FINAL – 9 August 2010

Draft Workshop Agenda
Dredging Program Technical Workshop:
Addressing the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Bldg 3296 Main Conference Room, WES Campus
11 and 12 August 2010

Motivation: The Deepwater Horizon oil spill is requiring the EPA and USACE to consider oil and related contaminants as part of the dredging program. The MPRSA and CWA regulate dredged material placed in ocean and coastal areas. There is a potential that oil may be contaminating sediments to be dredged as well as the placement locations. Therefore a thorough understanding of the chemistry, biology, and engineering issues is required to develop an immediate short-term and long-term process.

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting is to address some of the fundamental questions to develop a short-term and long-term process for dredged material evaluations. To accomplish this goal, specific questions listed below will be addressed. It is expected these discussions will enable the workgroup to develop a coordinated, scientifically based process for (1) immediate response to support the dredging program in light of the dynamic nature of the oil contamination and (2) long-term assessment of oil contamination using the best available approaches.

Questions:

Oil Contamination.

1. What are the properties of the oil contamination? What is the composition with respect to PAH, alkanes, alkenes?
2. How does it change over time (i.e., 1 month, 1 year, 5 years) with weathering?
3. How does it compare to other oil?

Dispersants.

1. What are the properties of the dispersants and mixtures with oil?
2. Are dispersants expected to be present in sediments? How long do dispersants persist?
3. How do we analyze dispersants?

Sampling

1. What samples should be collected? What number?
2. How should samples be collected?
3. How frequently should samples be collected?
4. Minimum QA/QC requirements?

Analytical Chemistry.

1. What are the current methods used for the oil spill response?
2. What are the QA/QC requirements for those methods?
3. How does the screening test kit work? What are the detection limits for the DH crude? Does it change with weathering? How does this screen relate to traditional methods?
4. How do you differentiate historic (pre-spill) oil from DH crude?

Screening Values.

1. How do we determine a “change in conditions” due to the spill?
2. What are relevant sediment and water screening values for total oil, PAH, and alkanes?
3. What screening values are currently used?
4. Are there region specific screening values?

Bioassays.

1. What are the relevant bioassays for current program and which ones are relevant for assessing oil contamination?
2. What is the sensitivity of various test endpoints?
3. What role does bioaccumulation assessment have in oil contamination assessment? If bioaccumulation tests are used, how are the results interpreted?

Management of Oil Contaminated Sediment.

1. What are potential issues associated with an oiled dredge?
2. What are the options for upland placement, aquatic placement, and beneficial use?
3. Where have these management options been used before?

11 August 2010

0730-0800	**Refreshments**
0800-0815	Opening and introductions
0815-0830	Workshop goals (Steevens, Johnson)
0830-0900	Regulations (Wilson)
0900-0930	Region/District status (McCormick, Corbino)
0930-1000	Region/District status (Johnson, Jacobson)
1000-1030	**Break**
1030-1130	Sampling and Analysis (Fredette, Steevens)
1130-1230	**Lunch**
1230-1330	Oil Chemistry, Analytical methods and screen kit demonstration (Bednar, Mills)
1330-1415	Dispersant chemistry, toxicity, analysis (Hemmer, Barron, Venosa, Jones-Lepp)
1415-1515	Screening values, ESB (Mount, Burgess)
1515-1530	Regional screening values (Corbino, Lotufo)
1530-1545	**Break**
1545-1630	Bioassays (Lotufo, Berry)
1630-1700	Open discussion
1800-	Social / Food at Roca's

12 August 2010

0730-0800	**Refreshments**
0800-0930	Management options for dredging and placement (Olin-Estes, Fredette)
0930-1000	Baseline and monitoring database (NOAA - TBD)
1000-1030	**Break**
1030-1200	Breakout Groups

1. Chemistry and Screening
2. Bioassays
3. DM management
4. Policy

1200-1300	**Lunch**
1300-1400	Report out on Breakout Groups
1400-1430	**Break**
1430-1630	Process integrating technical approaches
1630-1700	Conclusions and next steps. Identify volunteers for white paper writing assignments and scheduling (Steevens, Johnson)