

Public hearing Sept. 9 on Port of Everett rail/barge transfer facility proposal

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SEATTLE--The Port of Everett rail barge transfer facility proposal will be the subject of a Sept. 9 public hearing hosted by the Seattle District, Army Corps of Engineers. The Port has applied with the Corps for a Department of Army permit as required by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 9, from 7 to 10 p.m., at the Everett Events Center, 2000 Hewitt Avenue, Everett, Wash. The purpose of the hearing is to obtain information, public views and opinions on all of the issues to consider in making a permit decision on the Port's proposal.

The Corps issued a public notice April 29 for public comment regarding the Port of Everett's plan to construct a 250-foot-long rail trestle, a 350-foot-long by 104-foot-wide main pier, and two parallel 12-foot-wide by 250-foot-long finger piers. The work includes placing 430 concrete piles as structural support and 120 fender pilings. About 11,800 yards of sand and cobble material would be placed for beach restoration.

The public notice comment period started April 29, and comments will be accepted until Sept. 19. Both oral and written comments received between Sept. 9 and 19 will be made part of the public hearing record. All factors relevant to the proposal will be considered, including environmental concerns, aesthetics, economics, fish and wildlife values, recreation, water supply, safety, water quality, historic properties, mineral needs, tribal treaty rights, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Comments may be e-mailed to keith.q.gordon@usace.army.mil and should include the applicant's name (Port of Everett) and the application reference number (200301269). Written comments should be submitted to: Regulatory Branch, K. Gordon Project Manager, PO Box 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755.