

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**NAVAL STATION MAYPORT XL/ENVVEST FINAL PROJECT AGREEMENT  
May 2005**

Project Summary: To maintain adequate depths for naval ships, Naval Station Mayport (NS Mayport), in Jacksonville, Florida, must dredge 600,000 cubic yards of sediment, every 18-24 months from the entrance channel of the St. Johns River and the facility's turning basin (where the ships are anchored). Historically, dredged material was placed in upland disposal sites on base. In the mid-1990's these upland sites were at capacity and the Naval Station began using the EPA designated Jacksonville Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS). The Navy is now the primary user of the Jacksonville ODMDS. In an effort to eliminate ocean disposal, NS Mayport asked EPA, under the XL/ENWEST Program, to create a partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the City of Jacksonville that would streamline the permitting process for dredging and ocean disposal. NS Mayport proposed to investigate and demonstrate the beneficial re-use of dredged material by using it to produce construction blocks and artificial reef material. The goal would be to ultimately eliminate the need for ocean disposal of the dredged material. The NS Mayport, Final Project Agreement (FPA), was signed on May 30, 2000.

Regulatory Flexibility: EPA and COE share responsibility for managing ocean disposal of dredged materials in ocean waters under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA). In order for NS Mayport to dredge its entrance channel and turning basin, and dispose of the material into the ocean, it is required to obtain two permits from the COE: a Section 10 permit for dredging and a Section 103 permit for ocean disposal (COE 103 permits are subject to EPA concurrence). NS Mayport is also required to obtain an Environmental Resource Permit from Florida DEP. This creates a confusing process during the permits renewal and public comment periods. Through Project XL, NS Mayport desired to synchronize the dredging and ocean disposal permitting process. The synchronized permitting process is outlined in the FPA as follows:

Date	Event	Action Required
2001	Section 10 Permit, Section 103 Permit, & ERP Issuance	Dredged Material Evaluation (Tiers I-III) & Water Column Analysis for ERP
2004	Section 103 Permit Extension	Tier I Review
2006	Section 103 Permit Issuance	Dredged Material Evaluation (including confirmatory analysis)
2009	Section 103 Permit Extension	Tier I Review
2011	Section 10 Permit, Section 103 Permit, & ERP Issuance	Dredged Material Evaluation (Tiers I-III) & Water Column Analysis for ERP

Status: The initial permit under the FPA was issued in September of 2002 following complete testing (Tiers I-III, including bioassays and bioaccumulation studies) of the dredged material. NS Mayport has applied for the extension and are in the process of developing the Tier I Review. NS Mayport initiated a the pilot study for beneficial re-use of dredged material with the assistance of

the Corps of Engineers Engineering Research Development Center (ERDC) in January of 2002. This initial pilot was unsuccessful and NS Mayport is re-initiating a study with the assistance of Shaw Environmental. NS Mayport has also conducted additional sampling of the material within the upland disposal sites to better characterize the chemical and physical characteristics of the material.

Ocean Disposal in Northeast Florida, the U.S. Navy, and Relationships to the OSV Bold

EPA Region 4 manages two ODMDS offshore northeast Florida, the Jacksonville ODMDS and the Fernandina Beach ODMDS. The Jacksonville ODMDS primarily serves the NS Mayport, however, due to limited upland disposal site capacity additional future use from maintenance and deepening of the St. Johns River is expected. Additionally, potential expansion of the NS Mayport facility would likely require expansion of the Jacksonville ODMDS. The Fernandina Beach ODMDS primarily serves the Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay (NSBKB). Approximately 600,000 cubic yards of dredged material is disposed in the Fernandina Beach ODMDS each year from maintenance of the St. Mary's River entrance channel utilized by the submarines.

The respective Site Management and Monitoring Plans (SMMP) for the Jacksonville and Fernandina Beach ODMDSs outline monitoring strategies for each site. A status and trends survey was to be conducted at the Fernandina Beach ODMDS, but has been delayed pending the availability of the OSV Bold. EPA Region 4 will utilize the OSV Bold this summer to characterize the water column and benthos including the status of the benthic communities at the site. This will be the first status and trends survey of the ODMDS since 1989. The Jacksonville ODMDS was monitored extensively in the late 1990's by the OSV Anderson. The Jacksonville ODMDS SMMP recommends a capacity study of the ODMDS prior to any increase in disposal volumes such as would be required for NS Mayport expansion or expanded use for St. John's river maintenance material. Significant mounding is already beginning to occur within the ODMS. EPA Region 4 plans for the initiation of the capacity study this year with the deployment and maintenance of a current and wave sensor at the Jacksonville ODMDS. The initial instrument deployment requires a vessel capable of deploying a 1,500lb concrete instrument base. EPA Region 4 plans on utilizing the OSV Bold for that deployment this summer.