



NATIONAL DREDGING TEAM

August 6, 2004

Dear Co-Chair or Member of Regional Dredging Team:

It is our pleasure to invite you to a meeting of the Regional Dredging Teams with the National Dredging Team December 1-2, 2004, in Annapolis, Maryland. The objectives of the meeting are to (1) strengthen communications between Regional Dredging Teams (RDT) and the National Dredging Team as well as to strengthen communications and coordination among Regional Dredging Teams, and (2) initiate actions to further beneficial use of dredged material and regional sediment management. We invite all RDT members to participate in this meeting. We will leave it to the Co-Chairs to distribute this letter to their respective RDTs, but ask you to provide us with a list of all RDT members. This invitation is also meant for those of you that are still in the RDT formative stages or that are using a different mechanism to accomplish similar objectives as those intended by RDTs.

In January 2001, the National Dredging Team (NDT) sponsored a workshop in Jacksonville, Florida, to develop a national action agenda with specific recommendations on issues facing dredging and sediment management over the coming decade. Attended by over 250 stakeholders, the workshop resulted in the document *Dredged Material Management: Action Agenda for the Next Decade* (Action Agenda). The general and specific recommendations found in the Action Agenda are organized around the following four subject areas:

- Beneficial use of dredged material.
- Sediment management.
- Emerging issues.
- Strengthening Regional Dredging Teams.

The Action Agenda can be found at www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/ndt/DredgingActionPlan.pdf.

We look forward to discussing these subject areas of the Action Agenda with you this fall. We particularly hope to focus on beneficial use of dredged material and regional sediment management in a watershed context. The focus put on these topics by the draft Ocean Commission's report further supports the Action Agenda's emphasis on their importance in dredged material management over the next few years. We now need to determine how to proceed. We believe that the first step is a national conference on dredged material management in a watershed context/regional sediment management. We would like your input on the design

and development of the conference and its agenda, which is targeted in the fall of 2005. We will, therefore, include a planning session for this national conference at the NDT/RDT meeting.

In addition to discussing the Action Agenda recommendations at this meeting, the NDT/RDT meeting will provide a forum for the RDTs to discuss their activities. During the meeting, we would like each RDT to give an overview of its structure, membership, progress/successes, current and anticipated issues, and future directions. We are aware that numerous issues are being considered by the various RDTs, and we are hopeful that by sharing those experiences during this meeting, we can identify and build upon successes as well reach understandings of other lessons learned. For those of you who do not have formal RDTs or have teams or partnerships that address dredged material management, we would also like to hear from you on issues, progress/successes, and future directions.

We have provided a draft agenda as a starting point, but we invite your input on this draft. Please provide suggested agenda items by August 31. Additionally, please let us know by September 15 if you or other members of your RDT will participate in the meeting and provide us with a list of all RDT members. Details regarding hotel and meeting location will be sent in September. Limited funding is anticipated to be available to support travel expenses for State RDT members.

If you have any questions, please contact Craig Vogt (Vogt.Craig@epa.gov) or Barry Holliday (BARRY.HOLLIDAY@usace.army.mil). Please confirm your attendance at the Annapolis meeting and provide comments on the agenda, questions on the meeting, or any other suggestions to Molly Madden by phone (202-566-1279), fax (202-566-1546) or email (madden.molly@epa.gov). We look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Best regards,

/s/

Craig Vogt, EPA Co-Chair
National Dredging Team

Best regards,

/s/

Barry Holliday, Corps of Engineers Co-Chair
National Dredging Team