

Commercial-Scale Sediment Decontamination as a Component to Port Development and Revitalization

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Ports and Harbors in the United States, and overseas have been developing dredged material management strategies that focus on beneficial use alternatives for the handling and processing of contaminated dredged materials. Under the auspices of the Water Resource Development Acts (WRDA) of 1992, 1996 and 1999 (WRDA Program), a federal program has been in place that has been investigating and demonstrating the environmental and economic feasibility of decontaminating dredged material from the Port of New York and New Jersey. Working cooperatively with the State of New Jersey's Sediment Decontamination Program, public-private partnerships have been established, to set the way to construct operational facility(s) that can environmentally, and cost-effectively process dredged material at a capacity of 100-500,000 cubic yards per year in the NY/NJ region. Beneficial use end products such as topsoil, construction-grade cement, lightweight aggregate, bricks, and architectural tiles are manufactured to offset the cost of processing. Decontamination can play a role in port development by contributing to array of alternatives for the most contaminated dredged materials as well revitalization (brownfields) of areas within impacted regional corridors using decontaminated dredged materials.

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