



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

**CESAM-PD-EC**

**March 8, 2019**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,  
MOBILE DISTRICT**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE  
EXTENSION OF THE SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN  
OF THE MOBILE OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE**

**MOBILE COUNTY, ALABAMA**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4 is announcing the availability of a signed two-year addendum to the current Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for the Mobile Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) that is set to expire on April 30, 2019. The addendum will extend the life of the current SMMP to April 30, 2021. All referenced documents are located at the following website: <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missison/Planning-Environmental/Public-Notices/>. These documents will remain at the aforementioned web address until April 30, 2019.

Please provide any comment relating to the extension of the current SMMP to either Ms. Lena Weiss via email at [weiss.lena@epa.gov](mailto:weiss.lena@epa.gov) or via phone at (404) 562-9228 or Mr. Matthew Lang via email at [matthew.j.lang@usace.army.mil](mailto:matthew.j.lang@usace.army.mil) or via phone at (251) 694-3837.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Curtis M. Flakes".

Curtis M. Flakes  
Chief, Planning and Environmental  
Division

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Extension to the current expiration date of the Site Management and Monitoring Plan for the Mobile Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site

**FROM:** Mary S. Walker, Acting Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4

Sebastian P. Joly, Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander, Mobile District

*MSW 2/15/2019*

*SM 3/4/19*

**TO:** File

Pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act Amendments of 1992 (WRDA 92) to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (MPRSA), the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4 (EPA), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District (USACE), published the Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for the Mobile Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (Mobile ODMDS) on April 30, 2015. In anticipation of completing an expansion of the Mobile ODMDS prior to 2019, the 2015 SMMP was developed for use on a short-term basis and included an expiration date of April 29, 2019. However, the process to complete the expansion of the Mobile ODMDS has taken longer than initially anticipated, thereby warranting an extension of the effective period of the 2015 SMMP not to exceed an additional two years. During this time, it is expected that the expansion of the ODMDS, and development of a new Site Management and Monitoring Plan for the expanded site, will be complete. Through this memorandum, which will serve as an addendum to the 2015 SMMP, the EPA and the USACE are extending the expiration of the current SMMP from April 29, 2019, until such time as the final rulemaking for the proposed expansion of the Mobile ODMDS is completed and goes into effect, or to April 29, 2021, whichever occurs sooner.

The MPRSA Section 102(c)(3), as amended by WRDA 92, sets forth several requirements regarding the content and development of site management plans, as follows:

*(a) A baseline assessment of conditions at the site;*

The initial baseline assessment of the Mobile ODMDS was conducted in 1985, as part of the Environmental Impact Statement process for the establishment of the site. This study included assessment of the physical, chemical, geological, and biological structure of the site, as well as consideration of the impacts of disposal at the ODMDS. More recently, a new baseline study was conducted in 2010 to assess baseline conditions at the proposed expanded Mobile ODMDS. This included further sampling at the existing site.

*(b) A program for monitoring the site;*

Since the initial baseline assessment conducted in 1985, a regular monitoring program examining the physical, chemical, and biological conditions at the site has been in

place. The most recent monitoring of the site was a Status and Trends study conducted in October of 2017. The survey found no significant differences in conditions inside and outside of the Mobile ODMDS, and no significant changes since the previous Status and Trends study conducted in 2009.

- (c) *Special management conditions or practices to be implemented at each site that are necessary for the protection of the environment;*

Based on the results of the most recent monitoring study conducted in 2017, the EPA and USACE found no need to change or alter the management conditions and practices currently in place at the Mobile ODMDS (as described in the current SMMP), as these management conditions and practices are still appropriate.

- (d) *Consideration of the quantity of the material to be disposed of at the site, and the bioavailability of the contaminants in the material;*

Projected volumes and rates of operation and maintenance (O&M) dredged material disposal for existing projects during the next few years, from both Federal and private applicants, are expected to be similar to disposal volumes and rates from previous years. Since 2012, open-water in bay thin-layer disposal of dredged material has been utilized for the disposal of some of the O&M dredged material. This has decreased the average O&M material being disposed of in the Mobile ODMDS from 4,400,000 to 2,900,000 cubic yards annually. However, the Alabama State Port Authority has proposed a project to deepen and widen portions of the Federal Mobile Harbor Navigation project. This proposed project could potentially add an approximate 24,000,000 cubic yards of new work material and an associated increase of 2,000,000 cubic yards in annual O&M material to the amount of sediment being disposed of at the Mobile ODMDS. In the future, further deepening and widening of the Mobile Harbor Navigation project could add a total of approximately 100,000,000 cubic yards of material to the Mobile ODMDS.

All material to be disposed of at the Mobile ODMDS will continue to be tested to the level outlined in Section 103 of the MPRSA, as well as in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 220-228. The suitability of the dredged material for ocean disposal must be verified by the USACE and the EPA prior to disposal.

- (e) *Consideration of the anticipated use of the site over the long term, including the anticipated closure date for the site, if applicable, and any need for management of the site after the closure of the site; and*

The current site does not have the capacity to accommodate the projected amount of material that is expected to be disposed at the Mobile ODMDS during the next ten years. As a result of the proposed Mobile Harbor expansion project, as well as regular new work and O&M needs, the EPA has proposed to expand the current Mobile ODMDS from its current 4.75 square nautical mile (nmi<sup>2</sup>) size to an area of approximately 23.8 nmi<sup>2</sup>. The draft Environmental Assessment and draft SMMP for

the expanded site was provided for public notice and comment on September 24, 2018. The expanded site coordinates and new SMMP would supersede the current site and SMMP when finalized.

In the interim period, remaining site capacity at the current Mobile ODMDS will be closely monitored. The SMMP for the existing Mobile ODMDS outlines several monitoring strategies and thresholds for action, including ensuring a safe navigable depth of the site, which will be implemented if necessary.

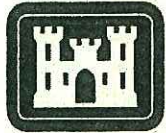
- (f) A schedule for review and revision of the plan (which shall not be reviewed and revised less frequently than 10 years after the adoption of the plan, and every 10 years thereafter).*

The current SMMP was signed on April 30, 2015, and has been in place for approximately four years. Typically, SMMPs are in place for a period of ten years before they are revised. The current SMMP was initially established for a shorter period, in anticipation of the completion of an expansion of the site by April 2019. Pursuant to this memorandum, the SMMP will remain effective until April 29, 2021, or the date an expansion of the ODMDS is effective, whichever occurs sooner. If an expansion of the ODMDS does not occur by April 29, 2021, a revised SMMP for the current Mobile ODMDS will be published before then.

