



Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #650 August 31, 2018

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Judge overturns two-year stay on implementing the 2015 WOTUS rule

A South Carolina judge determined the Trump Administration did not follow criteria for the public comment process and overturned the two-year stay on implementing the [2015 Waters of the United States \(WOTUS\) rule](#). The WOTUS rule expanded requirements for dredge and fill permits from the Corps of Engineers.

Twenty-six states and the District of Columbia will now use the 2015 WOTUS wetlands jurisdiction definitions, including Oregon and Washington. Parties to the case, including the EPA and the Army, have filed motions appealing the court order and seeking a stay of the district court's decision. While the litigation continues, the agencies are complying with the district court's order, and implementation issues that arise are being handled on a case-by-case basis. The agencies recognize the uncertainty this decision has created and are committed to working closely with states and stakeholders to provide updated information on an ongoing basis regarding which rules are in place in which states. Ports and other entities with specific questions about a pending jurisdictional determination or permit are urged to contact their local Corps of Engineers District office or the EPA. PNWA would also like to hear of any issues this creates for our region, and members are encouraged to contact [Heather Stebbings](#) to share their experiences.

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Northwest Seaport Alliance and Corps sign agreement for Tacoma feasibility study

The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a cost share agreement for a feasibility study to evaluate navigation improvement alternatives for the Blair and Sitcum Waterways located at the Port of Tacoma. The study is the first step to deepening the federal channels, which would allow bigger ships access to the port.

"With the signing of these documents, we begin this project to deepen the South Harbor as part of our effort to develop what will be one of the deepest gateways in the nation," said NWSA CEO John Wolfe. "We truly value our partnership with the Army Corps. It is vital for building a stronger trade gateway and keeping ship calls and the jobs they support in the Pacific Northwest and in the U.S."

Port Cascade Locks hiring Deputy General Manager

The Port of Cascade Locks has announced an opening for a Deputy General Manager. The Deputy General Manager reports and is directly responsible to the Port General Manager and Commission and oversees and assists in the general operation of the Port. Goals for the position include creation of jobs, new businesses in the community and the strengthening of existing businesses, while helping to improve the service level and efficiency of the Port. A Bachelor's Degree is required from an accredited college or university. Highly desired applicants will have experience with economic development, ports and other related fields. The Port Commission intends to have this position filled in early November. The [job posting](#) has additional information, including the salary range for the position. Applicants must file a letter of interest, resume and fill out a Port application form by September 13, 2018. Visit the [Port of Cascade Locks website](#) for additional information.

Member Spotlight - Port of Cascade Locks opens Herman Creek Business Park

The Port of Cascade Locks celebrated the opening of Herman Creek Business Park with a visit from Governor Kate Brown in July. The Herman Creek Business Park includes three buildings ranging in size from 5,000 to 10,000 square feet with the fourth building nearly completed. The Port was able to use a portion of \$500,000 in state funding to develop the facility.

"This is a very important day for the port and the community as we dedicate two new buildings, and both are filled with clients," said Port of Cascade Locks Commission President Jess Groves.

The Governor toured The Renewal Workshop, a business which cuts landfill waste by recycling used or damaged apparel. Other tenants at Herman Creek include a business which manufactures interactive light boards for brain injury rehabilitation, a renewable resources company, and a cidery.





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