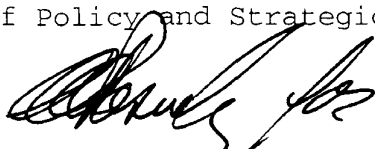




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR: Susan B. Fruchter
Director, Office of Policy and Strategic
Planning

FROM: Penelope D. Dalton 

SUBJECT: Supplemental Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact - Oline
Parcel Restoration Project

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the lead federal agency for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for the proposed Oline Parcel Restoration Project, Tacoma, Washington. The cooperating agencies and tribes include the other Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustees -- the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the Washington Department of Ecology (as lead state Trustee), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs). These parties are participating in damage assessment and restoration planning activities in the Commencement Bay environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a Nationwide Permit No. 22 for this project. NOAA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate whether the No Action Alternative or the Demolition/Cleanup Alternative would be the most ecologically sound alternative. The Trustees determined that once demolition and removal of the derelict wooden barges and other on-site debris occurred, the site would be able to recover naturally, without additional intervention. The public and other interested parties have participated in the review of this site evaluation.

The project will be in compliance with all permits required by the State and Federal regulatory agencies. The informal consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service addressing Endangered Species Act as well as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation are part of the Administrative Record for this project. The proposed activities were evaluated under the goals and objectives and other evaluation criteria specified by the Commencement Bay NRDA Restoration Plan and with the evaluation factors under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1508.27). Based on a review of all of these factors and the referenced documents, NOAA and the Trustees concluded that the proposed activities would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR FISHERIES



ADMIN. REC.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SUPPLEMENTAL)
FOR OLINE PARCEL RESTORATION PROJECT
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

November 22, 1999

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SUPPLEMENTAL)
FOR OLINE PARCEL RESTORATION PROJECT
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

**LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY FOR
CONSTRUCTION:**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, using Nationwide
Permit No. 22

**LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY FOR
SUPPLEMENTAL EA:**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

LEAD STATE AGENCY FOR EA:

Washington State Department of Ecology

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES/TRIBES:

Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustees:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. Department of
the Interior); State of Washington: Department of
Ecology (Ecology, as lead state Trustee),
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
(WDFW), Washington Department of Natural
Resources (WDNR); Puyallup Tribe of Indians; and
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

CONTACT PERSON:

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ABSTRACT:

This supplemental EA has been prepared for the
Oline parcel restoration activities to disclose
potentially significant impacts to the human
environment associated with restoration of natural
resources in Commencement Bay, Washington.
The Oline parcel restoration activities consist at
this time of the demolition of two derelict wooden
barges stranded on the shoreline and removal of
other debris from the site.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD:

Copies of the EA are available for download at:
<http://www.darcnw.noaa.gov/projects.htm> and may
be reviewed at the following locations:

Tacoma Public Library
Downtown Branch
1102 Tacoma Avenue South
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 591-5666

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 406
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 383-2429

November 1999

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SUPPLEMENTAL)
FOR A PORTION OF THE
OLINE PARCEL RESTORATION PROJECT
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON**

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Introduction

This supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared under the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to determine the significant impacts to the quality of the human environment on the preferred environmental alternative for a portion of the Oline Parcel Restoration Project, Seattle, Washington. This EA provides additional information on the Trustees' restoration activities and clarifies the site-specific permitting and consultation requirements for this project.

This project was originally proposed by the Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustees (Trustees) to help restore natural resources injured by the releases of hazardous substances or discharges of oil in Commencement Bay, Tacoma, Washington. The Trustees have been working with the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) in accordance with a Memorandum on Coordination, incorporated herein by reference, to acquire and/or investigate properties for restoration purposes.

Chronology

In order to guide decisionmaking regarding the implementation of natural resource restoration activities, in 1996 the Trustees prepared a draft restoration plan/programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (RP/EIS). The Final Restoration Plan, in February 1997, set forth a number of screening criteria for the selection of restoration projects by the Trustees. On June 20, 1998, the restoration technical staff evaluated the Oline Parcel against those criteria and determined that the site was consistent with the goals and objectives of the NRDA restoration program and recommended that the Trustees pursue acquisition of this site. The parcel is also included an area identified by local environmental groups as a priority for habitat restoration. Attachment 3 provides additional information about the Trustees' restoration activities and the Commencement Bay environment.

The parcel was officially adopted as a potential restoration site on September 9, 1998 and the Trustees requested TPL to acquire the Oline property, within the guidelines set forth in the Memorandum on Coordination. On December 8, 1998, the property appraisal was approved by the Trustees. The Level 2 Site Assessment was approved on October 12, 1999. Upon completion of the barge and debris removal, TPL will transfer the parcel to a Trustee agency who will be responsible for managing the property on behalf of the Trustees.

