

CENWS-ODT- ND

MEMORANDUM FOR: RECORD

October 26, 2017

SUBJECT: UPDATED VOLUME REVISION FOR EMERALD KALAMA CHEMICAL (NWS-2016-192), KALAMA, WASHINGTON FOR OPEN-WATER FLOW-LANE DISPOSAL IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

1. This memorandum supplements the 6 January 2016 suitability determination and 2 February 2017 volume revision, and reflects the consensus decision on the part of the Dredged Material Management Program (DMMP) agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Departments of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the Environmental Protection Agency) regarding a proposed volume increase for Emerald Kalama Chemical dredging and disposal from 4,800 cubic yards (cy) over 10 years, to 8,000 cy over 10 years.
2. The original volume of 1,600 cy was based on the need for a single dredging event within DMMU 1. Emerald Kalama Chemical subsequently decided to apply for a permit to dredge up to 4,800 cy over 10 years. In preparation for dredging in the 2017 dredge season, bathymetry was collected and revealed that a much larger volume of sediment was present within the project site and required dredging prism. Based on this updated bathymetry, 5,500 cy of material needs to be dredged during the 2017 dredging season, up from the original estimate of 1,600 cy. Therefore, Emerald Kalama Chemical has requested a 3,900 cy increase to the total allowed dredging from 4,800 cy to 8,700 cy over the next 10 years.
3. The DMMP agencies reviewed the project and testing requirements for a moderate ranked project on the Columbia River and determined that the sediment characterization documented in the 2016 suitability determination is sufficient to increase the volume to 8,000 cy. DMMP testing requirements are one sample per 4,000 cy of material. Two grab samples were collected during the August 2015 sampling event, therefore the maximum amount of material allowed to be dredged under that characterization is 8,000 cy.
4. The DMMP agencies reviewed the project design for the increased dredging volume of 5,500 cy and determined that the increased volume of material falls within the area previously characterized as DMMU 1 in the 2016 suitability determination.
4. The recency period for the characterization data for this project does not change. The data used in this determination are valid through August 2020. **A new suitability determination must be obtained for any dredging and open-water disposal that occurs after August 2020 or for additional volume beyond 8,000 cy.**
5. In summary, based on the evaluation of the modified project, the DMMP agencies have concluded that **all 8,000 cubic yards are suitable** for open-water disposal in the Columbia River.

A dredging and disposal quality control plan must be developed and submitted to the Regulatory Branch of the Seattle District Corps of Engineers. Dredging, positioning, and disposal will all need to be addressed with enough detail to provide assurance to the agencies that the dredge plan will be properly implemented.

A Portland District Corps of Engineers agreement must be acquired for open-water disposal. Disposal at the selected flow-lane site must be in accordance with Portland District procedures.

This volume revision does **not** constitute final agency approval of the project. During the public comment period that follows a public notice, the resource agencies will provide input on the overall project. A final decision will be made after full consideration of agency input, and after an alternatives analysis is done under section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act

6. Agency Signatures.

The final signed copy is on file in the Dredged Material Management Office

Concur:

Date Kelsey van der Elst – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

Date Justine Barton - Environmental Protection Agency

Date Laura Inouye, Ph.D. - Washington Department of Ecology

Date Celia Barton - Washington Department of Natural Resources

Copies furnished:

DMMP signatories
Danette Guy – USACE, Seattle District Regulatory
Lynn Simpson – Ecological Land Services
Chris Wrobel – Emerald Kalama Chemical