PD-EC SUBJECT FILE COPY

November 4, 1998

Coastal Environment Section
Planning and Environmental Division

Mr. Brad Gane
Alabama Department of Environmental
Management
4171 Commanders Drive
Mobile, Alabama 36605

Dear Mr. Gane:

Reference is made to our letter dated June 21, 1995 requesting water quality certification and coastal zone consistency for a five (5) year period for the continuation of the maintenance of the Mobile Harbor Federal navigation project as described in Public Notice FP95-MH07-02. Copies of this correspondence as well as correspondence referred to later in this letter are provided for your ease of reference. As you will recall, the District received a number of comments on this public notice relative to the placement of sandy material dredged from the southern end of the entrance channel in the Mobile North Ocean Disposal Site and the need for direct beach placement of this material on Dauphin Island. As a result of these comments and comments received at a public workshop held on Dauphin Island on November 12, 1995, the District in coordination with ADEM developed the concept of the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area (SIBUA). The designation of this area as a new dredged material placement site for the Mobile Harbor project was coordinated via Public Notice FP-MH08-02 which noted that it was a modification of the earlier public notice (Enclosures 1-5).

As a result of the coordination of this public notice, the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) indicated the possibility of impacts to submerged historic resources and requested appropriate literature and field surveys. These surveys have been completed and the corresponding reports sent to the SHPO for concurrence. On July 24, 1998 the SHPO concurred with the District's findings that disposal in the SIBUA would not impact historic resources provided that a buffer zone be established around one recorded/identified ship wreck. A copy of this letter is provided as enclosure 6.

We believe that the designation of the SIBUA resolves the outstanding issues surrounding the continued maintenance of the Mobile Harbor project and have determined that the continued use of the proposed disposal areas would not violate any state water quality standards. In addition, we have reviewed the Alabama Coastal Management Plan and find that the proposed continued maintenance of the Mobile Harbor project is consistent with the program to the maximum extent practicable. Pursuant to the requirements of the Clean Water Act and Coastal Zone Management Act, water quality certification and concurrence with our determination of coastal zone consistency are requested for a five (5) year period for proposed maintenance dredging and placement activities associated with the entire Mobile Harbor navigation project, Mobile County, Alabama (FP95-MH07-02 as modified by FP97-MH08-02).

We would greatly appreciate your expediting this request. As you are aware the impacts of Hurricane Georges to the Mobile Harbor entrance channel have resulted in the need to utilize the SIUBA in the immediate future. It is our intent to place the material from the entrance channel in this are unless the Town of Dauphin Island or another non-Federal entity is forthcoming with the additional funds required to place the material directly on Dauphin Island. Should this occur, we will need to work closely with your office to get these additional certifications. Please contact Dr. Susan Ivester Rees at 334-694-4141 if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Accom for

Curtis M. Flakes
Chief, Planning and Environmental
Division

Enclosures

PD-EC/AC/DETHLOFF/4106

PD-EC/REES

PD-E/MCCLELLAN

PD/FLAKES

June 21, 1995

Coastal Environment Section
Planning and Environmental Division

Mr. Brad Gane
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management
2205 Perimeter Road
Mobile, Alabama 36615

Dear Mr. Gane:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Clean Water Act and Coastal Zone Management Act, water quality certification, and your concurrence with our determination of coastal zone consistency are requested for proposed maintenance dredging and placement activities associated with the Mobile Harbor navigation project, Mobile County, Alabama for a five-year period. This also includes Water Quality Certification for transport and ocean disposal of dredged material within State waters. Proposed maintenance dredging and placement activities for the referenced project include the use of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) located south of Dauphin Island, Alabama.

The current water quality certifications are scheduled to expire July 3, 1995, August 5, 1996 and August 13, 1996. We ask that the water quality certifications and coastal zone consistency concurrence determinations scheduled to expire July 3, 1995 be extended for a 90-day period to facilitate dredging and placement activities during processing of our recertification request.

In addition, for ease of reference and to synchronize the referenced expiration dates, we propose to use this recertification opportunity to administratively combine the Mobile Harbor maintenance dredging and placement activities into one single water quality certification and coastal zone consistency document. This effort is essentially an administrative process since all the proposed dredging and placement activities have been previously certified by your office.

Enclosure 1

A detailed description of the proposed action is presented in the enclosed Public Notice Number FP95-MH07-2. The required legal notice has been published in the Mobile Press Register, Mobile, Alabama. Proof-of-Publication for the legal notice will be furnished to your office. Upon completion of the comment periods for the joint public notice and legal notice, we will provide copies of all water quality related comments for your consideration in making the final determination for certification.

We do not anticipate water quality problems or coastal zone management conflicts resulting from the proposed maintenance dredging operation. Based on a review of the Alabama Coastal Management Program, we find that the proposed action is consistent with the program to the maximum extent practicable.

If you require additional information please contact Ms. Karen D. McPherson at (205) 694-4106.

Sincerely,

N.D. McClure IV
Chief, Planning and Environmental
Division

Enclosures

PD-EC/McPherson/4106
PD-EC/Flakes FDI for
PD-E/Newburn
PD-E/McClellan
PD/Rider
PD/McClure

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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
FOR THE
CONTINUED MAINTENANCE DREDGING AND DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES
ASSOCIATED WITH THE
MOBILE HARBOR NAVIGATION PROJECT

A FEDERALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District proposes to continue maintenance dredging of the Mobile Harbor Federal navigation project, Mobile County, Alabama. We request the recipient of this notice to review the proposed action as it pertains to water quality, relative to Section 404(b)(1) of the *Clean Water Act* and the *Marine Protection, Resource and Sanctuaries Act*. We also request comments on any other potential impacts.

LOCATION: Mobile County, Alabama, and the Gulf of Mexico.

DESCRIPTION OF ENTIRE AUTHORIZED PROJECT: The existing Mobile Harbor Project provides for:

a. A 57′ x 700′ channel from the Gulf of Mexico for about seven miles to Mobile Bay;

b. A 55′ x 550′ channel from the mouth of Mobile Bay for a distance of approximately 29 miles to the mouth of Mobile River, including a passing lane two miles long and 625′ wide at mid-bay;

c. A 55′ x 750′ x 4,000′ anchorage area just south of McDuffie Island;

d. A 55′ x 1,500′ x 1,500′ turning basin opposite McDuffie Island;

e. A 40′ deep channel with the width varying from 700′, near the Mobile River mouth, to 500′, near the new Cochrane Bridge (U.S. Highway 98), a distance of about six miles;

f. A 40′ x 800′ - 1,000′ x 2,500′ turning basin opposite the Alabama State Docks between river miles 1.0 to 1.5;

g. A 40′ x 1,000′ x 1,600′ turning basin just south of the New Cochrane Bridge;

h. A 25′ x 250′ x 16,000′ channel within Chickasaw Creek;

i. A 27′ x 150′ channel (Arlington-Garrows Bend Channel) from Mobile Bay Channel westerly for 1.6 miles to a 800′ x 600′ turning basin and continuing for 1.1 miles to a 250′ x 800′ turning basin in Garrows Bend west of McDuffie Island;

j. A 40′ x 400′ channel (Theodore Ship Channel) from the main ship channel in Mobile Bay to the shoreline, a distance of about 5.3 miles, including a 300′ x 1,200′ anchorage area, and a 40′ x 300′ x 10,000′ landcut section, a 42-acre, trapezoidal shaped turning basin that is 40′ deep, continuing with a 12′ x 100′ x 6,500′ barge channel, with a 300′ x 300′ turning basin at the western terminus of the channel.

The full authorized dimensions of all features of the Mobile Harbor Project have not been constructed. The depth of the bay channel is 45′ and the outer bar channel is 47′. Each of these areas are maintained to a depth that is 10′ less than the authorized depth. Several additional features of the authorized project have not been constructed at this time. The turning basin and anchorage areas, that would be located south of the mouth of the Mobile River have not been constructed, and the bay channel and the bar channel, have not been widened. These channels remain at 400′ and 600′ wide, respectively.

