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EBDG Develops Vessel Maintenance, Preservation & Improvement Plan for WSF

Plan lays out Best Practices and recommendations for next 20 years

Seattle, WA (April 4, 2011) Elliott Bay Design Group (EBDG) was selected by Washington State Ferries (WSF) to study WSF's maintenance and overhaul practices. WSF is the largest ferry operator in the United States with a fleet of 21 vessels at the time of the study. These vessels ranged in age from 64 years to 8 years with an average age of 36.3 years. The vessels also range in size from a 34 car capacity to a 220 car capacity. With such a large fleet with diverse capacities it is a complex challenge to schedule vessels for routine inspections, minor overhauls and major refurbishments. Adding to the challenge is the fact that WSF performs some of the work with their vessel crews, some of the work at their own maintenance facility, and some with commercial shipyards.

EBDG was asked to take a broad look at WSF's approach to keeping the fleet running. This included examining the roles of the maintenance facility at Eagle Harbor, how WSF decided to handle the work in-house or to send it out to bid, when decisions were made on major refurbishment (preservation) projects, and how their budgets were controlled. EBDG worked closely with WSF to interview their key people and to understand their current practices. Coincident with EBDG's effort was an update of WSF's vessel life-cycle model. This model establishes maintenance intervals for vital systems so WSF can anticipate the kinds of work that will occur over a nominal 60 year lifespan for a ferry. Two of EBDG's marine engineers, Reg Wren and Curt Leffers, applied their experience in vessel operations and shipyard methods to ensure the study identified industry best practices and produced solid recommendations.

EBDG began the project in June of 2010 and delivered the final document, titled the Vessel Maintenance, Preservation and Improvement Plan, on November 30, 2010. This report has been distributed to the Washington State Legislature and to key WSF personnel. The former will be considering WSF's capital needs for the next 20 years while WSF is developing an implementation strategy for changes to their practices.

ABOUT ELLIOTT BAY DESIGN GROUP

With offices in Seattle and New Orleans, Elliott Bay Design Group provides unparalleled naval architecture, marine engineering and production support services on behalf of owners, operators, and shipyards across the country. Elliott Bay Design Group LLC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of American Commercial Lines Inc.

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