Any questions related to the extension of the current SMMP for the Mobile ODMDS may be addressed to the Site Manager, Ms. Lena Weiss (404-562-9228 or [weiss.lena@epa.gov](mailto:weiss.lena@epa.gov)).

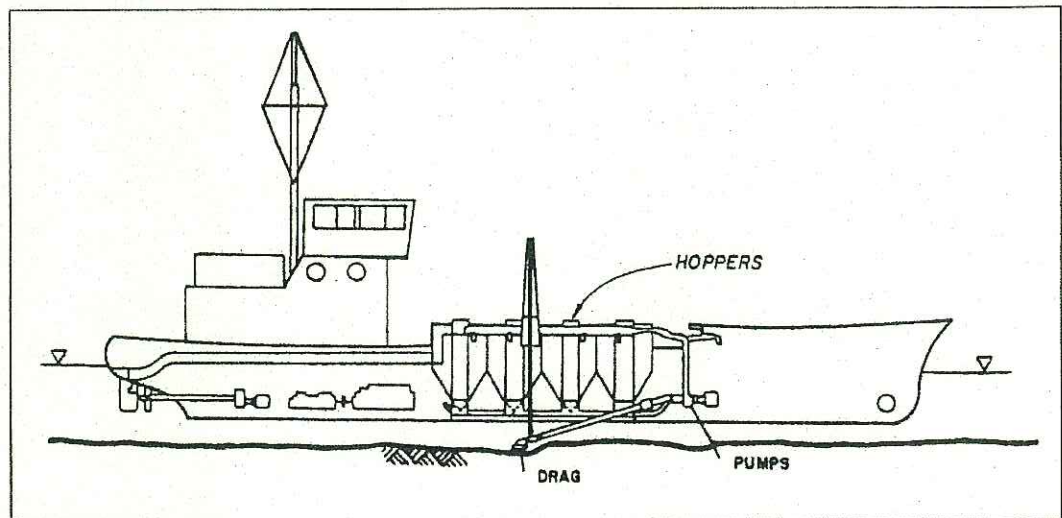
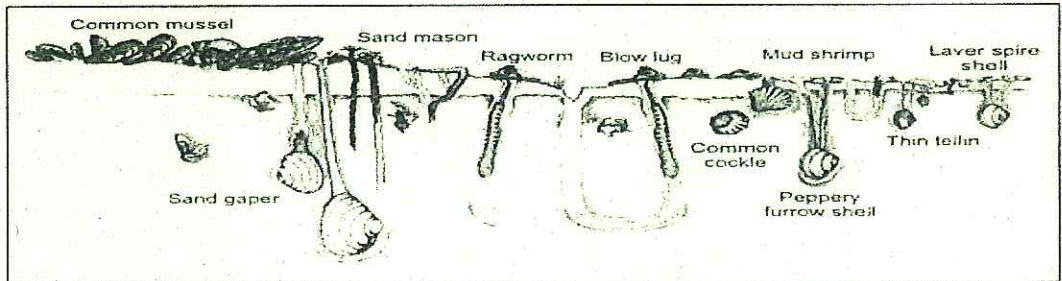
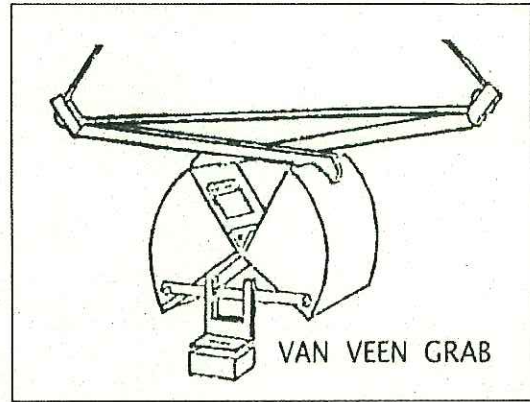
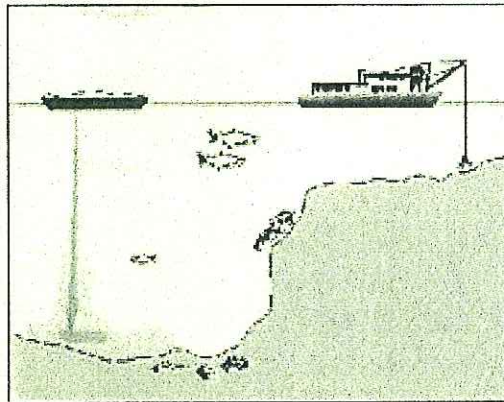


**Mobile**  
**OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE**





U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers

# SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN



The following Site Management and Monitoring Plan for the Mobile QDMDS has been developed pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act Amendments of 1992 (WRDA 92) to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 for the management and monitoring of ocean disposal activities.

 30 APR 15  
Date  
Jon J. Chytko  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander  
Mobile District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mobile, Alabama

 MAE 27 2015  
Date  
Heather McTeer Toney  
Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4  
Atlanta, Georgia

This plan is effective from the date of EPA and USACE signature for a period not to exceed four years.

**MOBILE OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE  
SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN**

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Mobile ODMDs  
Site Management and Monitoring Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is the responsibility of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972 to manage and monitor each of the Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDs) designated by the EPA pursuant to Section 102 of MPRSA. Section 102(c)(3) of the MPRSA requires development of a Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for each ODMD and review and revision of the SMMP not less frequently than every 10 years. The 1996 document, *Guidance Document for Development of Site Management Plans for Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites* (EPA/USACE, 1996) and the EPA Region 4 and USACE South Atlantic Division (SAD) Memorandum of Understanding (EPA/USACE, 2007) have been used as guidance in developing this SMMP.

Specific responsibilities of EPA and the USACE are:

EPA: EPA is responsible for designating/de-designating MPRSA Section 102 ODMDs, for implementing and evaluating environmental effects of disposal dredged material at these sites, and for reviewing and concurring on dredged material suitability determinations.

USACE: The USACE is responsible for evaluating dredged material suitability, issuing MPRSA Section 103 permits, regulating site use, and developing and implementing disposal monitoring programs.

The SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the site. All Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits or contract specifications shall be conditioned as necessary to assure consistency with the SMMP.

