

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed for your review and comment the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for designation of an Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) offshore Jacksonville, Florida. This document is being circulated to agencies and the public for a 45-day comment period.

The DEIS was prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District. The DEIS provides the information necessary to evaluate the need for and alternatives to the designation of a new ODMDS or expansion of the existing Jacksonville ODMDS pursuant to Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. The DEIS identifies two preferred alternatives. Alternative 1 consists of expansion of the existing ODMDS to the south and east. Alternative 2 consists of designation of a new ODMDS south of the existing ODMDS. A final preferred alternative will be selected in the Final EIS based on agency and public input. The purpose of the ODMDS is to accommodate disposal of dredged material generated over the next 50 years from the Jacksonville Harbor Navigation Project, Naval Station Mayport and the proposed Jacksonville Harbor Deepening Project. All dredged material must meet the environmental criteria established in the EPA's Ocean Dumping Regulations. The DEIS contains a draft Site Management and Monitoring Plans (Appendix F) for each alternative site. In addition, the DEIS contains a Biological Assessment (Appendix C) in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and an Essential Fish Habitat Assessment (Appendix D) in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Comments on the DEIS (including the draft SMMP) must be received by the EPA at the address below by _____ or 45 days after publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register.

U.S. EPA, Region 4
ATTN: Ms. Jennifer S. Derby, Chief
Wetlands and Marine Regulatory Section
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Christopher McArthur at (404) 562-9391 or mcArthur.christopher@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Gwendolyn Keyes Fleming
Regional Administrator



Enclosure