

February 9, 1998

Memorandum for Record

**SUBJECT: FREQUENCY DETERMINATION REGARDING THE SUITABILITY OF DREDGED MATERIAL FROM THE PORT OF GRAYS HARBOR, TERMINAL 2 (96-2-01675), FOR DISPOSAL AT EITHER THE SOUTH JETTY OR POINT CHEHALIS ESTUARINE OPEN-WATER DISPOSAL SITES.**

1. The Port of Grays Harbor proposes to maintenance dredge approximately 40,000 cubic yards of material near Terminal 2 at Aberdeen, Washington in 1998 (see Attachment 1). The following summary reflects the consensus determination of the agencies (Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Ecology, Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency) with jurisdiction over dredging and disposal regarding the applicability of frequency guidelines to this project.
2. The initial ranking for this area was "high" based on guidance provided in the *Dredged Material Evaluation Procedures and Disposal Site Management Manual, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay*, June 1995, page 47. The project area was subsequently down-ranked to "low-moderate" based on testing completed in 1994 and 1995.
3. Testing completed in 1994 and 1995 showed no detected exceedances of Grays Harbor screening levels (SLs). For chemicals-of-concern that were undetected, all detection limits were reported below SLs. Dioxin testing was completed during both years. In 1994 detected levels of 2,3,7,8 TCDD (Tetrachloro-Dibenzo-p-Dioxin) were at 1.9 parts per trillion. In 1995, the detected levels for this congener were at 1.1 parts per trillion. Based on the agencies' best professional judgment, these low concentrations are unlikely to be environmentally harmful.
4. For low-moderate ranked areas in Grays Harbor, the frequency guidelines specify that existing information remains adequate and valid for decision-making without further testing for six years from the most recent sampling event. The most recent sampling occurred on February 2, 1995. Therefore the existing data are valid until February 2, 2001. This determination is contingent upon a finding that no significant event has occurred that might impact the quality of the proposed dredged material, such as a contaminant spill or discharge.
5. In summary, the agencies have determined that additional sediment characterization is not required prior to dredging 40,000 cubic yards from Terminal 2 in 1998.



David F. Fox, PE

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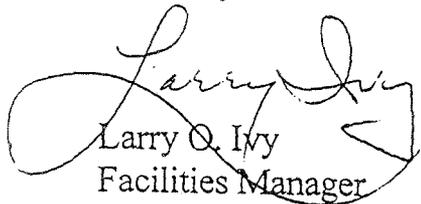
Commissioners:  
Jack Thompson  
W. 'Mac' McWhorter  
Isabelle Lamb

The Port of Grays Harbor is planning to dredge the berths at Terminal 2 this year. We are estimating a volume of 40,000 yards. It is important for us to accomplish this before March 1, 1998. If this is not possible, and we cannot get a fisheries extension, we will have to wait for the fisheries window to open on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Executive Director:  
Donald C. Fleming

Please let us know what we need to do to have our permits in line for this project. Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

  
Larry O. Ivy  
Facilities Manager

January 29, 1998

Attachment 1