2.0 SITE MANAGEMENT

Section 228.3 of the Ocean Dumping Regulations (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."

**2.1 Disposal Site Characteristics**

The designation of the Mobile ODMDS can be found in 40 CFR 228.15(h)(14). Coordinates in the CFR are provided in NAD 27. The Mobile ODMDS is a 4.75 square nautical mile (nmi<sup>2</sup>) area.

Table 1: Site Coordinates

Geographic (NAD 27)	
30°10'00"N	88°07'42"W
30°10'24"N	88°05'12"W
30°09'24"N	88°04'42"W
30°08'30"N	88°05'12"W
30°08'30"N	88°08'12"W

The site (see Figure 1) lies on the shallow continental shelf, 4 nmi offshore Mobile Point, Alabama with an average depth of 14 meters. Physical, chemical, and biological conditions at the ODMDS are described in, "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pensacola, FL, Mobile, AL, and Gulfport, MS Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation." (EPA, 1987)

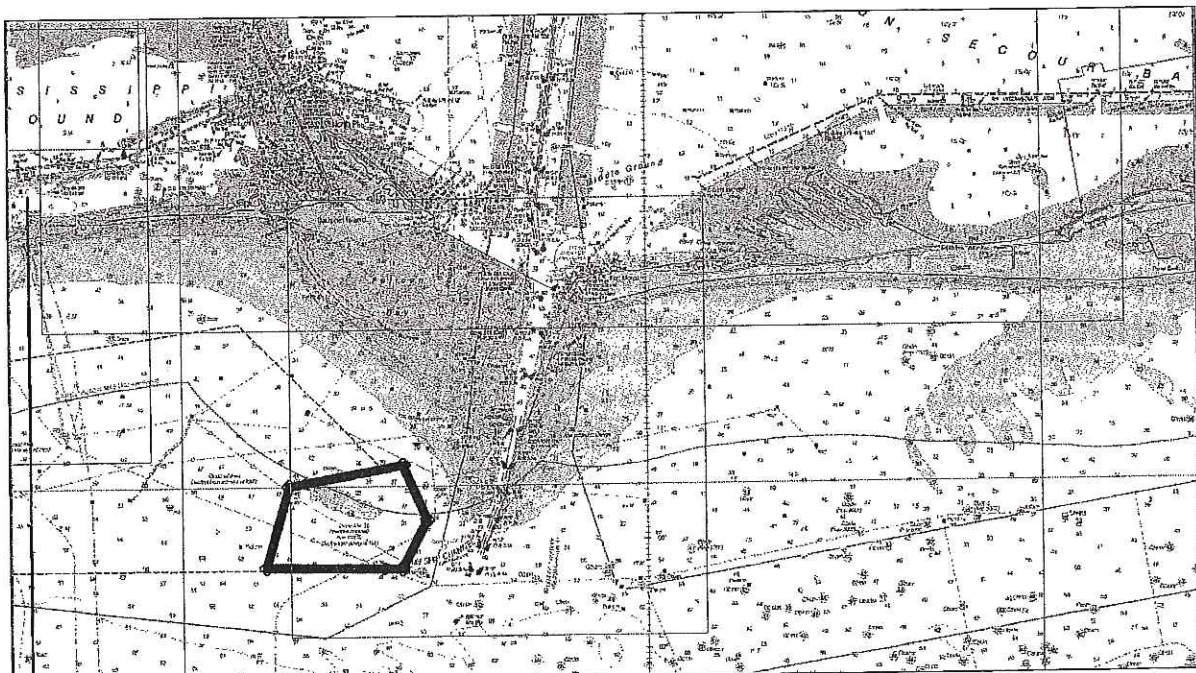


Figure 1: Mobile ODMDS Location Map.

2.2 Management Objectives. Appropriate management of an ODMDS is aimed at assuring that disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, welfare, the marine environment or economic potentialities (MPRSA §103(a)). The primary objectives in the management of these ODMDSs are:

- Protection of the marine environment;
- Documentation of disposal activities and compliance; and
- Maintenance of a long term disposal alternative for dredged material, while encouraging beneficial use where practical.

The following sections provide the framework for meeting these objectives to the extent possible.

2.3 Disposal History and Dredged Material Volumes. Disposal history can be found at the Ocean Disposal Database maintained by the USACE (<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/odd/>). The Mobile ODMDS and the Mobile North ODMDS (selected by the USACE pursuant to Section 103 of the MPRSA) have been used for disposal of 120 million cubic yards since 1987 (USACE, 2014). Currently, the average annual disposal volume is about 4 million cys. The composition of the dredged material is primarily silts and clays. Future volumes and rates of disposal, from both Federal and private applicants, are expected to be similar to previous years. However, this estimate may increase if it is determined feasible to deepen and widen the Federal channel into Mobile Harbor to its currently authorized project dimensions. Also, the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin constructed in 2010 requires annual maintenance dredging of about 425,000 cubic yards per year which may go to the ODMDS (USACE, 2014). The USACE has estimated the remaining capacity of the Mobile ODMDS at 15 million cubic yards based on projected volumes and the remaining capacity the ODMDS has an estimated life of four years (USACE 2014). EPA in cooperation with the Mobile District is in the process of expanding the Mobile ODMDS through preparation of an Environmental Assessment and rulemaking and expects to expand the site within the next four years.

#### 2.4 Dredged Material Characteristics.

2.4.1 Associated Beach Quality Materials. USACE Beneficial Use of Dredged Material EM 1110-2-5026 requires dredged material be maximized within the coastal system. Dredged materials that qualify for beach or near-shore placement per the applicable State standards shall be beneficially placed in such location, to the maximum extent practicable. It is expected that the applicable State will exercise its authority and responsibility, regarding beach nourishment, to the full extent during any future permitting activities. Beneficial use of beach compatible dredged material for beach nourishment is strongly encouraged and supported by EPA. Most sandy material is placed in the Sand Island Beneficial Use Area located due east of the ODMDS (USACE, 2014).

2.4.2 Dredged Material Quality Verification. The suitability of dredged material for ocean disposal must be verified by the USACE and agreed to via written concurrence from EPA prior to disposal. Verification will be valid for three years from the most current verification.

Verification process:

- 1) Case-specific evaluation against the exclusion criteria (40 CFR 227.13(b)).
- 2) Determination of testing requirements for non-excluded material based on the potential of sediment contamination since last verification.
- 3) When applicable, execute testing and determination of suitability of non-excluded material for ocean disposal.

