

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

21 June 1993

SUBJECT: Determination of the suitability of dredged material evaluated under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the Corps of Engineers Willapa Bay Bar Channel project, with proposed open-water disposal at a suitable ocean open-water disposal site or suitable estuarine open-water disposal site.

1. The Corps of Engineers proposes to hopper dredge 250,000 cubic yards of material from the entrance area near Willapa Bay and dispose of the material at a suitable ocean open-water disposal site or a suitable estuarine open-water disposal site. The following summary reflects the consensus decision of the agencies with jurisdiction on dredging and disposal (Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Agency) on the suitability of the material for open-water disposal. The extent of the agencies jurisdiction varies depending upon the disposal option selected.
2. The proposed dredged material was evaluated under the guidelines specified in the Evaluation of Dredged Material for Ocean Disposal (103 Testing Manual), and specifically under the criteria outlined in 40 CFR 227.13, and under the 404 testing guidelines.
3. Grain size analysis was performed on four samples representative of the dredged material. Grain size ranged from 89% to 97% sand, based on data reported on 5 April 1993. Under the testing manual guidelines, any material that is predominantly sand is excluded from further testing. The material is in a highly dynamic area, and is free from any known sources of contamination.
4. The proposed dredged material meets the Section 103 Tier I evaluation criteria for exclusion from further testing, based upon grain size, lack of known contamination sources, and location in a highly dynamic area. Based on the above information, the agencies with regulatory jurisdiction agree that the material does not require further testing under either Section 103 of MPRSA or under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
5. This memorandum documents the suitability of proposed dredged sediments for disposal at an approved open-water disposal site. It does not constitute a determination whether or not dredging ought to occur nor is it final agency approval of the project. A public notice was issued on 10 May 1993 for this project. During the public comment period which followed the public notice, the resource agencies provided 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 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 or Section 404 (b)1 of the Clean Water Act.

CENPS-OP-DMMO
Willapa Bay Bar Channel

Concur:

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