

**MEETING:** Test Pile Pre-Construction Meeting

**MEETING DATE:** January 21, 2011

**ATTENDEES:** Keith Daly, CRC  
Frank Green CRC  
Steve Morrow, CRC  
Laura Peterson, CRC  
Carley Francis, CRC  
Devin Simmons, NMFS  
Anne Friesz, WDFW  
Bill Hall, CRC  
Andrew Beagle, CRC  
Daniel Teran, CRC  
Todd Nelson, WSDOT  
Vernon Uy, American Construction  
Kevin Culbert, American Construction  
Nick Lesnikowski, DEA  
Mark Degenhart, CRC  
Sharon Rainsberry, CRC

**FROM:** Seth English-Young, CRC

## Test Pile Pre-Construction Meeting

Steve Morrow addressed the purpose of the meeting which is a summary of methods and likely sequencing of the test pile installation. CRC will be working with American Construction (American) for weekly schedule updates, tentative schedule for beginning construction, hydroacoustic monitoring and marine mammal monitoring. CRC and American working together to ensure there is no conflict between the test pile work and the monitoring.

Kevin Culbert introduced American Construction as a Marine contractor from Tacoma. The majority of their work is in Puget Sound. The approach is start work on site on February 7<sup>th</sup>. They will start work at "A" location (Oregon side) drive the four piles with required bubble curtains; move to "B" location (Washington side) drive the piles there, "re-tap" then demo to the "A" location, then "re-tap" and demo the B location. Estimated finish date is Feb 25<sup>th</sup>. The schedule does not include work on weekends.

Nick Lesnikowski introduced himself as a representative of DEA Marine Services. On this project they will be doing hydroacoustic monitoring, background monitoring, turbidity monitoring, soundspeed casts, video work and logistical support for other groups. They have a marine base in Vancouver, so they are familiar with the project area.

Lesnikowski outlined the hydroacoustic monitoring plan. They will be placing small unmanned moored boats 800m downstream, 400m downstream, 200m downstream, 10m downstream and 800m upstream. There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> crew with a river rescue boat doing conductivity, turbidity and depth monitoring. They also have a video camera to confirm the bubble curtains are getting seated on the bottom of the river. There have been to address this concern. DEA's crew will also provide logistics—shuttle for marine mammal monitors.

Frank Green said that while American's schedule is not formally approved, but we do not see any issues with the schedule.

Morrow informed the agencies that there will be an agency site visit on waterfront during pile installation. We will also do airborne sound/vibration monitoring for sound levels before and during pile driving. In the project area there is a lot of background noise/vibration.

We do not have incidental harassment permit. As part of MMPA compliance, the project will visually monitor and shut-down pile driving/excavation to avoid harassing sea lions or harbor seals. Monitors will be located upstream and downstream. During vibratory work monitors will be located throughout the area of concern, which is 12.5 miles upstream and 5.5 downstream.

Lesnikowski will be doing hydroacoustic monitoring to measure the background sound level. If the background level is high, then it may decrease the size of the monitoring area. Also, If during the test pile, transmission loss is higher than our estimate, then we can also decrease the monitoring area.

If a Sea Lion is spotted in project area then all work is shut down until it leaves the project area. If Sea Lion is spotted, then not seen again, we have calculated travel times to determine if it is out of the area. The amount of time that work must be shut down in this scenario ranges from 11 min to 3 hours.

Morrow state that since this is a test pile there will be modifications during the work. There will be a biologist and inspector on board the barge. Mike Zenthoefer will be the biologist and will be forwarding the stop work message to the inspector if a seal or sea lion is seen or there is a fish kill .

American has been provided a binder with all permits and necessary conditions.

Anne Friesz stated that WDFW would like to see the data.

- CRC will provide a report after conclusion of the test pile work. A draft will be provided to NOAA within 60 days. The draft report will also be provided to WDFW and ODFW.

Devin Simmons asked what type of bubble curtains will be used.

- Green responded that unconfined and confined bubble curtain will be fabricated by WSDOT.
- In Oregon two of the piles will be vibed, and two driven, 1 of each driven pile will use a unconfined and confined curtain. In Washington 2 piles will be driven-both with confined curtains.

Simmons said that if the project team has questions on specifications for measurements feel free to contact him.

Sharon Rainsberry noted that if the pile is spliced, both sections of pile will be monitored. To be clear the bubble curtain will be turned off for three 30 seconds periods per pile or pile section.

Friesz asked how the team will handle a scenario where there is a spill or damaged fish.

- Morrow: If there is a spill or fish kill, then work will be stopped and there will be phone calls placed down the phone tree, starting with the inspector.

Morrow also stated that if there is a high number of work stoppages and the schedule needs to be pushed out we can coordinate with WDFW and NMFS.

- Culbert: The schedule is based on 5 day work week, so if there is a slip in the schedule, some of it can be made up by weekend work.

Rainsberry reminded the contractors that each day for 30 minutes prior to work there must be a pre-project scan of the project area for sea lions.

There was a discussion of communications protocol. It was determined that there should be one point of contact between the monitors and the contractor's crew.

Mark Degenhart asked if on a clear day, when it is lighter sooner and later in the day, if work hours can benefit because of that.

- Morrow to check the Biological Opinion and report back to Degenhart.

Simmons asked who they should call if they need answers to questions from public and within agencies.

- Morrow: I will be point of contact for environmental.