



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Northwest Regional Office • 3190 160th Ave SE • Bellevue, WA 98008-5452 • 425-649-7000
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March 19, 2012

Norman Gilbert
Port of Bellingham
PO Box 1677
Bellingham, WA 98227

RE: Water Quality Certification Order #8902 for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice #NWS-2011-313, Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch Replacement and Upland Facility Improvement Project, in Bellingham, Whatcom County, Washington

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

On April 5, 2011, Port of Bellingham submitted a Joint Aquatic Resource Permit Application (JARPA) to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification (401 Certification) under the federal Clean Water Act for the proposed Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch Replacement and Upland Facility Improvement project.

On behalf of the State of Washington, Ecology certifies that the work described in the JARPA and the public notice complies with applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Clean Water Act, as amended and applicable state laws. This certification is subject to the conditions contained in the enclosed Order.

If you have any questions, please contact Rebekah Padgett at (425) 649-7129. The enclosed Order may be appealed by following the procedures described in the Order.

Sincerely,

Erik Stockdale, Unit Supervisor
Northwest Regional Office
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program

ES:rrp:cja

Enclosure

By certified mail: 7011 0470 0003 3720 9527



cc: Randel Perry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Don Olmsted, Washington Department of Natural Resources
Brian Williams, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
William Vogel, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

e-cc: Doug Allen – BFO
Christina Maginnis – BFO
Loree' Randall – HQ
Raman Iyer – NWRO
ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov

IN THE MATTER OF GRANTING A) ORDER #8902
WATER QUALITY) Corps Reference #NWS-2011-313
CERTIFICATION TO) Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch Replacement and
PORT OF BELLINGHAM) Upland Facility Improvement Project;
in accordance with 33 U.S.C. 1341) Bellingham Bay, Bellingham, Whatcom County,
(FWPCA § 401), RCW 90.48.120, RCW) Washington.
90.48.260 and Chapter 173-201A WAC)

TO: Norman Gilbert
Port of Bellingham
PO Box 1677
Bellingham, WA 98227

On April 5, 2011, Port of Bellingham submitted a Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for a Section 401 Water Quality Certification. A joint public notice regarding the request was distributed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the above-referenced project pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 173-225 WAC on October 14, 2011.

The boat launch replacement proposal includes:

- Removal of existing concrete boarding floats and six creosote-treated timber piles
- Installation of new concrete boarding floats and six 14-inch-diameter new concrete piles
- Repair and replacement of damaged concrete ramp pads
- Repair and re-establishment of shielding rock along the edges of the concrete ramp
- Repair of scour holes at the end of the concrete ramp along with placement of additional concrete pads (approximately 960 additional square feet) to prevent future scour
- Upgrade of lighting at and around the launch floats and ramp
- Repairs to the upland maneuvering area asphalt within the parking area and improvements to the existing trailer rinse down facility

The project is located at 1801 Roeder Avenue, Bellingham, Whatcom County, Washington, Bellingham Bay, Section 25, T. 38 N., R. 2E., WRIA 1.

AUTHORITIES:

In exercising authority under 33 U.S.C. § 1341, RCW 90.48.120, and RCW 90.48.260, Ecology has examined this application pursuant to the following:

1. Conformance with applicable water quality-based, technology-based, and toxic or pretreatment effluent limitations as provided under 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311, 1312, 1313, 1316, and 1317 (FWPCA §§ 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307);

2. Conformance with the state water quality standards contained in Chapter 173-201A WAC and authorized by 33 U.S.C. § 1313 and by Chapter 90.48 RCW, and with other applicable state laws; and
3. Conformance with the provision of using all known, available and reasonable methods to prevent and control pollution of state waters as required by RCW 90.48.010.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION CONDITIONS:

Through issuance of this Order, Ecology certifies that it has reasonable assurance that the activity as proposed and conditioned will be conducted in a manner that will meet the applicable water quality standards and other appropriate requirements of state law. In view of the foregoing and in accordance with 33 U.S.C. § 1341, RCW 90.48.120, RCW 90.48.260 Chapter 173-200 WAC and Chapter 173-201A WAC, water quality certification is granted to the Applicant subject to the conditions within this Order.

