

## **JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CHARLESTON DISTRICT  
69A HAGOOD AVENUE  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107**

**and**

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303**

CESAC-PM-PL

June 26, 2013

### **DISPOSAL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLANS FOR ALL SOUTHEASTERN OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, South Atlantic Division (USACE), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, are proposing to modify the disposal monitoring requirements for all Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS) within the Southeastern United States. Currently, disposal monitoring requirements are specified within each ODMDS's Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP). The USACE and EPA are proposing to modify all SMMPs to include the below described requirements. Comments on this proposed change to the SMMPs are requested from interested parties.

Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of EPA and USACE to monitor and manage ocean dredged material disposal sites to ensure that ocean dredged material disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires the development and periodic review and revision of a site management and monitoring plan (SMMP) for each ODMDS. Following an opportunity for public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the site. All Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits or approvals shall be conditioned as necessary to ensure consistency with the SMMP.

Section 228.3 of the EPA's Ocean Dumping Regulations and Criteria (40 CFR 220-229) states: "Management of a site consists of regulating times, rates, and methods of disposal and quantities and types of materials disposed of; developing and maintaining effective ambient monitoring programs for the site; conducting disposal site evaluation studies; and recommending

modifications in site use and/or designation." Each ODMDS SMMP specifies the requirements for monitoring and reporting disposal activities at the ODMDS. Under this proposal, all SMMPs will be modified to have consistent monitoring as described below:

*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 (nearest 0.5 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 500 feet during travel to and from the ODMDS and every minute or every 200 feet of travel, whichever is smaller, while approaching within 1,000 feet of the ODMDS and 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 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 and ETS data will be reported to EPA Region 4 utilizing the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) specification and protocol.

Reporting frequency will continue to be specified within each individual SMMP. The ODMDSs affected by this change are listed at: <http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/oceans/sites.html>

We request that you provide comments in writing and within 30 days of the date of this notice to either of the following:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
South Atlantic Division  
(Attn.: Dylan Davis)  
60 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Telephone: (404) 562-5130  
Email: Richard.d.davis@usace.army.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4  
(Attn.: Christopher McArthur, Wetlands &  
Marine Regulatory Section)  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
Telephone: (404) 562-9391  
Email: mcarthur.christopher@epa.gov