Verification documentation for suitability will be completed prior to use of the ODMDS. Documentation will be in the form of a MPRSA Section 103 Evaluation. Potential testing and the Evaluation will follow the procedures outlined in the 1991 EPA/USACE Dredged Material Testing Manual and 2008 Southeast Regional Implementation Manual (SERIM) or the appropriate updated versions. This includes how dredging projects will be subdivided into project segments for sampling and analysis. The MPRSA Section 103 Evaluation will be in the form outlined in Appendix C of the SERIM. Water Quality Compliance determinations will be made using the STFATE (ADDAMS) model. Only material determined to be suitable and in compliance with the Ocean Dumping Criteria (40 CFR Part 227) through the verification process by the USACE and EPA, Region 4 can be disposed in this ODMDS.

2.5 Time of disposal. At present no restrictions have been determined to be necessary for disposal related to seasonal variations in ocean current or biotic activity at the Mobile ODMDS.

2.6 Disposal Technique. No specific disposal technique is required for the site. In order to protect sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Protected Resources Division requires monitoring according to guidance outlined in the *Regional Biological Opinion for Dredging of Gulf of Mexico Navigation Channels and Sand Mining ("Borrow") Areas Using Hopper Dredges by USACE Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, and Jacksonville Districts* (NMFS, 2003 and amended 2005 & 2007). In addition, standard surveillance and evasive measures to protect sea turtles and marine mammals shall be employed during all disposal operations at the ODMDS.

2.7 Disposal Location. 40 CFR §227.28 requires all disposals to occur at least 330 feet (100 meters) inside any site boundaries. Release zones may be established by the USACE in consultation with EPA at the time of site use for operational reasons or to insure compliance with the Ocean Dumping Criteria (40 CFR Part 227). Disposal shall be initiated within the applicable release zone boundary and completed (i.e. doors closed) prior to leaving the ODMDS boundaries. Placement methods, which prevent mounding of dredged materials from becoming an unacceptable navigation hazard, will be used. Dredged material shall be disposed so that at no point will depths less than -25 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) occur (i.e., a clearance of

25 feet above the bottom will be maintained). The physical removal or leveling of material above -25 feet MLLW is a management alternative should mounds greater than that elevation occur. Disposal shall not occur closer than 1,300 feet to any oil and gas rigs that may be present within the site boundaries.

2.8 Permit and Contract Conditions. The disposal monitoring and post-disposal monitoring requirements described under Site Monitoring will be included as permit conditions on all MPRSA Section 103 permits and will be incorporated in the contract language for all federal projects. A summary of the management and monitoring requirements to be included are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Summary of Permit and Contract Conditions

Condition	Reference
Dredged Material Suitability and Term of Verification	SMMP page 3, Southeast Regional Implementation Manual
Disposal within Appropriate Zones	SMMP page 4
Pre and Post Bathymetric Surveys	SMMP pages 6,8
Disposal Monitoring and Recording of Disposal Locations	SMMP pages 7-8
Reporting Requirements: Disposal Summary Reports within 90 Days of Project Completion	SMMP page 10

2.9 Permit Process. All disposal of dredged material in the ocean, with the exception of Federal Civil Works projects, requires an ocean dumping permit issued by the USACE pursuant to Section 103 of the MPRSA. A summary of the permitting process can be found at: [http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/oceans/Dredged\\_Material\\_Permit\\_Process.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/oceans/Dredged_Material_Permit_Process.htm).

2.10 Information Management of Dredged Material Placement Activities. EPA Region 4 and USACE SAD have agreed on an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) standard for sharing of disposal monitoring data (see also Section 3.5).

### 3.0 SITE MONITORING

The MPRSA establishes the need for including a monitoring program as part of the Site Management Plan. Site monitoring is conducted to ensure the environmental integrity of a disposal site and the areas surrounding the site and to verify compliance with the site designation criteria, any special management conditions, and with permit requirements. Monitoring programs should be flexible, cost effective, and based on scientifically sound procedures and methods to meet site-specific monitoring needs. The intent of the program is to provide the following:

- (1) Information indicating whether the disposal activities are occurring in compliance with the permit and site restrictions;
- (2) Information indicating the short-term and long-term fate of materials disposed of in the marine environment.
- (3) Information concerning the short-term and long-term environmental impacts of the disposal.

The main purpose of a disposal site monitoring program is to determine whether dredged material site management practices, including disposal operations at the site, need to be changed to avoid significant adverse impacts.

**3.1 Baseline Monitoring.** The results of investigations presented in the designation EIS (EPA, 1987) and subsequent surveys listed in Table 3 will serve as the main body of data for the monitoring of the impacts associated with the use of the Mobile ODMDS. A bathymetric survey will be conducted by the USACE or site user within three (3) months prior to project disposal for projects expected to exceed 50,000 cubic yards. Bathymetric surveys will be used to monitor the disposal mound to insure a navigation hazard is not produced, to assist in verification of material placement, to monitor bathymetry changes and trends and to insure that the site capacity is not exceeded, i.e., the mound does not exceed the site boundaries. Surveys will conform to the minimum performance standards for Corps of Engineers Hydrographic Surveys as described in the USACE Engineering Manual, EM1110-2-1003, Hydrographic Surveying dated November 30, 2013 [[http://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerManuals/EM\\_1110-2-1003.pdf](http://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerManuals/EM_1110-2-1003.pdf)] or updates. The number and length of transects required will be sufficient to encompass the release zone and a 500 foot-wide area around it. The surveys will be taken along lines spaced at 500-foot intervals or less. The minimum performance standards from Table 3-1 in Hydrographic Surveying shall be followed. Horizontal location of the survey lines and depth sounding points will be determined by an automated positioning system utilizing a differential global positioning system. The vertical datum will be referenced to prescribed NOAA Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) datum. The horizontal datum should be referenced to the local State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) for that area or in Geographical Coordinates (latitude-longitude). The horizontal reference datum should be the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). No additional pre-disposal monitoring is required.

