

23 February 1993

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF THE APPLICABILITY OF RECENCY GUIDELINES TO THE EVALUATION OF 50,000 CUBIC YARDS OF DREDGED MATERIAL AT BAY CENTER, WILLAPA BAY, AND THE SUITABILITY OF THE MATERIAL FOR OPEN WATER DISPOSAL AT EITHER THE GOOSE POINT OPEN WATER DISPOSAL SITE OR A SUITABLE OCEAN DISPOSAL SITE.

1. The Corps of Engineers proposes to dredge approximately 35,000 cubic yards of material from the Bay Center Channel and approximately 15,000 cubic yards of material from the Outer Bay Entrance Channel. The following summary reflects the PSDDA agencies (Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency) consensus decision on the applicability of previous testing data, and the suitability of the material for open-water disposal.
2. Dredging of the Bay Center Channel took place in 1989. Prior to dredging, two sediment composites were tested for the PSDDA chemicals of concern. A third composite was collected as the reference sample. No chemicals of concern were reported above the screening level. One chemical, benzyl alcohol, had a detection limit above the screening level.
3. Composites were also analyzed for concentrations of four butyltin compounds. Concentrations were well below PSDDA screening level for tributyltin.
4. The area surrounding Bay Center is relatively free of sources of contamination in the aquatic environment. No activities (such as spill events) have been reported which could have altered conditions since the 1989 sediment characterization.
5. Recency Guidelines for Grays Harbor/Willapa Bay are being developed during the Grays Harbor Special Study by the Evaluation Procedures Work Group. For comparison, PSDDA recency guidelines specify additional testing every 5-7 years in areas of moderate or low ranking. The Bay Center project meets this criteria.
6. Sediments in the Outer Bay Entrance area are coarse sand, consistent with channel entrance bars in other coastal areas. The area is highly dynamic. Based on these factors, as well as the lack of contamination sources in the area, there is reason to believe that the potential for sediment contamination is low, and therefore testing is not required for the 15,000 cubic yards from the Outer Bay Entrance Channel.
7. Based on the relatively low potential for sediment contamination, and the testing data from 1989 indicating no SL exceedances for PSDDA chemicals of concern, it is the consensus decision of the PSDDA agencies that approximately 50,000 cubic yards of material from Bay Center Channel and Bay Center Entrance Channel are suitable for unconfined open-water disposal.
8. This memorandum documents the suitability of proposed dredged sediments for disposal at an open-water disposal site. It does not constitute final agency approval of the project. A public notice will be issued for this project. During the public comment period which 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.

CENPS-OP-DMMO
Bay Center

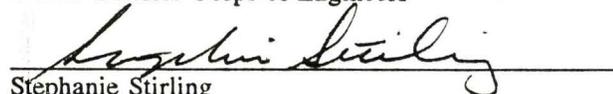
Concur:

3 March 1993
Date



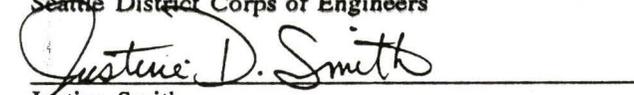
David Kendall, Ph.D
Seattle District Corps of Engineers

2 March 1993
Date



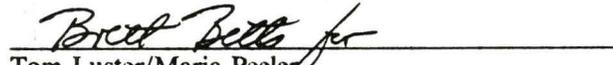
Stephanie Stirling
Seattle District Corps of Engineers