In addition to the Congressionally authorized channel dimensions providing for navigation, four sediment basins in the lower Mobile River and three sediment basins in the bay channel, have been previously approved and have been constructed to provide improved channel maintenance efficiency. Each of these basins are several thousand feet long and have depths about 10 feet lower than the existing navigation channel bottom. The basins decrease the dredging quantity or frequency of the overall channel by trapping sediment and thereby, decrease the general shoaling rate in the channels and minimize adverse effects to navigation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The overall proposed action is the same as has been previously approved and involves the continued maintenance of the Mobile Harbor Project. The proposed action does not include any changes to channel dimensions from those currently existing, and does not involve any new dredged material placement areas. For purposes of discussion, the Mobile Harbor Project is divided into three general areas: river channel section, the bay channel section, and bar channel section. The channels in these sections would be maintained to their authorized and approved dimensions with two feet of advanced maintenance. The maintenance activities include the placement of dredged material originating from the project into previously approved disposal areas. A complete description of the proposed action is described below, and the project features are illustrated on **Figures 1 and 2:**

River Channel Section - The proposed action in this portion of the project involves the continued maintenance dredging and placement of material from the mouth of the Mobile River to the new Cochrane Bridge, a distance of about five miles, and the approximate 3-mile long channel within Chickasaw Creek.

Approximately 2,000,000 cubic yards of dredged material would be removed from the main channel on an annual basis. Additionally, sediment collected in the sediment basins would be periodically removed as necessary to restore their original dimensions and their sediment-trapping ability. The Chickasaw Creek channel requires infrequent maintenance and the quantity removed to restore the channel dimensions would be on an as needed basis. Dredged material may be removed from the channels by dragline/clamshell, hydraulic pipeline, or hopper dredge, and all material would be placed in previously approved upland disposal areas, located in the upper harbor area, Gaillard Island, or the Gulf Disposal Area. Material to be placed in Gaillard Island would only occur in accordance with the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* and any associated regulatory agency agreements. Following material dewatering, the material from Gaillard Island and the other upland disposal areas, may be transported to the Gulf Disposal Area. Dredging and material placement activities could occur at any time during the year, and in response to unforeseen shoaling.

Bay Channel Section - The proposed action within the bay channel section consists of the maintenance dredging of the main channel in Mobile Bay, from near the mouth of the bay to the mouth of the Mobile River, a distance of about 36 miles, the tangent channels, *i.e.*, Arlington - Garrows Bend and Theodore, and the placement of the dredged material in previously approved disposal areas.

The main navigation channel in the bay typically requires the annual removal of about five million cubic yards of material to maintain the channel dimensions. Dredging activities would also include the periodic removal of sediment collected in the sediment basins. The Theodore Channel could require the removal of approximately one million cubic yards per year to maintain the channel dimensions. The Arlington - Garrows Bend channel requires infrequent maintenance and the quantity removed to restore the channel dimensions would be on an as needed basis.

The maintenance of the navigation channels and sediment basins may be accomplished by a dragline/clamshell, hopper, or hydraulic pipeline dredge. All material removed from the bay channel section would be placed in the previously approved, Gulf Disposal Area or Gaillard Island. The material from the landward end of the Theodore Channel would be placed in a previously approved upland site located near the west end of the channel. Material to be placed in Gaillard Island would only occur in accordance with the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* and any associated regulatory agency agreements. Material placed in Gaillard Island may be transported to the Gulf Disposal Area following dewatering. Dredging and material placement activities could occur at any time during the year, and in response to unforeseen shoaling.

Bar Channel Section - The proposed action includes the maintenance dredging of the channel from the Gulf of Mexico to Mobile Bay, a distance of about seven miles.

Approximately 300,000 cubic yards of material would be removed from the channel each year. The material is typically removed by a hopper dredge, and placed in the Gulf Disposal Area.

Disposal Area Maintenance - Included in the overall maintenance of the Mobile Harbor Project are activities necessary to maintain the useful life of the upland dredged material placement areas. These activities consist of the periodic removal and transport of dewatered material to the Gulf Disposal Area. Also, at times, material from upland sites, *i.e.*, Blakeley Island, may be transported to Gaillard Island for dike raising/construction or other purposes. Upland disposal area restoration and material placement activities could occur at any time during the year. Material to be placed in Gaillard Island would only occur in accordance with the *Migratory Bird Treaty Act* and any associated regulatory agency agreements. Material placed in Gaillard Island, not used for dike-raising/construction purposes, may eventually be transported to the Gulf Disposal Area.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The majority of the Gulf Disposal Area is located within the territorial waters of the United States and is certified pursuant to the requirements of the *Clean Water Act, Final Rule for Operation and Maintenance of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Involving the Discharge of Dredged Material into Water of the U.S. or Ocean Waters, 33 CFR Part 336.2(c).*

Water quality certification for a five-year period is being requested from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (**ADEM**) for the proposed maintenance dredging and placement activities associated with the Mobile Harbor navigation project. Upon completion of the required comment period a decision relative to certification will be made by ADEM.

COASTAL ZONE CONSISTENCY: Pursuant to the requirements of the *Coastal Zone Management Act* (**CZMA**), concurrence with the Mobile District's determination of coastal zone consistency has been requested from ADEM. Our review of the *Alabama Coastal Management Program* finds that the continued maintenance activities of the Mobile Harbor Project remains consistent with the program to the maximum extent practicable. A determination relative to the issuance of a consistency certification will be made by ADEM after completion of the required comment period.

USE BY OTHERS: The proposed action is not expected to cause any significant land use changes in adjacent areas, or impacts to water uses or water users, in the vicinity of the project.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT CONSIDERATION: In accordance with the requirements of the *National Environmental Policy Act* (**NEPA**), impacts associated with navigation improvements for the Mobile Harbor Project were addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (**EIS**) dated October, 1980. In addition, a Supplemental EIS, dated December 13, 1985, was prepared to address impacts associated with the offshore placement (Gulf Disposal Area) of dredged material from construction of navigation improvements and channel maintenance activities, and for the designation of an offshore placement site(s). The Record of Decision implementing the harbor improvements was signed January 8, 1987. The EIS and Supplemental EIS were coordinated with all applicable Federal, state and local agencies and the interested public. These documents are on file and available for review in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District Office. Several actions have occurred since the last clearances were received. We have prepared and coordinated separate Environmental Assessments (**EAs**) and Findings of No Significant Impact (**FONSIs**) to cover these revisions to the overall Mobile Harbor maintenance plan.

For convenience, we are combining these revisions into one concise EA. Since the action is primarily an administrative process, we have made a preliminary determination that the activities are appropriately covered by a FONSI.

ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES: The proposed action is being coordinated with the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service (**NMFS**), and the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (**FWS**) by this public notice. Several species listed by the FWS and NMFS as endangered or threatened are occasional visitors to the vicinity of the project area. However, our assessment determined that the continued maintenance of the project would not affect any critical habitat, or any threatened or endangered species likely to occur within the project area.

SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION REPORT: Water quality impacts associated with the proposed action have been addressed in an evaluation report prepared in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The report is on file and available for review in the Mobile District Office. Appropriate revisions will be incorporated into the Section 404(b)(1) evaluation report if information is received during the coordination process that would dictate the need to revise the draft report.

CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSIDERATION: The proposed action was previously coordinated with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer (**ASHPO**). Maintenance dredging and material disturbance activities will be limited to existing channels and disposal areas. The material placement activities would also be limited to existing and previously approved placement sites. No significant impacts to cultural resources have occurred in the past and none are considered likely to occur as a result of the continued maintenance of the project. A copy of this public notice is being sent to the ASHPO and the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Atlanta, Georgia.

MARINE PROTECTION, RESEARCH AND SANCTUARIES ACT CONSIDERATIONS: The suitability of the placement of dredged material in the Gulf Disposal Area was evaluated in accordance with the criteria established under the authority of Section 102(a) of the *Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act* (**MPRSA**) of 1972 (40 CFR 227 and 228). The results of the evaluation are contained within the Supplemental EIS for the project. Results of the study indicate the site is suitable for the placement of dredged material.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to continue the maintenance of the Mobile Harbor Project as proposed, will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity, and on the public interest. This decision will reflect the national concern for both the protection and utilization, of important resources. The benefits which may be reasonably expected to accrue from implementing the proposed action will be balanced against reasonably foreseeable consequential detriments. The proposed action will proceed unless it is found to be contrary to the overall public interest.

