

Public hearing May 17 on Northwest Aggregates dock replacement on Maury Island
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SEATTLE--Northwest Aggregates' dock replacement proposal will be the subject of a May 17 public hearing hosted by the Seattle District, Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Washington Department of Ecology. Northwest Aggregates 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 company also has applied for a state environmental permit.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Vashon High School Commons, 20120 Vashon Highway SW, Vashon Island, 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 Northwest Aggregates proposal.

The Corps initially issued a public notice Dec. 13, 2004, for public comment regarding Northwest Aggregates' plan to replace and extend an existing dock. The work includes removing a conveyor trestle, walkways, piers, dolphins and submerged pilesremoval of 228 total timber piles. Construction work would include building a barge loading conveyor tube with pile support bents, seven berthing dolphins, and a maximum of 56 new steel piles. The new dock would extend 305 feet and run 510 feet parallel to the shoreline, covering 7,796 square feet of surface area. Clean sand and pea gravel would be placed in the depressions caused by removing the timber piles. The existing dock structure covers 8,940 square feet of surface area.

This public comment period began April 15, and comments will be accepted until May 31. Oral comments made during the public hearing and any written comments received between April 15 and May 31 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 olivia.h.romano@usace.army.mil and should include the applicant's name (Northwest Aggregates) and the application reference number (200001094). Written comments should be submitted to: Regulatory Branch, O. Romano Project Manager, P.O. Box 3755, Seattle, WA 98124-3755. The Corps will share the comments it receives with the Department of Ecology.