



Contact: Heather Stebbings, Communications Manager, PNWA
(503) 307-3776 (cell)
(503) 234-8553 (direct)
heather.stebbing@pnwa.net

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Corps releases draft environmental assessment of MCR Jetties

The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) is pleased to announce that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released a draft environmental assessment of major repairs to the jetties at the mouth of the Columbia River (MCR). The jetties are three rubble mounded structures at the entrance to the federal navigation channel. They help maintain the depth and orientation of the navigation channel, as well as provide protection for ships entering and leaving the estuary.

"The release of this draft is the first step in preventing further deterioration and structural breaches, improving safety, and maintaining the reliability of the MCR Jetties," said Glenn Vanselow, executive director of PNWA. "It is an extremely positive step for the Northwest, as this project will help to maintain the economic viability of our region."

Repairs to the Jetties could begin as early as 2012 and would be completed in phases over 20 years. The project will include funding for the placement of rock on the north and south jetty, spur groins on both jetties, and large armor stones to cap the jetties and to prevent further erosion of the tips. The Corps is currently finalizing a Detailed Design Report to address these long-term major maintenance needs.

The MCR Jetties are part of a system that supports over 40 million tons of cargo each year; valued at \$16 billion. Over 40,000 local jobs are dependent on this trade. PNWA continues to be the lead advocate for the MCR Jetties. For more information, view our fact sheet at http://pnwa.net/new/Articles/Columbia_River_Channel_Deepening.pdf.

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About PNWA. For over 75 years, PNWA has been the regional leader in working with Congress, federal agencies and regional decision makers on federal policy in support of transportation, trade, economic development and environmental sustainability in the Pacific Northwest. PNWA represents multiple industries in the public and private sectors in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and northern California. Members include public ports, navigation, transportation, international trade, agriculture, forest products, energy and governmental interests.

www.pnwa.net

ph. 503-234-8550 • f. 503-234-8555 • 9115 SW Oleson Road • Suite 101 • Portland, OR 97223



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