

*File —*  
*Mobile Harbor*

CESAM-PD-EC

August 29, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

**Subject: Mobile Harbor Water Quality Certification and Dauphin Island Erosion Meeting with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM)**

Subject meeting was held on August 28, 1995. The following were in attendance:

- Mr. John Carlton, ADEM
- Mr. Brad Gane, ADEM
- Wendell Mears (OP-T)
- Pat Langan (OP-P)
- Greg Miller (EN-HD)
- Steve Collinsworth (EN-HD)
- Roger Burke (PD-F)
- Curtis M. Flakes (PD-EC)
- Susan I. Rees (PD-EC)
- Karen D. McPherson (PD-EC)

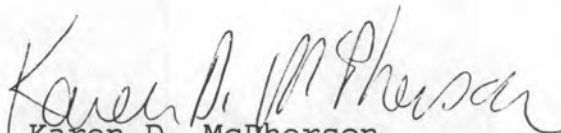
The purpose of the meeting was to develop a plan of action for resolving the Dauphin Island erosion problem and the Mobile Harbor proposed water quality certification for continued maintenance dredging.

Curtis Flakes opened the meeting with a brief discussion on the Mobile District's position on the relationship between Mobile Harbor and the erosion on Dauphin Island and the District's desire to handle the Mobile Harbor WQC and the erosion problem on Dauphin Island as a separate issue since the Federal project was not contributing to the east end erosion. Greg Miller presented technical data on coastal processes of the Mobile Bay-Dauphin Island area and Wendell Mears presented information on locations, quantities and quality of suitable material available and costs. Roger Burke presented a synopsis of possible funding authorities, the pros and cons of each program and required criteria. It was suggested that a Section 22 project would probably be the most feasible.

Brad Gane discussed ADEM's process regarding the water quality certification appeals process and the possibility of certifying the entrance channel separately. Mr. Gane stated that he believed that solving the erosion problem was everyone's problem and not solely the Federal Government's responsibility. He stated that a partnering, cost-sharing effort would be the most effective way to address the problem. Mr. Gane and Mr. Carlton

agreed that a workshop/educational forum was a good idea in lieu of a formal public hearing and stated that ADEM would like to be partners in that process and participate in any meetings held between the Dauphin Island Mayor's Office and the Corps of Engineers. They felt that the workshop should be held prior to issuing water quality certification for the next five years. Mr. Carlton explained that any party could appeal or contest the water quality certification after it is issued. He explained that the administrative process to appeal is very simple. He stated that a significant delay could occur in the event that an appeal to water quality certification is filed. Mr. Carlton believes that a public meeting/forum and resolution of this issue would aid in preventing an appeal.

However, he stated that we may apply for an additional extension to the most recent certification from October 1, 1995 for 90 to 120 days until coordination efforts are completed. The extension process requires that we request an additional extension prior to the current extension's expiration. Curtis Flakes suggested making the workshop/meeting a condition of the water quality certification/coastal zone consistency statement and thus preventing a protracted delay in issuing the water quality certification. Mr. Gane stated that they would look into the possibility.

  
Karen D. McPherson  
Biologist  
Coastal Environment Section

cf: Wendell Mears (OP-T)  
Pat Langan (OP-P)  
Greg Miller (EN-HD)  
Steve Collinsworth (EN-HD)  
Roger Burke (PD-F)  
Curtis M. Flakes (PD-EC)  
Susan I. Rees (PD-EC)