



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

PUBLIC NOTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Port Orford, Curry County, Oregon
Maintenance Dredging
CENWP-PM-E-06-04
Issue Date: July 18, 2006
Expiration Date: August 3, 2006

15 Day Notice

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, proposes to expand the dimensions of the near-shore placement area at Port Orford. Sediment from summer dredging will be placed in a near-shore placement area that is located approximately 200 feet off the edge of the breakwater. The current near-shore placement area is 400 feet by 400 feet and has a maximum capacity of 30,000 cubic yards of sediment. In 2003, approximately 25,000 cubic yards of sediment was removed during the summer dredging. Recent surveys indicate that approximately 45,000 cubic yards of sediment will need to be dredged in 2006. The Corps recommends expanding the near-shore placement area to 800 feet by 800 feet to provide adequate dredged material placement capacity for this year and future years. This action is necessary to prevent sediment mounding within the boundaries of the placement area. 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: The draft EA addressing the impacts associated with the activity can be viewed on the web at <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/docs/PortOrfordEA.pdf>.

State Water Quality Certification: State Water Quality Certification, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. A 404(b)(1) evaluation will be prepared and submitted to this agency.

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

Additional Information and Comments: The draft EA addressing the impacts associated with the activity can be viewed on the web at <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/docs/PortOrfordEA.pdf>. Questions or comments regarding the enclosed document can be directed to Wendy Briner, Environmental Resources Branch, telephone (503) 808-4781 or via e-mail at wendy.k.briner@nwp01.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.