



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE NO: CENWW-PPL-C 2019-0104

Corps of Engineers Civil Works Action:

**ICE HARBOR NAVIGATION LOCK UPSTREAM
FLOATING GUIDEWALL CABLES REPAIR
Ice Harbor Dam
Snake River, Washington**

**PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: December 12, 2019
COMMENTS DUE DATE: January 13, 2020**

30-day Notice

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (Corps) proposes an activity that is subject to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-217). The Clean Water Act requires all civil works projects be evaluated as to the effect of discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States prior to making the discharge. The Corps is circulating this public notice in accordance with 33 CFR 335 "Operation and Maintenance of Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Project Involving the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material into Water of the United States and Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 336 "Factors to be Considered in Evaluation of Army Corps of Engineers Dredging Projects Involving the Discharge of Dredged Material into Waters of the United States and Ocean Waters"; 33 CFR 337 "Practice and Procedure"; and 33 CFR 338 "Other Corps Activities Involving the Discharge of Dredged or Fill Material into Waters of the United States"..

LOCATION: Work would take place at Ice Harbor Dam at River Mile 9.5 on the lower Snake River, Franklin and Walla Walla Counties, near Burbank, Washington (Figures 1 and 2). The work area is in the river on the upstream side of the dam in the forebay (the part of the reservoir closest to the dam). This action includes dredging accumulated sediment to uncover an anchor block for a floating guidewall, in-water disposal of the sediment in the forebay, and replacing wire cables that hold the guidewall in place.

