COLUMBIA AND LOWER WILLAMETTE RIVERS NAVIGATION CHANNEL, OREGON AND WASHINGTON

FINAL INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT FOR CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

*COVER SHEET
*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*1. INTRODUCTION 1-1
1.1. Purpose and Need 1-1
1.2. Study Authority 1-2
1.3. Study Area 1-3
1.4. Scope of Study 1-3
1.5. Study Participants and Coordination 1-4
1.6. Previous Studies 1-5
*2. STUDY AREA DESCRIPTION 2-1
2.1. Existing Project Description 2-1
2.2. Historic Channel Development 2-2
2.3. Navigation Practices 2-4
2.3.1. Traffic Volume 2-5
2.3.2. Sailing Schedules 2-5
2.3.3. Underkeel Clearance 2-6
2.3.4. River Stage Forecasting System 2-8
2.3.5. Columbia River Entrance 2-8
2.3.5.1. Underkeel Clearance 2-8
2.3.5.2. Wave Conditions 2-9
2.3.6. Regulatory Environment 2-10
2.3.7. Channel Safety 2-10
2.3.8. Operating Drafts 2-10
2.4. Channel Maintenance Practices 2-11
2.4.1. Maintenance Dredging 2-11
2.4.1.1. Hopper Dredging 2-11
2.4.1.2. Pipeline Dredging 2-12
2.4.1.3. Clamshell Dredging 2-12

NOTE: * Indicates information required for National Environmental Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

2.4.2. Advance Maintenance Dredging 2-12
2.4.3. Disposal of Dredged Material 2-13
2.4.3.1. Shoreline Disposal 2-13
2.4.3.2. Upland Disposal 2-14
2.4.3.3. In-Water Disposal 2-14
2.4.3.4. Ocean Disposal 2-14
2.4.4. River Control Structures 2-15
2.5. Summary of Environmental Conditions 2-15
2.5.1. Water and Sediment Quality 2-15
2.5.2. Aquatic Resources 2-16
2.5.3. Wildlife Resources 2-18
3. NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES 3-1
3.1. Introduction 3-1
3.2. Commodity Forecast 3-1
3.2.1. Containers 3-2
3.2.2. Wheat 3-3
3.2.3. Corn 3-4
3.2.4. Barley 3-5
3.2.5. Alumina 3-6
3.3. Fleet Forecast 3-7
3.3.1. Container Vessel Fleet 3-7
3.3.2. Bulk Carrier Fleet 3-9
3.3.2.1. Wheat 3-10
3.3.2.2. Corn 3-13
3.3.2.3. Barley 3-14
3.3.2.4. Alumina 3-15
3.4. Future Port Development 3-16

NOTE: * Indicates information required for National Environmental Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

*4. ALTERNATIVES 4-1
4.1. Formulation and Screening of Alternatives 4-1
4.2. No Action Alternative 4-2
4.3. Non-Structural Alternative 4-4
4.4. Structural Alternatives 4-6
4.4.1. Regional Port Alternatives 4-6
4.4.1.1. Astoria Single-Stop Port Alternative 4-8
4.4.1.2. Astoria Topping-Off Port Alternative 4-9
4.4.1.3. Longview Single-Stop Port Alternative 4-9
4.4.1.4. Longview Topping-Off Port Alternative 4-9
4.4.2. Channel Deepening Alternatives 4-10
4.4.3. Disposal Alternatives 4-11
4.4.3.1. Construction Dredging Forecast 4-11
4.4.3.2. Maintenance Dredging Forecast 4-12
4.4.3.3. Disposal Methods 4-14
4.4.3.4. Upland Disposal Site Screening 4-17
4.4.3.5. Disposal Site Screening Results 4-19
4.4.3.6. Beneficial Uses 4-33
4.4.3.7. Least Cost Disposal Alternative 4-35
4.4.3.8. Sponsor's Preferred Disposal Alternative 4-38
4.4.3.9. Disposal Plan Modifications Following Draft Review 4-42
4.5. Comparison of Alternatives 4-46
4.5.1. Environmental Comparison 4-46
4.5.1.1. Physical Impacts 4-46
4.5.1.2. Biological Impacts 4-47
4.5.1.3. Socio-Economic Impacts 4-48
4.5.2. Economic Comparison 4-52
4.6. Plan Selection 4-53
4.6.1. Turning Basins 4-55
4.6.2. Anchorages 4-56
4.6.3. Berthing Areas 4-57
4.7. Selected Plan 4-57
4.7.1. Channel Optimization Measures 4-68
4.8. Ecosystem Restoration Plan 4-70
4.8.1. Shillapoo Lake 4-71
4.8.2. Tide Gate Retrofits for Salmonid Passage 4-74
4.8.3. Improved Embayment Circulation 4-75
4.8.4. Restore Shallow Water Habitat 4-76
4.8.5. Summary 4-77

