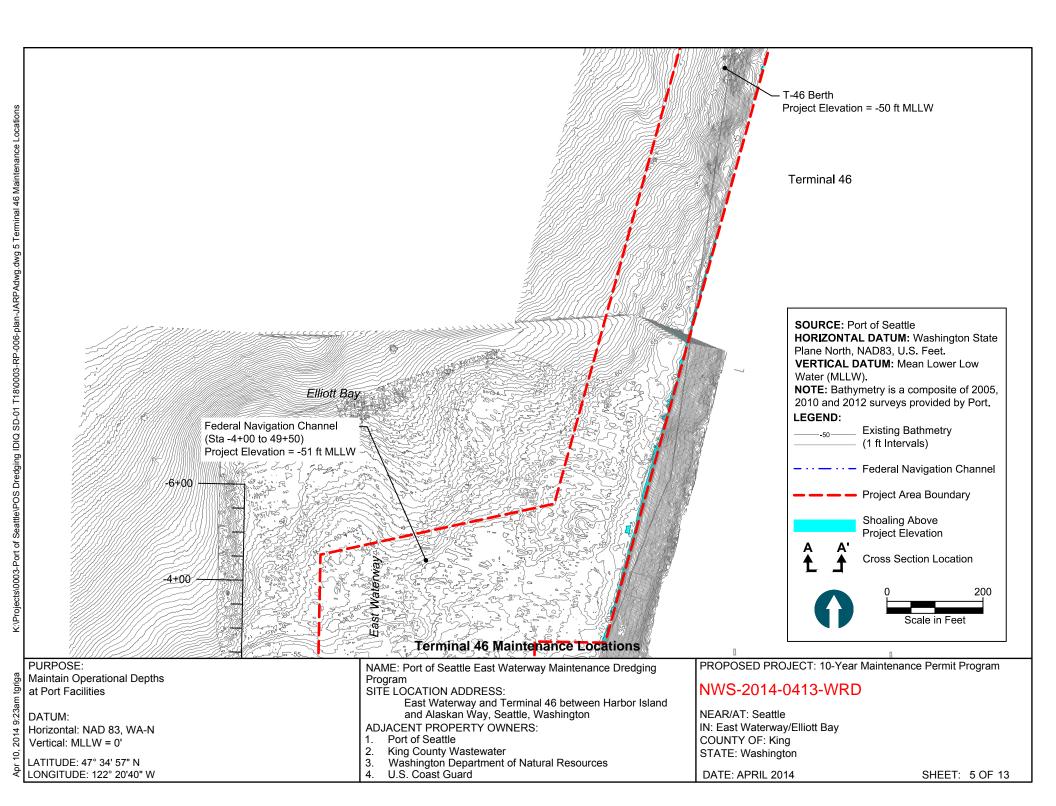


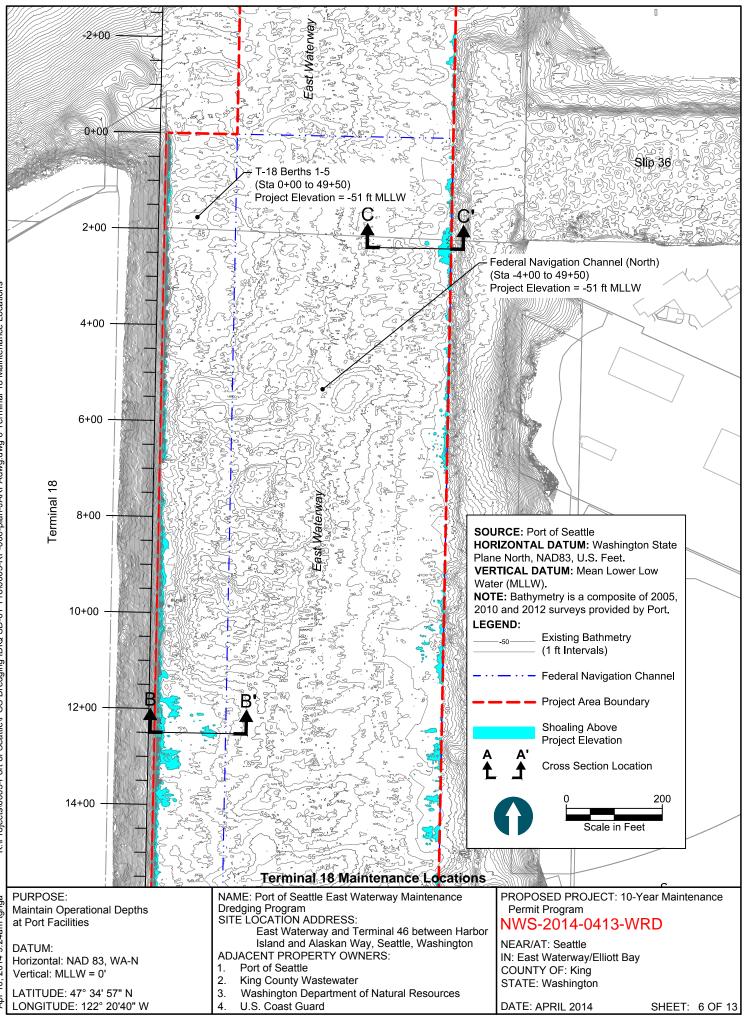




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