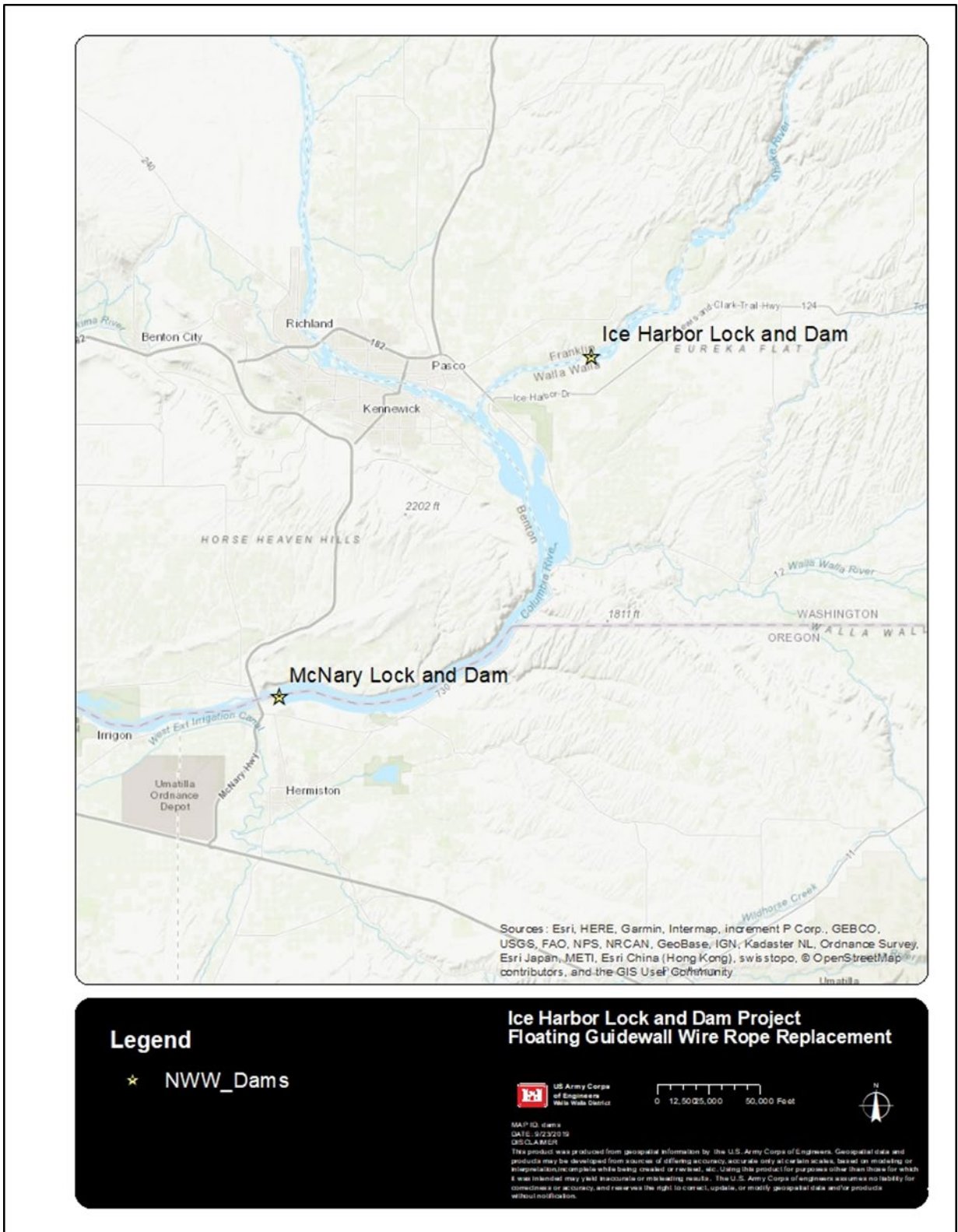


Figure 1. Location of Ice Harbor Dam

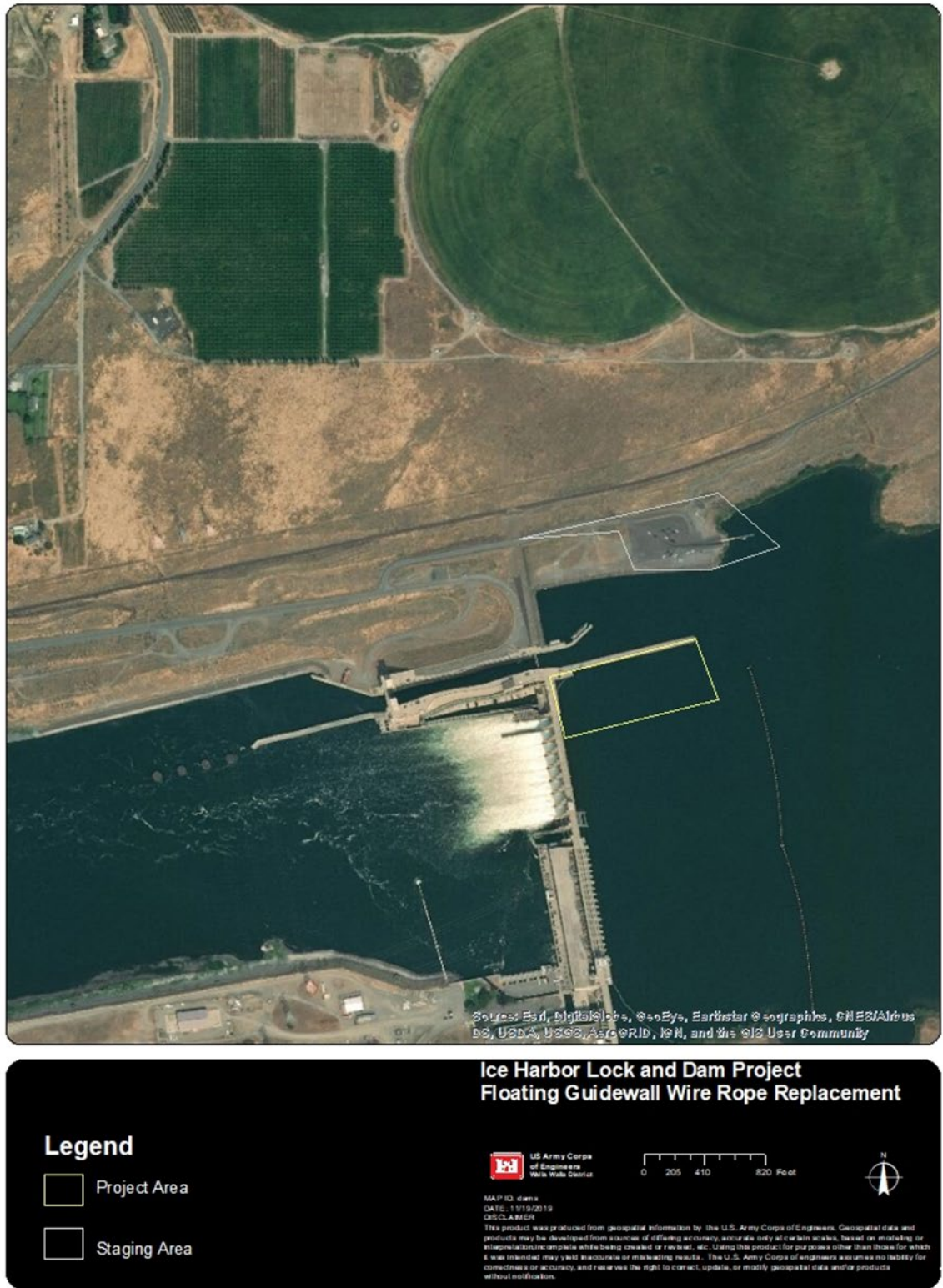


Figure 2. Location of the work and staging areas at Ice Harbor Dam

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Corps proposes to repair the cable anchoring system used for the floating guidewall at the navigation lock upstream gate. The guidewall helps guide commercial and recreational vessels into the lock chamber and away from the spillway. The downstream end of the guidewall is attached to the dam while the upstream end is held in place by two