



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CESAM-PD-EC
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. FP15-PE02-14

September 3, 2015

NOTICE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
MOBILE DISTRICT
AND
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, REGION 4**

**SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN
FOR THE
PENSACOLA OFFSHORE OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE,
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA AND GULF OF MEXICO**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, have prepared a draft Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) to specifically address the disposal of dredged material at the Pensacola Offshore Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS). Copies of the SMMP are available from the USACE at the address listed in this notice. Comments on the SMMP are requested from interested parties.

The Pensacola Offshore ODMDS was designated by the EPA pursuant to Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended, as suitable for the ocean disposal of dredged material. A SMMP was developed for the Pensacola Offshore ODMDS in 2005. This updated SMMP serves as a revision to, and supersedes, the previous plan.

The Pensacola Offshore ODMDS has an approximate area of six square nautical miles. Depths within the ODMDS range from approximately 19 to 28 meters (63 to 93 feet) below mean lower low water (MLLW). Disposal of dredged material in the Pensacola Offshore ODMDS has been, and in the future is expected to be, associated with the maintenance of the federally authorized Pensacola Harbor Navigation Project.

Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of the EPA and the USACE to monitor and manage ODMDSs to ensure ocean dredged material disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires development and periodic review and revision of a SMMP for each

ODMDS. Following an opportunity for public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the Pensacola Offshore ODMDS. All Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits or approvals shall be conditioned as necessary to ensure consistency with the SMMP.

Section 228.3 of the EPA's Ocean Dumping Regulations and Criteria (40 CFR 220-229) states: "Management of a site consists of regulating times, rates, and methods of disposal and quantities and types of materials disposed of; developing and maintaining effective ambient monitoring programs for the site; conducting disposal site evaluation studies; and recommending modifications in site use and/or designation." The MPRSA indicates the SMMP shall include but not be limited to:

- a baseline assessment of conditions at the site;
- a program for monitoring the site;
- special management conditions or practices to be implemented at each site that are necessary for the protection of the environment;
- consideration of the anticipated use of the site over the long-term; and
- a schedule for review and revision of the plan.

The objective of the SMMP is to provide guidelines in making management decisions necessary to fulfill mandated responsibilities to protect the marine environment, as discussed previously. Risk-free decision-making is an impossible goal; however, an appropriate SMMP can narrow the uncertainty.

Comments on the proposed SMMP must be submitted in writing to the District Commander within 30 days of the date of this public notice. A copy of the draft SMMP may be found at the following USACE, Mobile District web address www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/PlanningEnvironmental/OtherDocuments.aspx. Correspondence concerning the public notice should refer to Public Notice No. FP15-PE02-14 and should be directed to the District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, ATTN: CESAM-PD-EC. For additional information please contact Mr. Matthew J. Lang at (251) 694-3837 or matthew.j.lang@usace.army.mil.



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