Inasmuch as the proposed action involves the discharge of materials into navigable waters, redesignation of the proposed placement sites that are associated with this Federal project is being made under guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the redesignation of a site(s), any impairment of the maintenance of navigation, including any economic impact on navigational interests, which results from the inability to use an affected site(s), will also be considered.

COORDINATION: Among the agencies receiving copies of this public notice are:

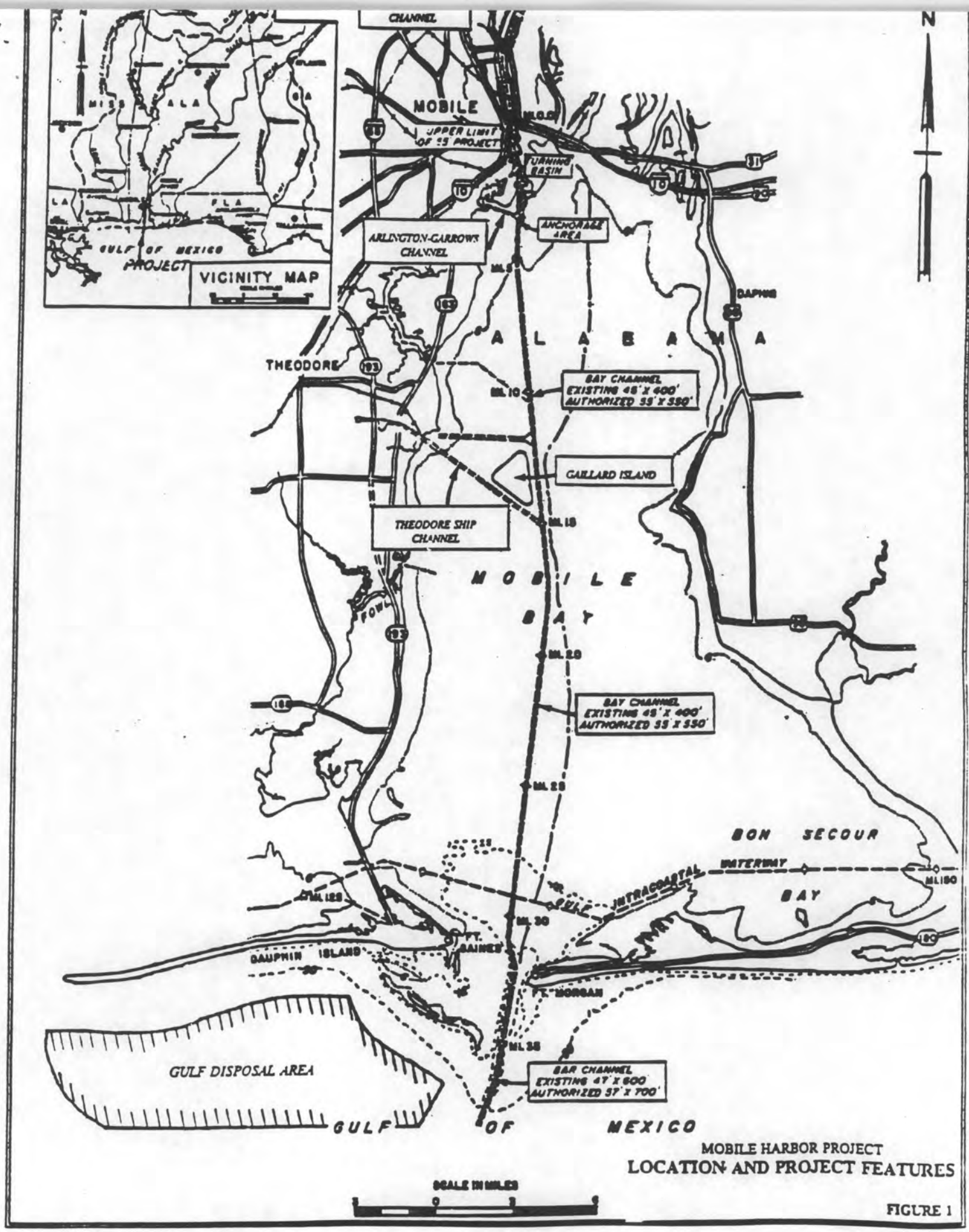
Region IV, Environmental Protection Agency.
U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Daphne, Alabama.
Regional Director, National Park Service.
U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service, Panama City, Florida.
Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer.
Alabama Department of Environmental Management.
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Other Federal, state and local organizations, United States Senators and Representatives of Alabama are provided copies of this notice and are invited to participate in coordinating the proposed action. We request that the information contained in this Public Notice be communicated to any parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

CORRESPONDENCE: Any person who has an interest which may be affected by this proposed activity may request a public hearing. Any comments or request for hearing must clearly set forth the interests which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected.

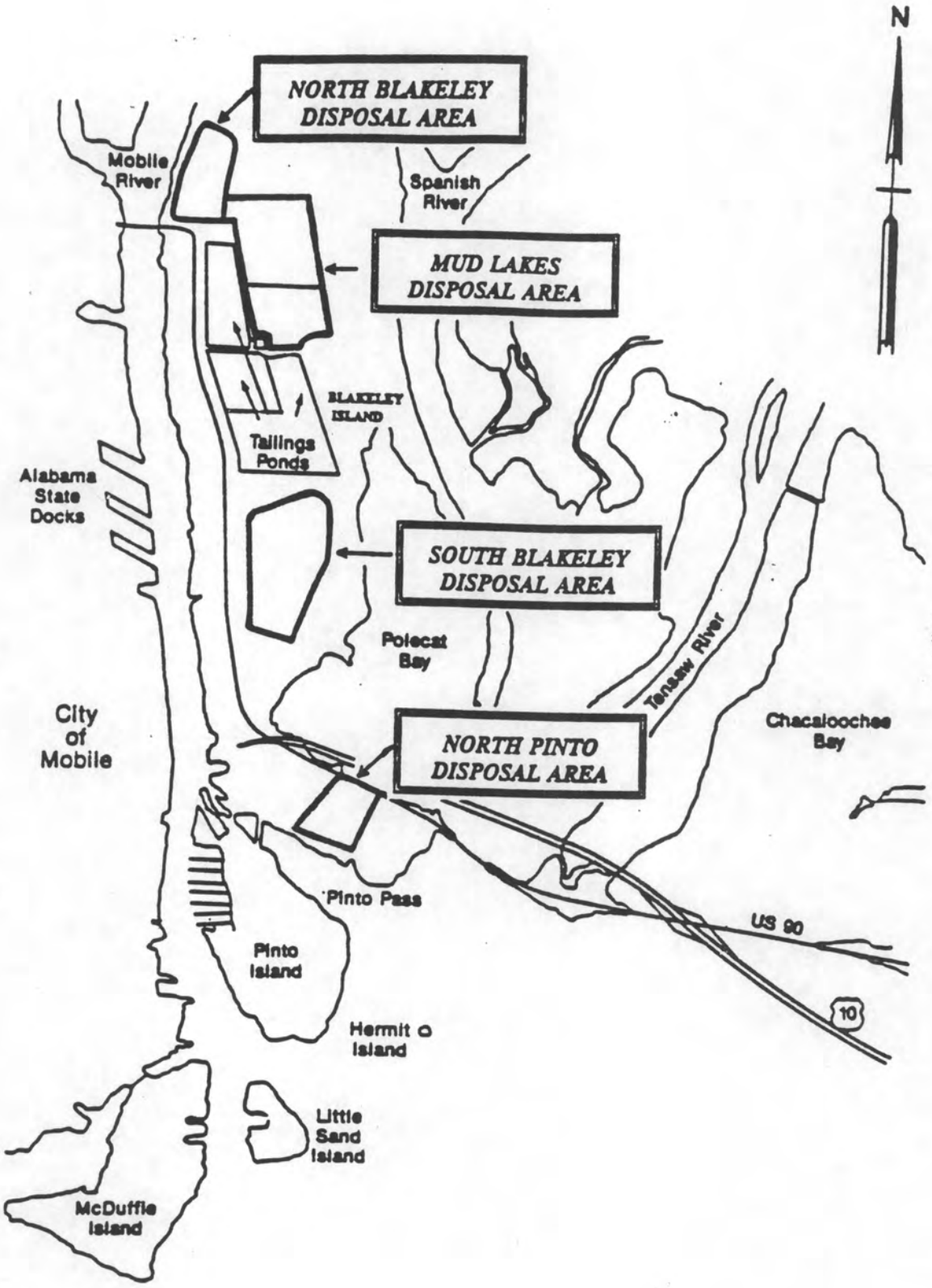
Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice No. FP95-MH-07-2 and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Attention: CESAM-PD-EC, Mobile, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, in time to be received prior to July 13, 1995. Ms. Karen D. McPherson may be contacted at 334/694-4106 for additional information.