**Table 3. Surveys and Studies Conducted at or in the vicinity of the Mobile ODMDS**

Survey/Study Title	Conducted By:	Date	Purpose	Results
<i>Analysis &amp; Synthesis of Oceanic Conditions in the Mississippi Sound Offshore Region</i>	USACE	March 1984	Determine the direction and amount of sediment transport from a dredged material disposal site.	Circulation patterns within the site are controlled by astronomical tides, winds, and freshwater discharges.
Sediment Mapping	UGA Center for Applied Isotopes for EPA	2002	Characterization of bottom sediments using gamma spectrometry	- Baseline Survey
Mobile ODMDS Expansion Survey	USACE/EPA	May 2010	Collect physical, chemical and biological data on sediments and water	- Collected and analyzed 30 sediment and 10 water samples covering entire ODMDS
Mobile ODMDS Post Oil Spill Sediment Sampling	USACE	December 2010	Determine if any oil from the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill has contaminated the sediments.	- Test results released February 2011 indicate there were no discernible changes in the sediment quality attributed to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
Bathymetric Survey	USACE	Before and After Event	Monitor bathymetry changes	- Safe navigation depths have been maintained

**3.2 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  $\pm 0.1$  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 Dredging 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 on a weekly basis (within one week of disposal) utilizing the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) specification and protocol per Section 3.5. EPA Region 4 and the USACE District shall be notified within 24 hours if disposal occurs outside of the ODMDS or specified disposal zone or if excessive leakage occurs.

3.3 Post Discharge Monitoring. The USACE or other site user will conduct a bathymetric survey consistent with the pre-disposal survey requirements within 30 days after disposal project completion. Surveys will not be required for projects less than 50,000 cubic yards. If a release zone is utilized and adhered to, the number and length of the transects required will be sufficient to encompass the release zone and a 500 foot wide area around it. Bathymetric surveys will be used to monitor the disposal mound to insure a navigation hazard is not produced, to assist in verification of material placement, to monitor bathymetry changes and trends and to insure that the site capacity is not exceeded, i.e., the mound does not exceed the site boundaries.

3.4 Disposal Effects Monitoring. Based on the type and volume of material disposed and impacts of concern, various monitoring surveys can be used to examine if and the direction the disposed dredged material is moving, and what environmental effect the material is having on the site and adjacent areas. At the current time, no nearby biological resources have been identified that are of concern for potential impact. The Mobile ODMDS is at least one nautical mile from all known fish havens, artificial reefs, and fishing areas. The site has been characterized as dispersive. This means that it is expected that material will be moved outside the site boundaries. It is also expected that this material will not move in distinct mounds, but instead will blend with the surrounding environment causing a progressive transition to sediments containing a higher percentage of silt and clay. Changes in sediment composition will likely alter the benthic community structure. However, based on previous benthic studies, it is unlikely that permanent or long-term adverse impacts will result due to changes in sediment composition. At a minimum, a Trend Assessment Survey (40 CFR 228.13) will be conducted approximately every ten years.



Table 4. Site Monitoring Strategies and Thresholds for Action

Goal	Technique	Sponsor	Rationale	Frequency	Threshold for Action	Management Options	
						Threshold Not Exceeded	Threshold Exceeded
Trend Assessment	Water and Sediment Quality, Benthic Community Analysis (40CFR228.13)	U.S. EPA	Periodically evaluate the impact of disposal on the marine environment (40CFR 228.9)	Approximately every 10 years	-Absence from the site of pollution sensitive biota -Progressive non-seasonal changes in water or sediment quality	Continue Monitoring per site specific SMMP	-Conduct Environmental Effects Monitoring or Advanced Environmental Effects Monitoring per site specific SMMP. -Review dredged material evaluation procedures
Insure Safe Navigation Depth & Monitor Bathymetric Trends	Bathymetry	Site User	Determine height of mound and any excessive mounding	Pre & Post disposal for projects greater than 50,000 cy	Mound height > -30 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) Mound height > -25 feet MLLW	Continue Monitoring	-Modify future disposal method/placement -Restrict disposal volumes - Physically level material
Compliance	Disposal Site Use Records in EPA Region 4's XML format	Site User	-Insure management requirements are being met -To assist in site monitoring	Report weekly during the project	Disposal records required by SMMP are not submitted or are incomplete	Continue Monitoring	-Restrict site use until requirements are met

### 3.5 Reporting and Data Formatting.

3.5.1 Project Initiation and Violation Reporting. The USACE or other site user shall notify EPA 15 days prior to the beginning of a dredging cycle or project disposal. The user is also required to notify the USACE and the EPA within 24 hours if a violation of the permit and/or contract conditions related to MPRSA Section 103 or SMMP requirements occur during disposal operations.

3.5.2 Disposal Monitoring Data. 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 data shall be provided to EPA Region 4 electronically on a weekly basis (within one week of disposal event). Data shall be provided per the EPA Region 4 XML format and delivered as an attachment to an email to [DisposalData.R4@epa.gov](mailto:DisposalData.R4@epa.gov). The XML format is available from EPA Region 4.

3.5.3 Post Disposal Summary Reports. A Post Disposal Summary Report shall be provided to EPA within 90 days after project completion. These reports should include: dredging project title; permit number and expiration date (if applicable); contract number; name of contractor(s) conducting the work, name and type of vessel(s) disposing material in the ODMDS; disposal timeframes for each vessel; volume disposed at the ODMDS (total paid and un paid *in situ* volume, and gross volume reported by dredging contractor in the disposal logs), number of loads to ODMDS, type of material disposed at the ODMDS; identification by load number of any misplaced material; dates of pre and post disposal bathymetric surveys of the ODMDS and a narrative discussing any violation(s) of the 103 concurrency and/or permit (if applicable). The narrative should include a description of the violation, indicate the time it occurred and when it was reported to the EPA and USACE, discuss the circumstances surrounding the violation, and identify specific measures taken to prevent reoccurrence. The Post Disposal Summary Report should be accompanied by the bathymetry survey results (plot and X,Y,Z ASCII data file), a summary scatter plot of all disposal start locations, and a summary table of the trip information required by Section 3.2 with the exception of the disposal completion data. If all data is provided in the required XML format, scatter plots and summary tables will not be necessary.

3.5.4 Environmental Monitoring. Disposal effects monitoring shall be coordinated with and be provided to appropriate federal and state agencies as specified in the site specific SMMP to be developed. Reports prepared by or for EPA will be posted to EPA's website at: <http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/oceans/sites.html> or alternative EPA website.

## 4.0 MODIFICATION OF THE MOBILE ODMDS SMMP

This SMMP will be effective for four years from the date of signature. It is expected that EPA will expand the Mobile ODMDS within four years and a new SMMP will be developed for the

expanded ODMDS and supersede this SMMP.

