

# Request for Comments

## Proposed 401 Water Quality Certification for US Army Corps of Engineers to Conduct Maintenance Dredging in the Federal Navigation Channel in the Lower Willamette River at Post Office Bar



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to provide written comments pertaining to concerns about water quality impacts which may result from this proposed project.

### DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is the regulatory agency that helps protect and preserve Oregon's environment. DEQ is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way that DEQ protects Oregon's water quality is by issuing Section 401 certifications. Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act requires Federal agencies to obtain a water quality certification from the State of Oregon if their proposed activity may result in a discharge to surface waters. The certification states that the discharge will comply with applicable sections of the Clean Water Act.

### Comments due:

Written comments due:  
5 p.m. on September 3, 2010

### Where can I send my comments?

DEQ accepts comments by mail, fax and e-mail.

401 Public Comments  
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
Northwest Region  
2020 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 400  
Portland, Oregon 97201

**Fax:** 503-229-6957

**E-mail:** 401publiccomments@deq.state.or.us

### Where can I get technical information?

Alexandra Liverman  
401 Water Quality Certification Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Northwest Region  
2020 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97201

503 229-6030  
503 229-6957 (fax)

liverman.alex@deq.state.or.us

### Where can I get background information?

The draft Evaluation and Findings and proposed 401 Water Quality Certification are attached to this notice for your review and comment. These documents will be finalized in consideration of all comments received.

You can review all related documents in the file at the Northwest Region DEQ office in Portland. For a review appointment, call Marjorie Holland at 503 229-6826.

The draft Environmental Assessment is available for viewing on the US Army Corps of Engineers' website at:

[http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/docs/PO\\_Bar\\_Draft\\_EA.pdf](http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/pm/e/docs/PO_Bar_Draft_EA.pdf)

### What is proposed?

In order to maintain safe navigation within the Federal Navigation Channel of the Willamette River, the US Army Corps of Engineers is proposing to remove approximately 75,000 cubic yards of material which has shoaled at an inside bend on the east bank of the river in an area known as Post Office Bar, which is located at approximately river mile 2+00 to 2+30. This area was last dredged in 1989.

**Northwest Region  
401 Water Quality  
Certification program**  
2020 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97201  
Phone: (503) 229-5263  
(800) 452-4011  
Fax: (503) 229-5850  
Contact:  
L. Alexandra Liverman

[www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

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subscriptions@deq.state.or.us

Please include your full name, e-mail address and mailing address so that we can purge you from our print mailing list, thus saving trees and taxpayer dollars.

Notice Issued: 07/30/10  
By: Alex Liverman

The material will be removed using a closed-lipped, environmental, clamshell bucket to a depth of approximately -42 feet CRD (including 2 feet of advanced maintenance dredging). Dredged material will be placed on a watertight barge for transport to a disposal site on West Hayden Island, where it will be offloaded using a mechanical pump with no discharge of decant water to waters of the state.

### **Certification duration**

The proposed 401 Water Quality Certification would be effective for five years, but it is anticipated that the dredging and disposal would be completed in the fall of 2010.

### **Who is the applicant?**

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CENWP-PM-E  
P.O. Box 2946  
Portland, Oregon 97208-2946

Attn: Carolyn Schneider

### **Who might have an interest?**

People who work, live, and recreate in the area.

### **What does the proposal do that affects water quality?**

Please click here for:

[Draft Evaluation and Findings document](#)  
[Draft Certification Letter](#)

### **What legal requirements apply?**

Federal Clean Water Act  
Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) 468B and  
Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter  
340 Division 48 give DEQ the authority to issue  
certifications.

### **What happens next?**

Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 340-48-0027 (1) states that “If, within 20 days of the public notice, 10 or more persons or an organization representing 10 or more members request a public hearing on the proposed certification decision, the department must provide a hearing within the 35-day public comment period or as soon thereafter as reasonably practicable. The department may also provide a public hearing on a proposed certification decision or provide informational meetings regarding a certification application as it deems appropriate.”

If a public hearing is not undertaken, DEQ will review and consider all comments received during the public comment period. Following this review, the certification may be issued as proposed, modified, or denied. You will be notified of DEQ's final decision if you present written comments during the comment period. Otherwise, if you wish to receive notification, please call or write DEQ at the above address.

### **Accessibility information**

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ Communications & Outreach (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or e-mail to [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).

People with hearing impairments may call DEQ's TTY number, (503) 229-6993.

