



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Columbia River at the Mouth, Oregon and Washington  
North and South Jetties and Jetty A  
Major Rehabilitation  
CENWP-PM-E-10-03**

Issue Date: January 13, 2010  
Expiration Date: February 12, 2010

### 30 Day Notice

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, proposes to rehabilitate and repair portions of the North and South Jetties and Jetty A at the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR). The South Jetty and North Jetty at the Mouth of the Columbia River were constructed in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and Jetty A was constructed in 1939 to secure the Federal navigation channel through the ocean entrance to the Columbia River. All three jetties have experienced damage to jetty heads and along the jetties at several locations over the years. The purpose of the action is to rehabilitate and repair critical head, trunk, and root portions of all three jetties in order to strengthen the jetty system, to extend its functional life, and to maintain deep draft navigation. This action is necessary to prevent further deterioration and subsequent breaching of the jetties. The Corps recommends major rehabilitation of portions of the North and South Jetties as well as Jetty A at the MCR. The project also involves constructing jetty spur groins to stabilize the sand shoals upon which the jetties were built, filling of the North Jetty lagoon and wetlands, and augmentation of the South Jetty root and Trestle Bay dunes on the Clatsop spit. This work would involve barging and/or trucking of rock and development of barge offloading facilities. The proposed work is detailed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

In accord with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations [Federal Register, 40 C.F.R. 1508.9(a)], an Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared by a federal agency when a proposed action is not covered by a categorical exclusion or otherwise exempt from NEPA. Federal agencies use the EA to determine whether the proposed action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. The purposes of the EA are to accomplish the following:

1. Provide evidence and analysis sufficient to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.
2. Aid a federal agency's compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary.
3. Facilitate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) when one is necessary.

The EA is meant to be the primary tool that federal agencies use to determine whether or not to prepare an EIS (Bass et al. 2001).

Completion of this EA will involve inclusion of responses to all public comments. Upon completion of the EA, a determination of significance will be made on the preferred alternative and either a Finding of

No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be made, concluding the NEPA process, or a decision will be made to prepare an EIS. In order to prepare an EIS, it must be determined that the proposed action will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Public input on this EA is encouraged as it aims to identify public concerns early in the project planning process.

**Environmental Documents:** A draft Environmental Assessment addressing the impacts associated with the activity is enclosed for public review and comment. The draft is also available on the Corps website at [https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/en\\_plan\\_assess.asp](https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/en_plan_assess.asp).

**State Water Quality Certification:** State Water Quality Certification, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required from both the Washington Department of Ecology and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. A 404(b1) evaluation will be prepared and submitted to these agencies.

**Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972:** Consistency determinations will be prepared and submitted to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Washington Department of Ecology for concurrence.

**Additional Information and Comments:** Any questions regarding the enclosed environmental documents or public comments on the Corps' EA, should be directed to Barbara G. Cisneros, Environmental Resources Branch, telephone (503) 808-4784, via e-mail at [Barbara.G.Cisneros@usace.army.mil](mailto:Barbara.G.Cisneros@usace.army.mil), or at the address below. Comments on this notice must be mailed by the above closing date to:

District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland  
Attn: CENWP-PM-E/Barbara Cisneros  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date.

Should no response be received postmarked by the above closing date, a "no comment" response will be assumed.