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Staff Coordination on Portland Harbor Projects with USACE Permits

April 28, 2015

Via phone conference

Overarching goals:

1. Interagency information sharing on project-specific permit process and technical aspects;
2. readying applicants to submit complete applications for timely processing;
3. on-going interagency and applicant conferring as projects move forward or change;
4. development of sideboards, impact type batches, and standard conditions or performance measures to apply for consistency and workload balance; and
5. smoothing the path for in-water remediation requirements/conditions that are consistent with past/current permits.

Given that we had no applicant presentations scheduled and had recently coordinated on finalizing the applicant help tools package, we elected to hold a sort check-in meeting via phone. Participants were: Alex, Genevieve and Michael.

We began at 1:30 pm by discussing the remaining details of finalizing and posting the tools package on the USACE website.

- Michael received the final edits and will pass them along next week for Alex and Genevieve to review. Posting to website should be by the week of May 11th.

We next talked about Rich Muza retiring, leaving no contact from EPA for the group (interim Source Control contact is Sean Sheldrake, with Annie Christopher coming up to speed).

This led to a discussion of coordination with Sean on 404/CERCLA, in light of Jonathan Freedman's recent retirement.

- We noted that early coordination is best and that USACE, NMFS and DEQ 401 are important for EPA to coordinate with for concerns outside of CERCLA that can be resolved jointly rather than having conflicting terms and conditions in the BO, 401 and EPA comments.
- Shore Terminals piling replacement project recently came to DEQ 401 attention, having already received a BO and CERCLA comments. DEQ Cleanup coordination indicates that the area is a pretty hot sediment problem, including high concentrations of TBT and PAHs, as well as dioxin, DDT and metals. Limiting sediment disturbance is important for water quality and biological protection, so DEQ is considering cutting piles at the mudline and covering with clean sand instead of pulling piles and trying to contain the disturbance with BMPs. Coordination with EPA is needed on the potential for future dredging under the dock or recommending effective BMPs for containing dissolved and sediment borne contaminants. USACE is considering convening a meeting/call with the applicant and all agencies to discuss options.

We next discussed recent updates to status of projects on the tracking list:

- USACE & DSL received revised info and USACE clarified that the project is proposing 1200 linear feet of large rock (more than alluded to in the presentation to us) and no mitigation is proposed. NMFS will review the BA, but is likely to require mitigation, as discussed during the presentation. DSL is also likely to require mitigation (that DEQ will make part of the Cleanup decision), so Alex will email Melinda Butterfield and cc Michael and Genevieve to keep the agencies coordinated. Michael will connect with Andy Jansky on the next revision.

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- PGE RM 13 – Requested info was received and Genevieve estimates about a month for a signed BO. Jaimee Davis received 106 info and initiated tribal consultation for 30 days. Seems like the permit will be able to be issued for the July IWWW.
- No application or contact from Port on OU2 bank work. Alex will have DEQ PM send package and remind them they are invited to present to the group.
- Portland Manufactured Gas – Alex met with them on Apr 21 to coax them into the process. They are nearing completion on refined cleanup alternatives – likely the preferred option will be a hybrid of removing surface tar, minimized dredging, reactive capping, and hard capping. The high concentrations of PAHs are mostly deep below deposited sediment and disturbance via dredging would be high risk and impracticable (huge pit and lots of very high PAH exposure). Determining required future dredge depth to support navy vessels (Rose Festival) is needed to determine dredging and capping details. FS completion anticipated by end of year (informed by coord meeting to present remedy and get input in July – off regular meeting schedule), application in 2016 for work in 2017.
- Centennial Mills – overwater building removal (first phase not in water) USACE LOP out on PN. Phase II cultural resource review expected to be tough as documentation is at highest level.

We also discussed getting Cleanup coordination between Dan Hafley, DEQ, and Christy Fellas, NMFS, and Jaimee Davis, USACE, on the Jocelyn Center Pond removal action in a wetland on the Columbia River, near the Slough. Dioxin capping/removing justification and clarification of potential impacts needed. Alex will coordinate with Dan and connect him with Christy and Jaimee.

We adjourned 2:20pm.