

**CLARIFICATION****SITE HISTORIES IN SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS PLANS**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The history of a project area plays a pivotal role in project evaluation and sampling plan development. The purpose of the site history is to document past and present sources of potential contamination to dredged material proposed for open water-disposal. A site history characterizes known activity at the dredging site, in near-shore areas, and on adjacent properties. It identifies past activities, and describes the type of contamination which may have resulted from those activities.

**PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION**

Sampling and analysis plans vary widely in the adequacy of background information provided. Failure to provide sufficient information can slow the review process and can result in an unnecessarily conservative decision on the part of the PSDDA agencies. Current site histories do not reflect the same level of effort for each project.

**PROPOSED ACTION/ MODIFICATION**

The following outline identifies the type of information that may be necessary in a site history. The type and amount of information will vary according to the size and complexity of the project. Smaller projects in areas of lower concern will require less information. For most projects, site histories do not need to extend beyond two to three pages. A reasonable effort should be made to obtain data. It is recognized that certain types of data may not be readily available but the effort to obtain it should be documented. Information available in PSDDA agency files does not need to be regathered, but should be referenced and summarized. Emphasis should be placed on those activities which took place since the last dredging cycle, and any previous sampling data is crucial to the site history and should be summarized in the sampling and analysis plan.

The site history for a large, complicated project should include:

- a map showing site's location, size, water sources, outfalls, and sensitive areas
- current site use
- industrial processes at or near the site (and hazardous substances used/generated)
- outfall information, such as location, type, volume, NPDES data, spill events
- history of site ownership and land uses, including facility location and description
- adjacent property use, especially those up-gradient or upcurrent/upstream
- site characteristics that could affect movement of contaminants
- results of any previous sampling and testing

- any dredging activity and data/information from that activity

There are a wide variety of information sources for site histories. Potential sources of information for site histories include: current and previous property owners; aerial photographs (past and present); real estate and Sanborn fire insurance maps; zoning, topographic, water resource, and soil maps; agency records, such as NPDES permit files, contaminated site lists (state and federal), aquatic leases, previous permits, etc.; land use records; tax assessor records (and photos); knowledgeable persons at or near the site (managers, employees, adjacent property owners); and city atlases (Kroll and Metsker). Not all sources are needed for all projects, and the type and extent of sources consulted will vary.

Smaller projects and those with less complicated source histories would generally require less documentation but should always include enough information to enable the PSDDA agencies to adequately address sampling and testing issues. Dredging applicants or their consultants should contact the Dredged Material Management Office (DMMO) to determine the level of effort required for their specific project. The DMMO will coordinate with the other PSDDA agencies as necessary to determine project-specific requirements.