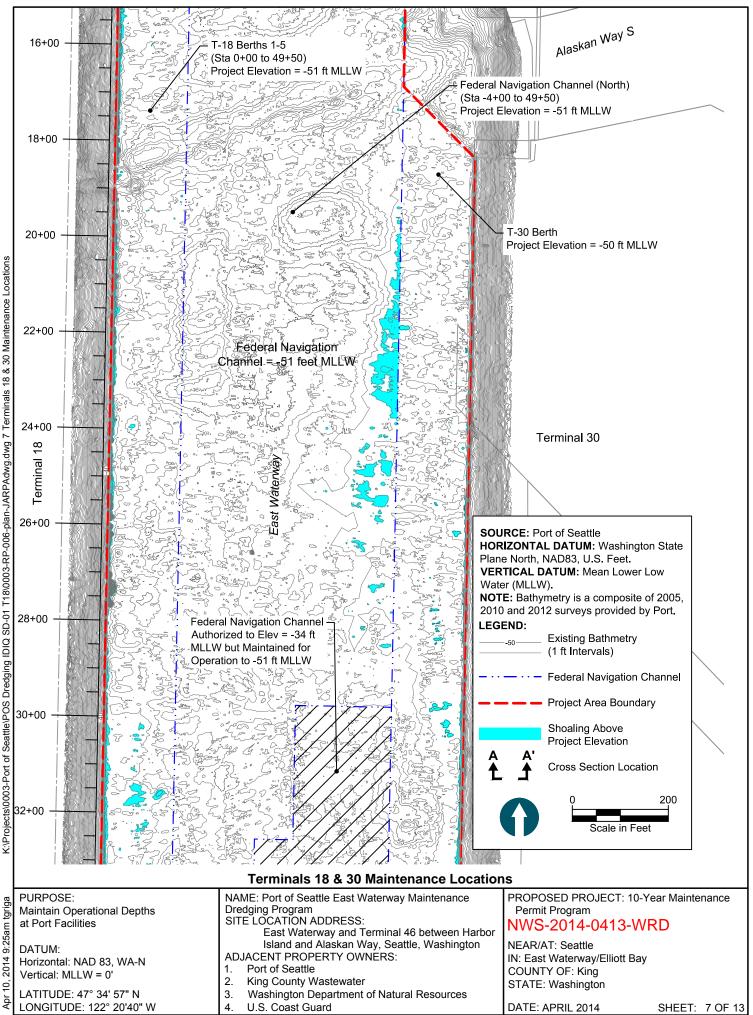
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