## 5.0 REFERENCES

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). 2002. *Engineering & Design - Hydrographic Surveying*. Engineering Manual 1110-2-1003, Department of the Army, Washington D.C.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division, 2008. *Southeast Regional Implementation Manual Requirements and Procedures for Evaluation of the Ocean Disposal of Dredged Material in Southeastern Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Waters*, August 2008.

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## APPENDIX A

# WATER COLUMN EVALUATIONS NUMERICAL MODEL (STFATE) INPUT PARAMETERS

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Water Column Evaluations  
Numerical Model (STFATE) Input Parameters  
Mobile ODMDS

**SITE DESCRIPTION**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Units</b>
Number of Grid Points (left to right)	80	
Number of Grid Points (top to bottom)	80	
Spacing Between Grid Points (left to right)	250	ft
Spacing Between Grid Points (top to bottom)	250	ft
Constant Water Depth	46	ft
Roughness Height at Bottom of Disposal Site	.005 <sup>1</sup>	ft
Slope of Bottom in X-Direction	0	Deg.
Slope of Bottom in Z-Direction	0	Deg.
Number of Points in Ambient Density Profile Point <sup>1</sup>	3	
Ambient Density at Depth = 3 ft	1.0206	g/cc
Ambient Density at Depth = 26 ft	1.0206	g/cc
Ambient Density at Depth = 46 ft	1.0207	g/cc

<sup>1</sup> from EPA Mobile ODMDS Designation Survey Report (2009) for Zone A

**AMBIENT VELOCITY DATA**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Units</b>
Profile <sup>2</sup>	2-Point at constant depth	
X-Direction Velocity = 11 feet	0.12	ft/sec
Z-Direction Velocity = 11 feet	-0.41	ft/sec
X-Direction Velocity = 33 feet	0.22	ft/sec
Z-Direction Velocity = 33 feet	-0.37	ft/sec

<sup>2</sup> from EPA Mobile ODMDS Designation Survey Report (2009)

**DISPOSAL OPERATION DATA**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Units</b>
Location of Disposal Point from Top of Grid	10,000	ft
Location of Disposal Point from Left Edge of Grid	10,000	ft
Dumping Over Depression	0	



**INPUT, EXECUTION AND OUTPUT**

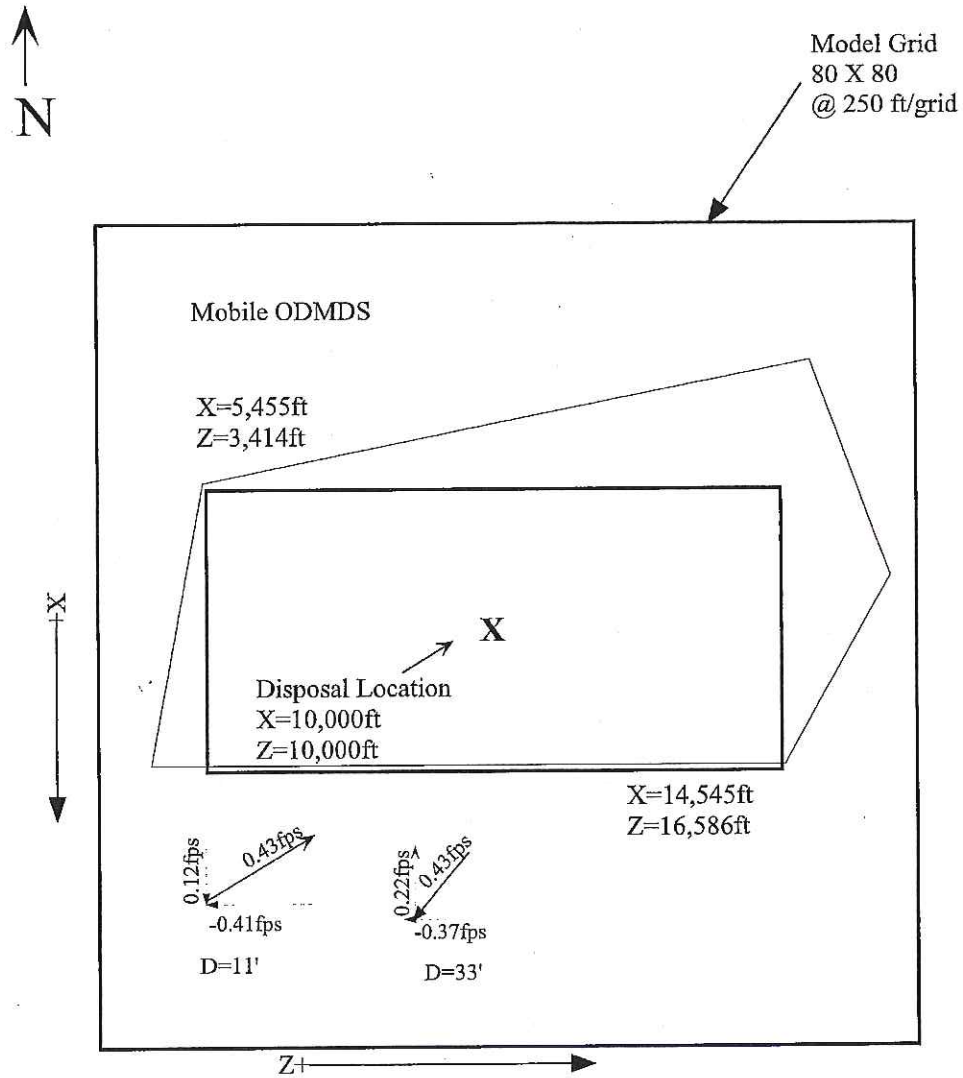
<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Units</b>
Location of the Upper Left Corner of the Disposal Site - Distance from Top Edge	5,455	ft
Location of the Upper Left Corner of the Disposal Site - Distance from Left Edge	3,414	ft
Location of the Lower Right Corner of the Disposal Site - Distance from Top Edge	14,545	ft
Location of the Lower Right Corner of the Disposal Site - Distance from Left Edge	16,586	ft
Duration of Simulation	14,400	sec
Long Term Time Step	600	sec

