

DMMP CLARIFICATION PAPER

DISCONTINUATION OF CORPS AND DNR SUPPLIED GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM EQUIPMENT FOR OPEN WATER DISPOSAL

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulatory Branch are responsible for monitoring the disposal of material at open water disposal sites in Puget Sound. Prior to 1992, regulatory staff accompanied tugs to the disposal site to ensure the material was disposed of at the correct location. After 1992, Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment was purchased by the Corps and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for use at non-VTS (Vessel Traffic Service of the United States Coast Guard) sites. The contractor installed this equipment on tugs with Corps assistance. The disposal actions were monitored on a computer at the Seattle District office.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The GPS equipment is not Y2K compliant (the system may fail to work after the year 2000). Other components of the GPS system need significant repairs for continued use. The costs of replacing and modifying the equipment and repairing other components is prohibitive because of recent budgetary constraints.

PROPOSED ACTION/MODIFICATION

The Corps and DNR will no longer have this equipment to provide to dredging contractors. The Corps and DNR will require contractors to have GPS equipment with recording ability on their tugs unless exempted by the Corps. The printout of the disposals or the computer data must be submitted to the Corps on a weekly basis throughout the disposal period. The Corps and DNR will purchase one Y2K compliant GPS recording device. This equipment will be made available to small business contractors who cannot afford to purchase the equipment, have requested an exemption from the Corps prior to the work, and have received approval for the exemption prior to the work.