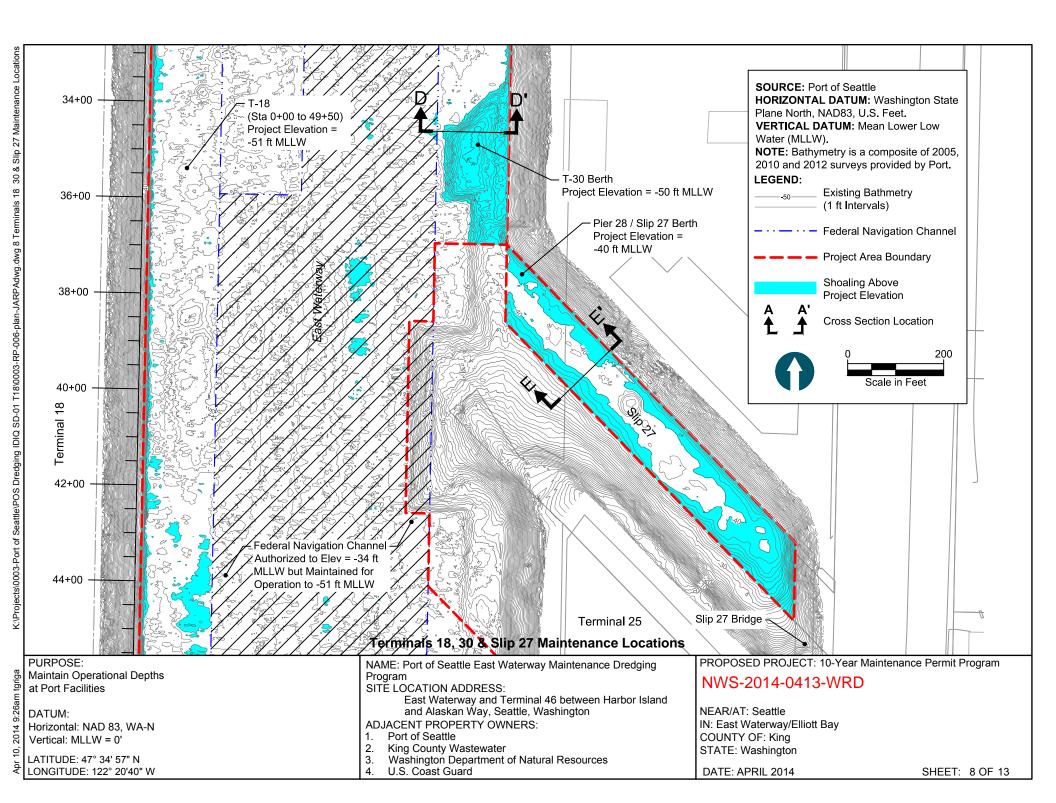


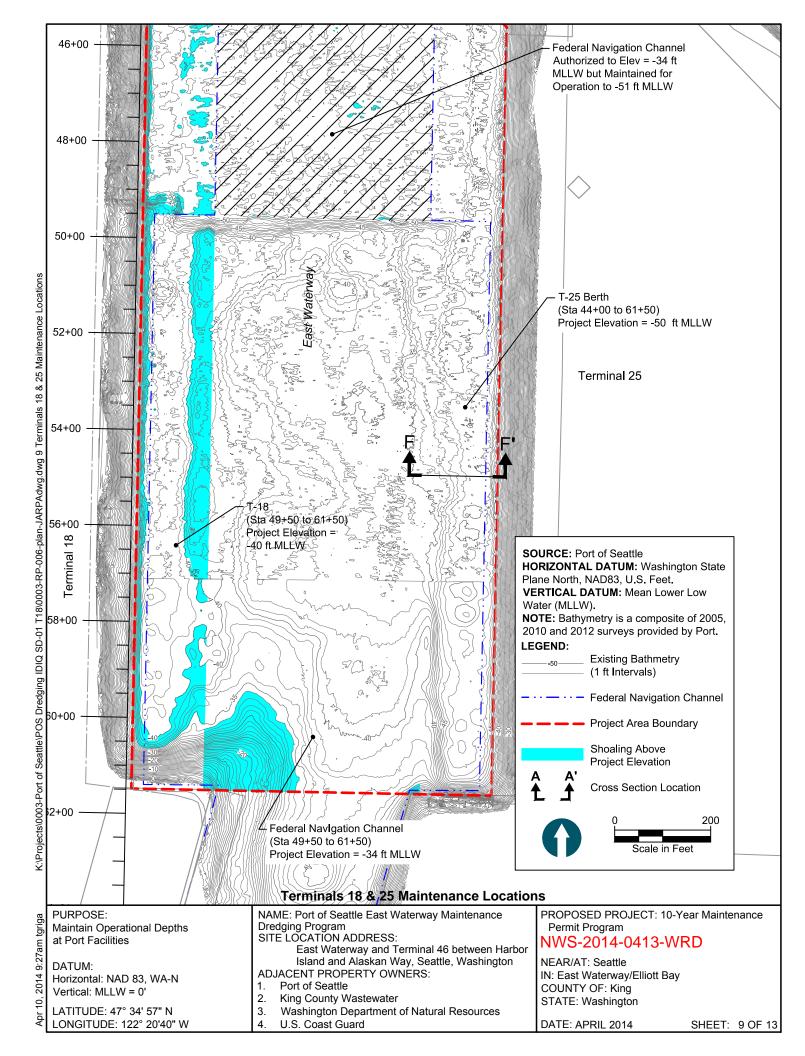
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