



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Seattle District

# Public Notice

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FISCAL YEARS 2007-2011 MAINTENANCE DREDGING, DUWAMISH NAVIGATION CHANNEL, SEATTLE HARBOR, WASHINGTON

Navigation Section  
CENWS-OD-TS-NS  
P.O. Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Public Notice Date: July 28, 2006  
Expiration Date: August 28, 2006  
Reference: CENWS-OD-TS-NS-26

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps), is soliciting comments on the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-2011 Duwamish River Federal navigation channel maintenance dredging and disposal project, Seattle, Washington.

Maintenance dredging within the navigation channel is necessary to remove areas of sediment shoaling to provide clear and safe passage for vessels. Dredged sediment shall be disposed at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Elliott Bay open-water site.

LOCATION The Duwamish River navigation channel stretches approximately five miles from Harbor Island south to the turning basin, about 1.4 miles upstream of the 14th Avenue South Bridge, and lies within the Seattle city limits. Dredging shall occur only in the upstream section of the channel. The location of proposed dredging and disposal site is shown on the two enclosed figures.

AUTHORITY This public notice is being issued in accordance with rules and regulations published as 33 CFR 337.1, Navigation and Navigable Waters, Practice and Procedure; 39 F.R. 26635-641, 22 July 1974 and 33 CFR 320-329. The Seattle Harbor project and maintenance dredging by the Department of the Army is authorized by the River and Harbor Act of March 2, 1925 (House Document 108, 68th Congress, 1st Session) and the River and Harbor Act of July 3, 1930 (House Document 126, 71st Congress, 2nd Session).

PROPOSED PROJECT The Corps proposes to maintain the Federal navigation channel by mechanically (clamshell) dredging approximately 100,000 to 200,000 cubic yards for each dredging event between stations 254+00 and 275+56 every one to three years from FY2007 to FY2011 (the Federal fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30). Typically, the Duwamish is dredged every two years. Sediment will be

loaded onto barges and towed by tug to the disposal site. Disposal is proposed at the Washington State Department of Natural Resources open-water site in Elliott Bay, Latitude 47 degrees 35.91 minutes, Longitude 122 degrees 21.45 minutes (NAD 83) in accordance with criteria established for disposal at the site. The navigation dredging is proposed to maintain channel dimensions at 150 feet wide and up to 17 feet deep. The turning basin shall be dredged to dimensions of 250 feet wide, 500 feet long and 15 feet depth plus 2 feet allowable overdepth.

The construction period for dredging on the Duwamish is between October 1 and February 15. The Corps will target the dredging and disposal activities to be performed during the December through mid-January period that is preferred by Federal, State and Tribal fisheries resource agencies.

The interagency Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) issued a Suitability Determination Memorandum in September 2003, stating that the proposed Duwamish dredged material between stations 254+00 and 275+56 (consisting of grain size of mostly sands with fines) is suitable for unconfined open-water disposal at the non-dispersive Elliott Bay disposal site. The results of the dredged material evaluations are available at the Seattle District, Navigation Section or DMMP.

The Corps will conduct hydrographic surveys to monitor the shoaling of the channel and determine the need for maintenance dredging. In FY2007 all dredging will occur between stations 254+00 and 275+56. It is anticipated most of the dredging following FY2007 will occur in the stations noted above. Some shoaling has been noted downstream from station 254+00 to the 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. bridge. Should dredging be needed at locations other than at the section indicated on the enclosed figures, the Corps would coordinate with resource agencies to evaluate the suitability of the sediment and need to dredge.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) is currently being prepared. Once complete, the draft EA will be available for a 30-day public comment period and posted on the Seattle District web site at:

[http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=ERS&pagename=ERS\\_Documents](http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=ERS&pagename=ERS_Documents). The EA will provide information on the Corps' preliminary determination that the proposed work will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

In accordance with Section 7 (a) (2) of the Endangered Species Act, the Corps has drafted a Biological Assessment (BA) and has sought formal consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and informal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the maintenance dredging project and subsequent disposal activities. A Final Environmental Assessment and 404(b)(1) Evaluation will be prepared based on responses to the Public Notice. Coordination has been made with State, Federal and Tribal interests.

Beneficial reuse disposal of the dredged material resource will also be considered and implemented as much as possible for dredged materials. As open-water disposal is proposed, no impacts to cultural resources are anticipated. Adverse environmental effects of proposed work are the alteration of benthic marine communities in the maintenance dredging areas and temporary alteration of natural communities within the boundaries of the Elliott Bay disposal site or alternative beneficial uses areas. The potential exists for temporary conditions of reduced dissolved oxygen and increased turbidity in the federal channel. However, this effect is expected to be limited to the immediate dredging area and of relatively short duration. No adverse effects on fishery resources are anticipated.

