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# New dioxin tests ordered for P.A. dredge plan

By AL FRANK

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will be required to conduct additional testing for dioxin at its Port Newark-Elizabeth berths, the Army Corps of Engineers announced yesterday.

The tests must be conducted in a section of Newark Bay that the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency said did not need additional screening before the Army Corps reissued a permit to deepen the berths.

The EPA made the ruling when it outlined its conditions for reissuing the permit suspended by the corps at its behest last month. In the ruling, the EPA said additional tests would only

be required in two of the three sections, known as reaches B and C.

But a corps spokesman said it will require tests in reach D because Port Authority surveys found the amount of silt in the 12-berth section had actually decreased in the three years the agency had sought the permit.

"The (contamination) reading is going to be different," said Peter Shugert, a spokesman for the Army Corps.

Original tests showed the dioxin concentrations at the 10 parts per trillion cutoff for ocean disposal in B and C and half the amount in reach D.

The Port Authority, state government leaders and the maritime indus-

try have been adamant that the \$6.6 million deepening project must begin soon or jobs will be lost as ships, unable to negotiate in shallow water, unload cargo in other ports.

Fishermen, environmental and tourism groups have opposed the project because the tainted mud, silt and sand would be released at the Mud Dump, six miles off Sandy Hook.

When the EPA issued its ruling, Sarah Clark, the Environmental Defense Fund staff scientist, questioned how work in reach D could proceed without tests.

She also noted a discrepancy between the amount in need of removal as stated on the Port Authority's application. She said the Port Authority said it was 50,000 cubic yards compared to the 103,000 the EPA found.