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12.5 Terms and Conditions

Term and Conditions 3f

3. In order to minimize the likelihood of incidental take associated with uncertainty and risk regarding long-term Project effects, the Corps shall implement a monitoring program with the following elements:
 - f. The best available information indicates that the Columbia River navigation channel sediments do not exceed current DMEF or NMFS contaminants thresholds. The interagency contaminants review team, identified in MA-5, shall ensure that the Project continues to proceed with the best available sediment and contaminant information. The interagency contaminants review team shall meet annually to review sampling distribution and frequency, sediment quality, and contaminants concerns of all Lower Columbia River, estuary and river mouth sediment sample locations. The interagency contaminants review team shall provide the adaptive management team with annual, or more regular, updates on current sediment and contaminants information in the Project area. Additionally, the interagency contaminants review team shall recommend to the adaptive management team, beginning at the first adaptive management team meeting in January, 2003, any additional sampling or contaminants testing necessary for purposes of minimizing contaminants resuspension from Project dredging and/or disposal activities. The Corps shall complete additional sediment and contaminant samples determined necessary by the adaptive management team. Any samples that the adaptive management team determines are necessary as a result of the January, 2003, meeting shall be completed prior to Project construction.

Action Plan: It is envisioned that the interagency contaminants review team will be the Regional Sediment Evaluation Team (RESET) group that is currently formed to evaluate the contaminants guidelines. This group will meet annually or more often if necessary to review any additional sediment information gathered and determine whether it has any effect on the assessment done for the project.

Schedule: See T&C 3e

Summary of RSET Meetings and Products

Sept. 11-13, 2002, Hood River, OR

Retreat for the Regional Dredging Team (RDT) and Regional Sediment Evaluation Team (RSET). Current objective is to create a scoping document for the revision of the Dredged Material Evaluation Framework (DMEF) acceptable to State, Federal, and Local agencies. All agencies agreed that an updated DMEF would be of use, both in light of technical advances since its publication in 1998 and to make the document applicable to a wider geographic area.

December, 2002

Summary Report - September RDT/RSET Workshop, Hart Crowser

Dec.10-11, 2002, Portland, OR

Meeting among RSET to summarize and to supplement the process begun in September. Presentations supplied technical information that had been identified as lacking or needing clarification (examples: obtaining a programmatic biological opinion; freshwater screening guideline development); subcommittees and membership were defined; and basic terms of a multiagency partnering agreement was agreed on.

Dec. 11, 2002, Portland, OR

Meeting among personnel from USACE, NOAA Fisheries, and FWS personnel to discuss the potential for transmittal of Corps-collected sediment data to other agencies using available technology (SEDQUAL). Decision was made to sponsor a SEDQUAL training course to facilitate use of GIS capabilities in the program, for use by all three (or other) agencies.

Jan. 9, 2003, Portland, OR

One-day SEDQUAL training course. Course was provided by Washington Department of Ecology and attended by USACE, NOAA Fisheries, and FWS personnel.

Jan. 30, 2003

December RSET Meeting Report, Hart Crowser

March 16 and 17, 2004

Lewiston, Idaho RSET meeting.

April 6-7 RSET

Meeting in Olympia, WA – RSET working meeting.

September 14, 2005

Meeting in Portland – publicly advertised meeting to kick off the draft SEF review period.

September 2005

A draft Sediment Evaluation Framework (SEF) document was released for public and agency comment. The comment period ended November 30th.

September 2006

An Interim Final SEF was released on September 30, 2006. This SEF is being implemented through a Beta Test involving the various RSET agencies. The Beta Test was implemented in a limited basis in the Portland District in 2005-2006 but is to be expanded to include Seattle and Walla Walla Districts in 2006-2007. Agencies are reviewing the Interim Final SEF with a goal of finalizing the SEF by September 30, 2007.

2006

Sediment quality studies were completed on three Columbia River side channels as part of the requirement to resample all side channels prior to dredging. Side channels samples included the West Baker Bay channel to Ilwaco, Chinook Channel, and Old Mouth of the Cowlitz. In addition, the Westport Channel was sampled in order to dredge the channel deeper to accommodate ocean going barges that are expected to start using the channel in the future. NOAA Fisheries has reviewed the sediment quality report on the first three projects and has approved the proposed dredging at these projects. A portion of the Chinook Channel not proposed to be dredged was found to have 4-methylphenol above screening levels and will require additional sampling and evaluation prior to dredging.