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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
South Atlantic Division, Corps of Engineers
60 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

CESAD-PDO **February 4, 2013**

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
and
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DISPOSAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS
SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLANS
FOR
OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division (USACE), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, are proposing to modify the disposal monitoring requirements for all Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDSs) within the Southeastern United States. Currently, disposal monitoring requirements are specified within each ODMDS's Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP). The USACE and EPA are proposing to modify all SMMPs to include the below described requirements. Comments on this proposed change to the SMMPs are requested from interested parties.

Under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), it is the responsibility of the EPA and the USACE to monitor and manage ODMDSs to ensure that ocean dredged material disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires the 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 sites. 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." Each ODMDS SMMP specifies the requirements for monitoring and reporting disposal activities at the ODMDS. Under this proposal, all SMMPs will be modified to have consistent monitoring as described below:

Disposal Monitoring. For all disposal activities, an electronic tracking system (ETS) must be utilized. The ETS will provide surveillance of the transportation and disposal of dredged material. The ETS will be maintained and operated to continuously track the horizontal location and draft condition (accuracy ±0.1 foot) of the disposal vessel (i.e. hopper dredge or disposal scow) from the point of dredging to the disposal site and return to the point of dredging. Data shall be collected at least every 0.25 nautical mile or every 4 minutes during travel to and from the ODMDS and twelve seconds or every 30 feet of travel, while the hull status is open within the ODMDS. In addition to the continuous tracking data, the following trip information shall be electronically recorded for each disposal cycle:

a. Load Number
b. Disposal Vessel Name and Type (e.g. scow)
c. Estimated Volume of Load
d. Description of Material Disposed
e. Source of Dredged Material
f. Date, Time and Location at Initiation and Completion of Disposal Event

It is expected that disposal monitoring will be conducted utilizing the Dredge Quality Management (DQM) system for Civil Works projects [see http://dqm.usace.army.mil/Specifications/Index.aspx], although other systems are acceptable. Disposal monitoring and ETS data will be reported to EPA Region 4 utilizing the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) specification and protocol.

Reporting frequency will continue to be specified within each individual SMMP. The ODMDSs affected by this change are listed at: http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/oceans/sites.html.

We request that you provide comments in writing and within 30 days of the date of this notice.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
South Atlantic Division
(ATTN: Mr. Dylan Davis)
60 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 562-5130
Email: Richard.D.Davis@usace.army.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
(ATTN: Mr. Christopher McArthur, Wetlands & Marine Regulatory Section)
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 562-9391
Email: Mcarthur.Christopher@epa.gov

CURTIS M. FLAKES
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District