



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

CESAM-PD-EC
Public Notice No. FP19-GU01-09

July 26, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN
FOR THE
GULFPORT OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE(s),
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI AND GULF OF MEXICO

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

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 Gulfport Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS(s)). A copy of the draft SMMP may be found at the following USACE, Mobile District web address [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/ Planning Environmental /OtherDocuments.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/PlanningEnvironmental/OtherDocuments.aspx). Comments on the SMMP are requested from interested parties.

The Gulfport ODMDS(s) were 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 originally developed as part of the designation process and was published in 1987 as part of the *Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pensacola, Florida, Mobile, Alabama, and Gulfport, Mississippi Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation*, and was most recently revised in 2009 to comply with provisions of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992. This updated SMMP serves as a revision to and supersedes the 2009 SMMP.

The Gulfport ODMDS(s) are located in the Gulf of Mexico stretching from approximately 14 to 20 miles south of the Port of Gulfport. The eastern and western site(s) cover a 2.47 and 5.2 square nautical mile area, respectively, with an average depth of approximately 27 feet (ft). They were designated by the EPA, Region 4 for fine-grained dredged material that meets ocean placement criteria.

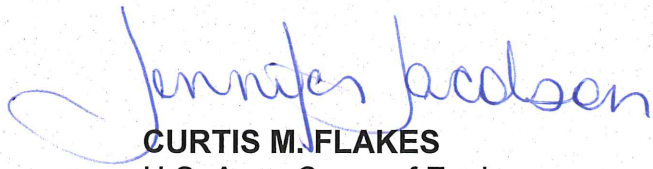
Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of the EPA and USACE to monitor and manage ODMDSs to ensure ocean dredged material disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires development and periodic review and revision of a SMMP for each ODMDS. Following an opportunity for public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the Gulfport ODMDS(s). 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 to make management decisions necessary 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. Correspondence concerning the public notice should refer to Public Notice No. FP19-GU01-09 and should be directed to the District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, ATTN: CESAM-PD-EC. For additional information please contact Ms. Caree Kovacevich at (251) 694-3026 or caree.a.kovacevich@usace.army.mil.


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