2 March 1993
Date



Justine Smith
Environmental Protection Agency, Region X

2 March 1993
Date



Tom Luster/Maria Peele
Washington Department of Ecology

2 March 1993
Date

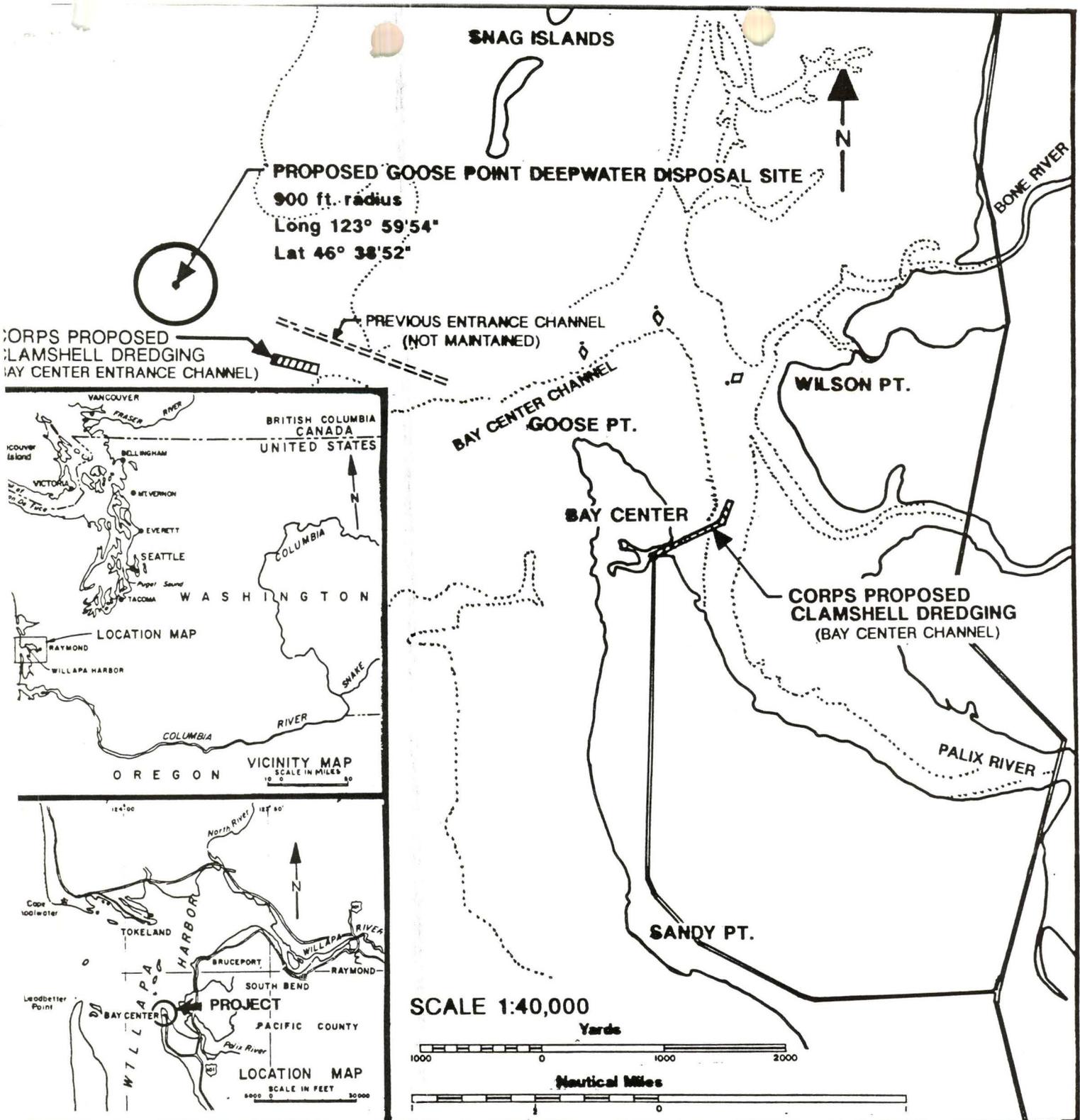


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U. S. ARMY ENGINEERS DISTRICT, SEATTLE
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

LEGEND

- Proposed Dredging Area 
- Deepwater Disposal Site 

BAY CENTER, WILLAPA HARBOR
WASHINGTON

REFERENCE NUMBER
 PUBLIC NOTICE CENPS-OP-NP-76

FISCAL YEAR 1993 DREDGING