Management of Private Dredging

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Dredged Material Placement

- Background:
 - PHA and private terminals around the port generate around 3 million CY of silt at their berths annually—30% of all dredging
 - Some private placement areas exist, but Corps/PHA sites are more numerous



- PHA works to accommodate private terminals use of our sites
- All material is tested before it is placed into our sites
- Corps and PHA charge fees for site use to offset future costs of providing capacity



Dredged Material Management

- The Corps and PHA develop schedules that include "windows of time" (6-8 months) when placement areas are available to receive material
- PHA announces the windows, and coordinates requests from industry



Dredged Material Agreement Procedures

- **1. Application packet received**
- 2. Coordination (schedule, quantity, type of material)
- **3. Environmental report forwarded to PHA's Environmental Department for approval**
- 4. Agreement preparation
- 5. Applicant signature, invoice for 75% of estimated fee
- 6. PHA signature and execution
- 7. Review surveys, bill remaining fee
- 8. Final administration



Port of Houston Authority Sediment Sampling Requirements

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Private Industry: "HEY! I need to do sediment sampling. Help?"

- What is your dredge prism?
- How many cubic yards of material ?
- How many linear feet?
- Are there Storm Water Outfalls?
- What Analytical parameters do I test for?



Port of Houston Authority Requirements:

- One Sediment Core/sample taken for every 500 linear feet over the dredge prism
- Each Sediment Sample represents approximately 5,000 cubic yards of material
- Every outfall should have a sediment sample obtained from its location
- Core samples should be at least as great as the proposed dredge depth. (point of refusal)
- Homogenize sediment samples (i.e. 4 foot core = one sediment sample; 9 ft core = 2 sediment samples)
- Sample Results are good for 1 year



Where do I go to get information about Port requirements?

www.portofhouston.com/pdf/channel/PHASedimentProcedures.pdf



Steps for a successful sediment sampling operation:

- Contact PHA prior to sediment sampling to go over plan/site map
- Hire Qualified/Experienced Contractor!!
- Use a Laboratory that can meet Sediment Analytical Reporting Limits
- Include aerial or site map with GPS locations
- Communicate with PHA staff

www.portofhouston.com



Sampling Results submitted to PHA, Now what?

- PHA will evaluate sediment analysis: Ecological screening thresholds (lower and upper) levels, Tx Marine Surface Water Quality Criteria, Tx Specific Median Bkgd, TCEQ Soil to Groundwater Screening Levels
- If <u>below</u> PHA levels, *letter of acceptance*! Next step is to meet with Channel Development to proceed with application
- If <u>above</u> levels, *letter of denial* with next steps needed: ecological risk assessment, impact delineation, TCEQ notification, alternative landfill options

