



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Portland District



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Lower Columbia River Channel Maintenance Plan

Draft Dredged Material Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Federal Register Notice of DEIS Availability: Friday, August 23, 2024

Public Comment Period: Friday, August 23, 2024, to Wednesday, November 6, 2024, 11:59 p.m.

Federal Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS: Friday, September 8, 2017; Federal Register 82 FR 42548

NOTIFICATION

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has prepared a draft Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to support continued operation and maintenance of the Lower Columbia River Federal Navigation Channel (LCR FNC) for the next 20 years. The DMMP-EIS was developed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The EIS was jointly prepared by the Corps and the Lower Columbia River Sponsor Ports (Sponsor Ports are the Port of Longview, Washington; the Port of Kalama, Washington; the Port of Woodland, Washington; the Port of Vancouver USA, Washington; and the Port of Portland, Oregon). The Corps was the NEPA lead agency and the Port of Longview was the SEPA nominal lead agency for the Washington Ports. The DMMP-EIS is an integrated report prepared in accordance with Corps' policy for Dredged Material Management Plans in Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100, and the requirements of NEPA and SEPA. The Corps will also issue a separate public notification of the proposed discharges of dredged or fill material described in the DMMP-EIS, in accordance with agency noticing procedures, including section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA, also known as the Ocean Dumping Act) and section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Extension of Public Comment Period

Due to the request from interested parties, the Corps is extending the public comment period for an additional 30-days to end on November 6, 2024.

Along with the 30-day extension of this NOA, the Corps and Sponsor Ports will host an additional virtual meeting on Thursday, October 24 from 12:00 to 2:00. This virtual meeting can be accessed at the following link: <https://aq.webex.com/aq/j.php?MTID=mfe5612d0d8b18bbf476e16a43c280045>

AVAILABILITY

The Draft DMMP-EIS is available for public view on the Corps' project website at: <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/lcrchannelmaintenance/>

The document is also available as a reference at the following locations:

LIBRARY

Longview Public Library 1600 Louisiana St, Longview, WA
Multnomah County Library 7905 SE Holgate Blvd, Portland, OR
St Helens Public Library 375 S 18th Street, St Helens, OR
Cathlamet Public Library 115 Columbia Street, Cathlamet, WA

PORT OFFICES

Port of Vancouver 3103 NW Lower River Road, Vancouver, WA (online viewing available)
Port of Longview 10 International Way, Longview, WA
Port of Kalama 110 West Marine Drive, Kalama, WA
Port of Woodland 1608 Guild Road, Woodland, WA (providing thumb drive for viewing)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The LCR is a dynamic system that poses an annual challenge for the Corps to maintain the deep-draft FNC to the authorized depth of 43 feet and width of 600 feet. Sediment at the bottom of the LCR accumulates into mounds that can interfere with passing ships. It is important to have sufficient water depth for deep-draft vessels to safely transit. The goal of the DMMP is to develop a strategic plan for flexible, efficient operations for a minimum of 20 years to ensure the continued economic viability of this vital shipping gateway.

The Proposed Action reviewed in this Draft DMMP-EIS is continued O&M of the LCR FNC for specific, authorized purposes and in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and all other applicable treaties, laws, and regulations. The Draft DMMP-EIS presents the potential effects on the human environment from the No Action Alternative and two action alternatives at a program level with site-specific analysis where it is available. All three alternatives include continued dredging and placement at previously established sites. The action alternatives include additional suites of measures to extend the life of existing placement sites, allow for new placement methods and locations, and reduce dredging volumes. Further environmental review would occur where appropriate prior to phased implementation of the DMMP, as further discussed in the Draft DMMP-EIS.

The Preferred Alternative is the Draft Recommended Plan, which is a refinement of Alternative 1.

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS AND FINAL DMMP-EIS PREPARATION

The Corps and the Sponsor Ports will consider all Draft DMMP-EIS comments during the comment period and will respond to comments in the Final DMMP-EIS. If applicable, the Final DMMP-EIS will reflect changes from the Draft DMMP-EIS based on public comments and/or information made available since publication of the Draft DMMP-EIS. All public comments will be included in the DMMP-EIS record.

Public comments must be submitted in writing via email correspondence, postal service mail, or in writing at a public meeting.

To Submit Comments through Email	To Submit Comments through the Postal Service
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<p>Send email correspondence to:</p> <p>LCR-CMP-DMMP@usace.army.mil</p> <p>Please add "Draft DMMP-EIS" in the subject line of the email.</p>	<p>Send postal service comments to:</p> <p>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: CENWP-PME-E / DMMP-EIS P.O. Box 2946 Portland, OR 97208-2946</p> <p>Please add "Draft DMMP-EIS" in the subject line of submitted letters.</p>
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PUBLIC MEETINGS

In-person Meetings

The Corps and Sponsor Ports will present the Draft DMMP-EIS at in-person meetings which will be held in September 2024 at the times and locations listed below.

- September 16 5-7pm Cowlitz County Event Center, 1900 7th Avenue, Longview WA
- September 17 5-7pm Norse Hall, 444 WA-409, Cathlamet, WA
- September 18 7-9pm St John’s Community Center, 8427 N Central Street, Portland OR
- September 20 5-7pm Astoria Senior Center, 1111 Exchange Street, Astoria OR

Virtual Meeting

Additionally, the Corps and Sponsor Ports will host a virtual meeting on Tuesday, September 24 from 1:30-3:30. Virtual meeting access information will be provided on the following website:

<http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/lcrchannelmaintenance/>