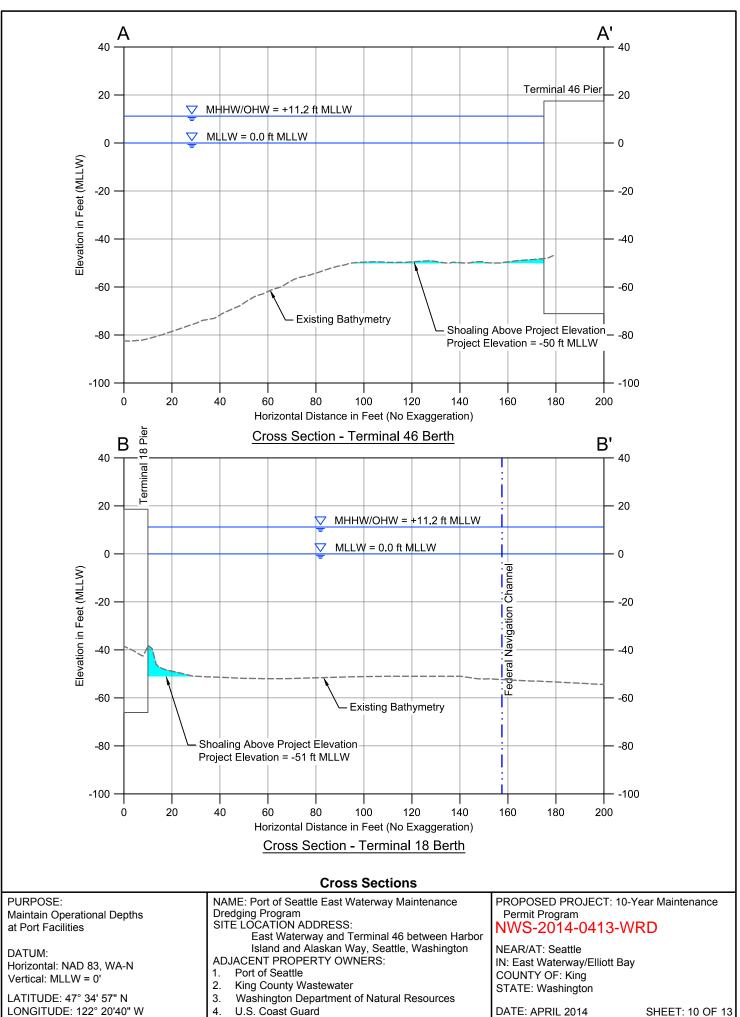
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