Certification of this proposal does not authorize the Applicant to exceed applicable state water quality standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC), ground water standards (Chapter 173-200 WAC) or sediment quality standards (Chapter 173-204 WAC). Furthermore, nothing in this certification shall absolve the Applicant from liability for contamination and any subsequent cleanup of surface waters, ground waters or sediments occurring as a result of project construction or operations.

A. General Conditions:

- A1. For purposes of this Order, the term "Applicant" shall mean Port of Bellingham and its agents, assignees and contractors.
- A2. For purposes of this Order, all submittals required by its conditions shall be sent to Ecology's Northwest Regional Office, Attn: 401/CZM Federal Project Manager, 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008-5452. Any submittals shall reference Order #8902 and Corps Reference #NWS-2011-313.
- A3. Work authorized by this Order is limited to the work described in the JARPA received by Ecology on April 5, 2011. The Applicant will be out of compliance with this Order and must reapply with an updated application if the information contained in the JARPA is voided by subsequent changes to the project not authorized by this Order.
- A4. Within 30 days of receipt of an updated JARPA, Ecology will determine if the revised project requires a new water quality certification and public notice or if a modification to this Order is required.

- A5. This Order shall be rescinded if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not issue an individual Section 404 permit.
- A6. Copies of this Order shall be kept on the job site and readily available for reference by Ecology personnel, the construction superintendent, construction managers and lead workers, and state and local government inspectors.
- A7. The Applicant shall provide access to the project site and all mitigation sites upon request by Ecology personnel for site inspections, monitoring, necessary data collection, and/or to ensure that conditions of this Order are being met.
- A8. Nothing in this Order waives Ecology's authority to issue additional orders if Ecology determines that further actions are necessary to implement the water quality laws of the state. Further, Ecology retains continuing jurisdiction to make modifications hereto through supplemental order, if additional impacts due to project construction or operation are identified (*e.g.*, violations of water quality standards, downstream erosion, etc.), or if additional conditions are necessary to further protect water quality.
- A9. The Applicant shall ensure that all appropriate project engineers and contractors at the project site have read and understand relevant conditions of this Order and all permits, approvals, and documents referenced in this Order. The Applicant shall provide Ecology a signed statement (see Attachment A for an example) from each project engineer and contractor that they have read and understand the conditions of this Order and the above-referenced permits, plans, documents and approvals. These statements shall be provided to Ecology before construction begins at the project or mitigation sites.
- A10. This Order does not authorize direct, indirect, permanent, or temporary impacts to waters of the state or related aquatic resources, except as specifically provided for in conditions of this Order.
- A11. Failure of any person or entity to comply with this Order may result in the issuance of civil penalties or other actions, whether administrative or judicial, to enforce its terms.

B. Water Quality Conditions:

- B1. Bellingham Bay is classified as "Excellent Quality for Aquatic Life Turbidity Criteria in Marine Water" and the criteria of that class apply except as specifically modified by this Order. This Order does not authorize a temporary turbidity exceedance beyond the limits established in WAC 173-201A-210(1)(e)(i) which allows a 150-foot temporary area of mixing for turbidity resulting from disturbance of in-water activities in Bellingham Bay.

- B2. Turbidity shall be assessed and recorded at a minimum of every four (4) hours during periods of active in-water work. Monitoring points shall be at the point of compliance as specified in WAC 173-201A-210(1)(e)(i), which allows a 150-foot temporary mixing zone for turbidity resulting from disturbance of in-place sediments in Bellingham Bay, outside the area of influence of the in-water work, and at the discharge point. A turbidimeter is recommended, however, visual gauging of turbidity is acceptable. Visible project-related turbidity at 150 feet from the discharge point is considered to be an exceedance of the standard. If an exceedance of 5NTU over background turbidity when the background turbidity is 50 NTU or less, or have more than a ten (10) percent increase in turbidity when the background turbidity is more than 50 NTU, occurs at 150 feet from the project site, modify the activity causing the problem and continue to monitor every four (4) hours. If exceedances occur with two (2) consecutive measurements (four (4) hours apart), stop the activity causing the turbidity until the problem is resolved.
- B3. Reporting: If no exceedances are detected, results of water quality sampling shall be forwarded to Ecology on a monthly basis in accordance to Condition A2.
- B4. Notification of exceedances: Notification of exceedances that are detected through water quality sampling shall be made to Ecology within 24 hours of occurrence. Notification shall be made with reference to Order #8902, Attn: 401/CZM Federal Project Manager, by telephone at (425) 649-7129 or (425) 649-7000, or by fax to (425) 649-7098. The Applicant shall, at a minimum, provide Ecology with the following information:
- i. A description of the nature and cause of exceedance.
 - ii. The period of non-compliance, including exact dates, duration, and times and/or the anticipated time when the Applicant will return to compliance.
 - iii. The steps taken, or to be taken, to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance.
 - iv. In addition, within five (5) days after notification of an exceedance, the Applicant shall submit a written report to Ecology that describes the nature of the exceedance, turbidity results and location, photographs, and any other pertinent information.