anchors. The anchors are large concrete blocks, one along the right bank of the river and one on the river bottom in the forebay. Steel cables/ropes connect the guidewall to the anchors (Figure 3).

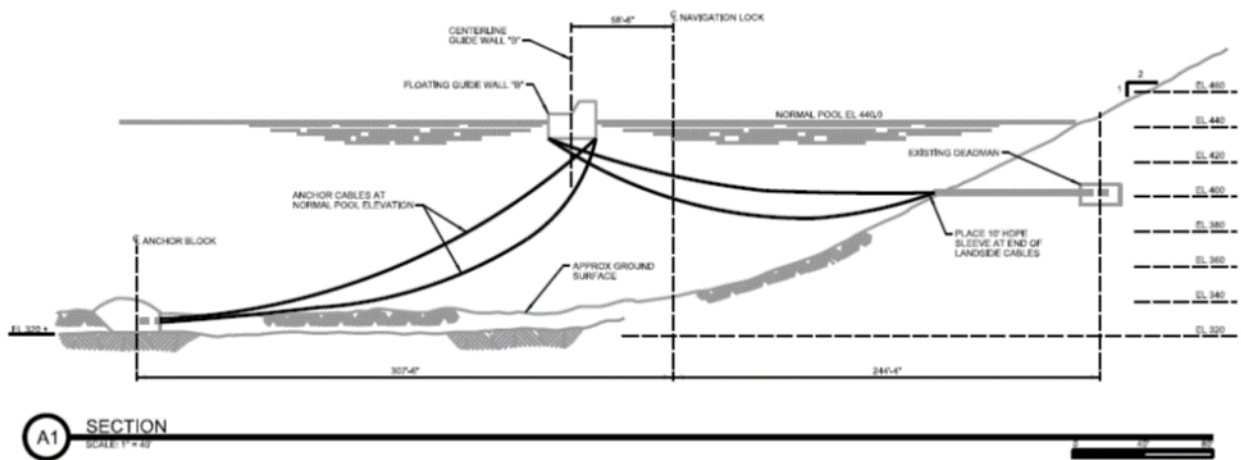


Figure 3 Anchor system for the floating guidewall

The steel cables have deteriorated and need to be replaced before they fail. Should the cables fail, the floating guidewall could swing across the upstream end of the navigation lock or into the spillway. This could damage the dam and halt navigation into and out of the lower Snake River.