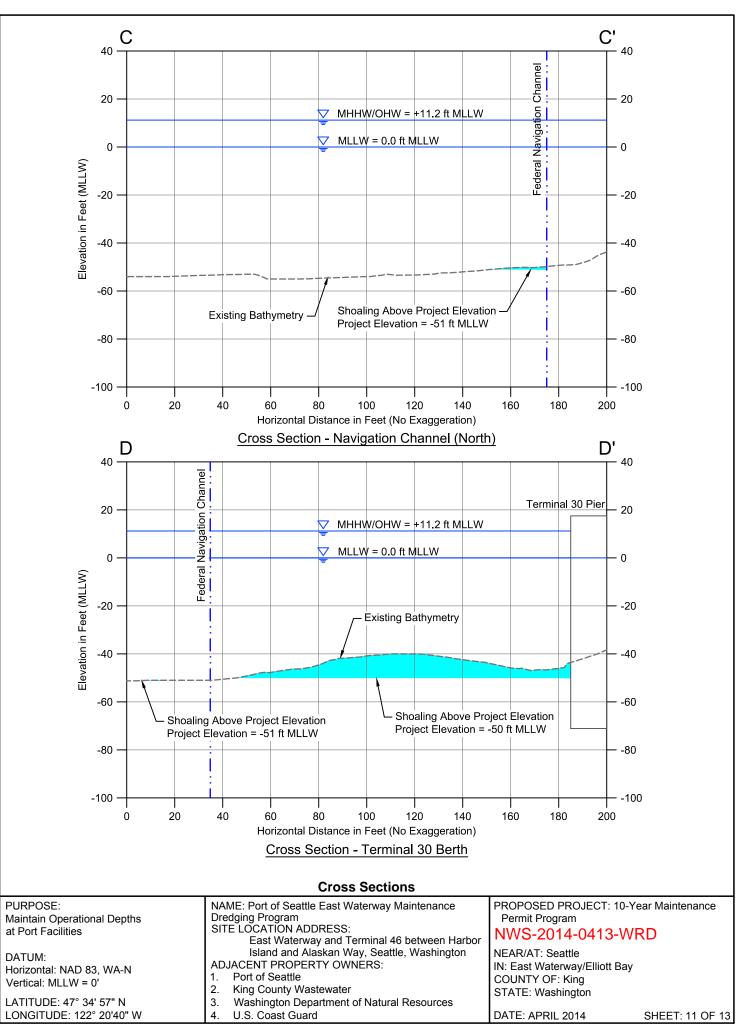




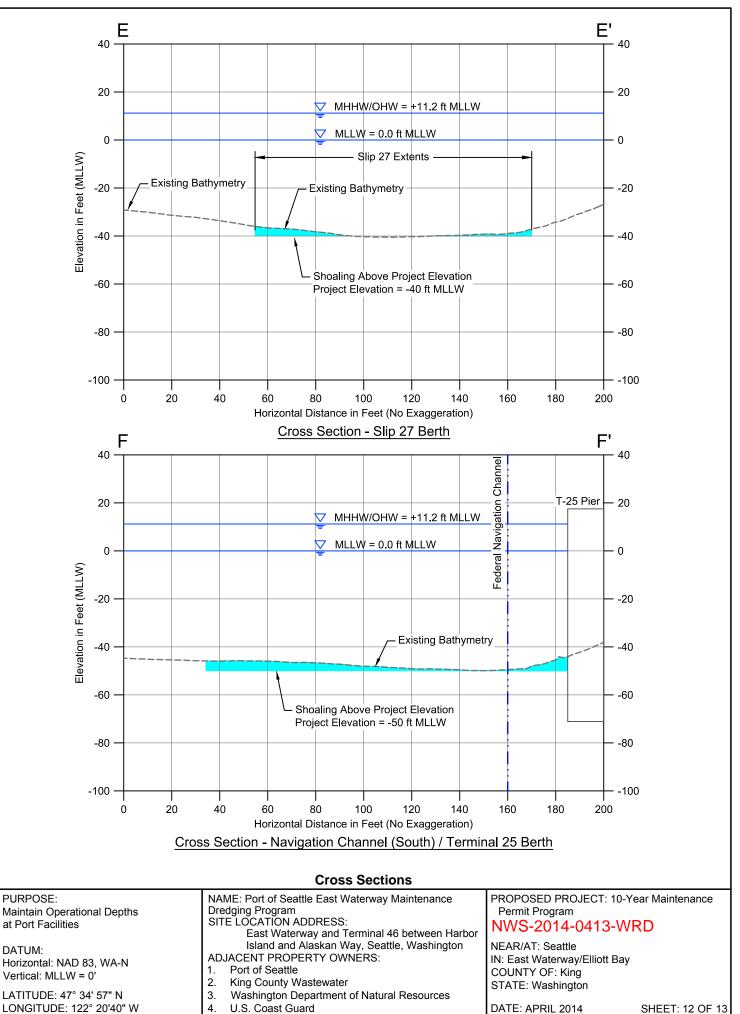


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