

CLARIFICATION**PSDDA NON-DISPERSIVE DISPOSAL SITES ARE SEDIMENT IMPACT ZONES(per WAC Chapter 173-204)**

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INTRODUCTION

The PSDDA program established an allowable environmental site condition for the five, non-dispersive, open-water disposal sites. This site condition, originally termed Site Condition II, allows "minor adverse effects" on biological resources at the site due to chemicals of concern. "Minor" effects are defined as potential chronic and sublethal effects within the site or its dilution zone; significant, acute effects are not allowed (PSDDA, 1988a, 1989). PSDDA sediment quality interpretive criteria are designed to satisfy this disposal site condition. Post-disposal site monitoring is conducted to verify that the site condition is maintained (PSDDA, 1988b, 1989).

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

In March 1991, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) promulgated the Sediment Management Standards (SMS, Chapter 173-204 WAC). Under the SMS rule, dredged material and fill discharge activities are subject to the sediment source control standards of WAC 173-204-400, 410 and 420. The SMS requirements for dredging and dredged material disposal sites include the PSDDA testing requirements by reference. In addition, the SMS rule states that the PSDDA dredged material disposal sites shall be authorized as "sediment impact zones" (SIZs) via administrative orders issued under authority of the state Water Pollution Control Act, Chapter 90.48 RCW. To date, disposal site monitoring has not indicated exceedance of SMS conditions requiring a SIZ, therefore Ecology has not issued SIZ authorizations for the PSDDA non-dispersive disposal sites.

PROPOSED ACTION/MODIFICATION

To address potential future disposal site conditions, Ecology will issue SIZ authorizations for the five, non-dispersive, PSDDA disposal sites by April 30, 1993. These disposal sites are located in Commencement Bay, Elliott Bay, Port Gardner, Bellingham Bay, and between Anderson and Ketron Islands. The SIZ authorizations will be issued as an administrative order(s) under authority of Chapter 90.48 RCW. These authorizations will cite pertinent PSDDA references as conditions and require sediment quality conditions after closure to meet the SMS rule "no adverse effects" long-term management goal.

The SMS rule allows no greater than "minor adverse effects" within authorized SIZs which is consistent with the PSDDA disposal site condition criteria, i.e., maximum allowable impacts are defined as "minor adverse effects". Therefore, no change in site management will be necessitated by the issuance of SIZ authorizations for the PSDDA non-dispersive, disposal sites.

REFERENCES

Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis. 1988a. Evaluation Procedures Technical Appendix, Phase I (Central Puget Sound). June 1988.

Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis. 1988b. Management Plan Report -Unconfined Open-Water

Disposal of Dredged Material, Phase I (Central Puget Sound). June 1988.

Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis. 1989. Management Plan Report -Unconfined Open-Water Disposal of Dredged Material, Phase II (North and South Puget Sound). September 1989.