Environmental

Site Contamination

Client
Confidential

Location
Tacoma, WA, USA

Smelter Complex Sediment Remediation

Sediments offshore of the smelter site have been contaminated by decades of direct disposal of slag into Commencement Bay. Additionally, groundwater discharging from the site to Commencement Bay presents an ongoing potential source of contamination for marine sediments. CH2M HILL played a key role in assisting EPA in the late stages of the feasibility study (FS) by providing the basis for the Proposed Plan and Record of Decision (ROD). The remedy identified by the ROD includes sediment capping (18 acres) and dredging in an active yacht basin (15 acres). The groundwater remedy includes removing primary contaminant source areas in the upland portion of the Smelter Complex. Pre-ROD efforts included assessing site data and developing a path forward for remediating marine sediments and mitigating the related groundwater impacts.

The project team provided key support to EPA in preparing consent decree requirements for sediments-related remedial design/remedial action (RD/RA) work aligning to ROD requirements. In the post-ROD time-frame, CH2M HILL continued to provide design-related oversight of the potentially responsible party's (PRP's) conceptual plans and design deliverables for sediment and groundwater remediation.

As part of this work, EPA named two CH2M HILL staff to the Sediments Groundwater Task Force. The multi-stakeholder task force was charged with: (1) assessing potential long-term impacts to sediments by ongoing groundwater discharge from the upland portion of the site, and (2) identifying appropriate post-RA operation, maintenance, and monitoring requirements for off-shore sediments.

As part of their involvement in the task force and ongoing oversight of the PRP's work, CH2M HILL staff played a key role in coordinating technical issues with a myriad of stakeholders including residents of Ruston/North Tacoma; Metro Parks; Washington Departments of Ecology, Natural Resources, and Fish and Wildlife; NOAA; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); Puyallup Tribe; and other natural resource trustees. In particular, CH2M HILL's participation in the task force with EPA was focused on building consensus between the stakeholders and PRP such that critical issues were addressed in a way that met stakeholder needs and allowed the project to move forward in a timely fashion.