

Corps of Engineers

Notice of Availability of Surplus Land and Buildings in Accordance With Public Law 103-421 Located at Defense Personnel Support Center, Philadelphia, PA

AGENCY: Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Public notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army, in accordance with the Base Closure Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act of 1994, announces that approximately 77.5 acres containing the buildings listed below, at the Defense Personnel Support Center have been determined surplus. The Center is located in south Philadelphia in the block bordered by Oregon Avenue on the North, 20th Street on the East, and Schuylkill Expressway on the South and West. The property is scheduled for closure by July 2, 1999. State and local governments, representatives of the homeless, and other interested parties should be aware that the outreach screening process whereby McKinney Homeless providers and state and local governmental agencies express their interest in the property will be conducted by Lori Flynn of the Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation, Office of Defense Conversion, 2600 Centre Square West, 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102, telephone: 215-496-8167. The screening process will commence upon the publishing of notices in local newspapers, currently scheduled for early 1996.

4 Office Buildings—Totaling 808,200 SF
7 Storage Buildings—Totaling 1,561,000 SF

9 Other Type Buildings—Totaling 294,100 SF

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Lori Flynn at the above address and phone number.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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BILLING CODE 3710-41-M

Intent To Prepare A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for A Multiuser Disposal Site Program for Contaminated Sediments in Puget Sound, WA

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a draft EIS.

SUMMARY: The following are joint lead agencies for the combined Federal and State Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Federal (NEPA):

Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense; State (SEPA): Washington Department of Ecology and Washington Department of Natural Resources.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Washington Department of Ecology, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources, intend to prepare a joint federal-state Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The EIS will evaluate disposal alternatives for contaminated sediments from Puget Sound. Disposal alternatives that will be evaluated include: (1) Level bottom capping and confined aquatic disposal, (2) nearshore confined disposal, (3) upland disposal, (4) disposal in solid waste landfills, and (5) multiuser access to larger fill projects.

The need for disposal of contaminated sediments comes from (1) dredging of federal and non-federal navigation channels, (2) waterfront development projects, (3) environmental cleanup projects directed through federal or state enforcement actions, and (4) projects with restoration of aquatic habitat as their primary purpose. Preliminary investigations estimate there are currently about 20-30 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment in Puget Sound, primarily in the urbanized bays.

The current practice of resolving contaminated dredged material issues is on a project-by-project basis, resulting in a greater number of smaller confined disposal sites that must be monitored and accounted for, rather than a few large sites. Because of difficulties with disposal, the discovery of contaminated sediments often forces project proponents to redesign or abandon a project to avoid dredging. This avoidance does not resolve the ongoing adverse effects of the contaminated sediments remaining in the environment, and it limits the potential economic development of the contaminated waterfront site.

Development of an effective solution for the safe disposal and containment of contaminated sediments from multiple sources in Puget Sound is needed. A process to establish, implement, and operate a system of multiuser confined disposal sites, and criteria to site the facilities, will be developed as part of the EIS. Siting criteria will include biological and physical factors, as well as proximity to existing sources of contamination. Using siting criteria and the evaluation of feasible disposal alternatives, zones of siting feasibility in Puget Sound, where multiuser confined

disposal sites could be located, will be identified in the EIS. Once zones of feasible sites are determined, site-specific NEPA/SEPA compliance evaluations for all potential sites will be tiered from the completed programmatic EIS.

DATES: The lead and cooperating agencies invite and encourage agencies and the public to provide written comments on the proposed programmatic EIS throughout the scoping process to ensure that all relevant environmental issues are considered. Persons or organizations wishing to submit scoping comments should do so no later than January 21, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by: Mr. Steve Babcock, Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Branch, 4735 E. Marginal Way S., Seattle, Washington 98124-3755, Telephone (206) 764-3651 or Mr. Keith Phillips, Washington Department of Ecology, Environmental Investigation and Lab Service Program, P.O. Box 47710, Olympia, Washington 98504-7710 Telephone (360) 407-6699 or Mr. Timothy Goodman, Aquatic Resources Division, Washington Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 47000, Olympia, Washington 98504, Telephone (360) 902-1057.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action

The proposed action is to evaluate alternatives for siting one or more contaminated sediment disposal facilities in Puget Sound, Washington. This evaluation will be part of an effort to develop a federal/state program to establish one or more multiuser disposal siting processes.

Puget Sound is an estuary of 2,500 square miles. There are 34 public port districts along Puget Sound, 54 miles of federal navigation channels, 10 miles of port terminal ship berths along these channels, and more than 200 small boat harbors that require periodic dredging. There is currently a lack of capacity for disposal of contaminated sediments derived from (1) dredging of federal and non-federal navigation channels, (2) waterfront development projects, (3) environmental cleanup projects directed through federal or state enforcement actions, and (4) projects with restoration of aquatic habitat as their primary purpose. The lack of suitable disposal alternatives is a major obstacle to effective improvement and maintenance of navigation and the most substantial impediment to the progress of