US Army Corps of Engineers ®
Portland District

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Joint 30 Day Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District Environmental Assessment and Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency

US Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Resources Branch
333 S.W. First Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97208
Telephone (503) 808-4778
Attn: Steve Helm

WA Department of Ecology
SEA Program
Post Office Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Telephone (360) 407-6068
Attn: SEA Program, Federal Permit Coordinator

Public Notice Date: May 28, 2008
Expiration Date: **June 27, 2008**

Reference No.: CENWP-PM-E-08-07
Name: Mouth of the Columbia River North Jetty Berm Repair, Pacific County, Washington

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps) is proposing the beneficial placement of sand directly onto Benson Beach. The area for the dredge material placement is from approximately -10 ft. mean lower low water (MLLW, the average elevation of lower low tides) to +20 ft. MLLW and extends from 100 ft. to 4,500 ft. north of the North Jetty at the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR).

Project Description: The Corps intends to pump up to 125,000 cubic yards of sand per year for up to 5 years on Benson Beach. Material obtained by routine dredging operations at the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR) would be pumped out of a hopper dredge from the river side of the MCR North Jetty, through a pipeline (16- to 30-inch diameter) over the jetty, and onto Benson Beach. The sand would be moved with earth-moving equipment to repair sand berm, adjacent to the MCR North Jetty that washed out with storms in 2007, in order to lessen probability of damage to the North Jetty from storms. This area was damaged during the storms that occurred in December 2007. This work would take approximately three weeks to accomplish and is planned to take place between July 15 and Sept. 15 of 2008; however a 5-year permit period is requested to allow future placement within this period if needed. As part of this action, a temporary sand berm would be constructed in order to retain sand on the beach during pump-out (otherwise, much of the sand would immediately be lost to the ocean). This temporary berm would be approximately 5 ft. high, 12 ft. across at the base, and would extend northward along the beach over the entire length of sand pump-out. It would be built gradually as pump-out continues northward along Benson Beach and would be created from existing beach sand that would be pushed by earth-moving equipment from the upper, non-vegetated, part of the beach. The temporary berm would be constructed at variable elevations between approximately +4 MLLW to +12 MLLW [where Mean Higher High Water (MHHW, the average elevation of higher high tides) is equivalent to approximately +7.5 MLLW]. The part of the beach used to create the temporary berm would be restored by earth-moving equipment to pre-project topography upon completion of the project, as sand from the temporary berm is spread over the upper part of the beach. Three sand hummocks would be constructed 2-4 ft. above the finished grade of sand fill to reduce the amount of wind blown sand that could be transported over the North Jetty. A sand fence will be used to stabilize the area after this is completed.

Another beneficial use purpose would be to supply sand to the littoral drift system (ocean currents running along the shoreline) which moves sand northward along the Long Beach peninsula as a beneficial use of sediment. The

Corps evaluated potential impacts associated with this project in an Environmental Assessment issued for public review on June 5, 2006 under Public Notice Number CENWP-PM-E-06-02 (available from the Corps upon request). This proposed placement is part of long-term planning for beneficial uses of dredged material as part of the Southwest Washington Littoral Drift Restoration Regional Sediment Management program. If authority and funding are provided, up to 1,000,000 cubic yards of sand could be placed on Benson Beach annually for up to 5 years. Material obtained by routine dredging operations at the MCR would be pumped out of a hopper dredge from the river side of the MCR North Jetty, through a pipeline (16- to 30-inch diameter) over the jetty, and onto Benson Beach. The placement area is the intertidal zone between approximately -10 to +14 MLLW, and from 1,500 ft. to 4,500 ft. north of the North Jetty. As with berm repair, a 5-year permit has been requested.

Environmental Document: A draft Environmental Assessment addressing the impacts associated with North Jetty berm repair is available for public review and comment Corps website at https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/en_plan_assess.asp. The draft Environmental Assessment for Littoral Drift Restoration is available from the Corps, Portland District upon request.

State Water Quality Certification: Water Quality Certification (401 Certification), pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) is required from the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology). On April 17, 2008, the Corps submitted a request to Ecology for 401 Certification. Water Quality Certification under the Clean Water Act is being sought for placement of material on Benson Beach as described by this Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Assessment noticed on June 5, 2006.

Federal Coastal Zone Management Act Consistency: A Consistency Determination pursuant to Section 307 (c) of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) is required for the project. On May 28, 2008, the Corps submitted a Consistency Determination. CZMA consistency concurrence is being sought for placement of material on Benson Beach as described by this Environmental Assessment and the Environmental Assessment noticed on June 5, 2006.

Ecology will review the work pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws, and Section 307 (c) of the CZMA. Ecology is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Ecology will be considering all comments to determine whether to certify or deny certification for the proposed project. Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to a request for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA and/or consistency concurrence under Section 307 (c) of the CZMA, may do so by submitting written comments to Ecology's address at the top of this notice or by e-mail to ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov. In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date.

Additional Information and Comments: Questions or comments regarding the draft EA should be directed to Mr. Steve Helm, Environmental Resources Branch, telephone (503) 808-4778, steve.r.helm@usace.army.mil or to the address below. Mailed comments on this notice must be postmarked by the above closing date and sent to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E (S. Helm)
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date. Should no response be received by the above closing date, a "no comment" response will be assumed.