

CLARIFICATION PAPER

PRE-DREDGE CONFERENCES FOR PROJECTS IN GRAYS HARBOR AND WILLIPA BAY

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INTRODUCTION

Regulated projects evaluated under the PSDDA program are required to have a pre-dredge conference prior to the initiation of work. This conference allows the applicant, the dredging contractor and the regulatory agencies an opportunity to review the permit conditions, the DNR site use authorization and reporting requirements, the Washington Department of Ecology or EPA water quality certification and the dredging quality control plan. Any special issues or problems associated with the dredging or disposal can be reviewed at this time, and appropriate procedures for notifying agency personnel can be identified. Each Department of the Army permit with dredging and open-water disposal at a PSDDA open-water disposal site has a special condition requiring this conference.

PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

When the *Dredged Material Evaluation Procedures and Disposal Site Management Manual, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay* was completed and approved by the regulatory agencies in April 1995, it was determined that a pre-dredge conference was not required for open-water disposal projects.

There are an increasing number of issues associated with dredging and open-water disposal in Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay. Among these are endangered species issues and the increasing use of dredged material for beneficial re-use rather than open-water disposal. In order to assure that all state and federal laws and regulations are being followed, a pre-dredge review of the applicable permits and reporting requirements is needed.

PROPOSED CLARIFICATION/ACTION

Regulated projects that are evaluated using the *Dredged Material Evaluation*

Public Review Draft 4/7/03

Procedures and Disposal Site Management Manual, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay, will now be required to have a pre-dredge conference call with the regulatory agencies prior to the initiation of dredging. The conference call will be coordinated by the Enforcement Section, Regulatory Branch, US Army Corps of Engineers and will include, at a minimum, the applicant, the dredging contractor, and representatives from the Corps, DNR, Ecology and EPA. The conference call will be used to review disposal locations, water quality certification, the dredging quality control plan, the DNR site use authorization and any other permit conditions. Completion of the pre-dredge conference call will be documented as part of the Regulatory Branch enforcement file.