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES The Corps has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, compliance studies completed to date include an examination of the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's electronic archaeological and historic site records database and other background research.

The records search indicated that the project is not likely to affect or be within the any historic properties. The District Commander invites responses to this Public Notice from Federal, State and local agencies, historical and archeological societies, Indian tribes and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the Area of Potential Effects of the proposed project.

BASIS FOR DECISION The decision whether to do the work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, 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; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION A detailed Coastal Zone Management Act consistency statement will also be prepared and submitted to the Department of Ecology and will be included as an appendix to the NEPA EA. This statement provides information in support of the Corps' preliminary determination that the proposed maintenance work is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the State of Washington Coastal Zone Management Program. Water quality effects are expected to be limited to the immediate areas of dredging and disposal and significant adverse effects on fisheries resources are not expected. The Corps will request a Section 401

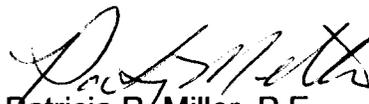
Water Quality certification from the Washington Department of Ecology prior to the initiation of any work.

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

**COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD** 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 best public interest to proceed with the proposed project. Comments by conventional mail or electronic mail will be accepted.

In order to accept electronic mail (e-mail) comments, the e-mail must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the heading "FY2007-2011 Duwamish Dredging " All e-mail comments should be sent to [patricia.r.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:patricia.r.miller@usace.army.mil). Conventional mail comments should be sent to the address listed above.

Both conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the author'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. Requests for additional information should be directed to the Project Manager, Patricia Miller, at [patricia.r.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:patricia.r.miller@usace.army.mil) or (206) 764-6908.



Patricia R. Miller, P.E.  
Project Manager  
Navigation Section

Encl: WA Dept. of Ecology, Application for Water Quality Certification  
Figure of Seattle Harbor, Duwamish Maintenance Dredging site  
Figure of Seattle Harbor, Duwamish Maintenance Disposal site



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
*P.O. Box 47600 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7600*  
*(360) 407-6000 • TDD Only (Hearing Impaired) (360) 407-6006*

