

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

2 December 1994

SUBJECT: DETERMINATION OF THE SUITABILITY OF DREDGED MATERIAL TESTED UNDER PSSDDA EVALUATION PROCEDURES FOR PORT OF TACOMA'S BLAIR BRIDGE REMOVAL PROJECT (94-2-01847) FOR DISPOSAL AT THE PSSDDA COMMENCEMENT BAY OPEN WATER DISPOSAL SITE.

1. The Port of Tacoma proposes to dredge portions of the north and south embankment as a part of the Blair Bridge Removal Project, with an approximate volume of 47,000 cubic yards of sediments to be removed. The following summary reflects the PSSDDA agencies' (Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology, Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental Protection Agency) consensus decision on the acceptability of the sampling plan and all relevant test data to make a determination of suitability for the disposal of the material at the PSSDDA Commencement Bay open-water disposal site.
2. The ranking for the project area is "moderate". The guidance provided in the PSSDDA Management Plan Report, Phase II (page A-10) for Commencement Bay ranks the area as "high", but numerous sediment sampling efforts over the past several years support a reranking to "moderate" for this project area (Blair Bridge Removal Project, Sampling and Analysis Plan, page 4-5).
3. A sampling and analysis plan was completed for this project and approved by the PSSDDA agencies on 11 August 1994. Sampling for this project was initiated on 4 October 1994.
4. Two dredged material management units (DMMU) were characterized. Three samples were taken from the south embankment and were composited for one analysis (C-1), representing 3,000 cubic yards of material. A single core sample from the north embankment was homogenized into one composite for analysis (C-2), representing 9,100 cubic yards of material. The subsurface areas in the dredging prism (34,900 cubic yards) were determined by the PSSDDA agencies to be native material. Samples were taken of this material and archived for potential analysis if the surface samples failed to meet PSSDDA screening criteria.
5. The chemistry data indicated there were no detected exceedances of the Dredging Year 1995 PSSDDA screening levels (SL) for composites C-1, and C-2. Because there were no SL exceedances in the surface samples, the archived subsurface samples were not analyzed.
6. In summary, PSSDDA approved protocols and procedures were followed, and quality assurance, quality control guidelines specified by PSSDDA were generally complied with. The data gathered were deemed sufficient and acceptable for regulatory decision-making under the PSSDDA program. Based on the results of the chemical testing, the PSSDDA agencies concluded that up to 47,000 cubic yards of proposed dredged material are suitable for unconfined open-water disposal at a PSSDDA dispersive or non-dispersive site.

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7. This memorandum documents the suitability of proposed dredged sediments for disposal at a PSDDA open-water disposal site. This determination of suitability does not preclude the consideration of this material for an appropriate beneficial use. It does not constitute final agency approval of the 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.

Concur:

12/5/94
Date

12/5/94
Date

12/6/94
Date

Date

Date

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**FIGURE 1
BLAIR BRIDGE PROJECT LOCATION AND
PROPOSED/EXISTING SAMPLE LOCATIONS**