The Corps plans to use divers to disconnect the existing cables from the two anchors and attach the new cables. The attachment point on the shoreline anchor is easily accessible and would not require removal of any accumulated sediment. However, the river bottom anchor is about 75 - 100 feet below the surface of the reservoir and is buried under an estimated 20 feet of accumulated sediment, some of which would need to be removed to allow the divers to access the attachment point.

The Corps proposes to remove up to 2,000 cubic yards of sediment from the anchor location using a hydraulic pump with a suction hose. The pump would be suspended from a boom on a barge-mounted crane and lowered to the river bottom at the anchor location. The resulting slurry of dredged material and water would be pumped through a hose to an in-water disposal area in the forebay. When the anchor is within a few feet of being uncovered, the Corps would use

divers to manually operate the pump to remove the remaining sediment, taking care to not damage the existing cables or attachment point on the anchor.

The in-water disposal area would be located about 400 feet northwest of the anchor on the downstream side of the old coffer dam used during construction of the navigation lock (Figure 4). The discharge end of the hose from the pump would be placed on the river bottom at the upstream end of the disposal area so the dredged material slurry would flow into the deep water area between the coffer dam and Ice Harbor Dam. The Corps anticipates the old coffer dam would act as a berm to help contain the sediment and reduce adverse effects on water quality.

