

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

February 13, 2020

**SUBJECT: DMMP RECENCY EXTENSION FOR MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT BELLINGHAM COLD STORAGE, BELLINGHAM, WA.**

1. **Introduction.** This memorandum reflects the consensus determination of the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers [USACE], Washington Departments of Ecology [Ecology] and Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency) regarding the application of the DMMP recency guidelines to proposed dredging of the Bellingham Cold Storage (BCS) berthing area for disposal at the Port Gardner nondispersive open-water site (suitable material) and at an upland disposal facility (unsuitable material).

2. **Background.** The waterway and berthing area were divided into two subareas, each with its own rank based on historical data. Subarea A, ranked low-moderate, encompasses the majority of the waterway. Subarea B, ranked high, is located at the head of the waterway. A DMMP suitability determination memorandum (SDM), based on the results of the 2016-2017 characterization, was signed by the DMMP agencies on May 3, 2017 (DMMP, 2017a). All of Subarea A was found suitable for dispersive disposal. This area was dredged in January/February of 2018 and placed at Rosario Strait dispersive site. A supplemental SDM (SSDM) was signed by DMMP on June 15, 2019 which identified 4,213 cy of suitable material in Subarea B and 169 cy of unsuitable material in Subarea B.

The June 15, 2019 SDM also included an extension of the recency period from December 2019 to the end of the in-water work window in February 2020.

On January 30, 2020, BCS notified USACE that dredging of the berthing area could not be accomplished in the 2019/2020 work window due to contractor and equipment availability. Dredging is now planned for the 2020/2021 work window. BCS requested a second extension to cover the revised schedule.

3. **Recency Evaluation.** The original recency period for Subarea B expired in December 2019 (DMMP, 2017a). The DMMP agencies agreed that there was no reason to believe that conditions in the waterway would change between December 2019 and the end of the in-water work window in February 2020 and a recency extension to the end of the work window was allowed in the SSDM (DMMP, 2019).

To evaluate the request from BCS for a second recency extension, records from Ecology's Spills Database for the period of October 1st 2016 to December 31, 2019 (the period of record available on Ecology's website) were evaluated. There were no reported spills in the vicinity of the BCS berthing area.

Based on the evaluation of spill records and communication with BCS, there is no reason to believe that the condition of the sediments in the berthing area have changed due to spills from what was documented in the 2017 SDM and 2019 SSDM and recency extension.

4. **Recency Determination.** On the basis of the existing information, the DMMP agencies are in agreement that a recency extension to August 31, 2020 for BCS berthing area Subarea B is acceptable. **Any proposed dredging work after this date will require a full characterization of the material to be**

**removed.** Any changes in site condition (i.e., spills, etc.) between this recency extension and dredging must be reported to DMMO and may result in additional characterization.

A pre-dredge meeting or conference call is required prior to dredging. A dredging and disposal quality control plan must be developed and submitted to the Regulatory Branch of the Seattle District Corps of Engineers at least 7 days prior to the pre-dredge meeting.

## 5. References:

DMMP, 2017a. *Determination Regarding the Suitability of Dredged Material from the Squalicum Creek Waterway and Port of Bellingham Berthing Areas, Evaluated Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, for Unconfined Open-Water Disposal at the Rosario Strait Dispersive and Port Gardner Nondispersive Disposal Sites.* Prepared by the Seattle District Dredged Material Management Office for the Dredged Material Management Program, May 3, 2017.

DMMP, 2017b. *Supplemental Determination Regarding the Suitability of Proposed Dredged Material from Bellingham Cold Storage, Evaluated Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for Unconfined Open-Water Disposal at the Rosario Strait Dispersive Site.* Prepared by the Seattle District Dredged Material Management Office for the Dredged Material Management Program, November 9, 2017.

DMMP, 2019. *Supplemental Determination Regarding the Suitability of Proposed Dredged Material from Bellingham Cold Storage, Evaluated Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for Unconfined Open-Water Disposal at the Port Gardner Nondispersive Site.* Prepared by the Seattle District Dredged Material Management Office for the Dredged Material Management Program, June 15, 2019.

6. Agency Signatures:

Signed Copy at DMMO - Seattle District USACE

Concur:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Joy Dunay – Seattle District Corps of Engineers

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Date Justine Barton - Environmental Protection Agency

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Date Laura Inouye, Ph.D. - Washington Department of Ecology

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Date Shannon Soto - Washington Department of Natural Resources

Copies furnished:

DMMP signatories  
Randel Perry, Seattle District Regulatory Branch  
Penny Kelley – Ecology  
Gary White – Bellingham Cold Storage  
Grace Roberts – WSP