

Public meetings begin Sept. 26 regarding evaluating dioxins in dredged material

The Dredged Material Management Program agencies have scheduled public meetings to discuss options and get public input regarding a framework for evaluating dioxins in dredged material proposed for open-water disposal. Multiple meetings are being conducted to maximize participation from people throughout the Puget Sound area. Each of these meetings will have the same agenda and will address the topic at a general level of detail. Focused technical workshops will be held later in the fall.

The Dredged Material Management Program agencies have not yet developed a recommendation for updated procedures to address dioxin contamination in dredged material--they would like to receive your input before proposing a recommended approach. In order to provide a starting point for discussions, a preliminary list of some potential options, along with environmental, economic, and programmatic considerations related to these options (as well as other background materials) can be found on-line at:

http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/documents/DMMO/Dioxin_Pub_Meeting_Posters_092407.pdf

The date, time, and general location for the meetings are included below:

Sept. 26, 2007
Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle, WA
2:30 p.m.-5 p.m. and 5:30-8 p.m.

Oct. 2, 2007
Ecology Headquarters, Lacey, WA
6 - 8:30 p.m.

Oct. 11, 2007
Port of Bellingham, Bellingham, WA
5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Oct. 16, 2007
Port of Port Angeles, Port Angeles, WA
5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Additional directions and location information is available on-line at:

http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/PublicMenu/Menu.cfm?sitename=DMMO&pagename=Dioxin_WS_Directions

The first hour of each meeting will be an information session, followed by public input and questions. We encourage attendance from anyone who is interested in this topic--community members, harbor area businesses and ports, tribes, fishers, agency representatives, environmental organizations.

Input from these public meetings will be used by the DMMP agencies to develop a new draft dioxin evaluation framework, which will be released for public comment in 2008.

If you have questions about the public meetings, you can contact:

- * Dave Fox, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: (206) 764-6083, david.f.fox@usace.army.mil
- * Laura Inouye, Washington State Department of Ecology: (360) 407-6165, lino461@ecy.wa.gov
- * Erika Hoffman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: (360) 753-9540, hoffman.erika@epa.gov
- * Courtney Wasson, Washington State Department of Natural Resources: (360) 825-1631, courtney.wasson@wadnr.gov