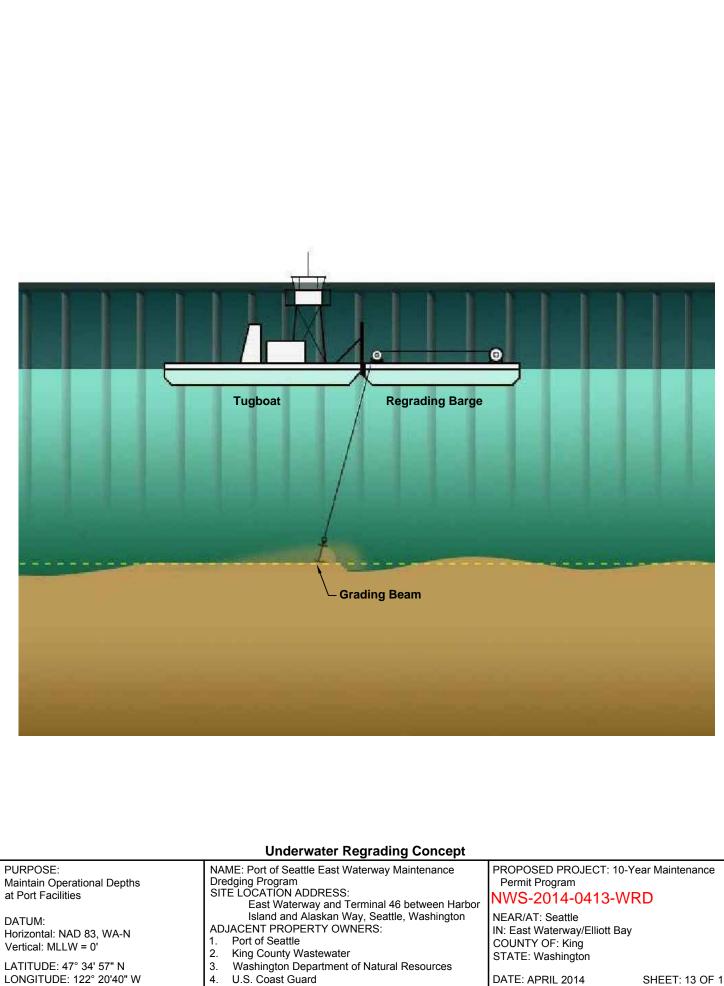
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