Note: *Indicates information required for National Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

*5. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT 5-1
5.1. Physical Resources 5-1
5.1.1. Introduction 5-1
5.1.1.1. Marine Environment 5-1
5.1.1.2. Estuarine Reach 5-2
5.1.1.3. Riverine Reach 5-2
5.1.2. Hydrology 5-3
5.1.3. Hydraulics 5-3
5.1.4. Salinity 5-3
5.1.5. Sedimentation 5-4
5.1.5.1. Suspended Sediment 5-4
5.1.5.2. Bedload 5-5
5.1.5.3. Bank Erosion 5-6
5.1.5.4. Sediment Discharge 5-7
5.1.6. Water Quality 5-8
5.1.7. Sediment Quality 5-8
5.1.7.1. Background 5-8
5.1.7.2. Sediment Quality Evaluation 5-9
5.1.7.3. Navigation Channel Sediments 5-10
5.1.8. Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste Considerations 5-12
5.2. Biological Resources 5-13
5.2.1. Introduction 5-13
5.2.2. Marine and Estuarine Environment 5-13
5.2.2.1. Marine 5-13
5.2.2.2. Estuarine 5-14
5.2.3. Riverine Environment 5-16
5.2.4. Aquatic Resources 5-17
5.2.4.1. Primary Production 5-17
5.2.4.2. Phytoplankton 5-18
5.2.4.3. Benthic Microalgae 5-18
5.2.4.4. Plants 5-18
5.2.4.5. Invertebrates 5-18
5.2.4.6. Zooplankton 5-18
5.2.4.7. Benthic Invertebrates 5-19
5.2.4.8. Fish Species 5-20
5.2.4.9. Fisheries 5-23

Note: * Indicates information required for National Environmental Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

5.2.5. Non-Indigenous Species 5-25
5.2.6. Wildlife Resources 5-25
5.2.6.1. Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles 5-26
5.2.6.2. Avifauna 5-26
5.2.6.3. Terrestrial Mammals 5-30
5.2.6.4. Open Water and Channel Habitat 5-30
5.2.6.5. Pile Dikes 5-31
5.3. Threatened and Endangered Species 5-31
5.3.1. Aquatic Species 5-31
5.3.2. Wildlife Species 5-32
5.4. Socio-Economic Resources 5-33
5.4.1. Port-Related Economy 5-33
5.4.2. Land Use 5-34
5.4.3. Aesthetics 5-35
5.4.4. Recreation 5-35
5.4.5. Cultural Resources 5-35

Note: * Indicates information required for National Environmental Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

*6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES 6-1
6.1. Introduction 6-1
6.2. Physical Impacts 6-1
6.2.1. No Action Alternative 6-1
6.2.2. 43-foot Channel Deepening Alternative 6-2
6.2.2.1. Riverbed and Sedimentation 6-2
6.2.2.2. Water Surface Elevations 6-3
6.2.2.3. Salinity 6-6
6.2.3. Proposed Disposal Alternative 6-8
6.2.3.1. Upland Disposal 6-8
6.2.3.2. In-Water Disposal 6-8
6.2.3.3. Ocean Disposal 6-9
6.3. Water Quality Impacts 6-9
6.4. Sediment Quality Impacts 6-10
6.4.1. Navigation Channel 6-10
6.4.2. Ocean Disposal 6-11
6.5. Hazardous, Toxic, and Radiological Waste Impacts 6-11
6.5.1. No Action Alternative 6-11
6.5.2. 43-foot Channel Deepening Alternative 6-12
6.5.3. Least Cost and Proposed (Sponsor's) Disposal Alternatives 6-13
6.6. Biological Impacts 6-17
6.6.1. Aquatic Resources 6-17
6.6.1.1. No Action Alternative 6-17
6.6.1.2. 43-foot Channel Deepening Alternative 6-17
6.6.2. Wildlife Resources 6-24
6.6.2.1. No Action Alternative 6-24
6.6.2.2. 43-foot Channel Deepening Alternative 6-25
6.6.2.3. Least Cost Disposal Alternative 6-26
6.6.2.4. Proposed (Sponsor's Preferred) Disposal Alternative 6-34
6.7. Threatened and Endangered Species 6-36
6.7.1. Aquatic Species 6-36
6.7.2. Wildlife Species 6-37

