

NOV 22 2002

Planning, Programs and Project
Management Division

Ms. Loree' Randall
Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Dear Ms. Randall:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, is proposing to deepen the Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel from its current authorized 40-foot depth with advanced maintenance to 45-foot, to an authorized depth of 43-foot with advanced maintenance to 48-foot based on the recommendations in the *Final Integrated Feasibility Report for Channel Improvements and Environmental Impact Statement* dated August 1999 and the *Draft Supplemental Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement* dated July 2002. The Final SEIS is expected to be released to the public no later than January 30, 2003. The proposed action involves both dredging and disposal within the State of Washington.

We are hereby submitting an application for water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977, and a consistency determination prepared in accordance with Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. We request that you respond to our consistency determination and issue water quality certification between February 20 and March 7, 2003, depending on the release of our Final SEIS. We will coordinate a more specific date with you in the near future. We have also enclosed our evaluation under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act for your review.

Please contact Mr. Bob Willis, Chief, Environmental Resource Branch at (503) 808-4760 if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Richard W. Hobernicht
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosures

1. 401 Certificate Application
2. CZMA Determination
3. Shoreline Master Program
4. 404(b)(1) Evaluation
5. Roles & Responsibilities
6. Comparison of changes from FEIS to SEIS