

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA – POLICY AND STAFF BRIEFING

Item No. 7a
Date of Meeting May 5, 2009

DATE: March 20, 2009

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Stephanie Jones Stebbins, Senior Manager Seaport Environmental Programs
Kathy Bahnick, Environmental Program Supervisor, Seaport Environmental Programs

SUBJECT: Briefing on the Lower Duwamish Waterway Feasibility Study

The purpose of this briefing is to present an update on the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Feasibility Study (FS) being performed by the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG). The LDWG consist of the Port of Seattle, City of Seattle, King County and the Boeing Company. The regulatory oversight for this study is being performed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). This briefing will include a brief site background and history, a status and schedule of the study, and information on the draft cleanup alternatives that were developed as part of the study.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, the City of Seattle, King County, the Port of Seattle, and The Boeing Company, working collectively as the LDWG, signed an Agreed Order on Consent to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study for the LDW with oversight by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). The LDW sediment site stretches from the south end of Harbor Island to the Norfolk CSO area just south of Turning Basin 3. This section of river was straightened and widened by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1911 to create an industrial river for navigation. In September 2001, the LDW was formally listed as a Superfund site, and in February 2002, the LDW was formally listed as a Washington Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) site. The draft RI was submitted to EPA and Ecology on November 5, 2007, and a revised draft addressing EPA, Ecology and stakeholder comments is due to the agencies in July 2009 and is expected to be finalized by September 2009. The RI describes what is known about the LDW including the history of the LDW; the environmental setting, habitat, and uses; the deposition and transport of sediment within the LDW; the distribution of contamination in the LDW, including concentrations of chemicals in sediment, water, and tissues; and information regarding potential historical and ongoing sources of chemicals to LDW as well as the source control and identification strategy.

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The draft Feasibility Study which has been worked on concurrent with the RI, is scheduled for submittal to the agencies on April 24th. The FS will evaluate multiple alternatives for cleanup of the LDW and will evaluate those alternatives for their effectiveness at meeting the risk objectives. These documents will allow EPA and Ecology to make final cleanup decisions for the LDW.