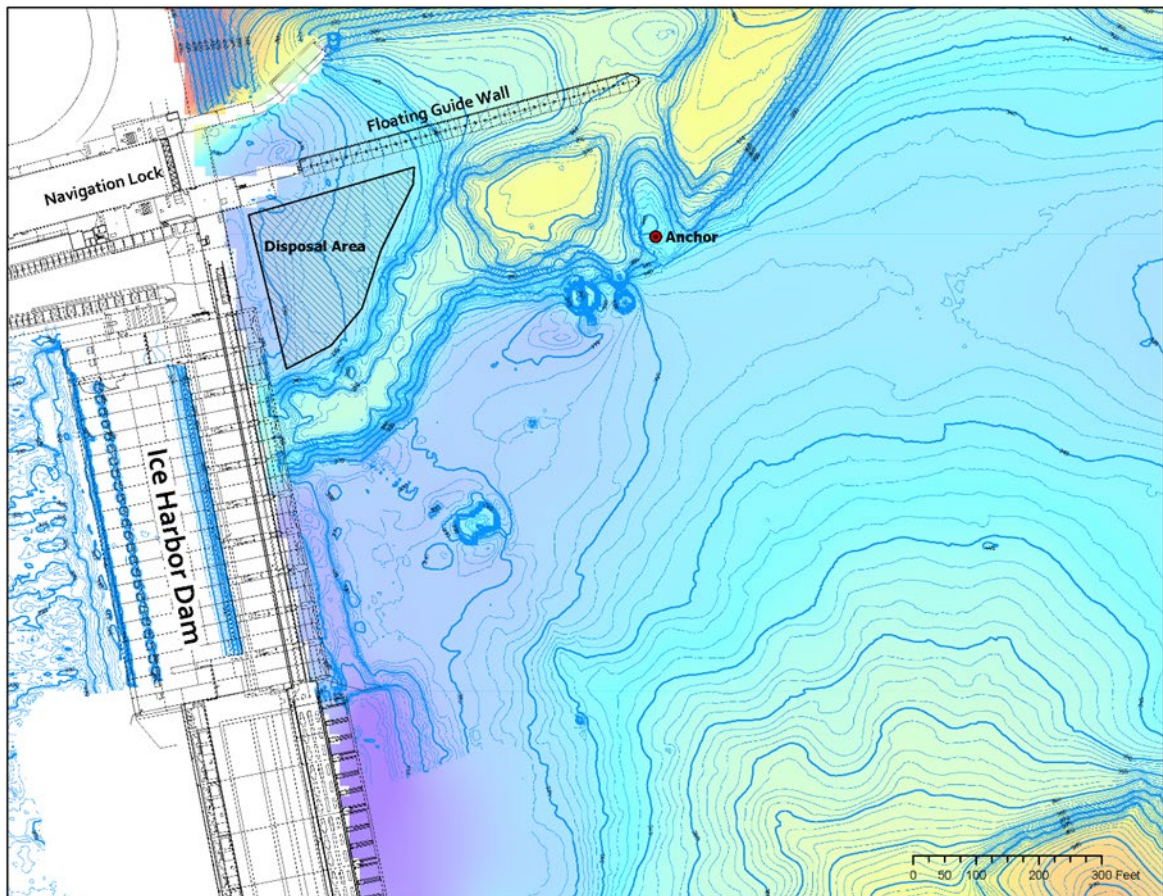


Figure 4. Map of forebay anchor block and dredged material disposal area locations

The Corps proposes to perform the cable repair project in February and March 2020. The Corps would begin dredging no later than mid-February and complete the dredging by March 1. The Corps would complete the cable replacement by the end of the annual navigation system lock outage in early April 2020.

Sediment Type:

The Ice Harbor Dam forebay is located in a low velocity area that has been accumulating sediment since the filling of the reservoir in the early 1960's. The Corps collected two sediment samples at the forebay anchor block site in November 2019. The sediment appears to be silt, but the results of grain size analyses of these samples are not yet available. The Corps is performing testing of the sediment samples as described in the 2018 *Regional Sediment Evaluation Framework for the Pacific Northwest* and according to the procedures specified by the 2018 *Dredged Material Management Program Users Guide* to determine if the sediment is suitable for disposal at an open-water site, or must be disposed of at an upland location.

COORDINATION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES: This activity is being coordinated with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Washington Department of Ecology, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT COMPLIANCE: The Corps has determined the cable replacement and associated sediment removal would not have significant effects on the quality of the human environment and is categorically excluded from National Environmental Policy Act analysis.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: This serves as public notice that the Corps has requested Washington Department of Ecology to certify that the discharges of dredged material will not violate existing state water quality standards. Comments concerning certification for this project should be mailed to:

Washington Department of Ecology
ATTN: Federal Permit Unit
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Comments may also be sent via e-mail to ecyrefedpermits@ecy.wa.gov.

The Corps intends to monitor turbidity levels during dredging and disposal activities to ensure that state water quality standards are being met.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps determined the proposed cable replacement and associated dredging and disposal activities would have "No Potential to Cause Effects" to cultural resources. No further obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are required.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the NMFS and/or USFWS pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under

the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. The Corps has initiated informal consultation with USFWS and coordination with NMFS regarding this action. The Corps prepared a Biological Assessment and made the following determinations:

1. The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, Snake River Fall Chinook salmon, Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook salmon, Snake River sockeye, Snake River Basin steelhead, bull trout, or their designated critical habitat;
2. The project would have no effect on western yellow-billed cuckoo or its designated critical habitat.

The Corps is requesting informal consultation with USFWS, and anticipates receiving a letter of concurrence from USFWS before work begins in February 2020. The Corps is coordinating with NMFS through the Fish Passage Operation and Management Team as the consultation is covered under the current Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinions. The Corps would not implement the proposed cable replacement or dredging and disposal action until the consultation/coordination process is complete.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all federal agencies to consult with NMFS on all actions undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The Corps has determined the proposed action would not adversely affect designated EFH for federally managed fisheries and no EFH consultation is required.

EVALUATION FACTORS: The decision to perform the dredging and disposal as proposed will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effect thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Interested parties are invited to provide their comments on the proposed activity. Comments must be submitted or postmarked no later than January 13, 2020 to ensure consideration. You may submit comments electronically online at <https://www.nww.usace.army.mil/EnvironmentalComplianceComment/> or via e-

mail to NEPANWW@usace.army.mil and inserting "Ice Harbor Floating Guidewall" in the subject line.

You may also mail comments to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District
Ice Harbor Floating Guidewall, ATTN: Sandra Shelin
CENWW-PPL-C
201 N. 3rd Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Should you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Ms. Sandy Shelin at (509) 527-7265.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person who has an interest that may be affected by the disposal of this dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the district engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

Michael Erickson
Chief, Environmental Compliance Section