**COEFFICIENTS**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Keyword</b>	<b>Value</b>
Settling Coefficient	BETA	0.000 <sup>1</sup>
Apparant Mass Coefficient	CM	1.000 <sup>1</sup>
Drag Coefficient	CD	0.500 <sup>1</sup>
Form Drag for Collapsing Cloud	CDRAG	1.000 <sup>1</sup>
Skin Friction for Collapsing Cloud	CFRIC	0.010 <sup>1</sup>
Drag for an Ellipsoidal Wedge	CD3	0.100 <sup>1</sup>
Drag for a Plate	CD4	1.000 <sup>1</sup>
Friction Between Cloud and Bottom	FRICTN	0.010 <sup>1</sup>
4/3 Law Horizontal Diffusion Dissipation Factor	ALAMDA	0.001 <sup>1</sup>
Unstratified Water Vertical Diffusion Coefficient	AKYO	Pritchard Expression
Cloud/Ambient Density Gradient Ratio	GAMA	0.250 <sup>1</sup>
Turbulent Thermal Entrainment	ALPHAO	0.235 <sup>1</sup>
Entrainment in Collapse	ALPHAC	0.100 <sup>1</sup>
Stripping Factor	CSTRIP	0.003 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Model Default Value

# Mobile ODMDS STFATE Input Parameters



<b>Mobile ODMDS Background Water Concentration.</b>	
<b>Chemicals of Concern</b>	<b>Background Concentration Levels (µg/l)</b>
Arsenic	1.66 <sup>1</sup>
Cadmium	0.01 <sup>1</sup>
Chromium (VI)	0.75 <sup>1</sup>
Copper	1.11 <sup>1</sup>
Lead	0.75 <sup>1</sup>
Mercury	0.10 <sup>1,3</sup>
Nickel	0.75 <sup>1</sup>
Selenium	0.23 <sup>1</sup>
Silver	0.005 <sup>1</sup>
Zinc	3.78 <sup>1</sup>
Cyanide	
Tributyltin (TBT)	0.025 <sup>2,3</sup>
Aldrin	0.005 <sup>1,3</sup>
Chlordane	0.10 <sup>1,3</sup>
DDT	0.05 <sup>1,3</sup>
Dieldrin	0.005 <sup>1,3</sup>
alpha - Endosulfan	0.005 <sup>1,3</sup>
beta - Endosulfan	0.005 <sup>1,3</sup>
Endrin	0.005 <sup>1,3</sup>
gamma-BHC (Lindane)	0.005 <sup>1,3</sup>
Heptachlor	0.005 <sup>1,3</sup>
Heptachlor Epoxide	0.005 <sup>1,3</sup>
Toxaphene	.25 <sup>1,3</sup>
Pentachlorophenol	5.0 <sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mobile ODMDS Site Designation Study (2010)

<sup>2</sup> Pensacola ODMDS Trend Assessment Study (2013)

<sup>3</sup> Analyte not detected. Value based on one half the reporting limit.

**APPENDIX B**

**TEMPLATE**  
**For**  
**MPRSA Section 103 Permits**

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**TEMPLATE  
GENERIC SPECIAL CONDITIONS  
FOR MPRSA SECTION 103 PERMITS  
Mobile-North ODMDS**

I. DISPOSAL OPERATIONS

A. For this permit, the term disposal operations shall mean: navigation of any vessel used in disposal of operations, transportation of dredged material from the dredging site to the Mobile ODMDS, proper disposal of dredged material at the disposal area within the Mobile ODMDS, and transportation of the hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow back to the dredging site.

B. The Mobile ODMDS is defined as the polygon with corner coordinates as follows:

Site Coordinates

Geographic (NAD 27)	
30°10'00"N	88°07'42"W
30°10'24"N	88°05'12"W
30°09'24"N	88°04'42"W
30°08'30"N	88°05'12"W
30°08'30"N	88°08'12"W

C. No more than [NUMBER] cubic yards of dredged material excavated at the location defined in [REFERENCE LOCATION IN PERMIT] are authorized for disposal at the Mobile ODMDS.

D. The permittee shall use an electronic positioning system to navigate to and from the Mobile ODMDS. For this section of the permit, the electronic positioning system will be as per the DQM specifications. If the electronic positioning system fails or navigation problems are detected, all disposal operations shall cease until the failure or navigation problems are corrected.

E. The permittee shall certify the accuracy of the electronic positioning system proposed for use during disposal operations at the Mobile ODMDS. The certification shall be accomplished by providing current certification documentation from the National DQM Program for scow and hopper dredge

instrumentation systems. The National DQM certification is valid for one year from the date of certification.

F. The permittee shall not allow any water or dredged material placed in a hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow to flow over the sides or leak from such vessels during transportation to the Mobile ODMDS.

G. A disposal operations inspector and/or captain of any tugboat, hopper dredge or other vessel used to transport dredged material to the Mobile ODMDS shall insure compliance with disposal operation conditions defined in this permit.

1. If the disposal operations inspector or the captain detects a violation, he shall report the violation to the permittee immediately.

2. The permittee shall contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District's Regulatory Branch (251) 690-2658 and EPA Region 4 at (404) 562-9395 to report the violation within twenty-four (24) hours after the violation occurs. A complete written explanation of any permit violation shall be included in the post-dredging report.

H. When dredged material is disposed, no portion of the hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow shall be outside of the boundaries of the Mobile ODMDS as defined in Special Condition B. Additionally, disposal shall occur within a specified disposal zone defined as [DEFINE COORDINATES AND SIZE OF DISPOSAL ZONE]. Disposal shall not occur closer than 1,300 feet to any oil and gas rigs that may be present within the site boundaries.

I. The permittee shall use an automated disposal verification system that is certified by the National DQM program to continuously track the horizontal location and draft condition of the disposal vessel (hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow) to and from the Mobile ODMDS. This real-time information is available on-line to the Mobile District and will be provided to the EPA Region 4 via email using the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) specification and protocol. Data shall be provided per the EPA Region 4 XML format and delivered as an attachment to an email to [DisposalData.R4@epa.gov](mailto:DisposalData.R4@epa.gov). The XML format is available from EPA Region 4.

J. The permittee shall conduct a bathymetric survey of the Mobile ODMDS within 30 days following project completion.

1. The number and length of the survey transects shall be sufficient to encompass the defined disposal zone within the Mobile ODMDS and a 500 foot wide area around the disposal zone. The transects shall be spaced at 500-foot intervals or less with a depth recording density of 20 to 70 feet.

