CLARIFICATION PAPER

COORDINATION AND TESTING OF DREDGED MATERIAL FOR BENEFICIAL USES PROJECTS

Prepared by Justine Barton (EPA) for the PSDDA agencies.

INTRODUCTION

To ensure a beneficial uses project's viability, a chemical and physical evaluation of the proposed dredged material is required. PSDDA testing requirements and the PSDDA agency review process is intended to evaluate dredged material proposed for disposal at PSDDA unconfined, open-water disposal sites.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

Material tested under PSDDA and found suitable for unconfined, open-water disposal is often proposed for beneficial uses projects. However, PSDDA evaluation does not necessarily indicate that the material is appropriate for a particular beneficial use. While the PSDDA agencies encourage beneficial uses projects, no formal process presently exists for beneficial uses project coordination or determining appropriate testing.

PROPOSED CLARIFICATION

Applicants considering potential beneficial uses projects should bring these projects to the attention of the PSDDA agencies and other resource agencies early in the evaluation process. Depending on the adequacy and recency of project testing information (including any PSDDA testing), and the specifics of the beneficial uses project, some additional testing may or may not be required. The agencies will continue to make every effort to adequately coordinate these projects on a case by case basis.