C. Conditions for Construction Activities:

General Conditions:

- C1. Construction stormwater, sediment, and erosion control best management practices (BMPs; e.g., filter fences, etc.) suitable to prevent exceedances of state water quality standards shall be in place before starting construction at the site.

- C2. Sediment and erosion control measures shall be inspected and maintained prior to and during project implementation.
- C3. All construction debris shall be properly disposed of on land so that it cannot enter a waterway or cause water quality degradation to state waters.
- C4. Machinery and equipment used during construction shall be serviced, fueled, and maintained upland, unless otherwise approved by Ecology, in order to prevent contamination to any surface water.
- C5. Wash water containing oils, grease, or other hazardous materials resulting from wash down of equipment or working areas shall be contained for proper disposal, and shall not be discharged into state waters or storm drains.
- C6. Work in or near the water that may affect fish migration, spawning, or rearing shall cease immediately upon a determination by Ecology that fisheries resources may be adversely affected.
- C7. All manmade debris that has been deposited below the Ordinary High Water Line within the construction work area shall be removed and disposed of upland such that it does not enter waters of the state. Concrete rubble, metal debris, and other debris in the construction work corridor that have washed into marine areas shall be removed from the project area.
- C8. Project activities shall be conducted to minimize siltation of the beach area and bed.
- C9. Equipment shall be mobilized from upland areas to the extent practicable.
- C10. Equipment used below the ordinary high water line for project construction shall only be operated from the footprint of the existing concrete boat ramp.
- C11. Floats shall be pulled from the water either with the onsite crane or at a nearby boatyard and disposed of upland at an approved disposal site.
- C12. If any demolition of floats or panels is conducted on site, it shall be conducted upland in a contained area.
- C13. The Applicant shall operate the barge(s) and tug in deep water so as to minimize nearshore propeller wash impacts such as suspension of nearshore sediments.
- C14. Barges shall not be allowed to ground-out during construction.

- C15. If cast in place, wet concrete/grout shall be prevented from entering waters of the state. Forms for any concrete/grout structure shall be constructed to prevent leaching of wet concrete/grout. Impervious materials shall be placed over any exposed concrete/grout not lined with the forms that will come in contact with state waters. Forms and impervious materials shall remain in place until the concrete/grout is cured.
- C16. Asphalt shall be prevented from entering waters of the state.
- C17. Dredging and rock placement shall be conducted in the dry during periods of tidal exposure, to the extent practicable, in order to minimize turbidity and protect water quality.
- C18. All dredged material shall be placed directly into a truck and transported to an approved upland disposal site.
- C19. Dredging operations shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes the disturbance or siltation of adjacent waters and prevents the accidental discharge of petroleum products, chemicals, or other toxic or deleterious substances into waters of the state.
- C20. Dredged material shall not be stockpiled on a temporary or permanent basis below the ordinary high water line.

Piling Removal Conditions:

- C21. Approximately six existing creosote-treated timber piles shall be removed from marine waters. All piling shall be removed by vibratory extraction or dead pull. In the event these pilings break off during extraction, the remaining piling shall be cut below the mudline.
- C22. Piles, stubs, debris, and all associated excavated sediments shall be contained and prevented from entering waters of the state.
- C23. Piles removed from substrate: the pile shall be moved immediately from the water into the barge or onto uplands. The pile shall not be shaken, hosed-off, left hanging to drip or any other action intended to clean or remove adhering material from the pile.
- C24. Work surface on the barge deck or on uplands shall include a containment basin for piles and any sediment removed during pulling of the piling. Basins may be constructed of durable plastic sheeting with sidewalls supported by hay bales or support structure to contain all sediment.
- C25. The piles and any sediment removed during pulling of the piling shall be disposed of at an approved upland disposal site.