2. Vertical accuracy of the survey shall be  $\pm 0.1$  feet. Horizontal location of the survey lines and depth sounding points will be determined by an automated positioning system utilizing either microwave line of site system or differential global positioning system. The vertical datum will be referenced to prescribed NOAA Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) datum. MLLW is 1.8 feet below NGVD 1929. The horizontal datum will be Alabama State Plane (zone 2301 MS East) or Geographic (NAD 1983). State Plane coordinates shall be reported to the nearest 0.10 foot and latitude and longitude coordinates shall be reported as degrees and decimal minutes to the nearest 0.01 minutes.

K. The permittee has read and agrees to assure that they are in compliance with the requirements of the Mobile ODMDS Site Management and Monitoring Plan.

## II. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. The permittee shall send the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District's Regulatory Branch and EPA Region 4's Wetlands, Oceans and Streams Protection Branch (61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, GA 30303) a notification of commencement of work at least fifteen (15) days before initiation of any dredging operations authorized by this permit.

B. The permittee shall submit to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers weekly disposal monitoring reports. These reports shall contain the information described in Special Condition I.1.

C. The permittee shall develop and send one (1) copy of the disposal summary report to the Mobile District's Regulatory Branch and one (1) copy of the disposal summary report to EPA Region 4 documenting compliance with all general and special conditions defined in this permit. The disposal summary report shall be sent within 90 days after completion of the disposal operations authorized by this permit. The disposal summary report shall include the following information:

1. The report shall indicate whether all general and special permit conditions were met. Any violations of the permit shall be explained in detail.

2. The disposal summary report shall include the following information: USACE permit number, actual start date and completion date of dredging and disposal operations, total cubic yards disposed at the Mobile ODMDS, locations of disposal events, and post disposal bathymetric survey results (in hard and electronic formats).



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## APPENDIX C

# TYPICAL CONTRACT LANGUAGE FOR IMPEMENTING THE MOBILE ODMDS SMMP REQUIREMENTS

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TYPICAL CONTRACT LANGUAGE FOR IMPEMENTING SMMP  
REQUIREMENTS

3.3 DISPOSAL OF DREDGED MATERIAL

3.3.1 General

All material dredged shall be transported to and deposited in the disposal area(s) designated on the drawings. The approximate maximum and average distance to which the material will have to be transported are as follows:

Disposal Area	Maximum Distance Statute Miles	Average Distance Statute Miles
---------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Mobile ODMDS

[INSERT DISPOSAL AREA 2]	[XX miles]	[XX miles]
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[IF MATERIAL FROM DIFFERENT PROJECT AREAS GO TO DIFFERENT  
DISOSAL AREAS, IT COULD BE SPECIFIED HERE]

3.3.2 Ocean Disposal Notification

- a. The contractor shall notify EPA Region 4 's Wetlands, Oceans and Streams Protection Branch (61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, GA 30303) at least 15 calendar days and the local Coast Guard Captain of the Port at least 5 calendar days prior to the first ocean disposal. The notification will be by certified mail with a copy to the Contracting Officer. The following information shall be included in the notification:
  - (1) Project designation; Corps of Engineers' Contracting Officer's name and contract number; and, the Contractor's name, address, and telephone number.
  - (2) Port of departure.
  - (3) Location of ocean disposal area (and disposal zone if required).
  - (4) Schedule for ocean disposal, giving date and time proposed for first ocean disposal.

3.3.3 Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS)

The material excavated shall be transported to and deposited in the Mobile ODMDS shown on the drawings. When dredged material is disposed, no portion of the hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow shall be outside of the boundaries of the Mobile ODMDS as shown on the drawings. Additionally, disposal shall be initiated within the disposal release zone defined by the following coordinates:

[insert coordinates for appropriate release zone]

Vertices	Geographic NAD 83		State Plane NAD 83	
Center				
North				
West				
South				
East				

### 3.3.4 Logs

The Contractor shall keep a log for each load placed in the Mobile ODMDS. The log entry for each load shall include:

- 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

At the completion of dredging and at any time upon request, the log(s) shall be submitted in paper and electronic formats to the Contracting Officer for forwarding to the appropriate agencies.

### 3.3.5 Overflow, Spills and Leaks

Water and dredged materials shall not be permitted to overflow or spill out of barges, hopper dredges, or dump scows during transport to the disposal site(s). Failure to repair leaks or change the method of operation which is resulting in overflow of spillage will result in suspension of dredging operations and require prompt repair or change of operation to prevent overflow or spillage as a prerequisite to the resumption of dredging.

### 3.3.6 Electronic Tracking System (ETS) for Ocean Disposal Vessels

The Contractor shall furnish an ETS for surveillance of the movement and disposition of dredged material during dredging and ocean disposal. This ETS shall be established, operated and maintained by the Contractor to continuously track in real-time the horizontal location and draft condition of the disposal vessel (hopper dredge or disposal barge or scow) for the entire dredging cycle, including dredging area and disposal area. The ETS shall be capable of displaying and recording in real-time the disposal vessel's draft and location.

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[FOR DQM PROJECTS]

See: <http://dqm.usace.army.mil/Specifications/Index.aspx>

For scows, the monitoring profile, TDS profile or Ullage profile shall be used.

#### 3.3.6.1 Misplaced Materials

Materials deposited outside of the disposal zone specified in 3.3.3 will be classified as misplaced material and will result in a suspension of dredging operations. Redredging of such materials will be required as a prerequisite to the resumption of dredging unless the Contracting Officer, at his discretion, determines that redredging of such material is not practical. If redredging of such material is not required then the quantity of such misplaced material shall be deducted from the Contractor's pay quantity. If the quantity for each misplaced load to be deducted cannot initially be agreed to by both the Contractor and Contracting Officer, then an average hopper/scow load quantity for the entire contract will be used in the determination. Misplaced loads may also be subject to penalty under the Marine, Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. Materials deposited above the maximum indicated elevation or outside of the disposal area template shown will require the redredging or removal of such materials at the Contractor's expense. In addition, the Contractor must notify the Contracting Officer and the Environmental Protection Agency Region 4's Wetlands, Oceans and Streams Protection Branch (61 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, GA 30303) within 24 hours of a misplaced dump or any other violation of the Site Management and Monitoring Plan for the Mobile ODMDS. Corrective actions must be implemented by the next dump and the Contracting Officer must be informed of actions taken.