

**CLARIFICATION****MANAGEMENT OF THE PORT GARDNER AND ELLIOTT BAY SITES**

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**Port Gardner**

Prior to the initiation of disposal operations for the U.S. Navy Homeport Element I dredging project, concern was raised that the large volume of dredged material to be placed at the Port Gardner PSDDA site may cause mounding. To minimize potential mounding, it was agreed that dredged material would be deposited throughout the disposal site's central target area instead of at the center of that area. Contractors for the U.S. Navy followed that guidance.

During physical monitoring of the Port Gardner site in April and May 1990, the dredged material footprint appeared to exceed the disposal site boundary in all directions. Numerical modeling determined that the presence of dredged material outside of the disposal site was primarily the result of the physical characteristics of the material placed at the site.

To minimize the chance for future dredged material that is placed at the Port Gardner site to be located outside of the site boundary, two site management changes are proposed for adoption. First, all efforts will be made to dispose of the dredged material at the center of the disposal site instead of throughout the target area. Second, the physical characteristics of the dredged material will be reviewed prior to disposal to ensure that the material will disperse as predicted through the modeling studies.

**Elliott Bay**

Results of the physical monitoring studies in spring 1990 showed that dredged material remained within the disposal site boundary. The distribution of this material mirrored the shape of the disposal site by extending to the northwest. This distribution pattern was predicted to occur because the site is located in a submarine valley with relatively steep sides and a downward slope to the northwest (Disposal Site Selection Technical Appendix - Phase I, pg. II-200).

One site management change is proposed for adoption. It is recommended that disposal operations target the southern quarter of the disposal site's target area, resulting in the disposal of dredged material approximately 300' south of the center of the site. By concentrating disposal operations in this area, material will be placed farther up the submarine canyon and will have less chance of moving off the site due to movement down the canyon. The navigational coordinates of the center of the southern quarter of the target area are 47 35.92' and 122 21.38' 1927 North American Datum or 47 35.91' and 122 21.45' 1983 North American Datum. The U.S. Coast Guard's Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service will guide all barges to these revised coordinates.