

## **CLARIFICATION PAPER**

### **SMALL DREDGING PROJECTS AT OUTFALLS**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

In the PSDDA Management Plan Report-Phase II, rankings were applied to general geographic areas, some specific project locations and to certain types of facilities. These rankings were based on the number and kinds of contaminant sources (existing or historic) and the available information on chemical and biological response characteristics of the sediments.

The PSDDA guidelines include "no-test" provisions for small projects ranked low, low-moderate or moderate. No testing is required in low-ranked areas for projects of less than 8,000 cubic yards, while in low-moderate and moderate-ranked areas, no testing is required for projects of less than 1,000 cubic yards. In contrast, testing is always required for high-ranked projects, regardless of the size of the project.

#### **PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION**

Some small dredging projects consist of the removal of sediment discharged from an outfall, or located directly adjacent to an outfall, yet fall within a general geographic area ranked low, low-moderate or moderate. Under the "no-test" guidelines, testing is not required for these projects, subject to the volume limitations identified in the introduction. However, it is possible that these sediments contain chemicals at a level of concern far greater than the area in general. Failure to test this material could result in unsuitable material being disposed at a PSDDA site.

#### **PROPOSED ACTION/MODIFICATION**

Small projects removing sediments discharged from an outfall, or located directly adjacent to an outfall, may be given a "high" rank by the PSDDA agencies regardless of the rank of the general area. This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis, with consideration given to the type and size of the outfall, the shoaling pattern relative to the outfall, and any other relevant information available to the project proponent. Other information might include catch basin and particulate data associated with the outfall. For small dredging projects at outfalls that are ranked high by the PSDDA agencies, small project testing guidelines established in MPR-Phase II (as modified at the second PSDDA annual review meeting to include two acute bioassays for biological testing) will be followed.

#### **REFERENCES**

MPR, Phase II. 1989. *Management Plan Report: Unconfined Open-water Disposal of Dredged Material, Phase II* . Prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10; and Washington State Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources.

Kendall, D.R., 1990, *Reduced Testing Requirements for Small Projects Above "No Test" Volume: Biological Testing Requirements for Nondispersive Disposal Sites*, Second PSDDA annual review meeting minutes.

Stirling, S.K, 1995, *Sampling and Testing Cost Relief for Small Projects Undergoing PSDDA Evaluation*, Seventh PSDDA annual review meeting status report.