

**MCR Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Taskforce
Questions Re: Taskforce Operations**

The Regulatory Workgroup (i.e., Corps, EPA, OR DEQ, OR DLCD, and WA DOE – Water Quality & Coastal Zone) continues to be interested in your feedback regarding taskforce operations. A few individuals provided feedback on the first taskforce meeting, but we would greatly appreciate additional feedback from other participants. If you have input to share, then please complete the following questionnaire with responses directed to the Corps of Engineers. Alternatively, you can bring your completed questionnaire to the next taskforce meeting. Thank you for your time.

(1) Most feedback at the first taskforce meeting seemed to indicate a preference for more informal meetings. We would like to confirm that this is the preference of the overall taskforce. Should the overall format for taskforce meetings be:

- (a) less formal (e.g. roundtable), X
- (b) more formal,
- (c) continue as at the first meeting?

Please explain:

The seating arrangement of the first taskforce meeting set a confrontational atmosphere even before the meeting began. In order to facilitate an atmosphere open to suggestions and inter-agency communication, this must be changed. The way in which taskforce members were allowed to respond was tightly controlled (formal), though there was no official note-taker. I would like to see a discussion-oriented, compromise-receptive, less formal atmosphere in which everyone can see who has a question or comment to make and is allowed to make it in a timely manner.

(2) The Regulatory Workgroup will provide the agenda, overheads presented at the meeting and brief summary of the issues addressed. Some members expressed a concern about having formal meeting notes while others seemed to want more informal meetings all around. Please indicate your level of concern about having detailed meeting notes and share any additional ideas you might have on this subject.

Past working-group meetings illustrate the need for video/audio recording and these should be employed at the next meeting. I think it is very important that an unbiased record be maintained. I would like to see an effort made by the Corps to produce minutes of the meetings for purposes of the record as well as demonstrating their commitment to this process. Further, minutes from RW meetings would also be appropriate for the taskforce's review.

(3) The taskforce will meet at least annually. Additional meetings are expected, especially during the first year or two of this process. Please indicate how often you expect you could attend taskforce meetings given your individual situation:

- (a) No more than 2 per year,
- (b) 2-4 meetings per year,
- (c) Other, X

I would be happy to go to more than 4 meetings per year, provided the taskforce is given a viable goal. (Meaning, suggestions and concerns of the taskforce would not be selectively dismissed.)

(4) We did not set a date for the next meeting of the taskforce. The Regulatory Workgroup is now proposing another taskforce meeting in early June so we can discuss primarily the 2000 dredging season (not discussed at the first meeting). If taskforce members would prefer to avoid travelling to Portland for this meeting, then we could distribute and discuss information regarding the 2000 dredging season via e-mail.

Any comments or preferences regarding the proposal for a meeting in early June?

I'd like to see a meeting scheduled. I think it is important for the taskforce to meet to discuss the material with the Corps/EPA in person, but the material must be provided early enough to provide ample time for review before such a meeting.

(5) At this time, the Regulatory Workgroup expects that most taskforce meetings will be held in Portland. However, the location of taskforce meetings could alternate if that best serves the taskforce membership. A few

taskforce members seemed to be interested in having meetings outside of Portland. Please indicate your preference for taskforce meeting location:

(a) Portland, _____

(b) Other: (please specify below)

I am willing to travel to other meeting locations and would suggest a rotating location schedule, reflective of where taskforce members work. (Newport, Astoria, Longview, Olympia, etc.)

(6) The Regulatory Workgroup wants the taskforce members to be satisfied with how meetings are run and how agenda topics are selected. Would you like to see a taskforce representative selected to assist the Regulatory Workgroup with meeting procedures & agendas? _____ yes _____
Any volunteers? _____

Comments? *I would like to see the taskforce agree/vote to have a representative assist the RW with meeting procedures and agendas. Alternatively, the RW's procedures and meeting minutes could be made open for comment via this list, in the same manner as this questionnaire, prior to RW meetings. Policies/Decisions should be made available to the taskforce for review prior to taskforce meetings.*

(7) Some taskforce members expressed concerns about the balance of presentations to group discussions at the first taskforce meeting. Please indicate your preference for:

(a) more presentations? _____

Of what nature? _____

(b) more time for open discussions? _____

(c) other ideas?? Without having a clear idea of what the taskforce will be invited/allowed to contribute to the mitigation/monitoring/management/usage of the ODMDSs, it's difficult to say which would be more productive. However, updates on agency actions related to the ocean disposal issues as well as the greater channel deepening project could play a role.

(8) Would people prefer that we plan to order in lunches, i.e., either as a working lunch or just to shorten the time needed to get to, order, & eat lunch? (Please note that participants would still have to pay for their own lunches. Financial resources are not available to provide paid lunches.)

This may depend on meeting location. I'm indifferent on lunch; however, due to the intensity of some of the discussions, a 15-20 minute break does serve a legitimate function.

(9) Any other questions or comments you would like to share regarding the taskforce?

Since there weren't any questions about how the taskforce would like to be involved in the mitigation/management/monitoring/usage of the ODMDSs in this questionnaire, I am assuming that those guidelines will be set in the MOU. I expect that the taskforce will have an opportunity to comment on a draft version of the MOU, since that is the document that will ultimately shape this process.