



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

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Public invited to comment on Corps' Lower Snake River navigation maintenance proposal

Walla Walla, Wash., – The Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Washington Department of Ecology will host a public hearing, Monday, April 25, to take comments on the request to modify the Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification issued by Ecology on May 5, 2004 for Maintenance Dredging of the Lower Snake River. The Corps is requesting a 5-year extension of the existing certification. The Corps is proposing to perform near-term maintenance of the federal navigation channel and certain public port berthing areas on the lower Snake and Clearwater rivers in Washington and Idaho and has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) that evaluates alternatives for performing maintenance. The draft EIS and the water quality certification can be found on the Walla Walla District Web site at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/channel_maint/one-year/default.htm. You may request copies of the draft EIS through the Web site or by contacting the Corps at the address or telephone number below.

The hearing will be held at the Corps' Walla Walla District Headquarters, 201 N. Third Avenue, Walla Walla, Wash. Sign in will begin at 6:30 p.m. and the hearing will start promptly at 7 p.m.

The Corps and Ecology will accept oral and written comments on the draft EIS and the Water Quality Certification at this meeting. The public comment period for the draft EIS ends April 25, but Ecology will continue to accept written comments on the Water Quality Certification until May 5. The Corps and Ecology are conducting this hearing under the authority of Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act and Public Law 79-14, which authorized the lower Snake River navigation channel.

For more information regarding the hearing or the draft environmental impact statement, contact Jack Sands at (509) 527-7287 at the Walla Walla District Headquarters.

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