N. D. McCLURE IV
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS



MOBILE HARBOR PROJECT
LOCATION AND PROJECT FEATURES

FIGURE 1



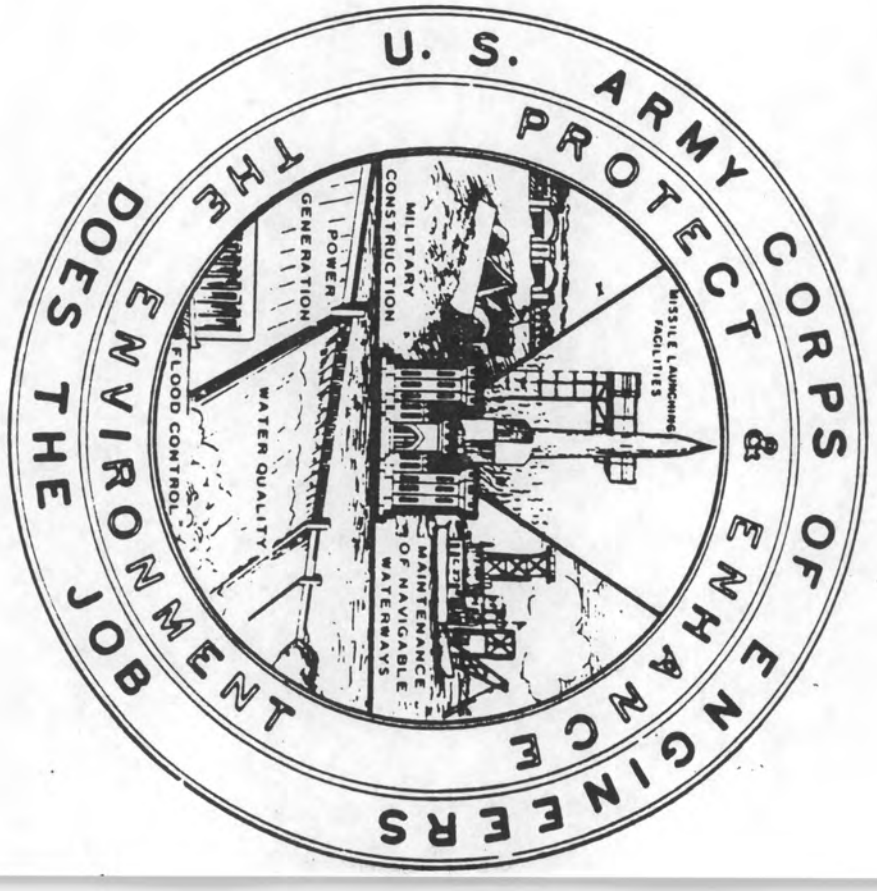
SCALE
ONE INCH EQUALS 4,700 FEET

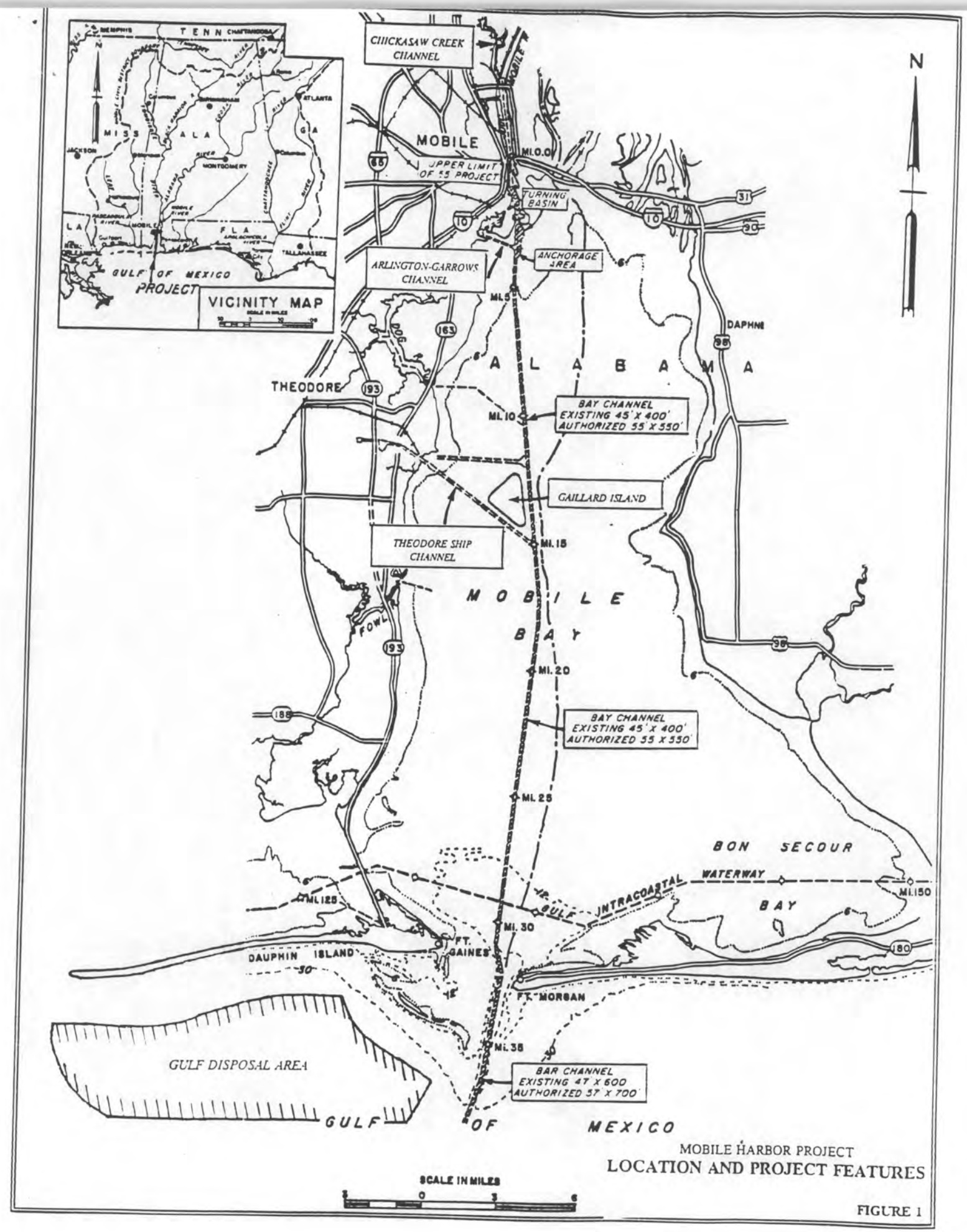
MOBILE HARBOR PROJECT
UPPER HARBOR DISPOSAL AREAS