Pile Driving:

- C26. The new pilings shall be concrete.
- C27. The concrete pilings shall be installed using a vibratory hammer whenever possible. Drop or impact hammer may be used to proof pile, if needed.

D. Emergency/Contingency Measures:

- D1. The Applicant shall develop and implement a Spill Prevention and Containment Plan for all aspects of this project.
- D2. The Applicant shall have adequate and appropriate spill response materials on hand to respond to emergency release of petroleum products or any other material into waters of the state.
- D3. Fuel hoses, oil drums, oil or fuel transfer valves and fittings, etc., shall be checked regularly for drips or leaks, and shall be maintained and stored properly to prevent spills into state waters.
- D4. Any work that is out of compliance with the provisions of this Order, or conditions causing distressed or dying fish, or any discharge of oil, fuel, or chemicals into state waters, or onto land with a potential for entry into state waters, is prohibited. If these occur, the Applicant shall immediately take the following actions:
 - a. Cease operations at the location of the violation or spill.
 - b. Assess the cause of the water quality problem and take appropriate measures to correct the problem and/or prevent further environmental damage.
 - c. Notify Ecology of the failure to comply. All oil spills shall be reported immediately to Ecology's 24-Hour Spill Response Team at 1-800-258-5990, **and** within 24 hours of spills or other events to Ecology's 401/CZM Federal Project Manager at (425) 649-7129 or (425) 649-7000.
 - d. Submit a detailed written report to Ecology within five (5) days that describes the nature of the event, corrective action taken and/or planned, steps to be taken to prevent a recurrence, results of any samples taken, and any other pertinent information.

Compliance with this condition does not relieve the Applicant from responsibility to maintain continuous compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order or the resulting liability from failure to comply.

E. Timing Requirements

E1. This Order expires five (5) years from the date of issuance of the Corps permit.

F. Reporting and Notification Requirement Conditions

F1. The Applicant shall provide to Ecology's 401/CZM Federal Permit Manager a copy of the final Corps permit within 2 weeks of receipt of the permit. A copy shall be submitted per condition A2 above.

F2. Applicant shall provide notice to Ecology's 401/CZM Federal Project Manager at least three (3) days prior to the start of construction and within 14 days after completion of construction at the project site. Notification, referencing Corps Reference #NWS-2011-313, Order #8902 can take place by telephone to (425) 649-7129 or (425) 649-7000, fax to (425) 649-7098, or in writing.

F3. If the project construction is not completed within 13 months of issuance of this Order, the Applicant shall submit per Condition A2 a written construction status report and submit status reports every 12 months until construction is complete.

YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL

You have a right to appeal this Order to the Pollution Control Hearing Board (PCHB) within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order. The appeal process is governed by Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC. "Date of receipt" is defined in RCW 43.21B.001(2).

To appeal you must do all of the following within 30 days of the date of receipt of this Order:

- File your appeal and a copy of this Order with the PCHB (see addresses below). Filing means actual receipt by the PCHB during regular business hours.
- Serve a copy of your appeal and this Order on Ecology in paper form - by mail or in person. (See addresses below.) E-mail is not accepted.

You must also comply with other applicable requirements in Chapter 43.21B RCW and Chapter 371-08 WAC.

ADDRESS AND LOCATION INFORMATION

Street Addresses	Mailing Addresses
<p>Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk 300 Desmond Drive SE Lacey, WA 98503</p> <p>Pollution Control Hearings Board 1111 Israel RD SW STE 301 Tumwater, WA 98501</p>	<p>Department of Ecology Attn: Appeals Processing Desk PO Box 47608 Olympia, WA 98504-7608</p> <p>Pollution Control Hearings Board PO Box 40903 Olympia, WA 98504-0903</p>

Erik Stockdale

Erik Stockdale, Unit Supervisor
Wetlands/401 Unit
Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program
Northwest Regional Office

3-19-2012

March 19, 2012

ATTACHMENT A

**PORT OF BELLINGHAM
SQUALICUM HARBOR BOAT LAUNCH REPLACEMENT
AND UPLAND FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Water Quality Certification Order #8902**

**Statement of Understanding of
Water Quality Certification Conditions**

I have read and understand the conditions of Order #8902 Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Port of Bellingham Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch Replacement and Upland Facility Improvement Project. I have also read and understand all permits, plans, documents, and approvals associated with the project referenced in this Order.

Signature

Date

Title

Company