Alternatives Considered and Selection of Preferred Alternative

There were only two alternatives to be considered for this project: the No Action Alternative and the Demolition/Cleanup Alternative. The No Action alternative was not initially selected because: (1) the Trustees' mandate is to restore natural resources that were

injured as a result of a release of a hazardous substance or discharge oil into the Commencement Bay environment, and (2) the site would not be able to recover naturally until the barges were removed and the site cleaned of the wooden debris. According to the Site Assessment conducted on this property, there appears to be no "adjacent or upland facilities in the vicinity of the subject property that would adversely impact the environmental quality of the site as a result of past releases of petroleum hydrocarbons or hazardous substances" (p.35). Based on this evaluation, among others, the Trustees concluded that once the barges and other on-site debris are removed, with no other adjacent activities adversely affecting the site, the site should naturally recover. The Trustees will be monitoring this site to verify this assumption or take other appropriate action as needed.

Therefore, the Trustees selected the Demolition/Cleanup Alternative as their preferred alternative, consisting of a beach cleanup restoration that involves demolishing and disposing of two derelict, wooden barges stranded on the shoreline of the property and removing from the site the debris from one former drydock and a sunken concrete float. See site photos at Attachment 1. The most environmentally sensitive approach was chosen: The barges would be demolished on site using minimal construction equipment, then hauled away using an existing access road. The majority of the wood debris will be chipped and recycled rather than transported to a landfill. The demolition of the barges will occur at low tide to minimize any risks or impacts to the marine environment. See Attachment 4 for additional information.

Environmental Consequences

Similar vessel removal actions led the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to issue a Decision Document for Nationwide Permit (NWP) No. 22 on December 10, 1996 (Attachment 2). This Document constitutes the Environmental Assessment for this nationwide permit. NWP #22 authorizes the removal of wrecked, abandoned, or disabled vessels other than those eligible under the National Register of Historic Places. The Corps determined that NWP #22 was an appropriate instrument for the Trustees' barge removal activities at this site (Steger 1999).

Any potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the removal of the two barges and the other debris is limited to a maximum of a 45-day time period during which the demolition will occur. The potential impacts are very minor, temporary, construction-related, and similar in nature to those set forth in the draft Wasser/Winters Environmental Assessment, Section 4 (Attachment 3) and the NWP No. 22 Decision Document. Once the barges, the drydock debris, and the concrete float are removed, beneficial environmental impacts to the site should include recolonization of terrestrial and nearshore (shallow subtidal) habitats for both habitat and food for terrestrial and aquatic organisms. Threatened species such as the chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), or potentially, groundfish species managed under the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery

Management Plan, along with other terrestrial and aquatic species, could be beneficiaries of this cleanup action. The Biological Evaluation provides additional information on potential adverse and beneficial impacts to species (Attachment 4).

Specific conditions under which the work will be conducted will be memorialized in the U.S. Corps of Engineers' NWP No. 22 site-specific conditions, the State's 401 water quality certification, the Biological Evaluation and any additional conditions set forth by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a result of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Essential Fish Habitat (ESH) consultations (Attachment 5). This project will be in compliance with all permits required by the State and Federal regulatory agencies.

Conclusion

The proposed activity was evaluated under the goals and objectives and other evaluation criteria specified by the Commencement Bay NRDA Restoration Plan and with the evaluation factors under the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1508.27). Based on a review of all of these factors and the referenced documents, NOAA and the other Trustees concluded that the proposed activity would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. NOAA concurs with the Corps' Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that an environmental impact statement will not need to be prepared for a project of such minimal scope and effect. A copy of both the Corps' FONSI and NOAA's independent finding of a FONSI is attached for the Agency's review and approval (Attachment 6).

List of Agencies Consulted:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Dept. Of Commerce)
National Marine Fisheries Service (Dept. Of Commerce)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Dept. Of the Interior)
Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Muckleshoot Tribe of Indians
State of Washington Departments of: Ecology, Fish and Wildlife,
Natural Resources, Archaeology and Historic Preservation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
City of Tacoma

Documents Attached:

1. 11/17/98. Site Photos
2. 12/10/96. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Decision Document (Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact). Nationwide Permit No. 22.
3. 11/99. Wasser/Winters, Puyallup Nursery, and Meeker Site. Draft Environmental Assessment.

4. 11/99, Biological Evaluation
5. Consultation letters with NMFS and USFWS regarding ESA and EFH.
6. FONSI's. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA

Documents Incorporated by Reference:

- 02/97 Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustees. Final Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (RP/EIS).
- 11/17/98 Wessels, Gary. Estimate Market Value. Oline Waterfront Property. Marine View Drive, Tacoma, Washington.
- 10/99 Environmental Site Assessment, prepared for the Trust for Public Lands (by Tetra Tech)
- 1998-1999 Commencement Bay Natural Resource Trustees. Resolutions 98-07 (9/9/98), coordination with TPL; 98-10 (9/9/98), adopting restoration site.
- _____ Water Quality 401 Certification for Corps Public Notice #
- _____ Notice of Complete Application/Shoreline Exemption File # ;
- _____ Permit No. , Coverage Under Stormwater General Permit for Construction Activity
- _____ Grading/Clearing Permit and Conditions

APPENDIX 1
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS



Uplands area of subject



Barges on subject which are assumed to be removed