

March 29, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council Members

FROM: Karl T. Weist

SUBJECT: Corps of Engineers briefing on Environmental Compliance and the Clean Water Act

Deborah Chenoweth, Chief of Operations and Paul Peloquin, Environmental Compliance Program Manager for the Northwestern Division of the Corps of Engineers, will brief the Council on the Corps' Clean Water Act compliance program, and to matters pertaining to recent oil spills at The Dalles Dam and preventative steps the Corps is taking to avoid any recurrence of any similar water quality incidents.

I asked the Corps' presenter to focus upon three questions:

- 1) In regard to the recent oil spills and fish kill in the mainstem Columbia, what actions did the Corps take to contain the spill and were they effective in minimizing any environmental harm from the spill?
- 2) What actions has the Corps taken (or will the Corps take) in a preventative measure to try to ensure that these types of spills or leaks do not happen in the future or that any harmful environmental effects are minimized if such leaks do happen to occur?
- 3) Do you have an inventory of the types of equipment containing PCBs at the Corps projects? If you have equipment containing PCBs, has the Corps taken steps to prevent PCBs from getting into the mainstem Columbia (or the Willamette) from that equipment?