



Maintenance Dredging at Squamish Terminals Ltd.

As with most water based industry on the Coast of BC, Squamish Terminals Ltd (STL) periodically needs to perform maintenance dredging of infill sediments to maintain design depths of the ship basins at Berths 1 and 2. Although the requirement to maintenance dredge is infrequent; over time sediments generated from river flow and tidal activity are deposited and build up in the ship basins to such a degree that it negatively impacts navigation and poses significant risk to ship safety while in port. It is incumbent upon STL to maintain and report the depths of its Berths to the Navigable Waters Branch of Transport Canada.

In BC, maintenance dredging is regulated by the Department of Fisheries and Transport Canada. With the passage of the Squamish Estuary Management Plan (SEMP) in 1999, the regulatory oversight of any “in water works”, including maintenance dredging, is overseen by a multi-jurisdictional committee - the Squamish Environmental Review Committee (SERC) - whose membership includes The District of Squamish, Department of Fisheries, BC Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada. Prior to any maintenance dredging taking place, application is made to SERC for Approval.

The dredgeate is typically removed using a floating clamshell dredging rig, and then placed in scows for ocean disposal under Permit from Environment Canada.

Environment Canada allows the ocean disposal of dredged materials at designated disposal sites along the BC Coast provided the material meets the Interim Criteria for Ocean Disposal under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act.

STL complies with all regulatory requirements pertaining to maintenance dredging.

For further information please visit the links below or email us at environment@sqterminals.com.

Department of Fisheries:

http://www-heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/decisionsupport/os/pdfs/dredging_e.pdf

Environment Canada:

http://www.pyr.ec.gc.ca/disposal_at_sea/index_e.htm