



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps seeks public comment on proposal to modify Regional Permit 27

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting public comment on its proposal to reissue and modify Regional Permit 27 to authorize certain work in Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River.

A public notice regarding the regional permit listed here was issued April 20, 2007. The Corps proposes to reissue and modify Regional Permit 27 to help expedite approval of activities that have minimal individual and cumulative impacts on the aquatic environment and to reduce costs associated with processing of individual permits.

Comments on this proposal must be received on or before May 20, 2007. The proposed regional permit is available in its entirety on our website at <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.htm>. Click on “Current Public Notices,” or under Regional Permits, click on “Regional Permit 27.”

A regional permit that authorized mooring buoys, floats, piers, water withdrawal systems, marine launching rails, mooring piles, and portable boat-lift stations in Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille River was issued by the Corps’ Seattle District in 1981. Later, when regulatory responsibility in Idaho was transferred to Walla Walla District, the regional permit was reissued in 1986 as Regional Permit 27. That permit has been reissued every 5 years since then, following a public interest review, including opportunity for public comment.

The existing Regional Permit 27 expires on July 22, 2007. In its current form, Regional Permit 27 authorizes piers, floating docks, marine launching rails, mooring piles, and portable boat lift stations. The Corps proposes to reissue the Regional Permit for another 5 years to be effective from July 23, 2007 until July 22, 2012. Proposed to modifications to the existing regional permit include the following:

- Increase the length of piers and docks permitted under Regional Permit 27 from 55 feet to no further than the line of navigation. In shallow areas, increase the depth of pier and dock extensions that may be allowed to a bottom elevation of 2057 feet (NGVD), but in no case shall the pier or dock extend more than 100 feet waterward of the ordinary high water mark.
- Increase the length of marine launching rails from 55 feet to 120 feet.
- Add a definition for the “line of navigation.” Line of navigation is the line formed by connecting the pierheads of existing piers and docks located 200 yards along the shoreline in both directions from the proposed pier or dock.

No other modifications are proposed.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state and local agencies, Native American tribes and other interested parties on the proposed regional permit.

The Corps issues or denies permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and for work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

For more information on any public notice under consideration by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, please visit the Current Public Notices section on the Walla Walla District’s website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.htm.

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil