

CLARIFICATION**RELOCATION OF PORT GARDNER BENCHMARK STATION**

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INTRODUCTION

In the Management Plan Assessment Report for DY 1990 (A-12), the PSDDA agencies indicated their intent to identify and sample a new benchmark station in Port Gardner prior to the start of DY 1992.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

The combined results of the 1988 PSDDA baseline studies (A-13) and the 1990 post-disposal monitoring in Port Gardner (A-14) indicated that station PGB02 was unsuitable for use as a benchmark location. This station, located approximately two nautical miles west of the disposal site, was characterized by an unusually high clay content and an atypical infaunal community relative to the disposal site region. Moreover, bioassay results from PGB02 failed to meet disposal site biological testing criteria in both 1988 and 1990; bioassay failures appeared to be the result of conventional sediment properties (e.g., grain-size, ammonia, sulfides) rather than elevated contaminant levels.

A potential benchmark station, PGB09, was proposed at a location 0.25 nautical miles east of the disposal site, between the site and the Port of Everett. It was sampled in June 1991 for sediment chemistry, biological testing, bioaccumulation (*Molpadia*), and benthic infauna (benthic samples were archived). The complete results of the PGB09 sampling (A-15) are summarized in Chapter 3 of this report.

PROPOSED ACTION/MODIFICATION

Based on results of this reconnaissance study, PGB09 will replace station PGB02 as the second Port Gardner benchmark station and will be sampled as part of future monitoring efforts in Port Gardner.

REFERENCES

A-12 Management Plan Assessment Report (Dredging Year 1990). Prepared for Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis by Washington Department of Ecology. March, 1991.

A-13 Baseline Survey of Phase I Disposal Sites, Puget Sound Dredged Disposal Analysis. Prepared for Washington Department of Ecology by PTI Environmental Services. December 1988.

A-14 PSDDA 1990 Monitoring: Post-Disposal Surveys of Elliott Bay and Port Gardner. Prepared for Washington Department of Natural Resources by Science Applications International Corporation. August, 1991.

A-15 PSDDA 1991 Monitoring Program: Port Gardner Benchmark Station Observations, Tissue Chemistry of Invertebrates from Port Gardner and Bellingham Bay, and Bioaccumulation Guidelines Assessment. Prepared for Washington Department of Natural Resources by Science Applications International Corporation. November, 1991.