



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Portland District

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Columbia River at the Mouth, Oregon and Washington
North and South Jetties and Jetty A
Major Rehabilitation
CENWP-PM-E-06-03**

Issue Date: June 20, 2006
Expiration Date: July 20, 2006

30 Day Notice

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, proposes to rehabilitate portions of the North and South Jetties as well as Jetty A at the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR). The South Jetty and North Jetty at the Mouth of the Columbia River were constructed in the late 1800s and early 1900s to secure the Federal navigation channel through the ocean entrance to the Columbia River. Both jetties have experienced reduction to jetty heads and damage along the jetties over the years. The purpose of the action is to rehabilitate portions of these jetties. This action is necessary to prevent further deterioration and subsequent breaching of the jetties. The Corps recommends major rehabilitation of portions of the North and South Jetties as well as Jetty A at the MCR, as well as the possibility of constructing jetty spur groins to stabilize the sand shoals upon which the jetties were built. Work would also involve barging and/or trucking of rock and development of barge offloading facilities. Potential work is detailed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

In accord with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations [Federal Register, 40 C.F.R. 1508.9(a)], an Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared by a federal agency when a proposed action is not covered by a categorical exclusion or otherwise exempt from NEPA. Federal agencies use the EA to determine whether the proposed action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. The purposes of the EA are to accomplish the following:

1. Provide evidence and analysis sufficient to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.
2. Aid a federal agency's compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary.
3. Facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is necessary.

The EA is meant to be the primary tool that federal agencies use to determine whether or not to prepare an EIS (Bass et al. 2001).

Completion of this EA will involve inclusion of responses to all public comments. Upon completion of the EA, a determination of significance will be made on the preferred alternative and either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be made, concluding the NEPA process, or a decision will be made to prepare an EIS. In order to prepare an EIS, it must be determined that the proposed action will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

This EA is somewhat general as some details of potential work have yet to be determined. Public input on this EA is encouraged as it aims to identify public concerns early in the project planning process.

Environmental Documents: A draft EA addressing the impacts associated with the activity is enclosed for public review and comment.

State Water Quality Certification: State Water Quality Certification, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required from both the Washington Department of Ecology and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. A 404(b1) evaluation will be prepared and submitted to these agencies.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972: Consistency determinations will be prepared and submitted to the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Washington Department of Ecology for concurrence.

Additional Information and Comments: The Draft Environmental Assessment can be viewed on the web at <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/issues/jetty/documents.asp>. Questions or comments regarding the enclosed document can be directed to Steve Helm, Environmental Resources Branch, telephone (503) 808-4778 or via e-mail at steve.r.helm@usace.army.mil or at the address below. Mailed comments on this notice must be postmarked by the above closing date and sent to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer District, Portland
Attn: CENWP-PM-E
P.O. Box 2946
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

In your response, please refer to the above public notice number, title and date.

Should no response be received postmarked by the above closing date, a “no comment” response will be assumed.