

Confined Disposal Facility Slufter: a perfect solution for contaminated sediment in Europe.

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Introduction: Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) Slufter was constructed in the year 1987 in order to create a solution for the storage of contaminated sediments from the basins of the port of Rotterdam and surrounding fairways. Later on the Slufter became the solution for the storage of contaminated sediment from the whole of The Netherlands.

Since the construction of the CDF, the quality of the water in the port basins and fairways improved enormously due to the taken measures at the source of the contamination. Due to this the yearly volume of contaminated sediment stored at the Slufter dropped from 5 million m³ in 1990 to 0,7 million m³ in 2010, prolonging the lifecycle of the Slufter from an operational period until 2002 to a period until 2035.

Methods: Due to this surplus of capacity the Port of Rotterdam Authority has looked into the possibilities to store contaminated sediments from outside of The Netherlands into the CDF Slufter. The reason for this is that upstream of the major rivers in The Netherlands, there are still several locations with historically contaminated sediments. These sediments can potentially contaminate large areas of the Dutch waterways if they get released into the rivers.

To allow contaminated sediments from outside of The Netherlands to be stored in the Slufter, the environmental permit of the Slufter had to be changed. Since November 2010 CDF Slufter is in the possession of an environmental permit that allows the Port of Rotterdam Authority to store contaminated sediments from outside of The Netherlands in the Slufter.

For contaminated sediments originating from outside of the Netherlands to be accepted for storage in the Slufter, first an official application by the applicant has to be entered that has to comply with the prevailing Acceptance Conditions. If the application request is complete and in accordance with the prevailing Acceptance Conditions the application can be accepted.

Before transport of the sediment to the Slufter can start, the holder of the sediment, called notifier in this

procedure, has to submit a notification in accordance with EU Regulation (EC) No. 1013/2006 (EVOA) to receive the ex- and import permits. This notification has to be sent to the competent authorities in the country of origin of the sediments. If the notification meets the requirements, the notification file is subsequently send by the authority of the country of origin to the competent authority in the Netherlands (AgentschapNL), and if necessary, to the authority or authorities of transit countries. The transport of the sediment can only start when all authorities agree with the transport and all permits are issued.

Results: Since November 2010 the Slufter has been used on three occasion to store contaminated sediments from outside of the Netherlands. All the sediments stored had as origin the port basins of Bremerhaven, Germany.

From the whole of Europe there has been interest shown to use the Slufter as storage location.

Discussion: Getting all the different authorities to agree with the transport takes time. Storing contaminated sediments form one country in a CDF of another country is a new situation for them. In some cases legislation in the country of origin makes transport very difficult.

In first instance, authorities from other countries don't have any knowledge of the Slufter and how it works. Therefore they are not willing to issue permits for transports. For this, the Port of Rotterdam Authority informs, in collaboration with our own competent authorities, the authorities from other countries about what CDF Slufter is and how it works as an environmental safe solution for the storage of contaminated sediments from Europe.

This shows that sediment management does not stop at borders and could best be viewed in a European perspective. Sometimes a solution for contaminated sediments can be found in another country, but without communication this does not become apparent.