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

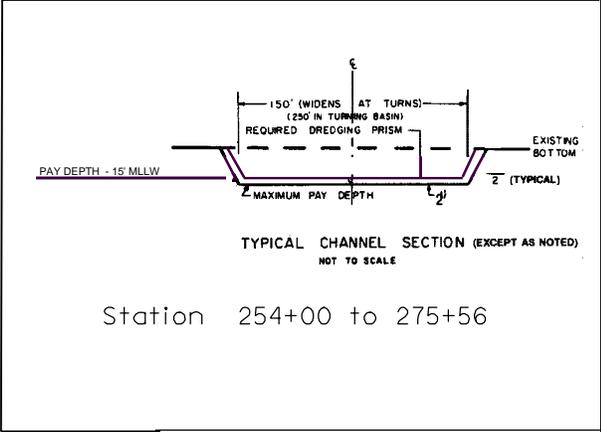
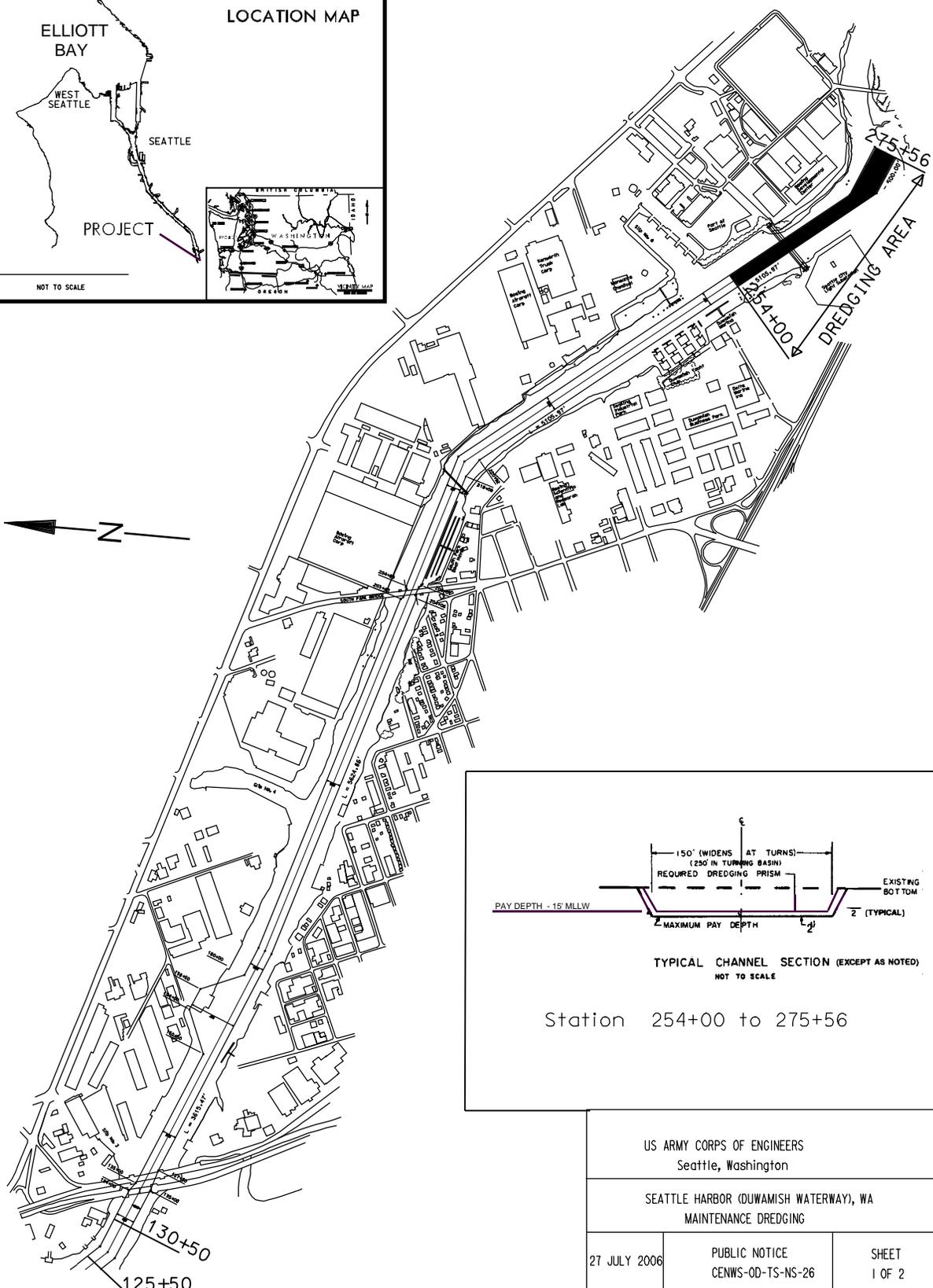
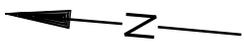
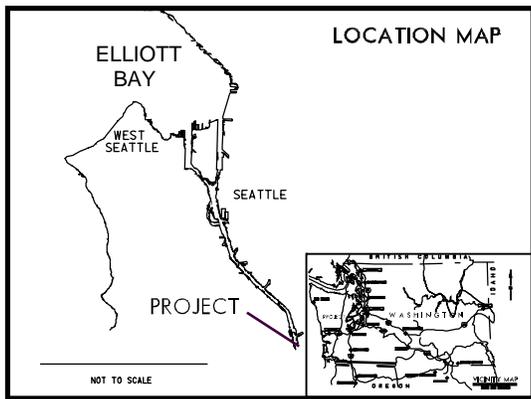
Notice of Application for  
Water Quality Certification

Date: July 28, 2006

Notice is hereby given that a request has been filed with the Department of Ecology, pursuant to the requirements of Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 (PL 95-217), to certify that the project described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. CENWS-OD-TS-NS-26 will comply with the Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Act, and with applicable provisions of State and Federal water pollution control laws.

Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to compliance with water pollution control laws may do so by providing written comments within 30 days of the above publication date to:

Federal Permit Coordinator  
Department of Ecology  
SEA Program  
Post Office Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600



Station 254+00 to 275+56

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS Seattle, Washington		
SEATTLE HARBOR (DUWAMISH WATERWAY), WA MAINTENANCE DREDGING		
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### Elliott Bay Disposal Site

TYPE: Nondispersive  
AREA: 415 Acres DEPTH: 300-360 ft.  
SITE DIMENSIONS: 6200 t. by 4000 ft. Ovoid (not shown)  
DISPOSAL ZONE: 1800 ft. Diameter Circle  
TARGET AREA: 1200 ft. Diameter Circle  
BARGE POSITIONING METHOD: VTS

SEATTLE

Disposal Area

Elliott Bay

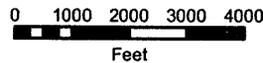
Target Area

#### Preferred Disposal Coordinates

Lat 47° 35.92' Long 122° 21.38' NAD27  
Lat 47° 35.91' Long 122° 21.45' NAD83

Duwamish Head

Alki Point



U.S. ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
Seattle, Washington

SEATTLE HARBOR (DUWAMISH WATERWAY), WA  
MAINTENANCE DREDGING

27 JULY 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE  
CENWS-0D-NS-26

SHEET  
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