

PORT OF SEATTLE
MEMORANDUM

COMMISSION AGENDA – POLICY AND STAFF BRIEFING

Item No.	<u>6c</u>
Date of Meeting	<u>January 6, 2009</u>

DATE: December 19, 2008

TO: Tay Yoshitani, Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Stephanie Jones Stebbins, Senior Manager, Seaport Environmental Programs
Peter K. Ressler, Seaport Environmental Programs Compliance Manager

SUBJECT: Update on Cruise Vessel Biomass Study and Phase 1 Draft Report

STATUS OF THE CRUISE VESSEL BIOMASS STUDY

The purpose of this briefing is to update the Commission on the status of the Cruise Vessel Biomass Study and the Phase 1 Draft Report.

Staff previously briefed the Commission on June 10, 2008. At that time, the next step was to move ahead with Phase I of the Cruise Biomass Study, assessing the feasibility of offloading biomass at Cruise facilities. Phase-2 of the Study will evaluate the environmental impacts of implementing the alternatives identified in Phase 1.

The Phase 1 Study has already undergone some public review. A draft study was completed by our consulting team (KPF Engineering, Glost Associates and AECOM). This draft study was reviewed by a stakeholder group, including the Northwest Cruise Ship Association (NWCA), individual member Cruise Lines, the Department of Ecology, (DOE) and several environmental interest groups including Friends of the Earth, People for Puget Sound and the Surfrider Alliance. Comments from the stakeholder group were received at a meeting held on December 15, 2008. These comments are being incorporated into a new draft that will be released at the time of this Commission briefing. A 30 day public review period will commence following this briefing.

This Phase 1 Draft Report summarizes the current state of knowledge through a review of existing reports and data. The specific reports reviewed include DOE reports on past sampling conducted on Puget Sound cruise vessels, as well as US EPA reports on cruise vessel on-board treatment systems.

In addition, treatment vendors and cruise ship operators were surveyed to determine how waste was being treated and handled by the vessels. A questionnaire was sent to cruise line customers to gather specific information about types of treatment systems employed, disposal practices, and

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vessel information including storage capacity specific to the individual vessels. The cruise vessel operators were also asked if their ship was equipped with a means of transferring biomass ashore, and if not, whether it was feasible to retrofit the ship to enable biomass transfer.

Finally, the Phase 1 report also contains an initial assessment of the impacts to onboard and dock-side infrastructure and terminal operations of performing the alternative biomass off-loading methods. This assessment is based on the professional experience of Port staff, the consultant team and their collective knowledge of cruise facilities at Pier 66 and Pier 91 and the cruise vessel system infrastructure.