

Cougar Dam
Willamette River Temperature Control
Clean Water Act
Tier I Sediment Evaluation

Project Dredging Activity - The Cougar Dam Project Dredging Plan estimates the amount of dredge material to be removed at 70 cubic yards. The contractor anticipates most of the material to be silt and proposes to use an airlift supplied by a 900 cfm air compressor to side cast the material approximately 30 feet.

Authority - The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 as amended regulates dredging activities and requires sediment quality evaluation, prior to dredging. Guidelines to implement 40 CFR Part 230-Section 404(b)(1) regulations of the CWA, the national Inland Testing Manual (ITM) and the regional Dredge Material Evaluation Framework for the Lower Columbia River Management Area (DMEF) have adopted a tiered testing approach for the evaluation of dredge material. As part of the Tier I evaluation, the DMEF allows for certain small project exceptions to the physical, chemical and biological testing requirements. To qualify under the small project exception, the project can not be partitioned into multiple small projects to reduce the volume of dredge material. Project volumes are cumulative over multiple year releases at a disposal site. The exception to testing is based on the volume of the material to be dredged and the potential contaminate level or “ranking” of the material at the discharge site (ref. DMEF 6.6.4).

Conclusion - There is no reason to believe that this material is contaminated. Sediment samples were collected from this area in 1996 and no contaminants of concern were detected above the method detection limit. This dredging activity, also, meets all requirements of the DMEF for small project “No Test” guidelines (section 6.6.4). Both the “low-moderate” and “moderate” rankings allow up to 1000 CY of material to be dredged without testing. The indicated volume of dredge material for this project is well within this “No Test” limit. No physical, chemical or biological testing is required under the current design specifications.

This Tier I evaluation document has been distributed for a 20-day coordination review of the Regional Management Team as described in the DMEF. If no comments are received within 20 days from the distribution date below, it will be considered final. Please, direct comments to Tim Sherman by return e-mail or at (503) 808-4884. (If contractor schedule requires construction start prior to the end of the 20-day response period, contact the Corps POC).

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