FIGURE 2

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOBILE, AL
PERMIT NO. 283

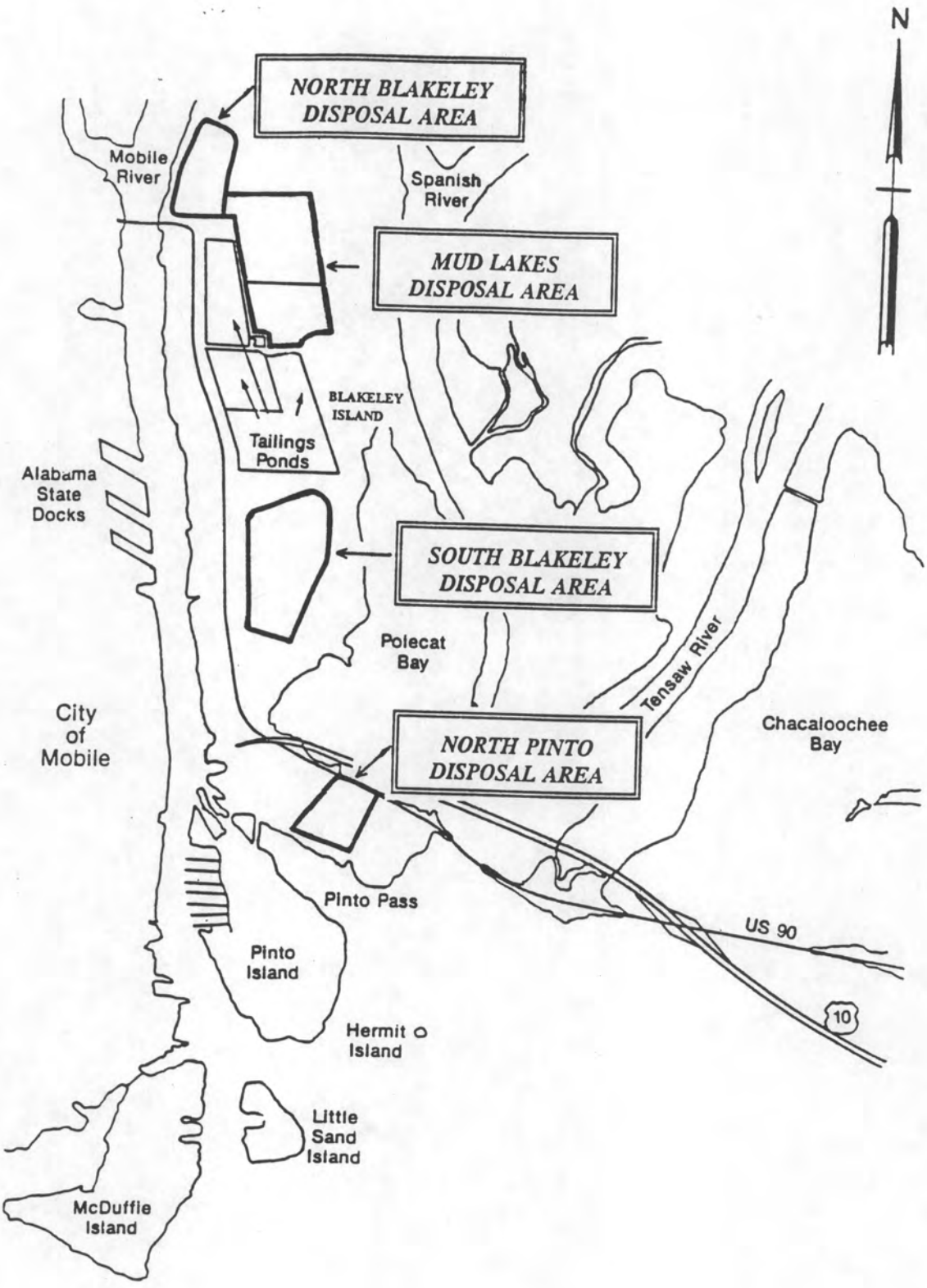




MOBILE HARBOR PROJECT

LOCATION AND PROJECT FEATURES

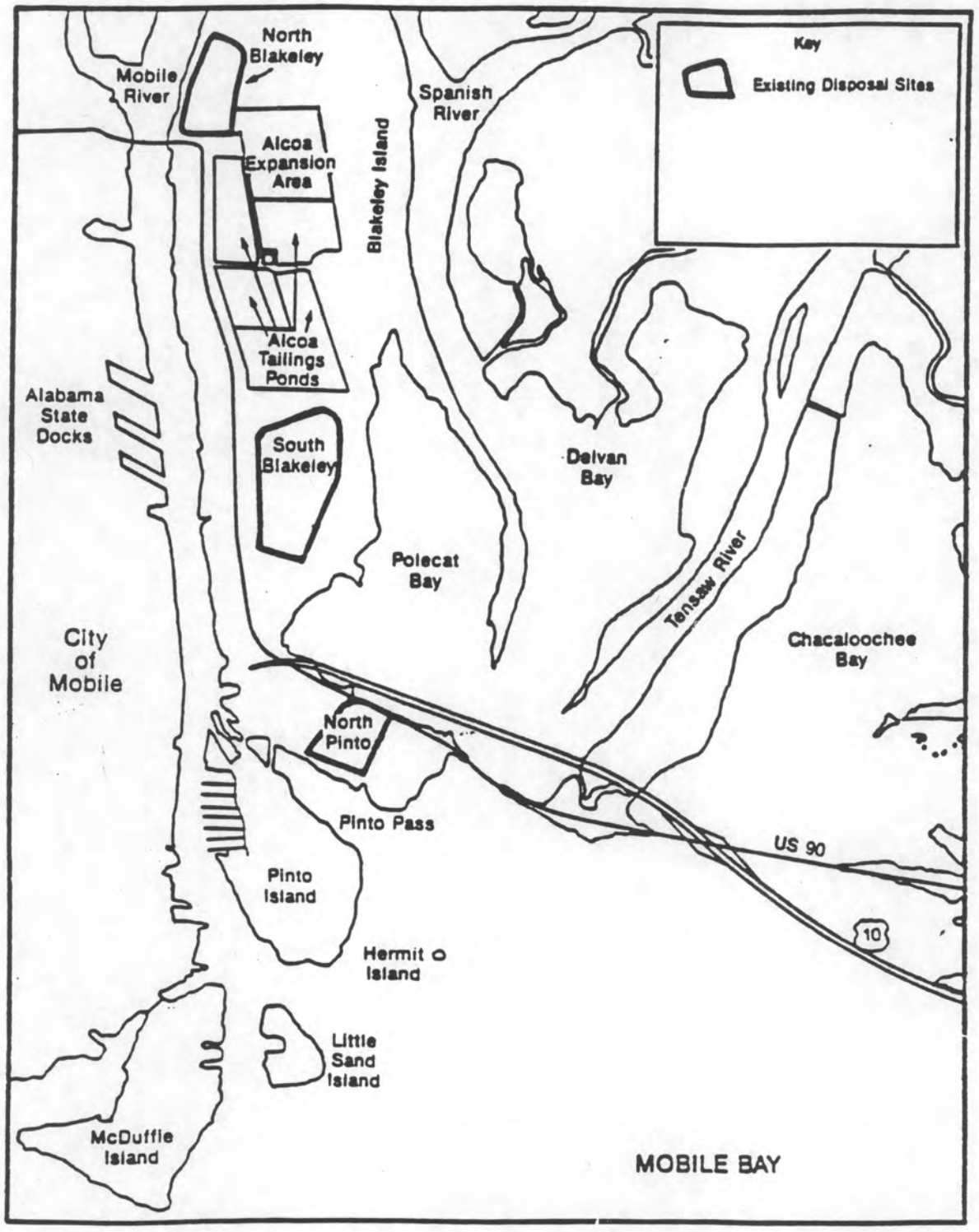
FIGURE 1



SCALE
ONE INCH EQUALS 4,700 FEET

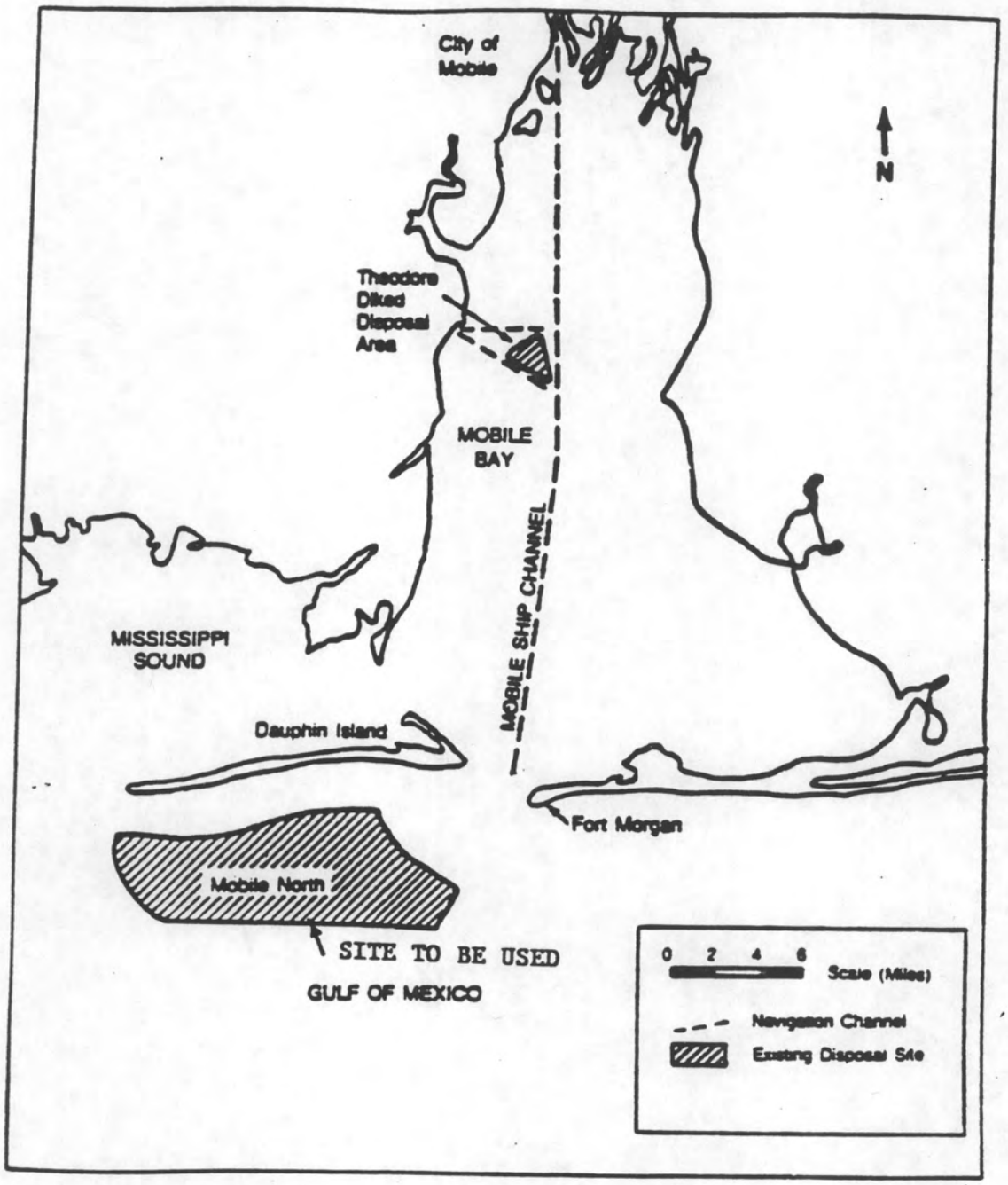
MOBILE HARBOR PROJECT
UPPER HARBOR DISPOSAL AREAS

FIGURE 2



UPPER MOBILE HARBOR

FIGURE 1



LOCATION OF DREDGED MATERIAL PLACEMENT SITE
GULF OF MEXICO
SOUTH OF MOBILE BAY, ALABAMA

FIGURE 2

November 14, 1995

Coastal Environment Section
Planning and Environmental Division

Mr. Brad Gane
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management
2205 Perimeter Road
Mobile, Alabama 36615

Dear Mr. Gane:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Clean Water Act and Coastal Zone Management Act, water quality certification and your concurrence with our determination of coastal zone consistency are requested for proposed maintenance dredging and placement activities associated with the Mobile Harbor navigation project, Mobile County, Alabama, for a five-year period.

Please find enclosed a copy of the official transcript and copies of all written statements for the record received during the public hearing/forum held on October 24, 1995, for the Mobile Harbor navigation project, water quality recertification (Enclosures 1 through 5). Copies of all comment letters received in response to Public Notice Number FP95-MH-07-2 were transmitted to your office by letter dated September 27, 1995.

If you require additional information please contact Ms. Karen D. McPherson at (334) 694-4106.

Sincerely,

Curtis M. Flakes
Chief, Coastal Environment
Section

PD-EC/McPherson
OC-BP
PD-EC/Flakes
PD-E/McClellan

Enclosures

Enclosure 2

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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

MODIFICATION

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MOBILE DISTRICT

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

MAINTENANCE DREDGING AND PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES
MOBILE HARBOR NAVIGATION PROJECT
MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA

SAND ISLAND BENEFICIAL USE AREA
DESIGNATION

Interested persons are hereby notified that the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District proposes to conduct maintenance dredging of the Mobile Harbor navigation project. As described in preceding Public Notice Number FP95-MH07-2. In addition, modification to Public Notice Number FP95-MH07-2, request for water quality certification and concurrence with coastal zone consistency is proposed for the designation of a beneficial use placement area specifically termed the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area.

We request the recipient of this notice review the proposed action as it pertains to water quality, relative to Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. We also request comments on any other potential impacts. We request that the recipient of this notice review the proposed action as it may impact on water quality, relative to the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Comments on any other potential impacts are also requested.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Mobile Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico, Mobile County, Alabama.

DESCRIPTION OF ENTIRE AUTHORIZED PROJECT: The existing Mobile Harbor, Alabama navigation project **(Figure 1)**, consists of the following:

a. A 57' x 700' channel from the Gulf of Mexico for about seven miles to Mobile Bay;

In addition to the Congressionally authorized channel dimensions providing for navigation, four sediment basins in the lower Mobile River and three sediment basins in the bay channel, have been previously approved and have been constructed to provide improved channel maintenance efficiency. Each of these basins are several thousand feet long and have depths about 10 feet lower than the existing navigation channel bottom. The basins decrease frequency of dredging to provide a more cost effective and reliable channel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:

Maintenance dredging and placement activities are proposed for the Mobile Harbor navigation project. **(Figure 1)**. A complete description of the proposed action can be found in the preceding public notice Number FP95-MH07-2 dated June 13, 1995.

In addition, a modification to Public notice FP95-MH07-2 and request for water quality certification and concurrence with coastal zone consistency is proposed for the designation and use of a beneficial use placement area specifically termed the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area. The proposed beneficial use area would be located on the west side adjacent to the southern portion of the Mobile Harbor Ship Channel between Dauphin Island and Little Sand Island **(Figure 1)**. Erosion has occurred in the vicinity of Dauphin Island and suitable material placed in the proposed Sand Island Beneficial Use Area would aid in beach nourishment through the littoral transport process.

The proposed beneficial use area would be utilized for the placement of sandy materials deemed compatible from a biological and physical standpoint according to guidelines established by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As opportunity allows, suitable material from various channel locations would be placed in the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area west of the -30 foot contour mean lower low water (MLLW) or in the ocean dredged material disposal area (ODMDS)**(Figure 1)**, depending upon logistical factors and the type of dredging equipment utilized during a particular dredging event. Accordingly placement activities would be accomplished by hopper dredge, hopper barges or hydraulic pipeline dredges.

Quality of the materials proposed for placement in the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area ranges from sands to silty sands. Appropriate quantities of suitable material would be placed in the area over a five year period depending upon dredging need. Initial placement activities are scheduled for mid to late 1997.

navigation improvements and channel maintenance activities, and for the designation of an offshore placement site(s). The Record of Decision implementing the harbor improvements was signed January 8, 1987. The EIS and Supplemental EIS were coordinated with all applicable Federal, state and local agencies and the interested public.

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared to address impacts associated with the proposed placement activities in the proposed beneficial use area. Appropriate revisions will be incorporated into the final EA if information is received during the coordination process that would indicate the need to revise the draft report. Copies of these documents are available for review in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District Office, Planning and Environmental Division.

SECTION 404(b)(1) EVALUATION REPORT: Water quality impacts associated with the proposed action have been addressed in an evaluation report prepared in accordance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. A draft Section 404(b)(1) evaluation report has been prepared to address any potential impacts associated with the placement of material in the proposed beneficial use placement area. Appropriate revisions will be incorporated into the final report if information is received during the coordination process that would indicate the need to revise the draft report.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Several species listed as endangered or threatened are occasional visitors to the vicinity of the project area. The Mobile District has determined that none would be effected by the proposed action. In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the proposed action is being coordinated with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Marine Fisheries Service.

CULTURAL RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS: In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the proposed action is being coordinated with the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer (ASHPO). A preliminary cultural and historic resources investigation has been performed and indicates that ~~there are no properties listed on or eligible for inclusion on the~~ National Register ~~that will be affected by the proposed~~ action. It is anticipated that the ASHPO will concur with the proposed action. Copies of this notice are being sent to the ASHPO and the Department of Interior, National Park Service, Atlanta, GA.

CESAM-PD-EC
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. FP97-MH08-02

March 17, 1997

Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
Game and Fish Division
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources,
Marine Resources Division
Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

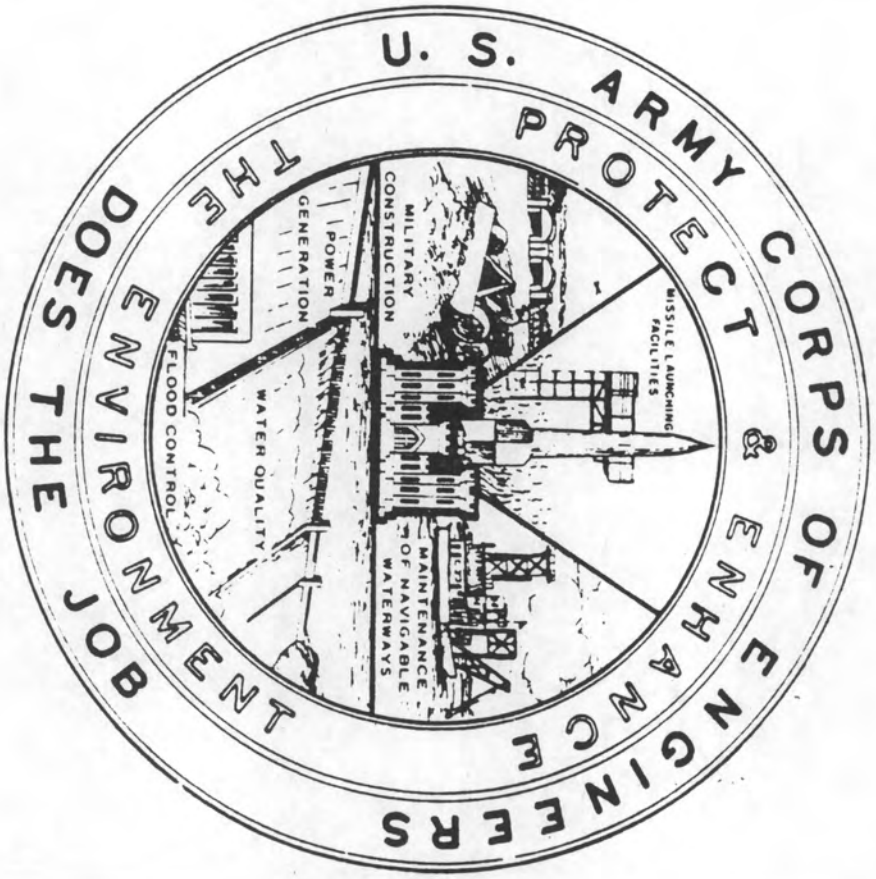
Other Federal, State, and local organizations, and United States Senators and Representatives of Alabama are being sent copies of this notice and are asked to participate in coordinating this proposed action. It is requested that the information contained in this notice be communicated to any other parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

CORRESPONDENCE: Any person who has an interest which may be affected by this proposed activity may request a public hearing. Any comments or request for hearing must clearly set forth the interests which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected. Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice No. FP97-MH08-02 and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile, P.O. Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, ATTN: CESAM-PD-EC in time to be received prior to April 15, 1997. Ms. Karen H. Dethloff, telephone number 334/694-4106, may be contacted for additional information.

Roger A. Burke
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S Army Corps of Engineers

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MOBILE, AL
PERMIT NO. 283



August 5, 1997

Coastal Environment Section
Planning and Environmental Division

Mr. Brad Gane
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management
2205 Perimeter Road
Mobile, Alabama 36615

Dear Mr. Gane:

Reference is made to your meeting with Ms. Karen Dethloff and Mr. Doug Nester on July 28, 1997, of my staff concerning Joint Public Notice No. FP97-MH08-02, Maintenance Dredging and Placement Activities, Mobile Harbor Navigation Project, Sand Island Beneficial Use Area and the possibility of receiving Water Quality Certification and Coastal Consistency for the use of a small portion of the beneficial use site (attached Figure). As discussed, we have an immediate need to dredge the seaward portion of the channel to remove shoaling caused by the passage of Hurricane Danny and would like to be able to place this material on the Sand Island shoals in lieu of placement in the ocean dredged material disposal site.

This smaller area meets the draft restrictions of the dredging equipment currently working in the channel, is very close to the previously used Sand Island Feeder Berm site, and has been surveyed for underwater cultural and historic resources. We are currently coordinating use of the smaller area with the State Historic Preservation Officer, but do not foresee any conflicts with use of the site. Based on this information, we have determined that the use of the small beneficial use area at Sand Island is consistent with the Alabama Coastal Program to the maximum extent practicable.

The dredge currently working the channel will be leaving on the 23rd of August and will be replaced at that time by a deeper draft dredge. Therefore, to be able to take advantage of this opportunity, we request that ADEM issue Water Quality Certification and Coastal Consistency at the earliest date possible. Although we may be able to utilize the site after the 23rd, the

Enclosure 4

material will necessarily have to be placed in deeper waters and thereby lessening the benefit to Dauphin Island.

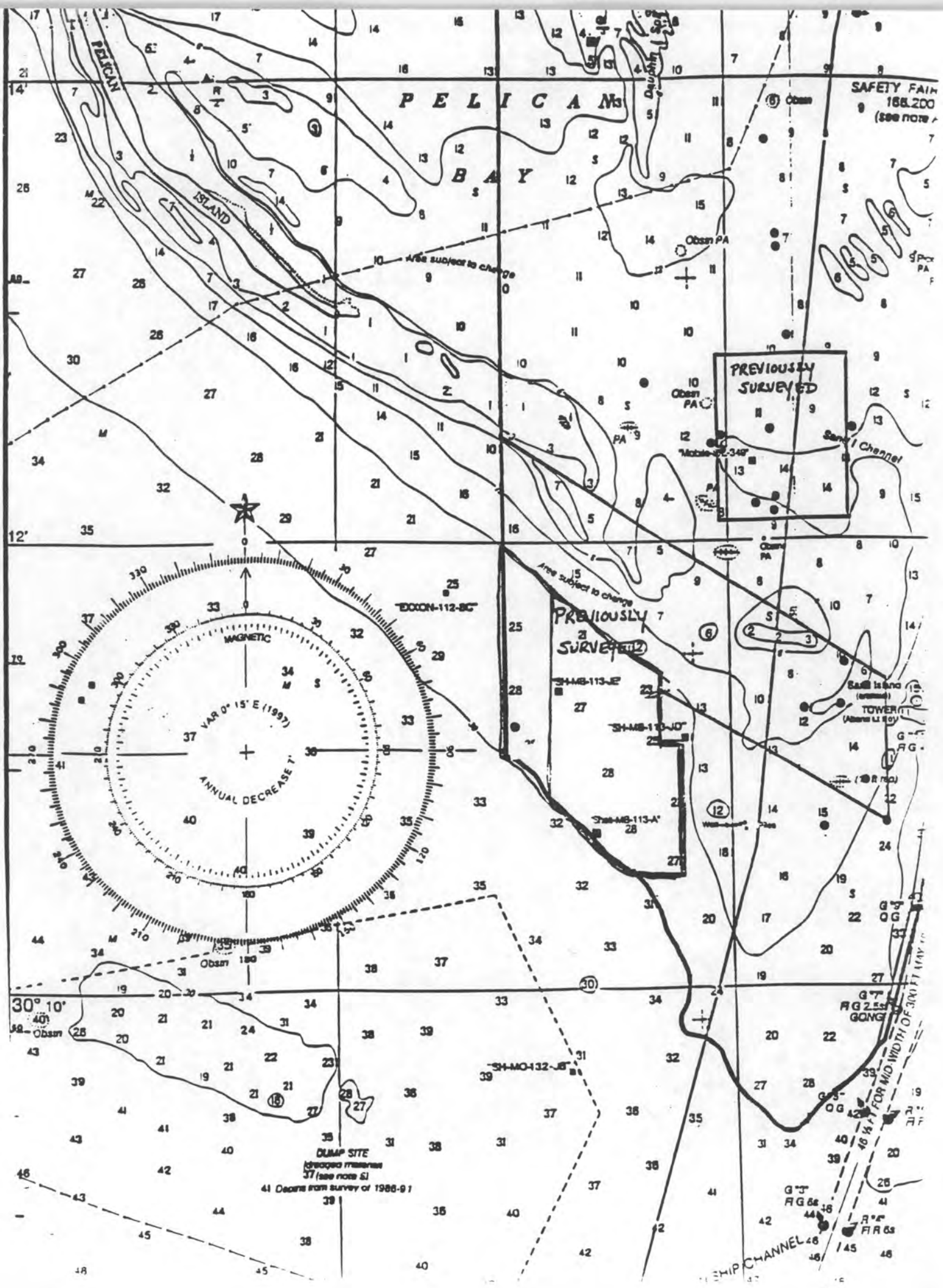
Should you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Dr. Susan Ivester Rees at 694-4141.

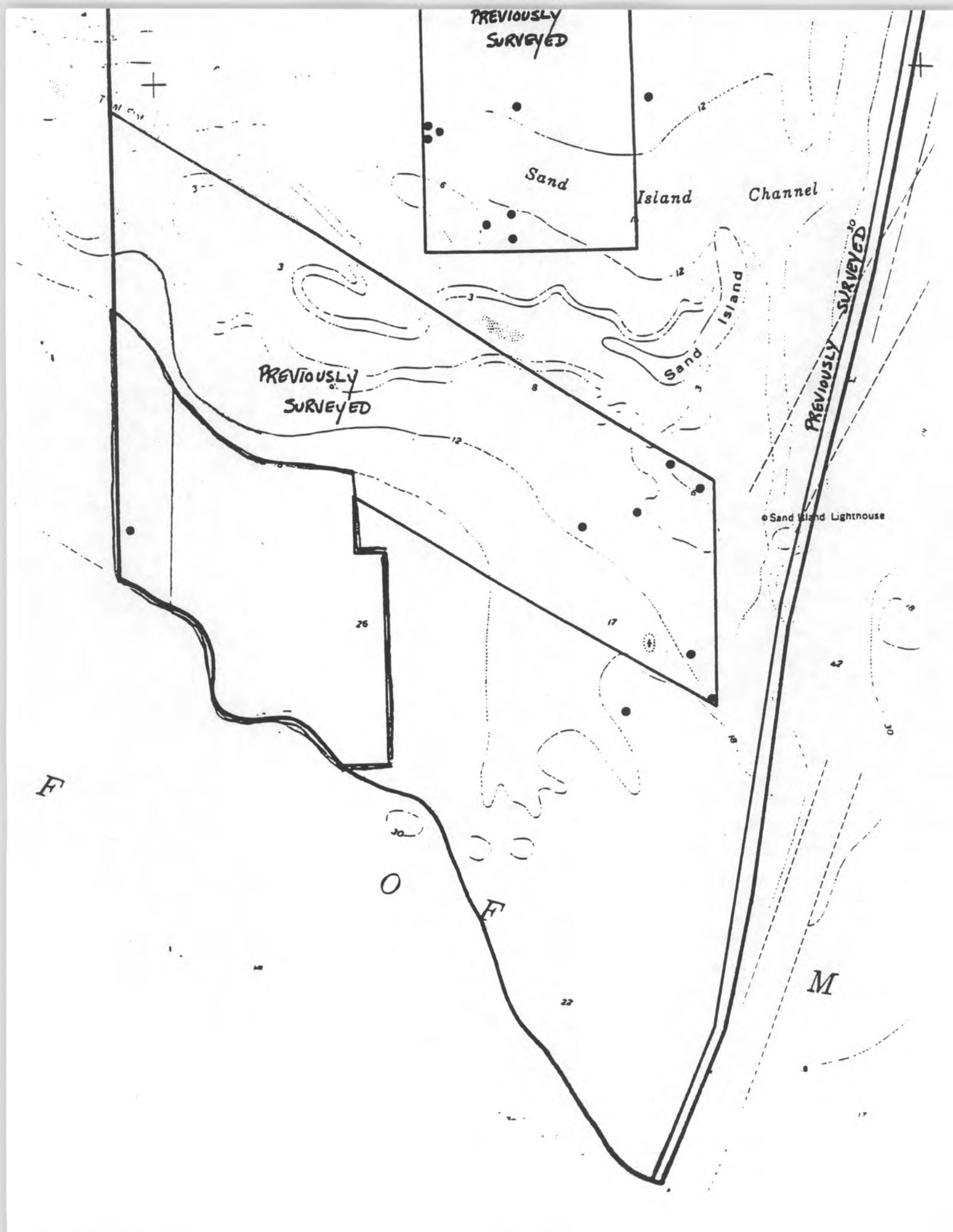
Sincerely,

Roger N. Simmons
Acting Chief, Planning and
Environmental Division

Attachment

PD-EC/Dethloff
PD-EC/Rees
PD-E/Newburn
PD-E/Flakes
PD/Simmons


PELICAN
PELICAN BAY
ISLAND
SAFETY FAIR
Area subject to change
PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED
Sabine Pass Channel
EXXON-112-SC
SH-MB-113-JE
SH-MB-113-JO
Shell-MB-113-A
SH-MO-132-JE
MAGNETIC
VAR 0° 15' E (1997)
ANNUAL DECREASE 1'
30° 10'
DUMP SITE
dredged materials
37 (see note 5)
41 Depths from survey of 1986-91
SHIP CHANNEL
TOWER
GONG


PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED
Sand Island Channel
Sand Island
PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED
PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED
Sand Island Lightnouse
F
O
F
M

July 8, 1998

Coastal Environment Section
Planning and Environmental Division

Mr. Brad Gane
Alabama Department of
Environmental Management
4171 Commanders Drive
Mobile, Alabama 36615

Dear Mr. Gane:

The current water quality certification and coastal zone consistency concurrence determination extensions for the Mobile Harbor navigation project are scheduled to expire July 28, 1998. We request a continuation of these extensions for an additional 90-day period to allow for additional time for the recertification process to be completed.

The underwater archaeological survey of the proposed Sand Island Beneficial Use Area (SIBUA) has been completed. The completed report entitled, "Underwater Survey, Sand Island Beneficial Use Area, Mobile, Alabama" was transmitted to the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer on June 30, 1998, for coordination and concurrence. A copy is enclosed for your files.

Thank you for your continued support of this project. Please contact Ms. Karen H. Dethloff at (334) 694-4106 or Susan Ivester Rees at (334) 694-4141 if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Curtis M. Flakes
Chief, Planning and
Environmental Division

Enclosure

Enclosure 5

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 South Perry Street
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

F. LAWERENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE NUMBER
334-242-3184

July 24, 1998

Curtis M. Flakes
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628

Re: AHC 98-1153
Underwater Archaeological Survey
Sand Island Beneficial Use Area
Mobile Harbor
Mobile County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Flakes:

Upon review of the submerged cultural resource assessment conducted by the Mobile Corps, the Alabama Historical Commission has determined that we agree with the author's findings and recommendations. Our office can concur with this action provided the shipwreck site is avoided including a 300 foot buffer zone as stated in the report. Also, please advise us if the site can be temporarily marked to ensure dredge operators avoid it.

We appreciate your efforts on this project. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Greg Rhinehart of our office.

Sincerely,

Thomas O. Maher, Ph.D.
State Archaeologist

for: Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/TOM/GCR