Note: *Indicates information required for National Environmental Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

6.8. Socio-Economic Resources 6-42
6.8.1. Economic Impacts 6-42
6.8.2. Land Use 6-43
6.8.2.1. No Action Alternative 6-44
6.8.2.2. Least Cost Disposal Alternative 6-44
6.8.2.3. Proposed (Sponsor's Preferred) Disposal Alternative 6-44
6.8.2.4. Prime and Unique Farmlands 6-45
6.8.3. Air Quality 6-46
6.8.4. Noise 6-47
6.8.5. Aesthetics 6-47
6.8.6. Recreation 6-47
6.8.7. Cultural Resources 6-47
6.9. Secondary Impacts 6-49
6.10. Mitigation 6-51
6.10.1. No Action Alternative 6-53
6.10.2. 43-foot Channel Deepening Alternative 6-53
6.10.2.1. Least Cost Disposal Alternative 6-53
6.10.2.2. Proposed (Sponsor's Preferred) Disposal Alternative 6-55
6.11. Unavoidable Adverse Impacts 6-56
6.12. Cumulative Impacts 6-56
6.13. Relationship Between Short-Term Uses of the Environment and Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity 6-59
6.14. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources 6-60

Note: *Indicates information required for National Environmental Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

*7. COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT 7-1
7.1 Required Coordination 7-1
7.2 Public Workshops 7-2
7.3 Specialized Coordination Activities 7-2
7.3.1 Environmental Roundtable Meetings 7-2
7.3.2 Ecosystem Restoration Workshops 7-4
7.3.3 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Technical Working Group 7-4
7.3.4 Reach Meetings with Resource Agencies 7-5
7.3.5 Salinity Workshops 7-5
7.3.6 Sediment Quality Technical Group 7-5
7.3.7 Wildlife Mitigation Interagency Technical Work Group 7-5
7.4 Compliance with Environmental Laws and Executive Orders 7-6
7.4.1 Clean Air Act of 1970, as Amended 7-6
7.4.2 Clean Water Act of 1977, as Amended 7-6
7.4.3 Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as Amended 7-6
7.4.4 Comp. Environmental Response, Compensation, & Liability Act 7-6
7.4.5 Endangered Species Act of 1973 7-6
7.4.6 Estuary Protection Act 7-7
7.4.7 Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976 7-7
7.4.8 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act 7-7
7.4.9 Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 7-7
7.4.10 Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 7-7
7.4.11 Migratory Bird Conservation Act 7-8
7.4.12 Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1918) 7-8
7.4.13 Submerged Lands Act of 1953 7-8
7.4.14 Cultural Resources Acts 7-8
7.4.15 Analysis of Impacts on Prime and Unique Farmlands 7-8
7.4.16 Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands 7-8
7.4.17 Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management 7-9
7.4.18 Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations 7-9
7.5 Other Related Programs 7-9
7.5.1 Northwest Power Planning Council Fish and Wildlife Program 7-9
7.5.2 Lower Columbia River Estuary Program 7-9

Note: Indicates information required for National Environmental Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

8. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION 8-1
8.1 Identification of Sponsors 8-1
8.2 Cost Allocation and Apportionment 8-1
8.3 Non-Federal Cost Sharing 8-3
8.4 Division of Responsibilities 8-3
8.4.1 Federal Responsibilities 8-3
8.4.2 Non-Federal Responsibilities 8-4
8.4.2.1 General Navigation Features 8-4
8.4.2.2 Environmental Restoration 8-7
8.4.2.3 General 8-8
8.5 Sponsor's Support 8-8
8.6 Implementation Process 8-8

9. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 9-1

*List of Preparers
*Glossary
*Index
*Literature Cited

*Exhibit A – Correspondence
*Exhibit B – Scoping Documentation
*Exhibit C – Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report
*Exhibit D – Section 103 Evaluation
*Exhibit E – Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation
*Exhibit F – Coastal Zone Evaluation
*Exhibit G – Biological Assessment for Wildlife and Plants
*Exhibit H – Biological Assessment for Fish

Note: Indicates information required for National Environmental Policy Act Compliance.

