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**Sediment Decontamination - A Component of an Overall Dredged Material/  
Contaminated Sediment Strategy for the Port of New York and New Jersey\***

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Under the auspices of the Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA) of 1992, 1996 and 1999, 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 private sector by developing public-private partnerships, it is the goal of the WRDA Program to construct operational facility(s) that can cost-effectively process dredged material at a capacity of 100-500,000 cubic yards per year. What sets the WRDA Program apart from other remediation programs is that it views decontaminated dredged material as a resource that can be used for beneficial uses such as cement, lightweight aggregate, manufactured topsoil, and architectural tiles. Sediment decontamination also plays a role as a “component” (as compared to an alternative) to an overall dredged material/contaminated sediment management program. Decontamination is only one part of an overall “treatment train” that must take into account sediment assessment, materials handling, facility siting, infrastructure development, residual management, and beneficial use and marketability. Sediment decontamination can also play a role in aquatic restoration, development, and re-vitalization (brownfields) of areas within impacted regional corridors.

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