



NAE - BEST Model for Dredge Material Evaluations Meeting

ERDC Dredging Operations Technical Support Program (DOTS)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Response Summary:

A meeting of New England District (NAE) Operations, DOTS-supported ERDC researchers, and INSPIRE Environmental, a company that specializes in dredge material management, was convened virtually May 2020 in light of current travel restrictions. The overarching objective of NAE related to this meeting is to ensure that the procedure used by NAE for evaluating bioaccumulation is technically defensible and efficient. Points of discussion help to set the stage for the development of a set of standardized practices that can be incorporated into the updated New England Regional Implementation Manual (NERIM) for the evaluation of dredged material for aquatic disposal. Of interest was the appropriate role of current bioaccumulation risk modeling practice in the future project determination procedure.

National consistency was emphasized during the meet. Simple queries of other Districts/EPA Regions have uncovered some variations in how bioaccumulation is assessed, limited use of risk modeling, as well as of recent science. Regional manuals are necessary to address region-specific issues that are not specified in the National testing manual. However, NAE seeks to develop their practice to be consistent (to the extent possible) with that used by other USACE Districts. Inconsistency and lack of coordination across Districts is seen to be a barrier to NERIM revisions. Discussion was had about how a coordinated effort of NAE practice/practitioners and ERDC researchers that are producing relevant tools and decision support can help address inconsistencies across USACE Districts.

Period of Performance:

May 2020

Benefits of the Response to the USACE Dredging/Navigation Program:

The benefit of the DOTS-support effort to the USACE Dredging/Navigation Program is that improved understanding of District needs by ERDC can yield useful research products in response. A coordinated effort in the revision of Regional Implementation Manuals can draw on the strengths of individual Districts and incorporate existing knowledge and tools of the ERDC to produce standard practices that are technically defensible and efficient.

Deliverable:

The product that will result from this effort is continued communication to explore ways to advance NERIM revisions and address the need for national consistency. Additionally, integration and greater technology transfer of existing ERDC dredge material management support will be pursued. These may take the form of new research starts or future meetings or workshop.



Providing environmental and engineering technical support to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Operations and Maintenance navigation and dredging missions

Igor Linkov, PhD & David Moore, PhD
Environmental Lab • Igor.Linkov@usace.army.mil or David.W.Moore@usace.army.mil

DOTS-20-R16