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1 – Columbia River Transits from 1991 through 1993 2-5
Table 2-2 – Columbia River Navigation Practices 2-11
Table 2-3 – Habitat Changes Along the Lower Columbia River 2-18
Table 3-1 – Export Projections for Containers 3-2
Table 3-2 – Historic Wheat Exports 3-3
Table 3-3 – Export Projections for Wheat 3-4
Table 3-4 – Export Projections for Corn 3-5
Table 3-5 – Historic Barley Exports 3-6
Table 3-6 – Export Projections for Barley 3-6
Table 3-7 – Import Projections for Alumina 3-7
Table 3-8 – US Northwest Routes, 1990-2044 Outbound Cargo Projections.... 3-10
Table 3-9 – 1993 Wheat Vessel Movements by Departure Draft 3-12
Table 3-10 – 1993 Columbia River Corn Exports to Taiwan 3-14
Table 3-11 – 1993 Columbia River Barley Exports 3-15
Table 4-1 – Upland Disposal Site Summary for the No Action Alternative 4-3
Table 4-2 – Potential Vessel Draft Benefits 4-5
Table 4-3 – Construction Dredging and Rock Removal Volume 4-12
Table 4-4 – Disposal Site Screening Summary 4-20
Table 4-5 – Potential Beneficial Use Sites 4-35
Table 4-6 – Least Cost Disposal Alternative Sites 4-38
Table 4-7 – Disposal Sites Not in Common 4-40
Table 4-8 – Summary of Disposal Alternatives 4-41
Table 4-9 – Summary of Modified Disposal Plans 4-44
Table 4-10 – Summary Comparison of Environmental Impacts 4-50
Table 4-11 – Average Annual Transportation Benefits, 43-foot Alternative..... 4-52
Table 4-12 – Allocation of Benefits by Reach 4-53
Table 4-13 – Incremental Transportation and Delay Benefits 4-53
Table 4-14 – Estimated Costs and Benefits by Alternative 4-53
Table 4-15 – 43-Foot Channel Alternative Costs 4-54
Table 4-16 – Turning Basins Columbia River Navigation Channel 4-56
Table 4-17 – Columbia River Deep Draft Berths Deepening Costs 4-57
Table 4-18 – Proposed Disposal Plan 4-58
Table 4-19 – Minimum Stages & Channel Depths, 43-foot Alternative 4-68
Table 4-20 – Incremental Costs and Benefits, Shillapoo Restoration 4-72
Table 4-21 – Summary of Ecosystem Restoration Measures 4-76
Table 5-1 – Minimum Numbers of Salmon and Steelhead, 1994 to 1996 5-22
Table 5-2 – Hatchery Releases in the Columbia River Basin for 1996 5-23
Table 5-3 – Lower Columbia River Commercial Landings and Value 5-23
Table 6-1 – Mitigation Requirements and Site Differences 6-35
Table 6-2 – Disposal Site Comparison 6-44
Table 6-3 – Mitigation for Least Cost and Proposed Disposal Alternatives 6-54
Table 8-1 – Executive Cost Summary for the Proposed Action 8-2

TABLE OF CONTENTS (Continued)

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 – Study Area Map 1-8
Figure 2-1 – Columbia River Timeline 2-3
Figure 2-2 – Annual Dredging Volumes, 1906 to 1996 2-4
Figure 3-1 – Panamax-Class Builds by Year and Deadweight Tonnage 3-11
Figure 4-1 – Maintenance Dredging Forecasts 4-13
Figure 4-2 – Ocean Disposal Site Locations 4-16
Figure 4-3 – Considered Disposal Sites for Reaches 1 Through 7 4-26
Figure 4-4 – Proposed Disposal Sites for Reaches 1 Through 7 4-59
Figure 4-5 – Shillapoo Lake Restoration Project 4-78
Figure 4-6 – Location of Tide Gate Retrofits for Salmonid Passage 4-79
Figure 4-7 – Location of Improved Embayment Circulation Actions 4-80
Figure 6-1 – With- and Without-Project Water Surface Profiles 6-5
Figure 6-2 – With- and Without-Project Salinity Concentrations 6-7
Figure 8-1 – Project Implementation Schedule 8-9

APPENDICIES LIST

Appendix A – Engineering
Appendix B – Columbia and Willamette River Sediment Quality Evaluation
Appendix C – Economics
Appendix D – Real Estate Plan
Appendix E – HTRW Preliminary Assessment Screening Survey
Appendix F – Salinity Intrusion Studies
Appendix G – Wildlife Mitigation
Appendix H – Columbia River Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites