



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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RE: Modification to Corps of Engineers Federal Project
FP98-MH11-10/COEP-99-01(Mod1)

Dear Ms. Rees:

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has reviewed your request of August 27, 1999 to allow use of the Feeder Berm Site, a site south of the Sand Island Shoals and in the Gulf of Mexico, as an alternative disposal site for sandy materials generated by dredging of the lower Mobile Bay Ship Channel north of the Main Pass between Ft. Morgan and Dauphin Island. This request is necessitated as a result of dredging equipment changes that have been made midstream in the project and provides an opportunity for materials to be discharged in an area previously proven to feed the horizontal and vertical extent of the Sand Island Shoals. The last time the Feeder Berm disposal area was used was 1986 at which time the Corps sought to determine, and confirmed, that materials placed in the Feeder Berm would migrate to some extent into the littoral system of the Shoals area.

On the basis of a review of all materials submitted and associated with the modified proposal, it is the opinion of the technical staff that a decision relative to coastal consistency and water quality certification is appropriate. The Alabama Coastal Area Management Program considers the beneficial use of materials, particularly as they may have a positive overall contribution to the stability of the Dauphin Island Gulf shoreline, to be of the utmost importance and fully supports and approves the placement of sandy materials into the feeder berm as a modification of the federal project referenced above. Conditions to coastal consistency and water quality certification for the project issued by the original certification letter dated February, 1999 shall remain in effect for the life of the original certification.

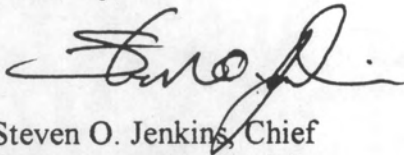
All material generated from dredging the lower Mobile Bay Channel will not be fine sand or coarser material, however. Therefore, this modification is conditioned that those hopper dredged loads having 65% or more of its sediment load comprised by sediments that are fine sand or coarser will be disposed in the Feeder Berm Disposal Area. Further, hopper dredged loads that have less than 65% fine sand (or coarser) material will be disposed in the deep Gulf at the Federal open water disposal site identified as the ODMDS site south of Dauphin



Dr. Susan Rees
FP98-MH11-10/COEP-99-01(Mod1)
Page 2

Island. Since the dredge has already arrived and is ready to commence operations, the Corps shall immediately provide information to the ADEM describing the procedure(s) used to determine the composition by grain size of the dredged loads. Also, the Corps shall separately report the quantity, in cubic yards, of dredged material placed into the Feeder Berm Site and in the ODMDS disposal site following completion of the dredging activity in the Lower Mobile Bay Channel conducted by this dredge.

Sincerely,



Steven O. Jenkins, Chief
Field Operations Division

Cc: Brad Gane
Phillip Hinesley