CECW-CO December 19, 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND DISTRICT COMMANDS, CHIEFS OF OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: Mandatory Implementation and Execution of the National Dredging Quality Management (DQM) Program

1. PURPOSE: This memorandum directs the immediate and mandatory implementation of the National Dredging Quality Management (DQM) Program for monitoring all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in-house and contracted dredging actions. The intent is to standardize data collection, enhance project oversight, and improve the overall delivery of the USACE dredging mission.

2. REFERENCES: CECW-CO Memorandum, 12 NOV 2019, Subject: National Dredging Quality Management Program.

3. BACKGROUND: The National DQM Program is a partnership between USACE and the dredging industry that provides a standardized framework for automated, near real-time monitoring of dredging projects. For nearly two decades, DQM has been successfully implemented on hopper, scow, and pipeline dredges. Its use is now expanding to include all mechanical and smaller dredge types.

4. DQM's core mission is to provide high-quality data to improve business practices, ensure robust environmental compliance, and advance our collective understanding of dredging science. This program has created an invaluable engineering and contract performance database that is critical to the execution of our national dredging mission.

5. KEY BENEFITS OF MANDATORY DQM IMPLEMENTATION: The full implementation of DQM provides significant advantages to our field units and to the USACE mission.

| Benefit | Impact on Field Operations |
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| Improved Project Management | Provides 24/7 automated monitoring of dredge operations, significantly reducing manual reporting burdens and enabling continuous analysis. |
| Enhanced Data Quality | Ensures consistent, standardized data collection across all projects, allowing for more accurate comparisons and performance analysis nationwide. |
| Streamlined Compliance | Offers near real-time data to ensure and document compliance with all environmental requirements, including the Operations and Dredging Endangered Species System (ODESS). |

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| Cost Savings & Efficiency | Automates reporting and allows for more flexible scheduling of inspectors, leading to long-term cost savings and greater operational efficiency. |
| Objective Dispute Resolution | Creates a reliable, indisputable digital record of all dredging activities that can be used to quickly and fairly resolve contract performance disputes. |

6. GUIDANCE & IMPLEMENTATION:

- Effective immediately, the use of DQM is mandatory for all projects involving dredging equipment.
- This directive applies to all dredge and scow types, including but not limited to: hopper dredges, pipeline dredges (cutter suction, dustpan), mechanical dredges, agitation/water injection dredges, and all scow types (split-hull, pocket, deck barges). There are no exceptions.
- Up-to-date DQM specifications for all required plant types are located on the DQM Center website: https://dqm.usace.army.mil/. Districts are responsible for ensuring these specifications are included in all new dredging contracts.

7. SUPPORT & TECHNICAL CHALLENGES: We recognize that the mandatory implementation may present challenges, such as initial contractor costs for hardware and the technical requirements for system certification. The National DQM Program Office is your primary resource for overcoming these hurdles. Proactive engagement with the DQM Center is encouraged to ensure smooth and timely project execution.

8. POINTS OF CONTACT:

- For all technical questions regarding DQM specifications, certification, or implementation challenges, please contact the DQM Center at DQMCenter@usace.army.mil or by phone at (877) 840-8024.
- For all other questions associated with the policy and use of DQM, please contact Erica Janocha, Dredging Program Manager, HQUSACE at (202) 306-9722 or Erica.A.Janocha@usace.army.mil.

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