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(<http://www.epa.gov>)
Project XL/ENVVEST: Naval Station Mayport

WHAT IS PROJECT XL?

Project XL, which stands for "eXcellence and Leadership," is a national initiative that tests innovative ways of achieving better and more cost-effective public health and environmental protection. The information and lessons learned from Project XL are being used to assist the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in redesigning its current regulatory and policy-setting approaches. Project XL encourages testing of cleaner, cheaper, and smarter ways to attain environmental results superior to those achieved under current regulations and policies, in conjunction with greater accountability to stakeholders. It is vital that each project tests new ideas with the potential for wide application and broad environmental benefits. As of May 2000, twenty-five pilot experiments are being implemented and approximately thirty additional projects are in various stages of development.

WHAT IS ENVVEST?

In 1995, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between EPA and the Department of Defense (DoD) was initiated to provide a framework for the development of regulatory reinvention pilot projects at DoD facilities. This program is commonly known as ENVVEST (for Environmental Reinvestment). This initiative offers DoD facilities a tremendous opportunity to think "outside the box" of the current system and to find solutions to obstacles that limit environmental performance. Additionally, military facilities, through a unique aspect of the ENVVEST initiative, can reprogram funds to finance the implementation of pilot projects. DoD and EPA outlined the Agreement to reflect Project XL requirements.

SUMMARY OF THE NAVAL STATION MAYPORT PROJECT

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). Currently, this material is disposed into the ocean. In an effort to eliminate ocean disposal, NS Mayport is asking EPA, under the XL/ENVVEST 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 is proposing to investigate and demonstrate the beneficial re-use of dredged material by using it to produce construction blocks and artificial reef material. This would ultimately eliminate the need for ocean disposal of the dredged material. NS Mayport is also proposing to use flyash produced as a

waste stream by the Jacksonville Electric Authority as a solidification material for the construction blocks in lieu of disposing the flyash in a landfill. No flyash will be used during any part of the manufacturing process for artificial reefs. NS Mayport, EPA's 23rd Final Project Agreement, was signed on May 30, 2000.

SUPERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

FLEXIBILITY

The potential superior environmental benefits of this project include:

decreasing and eventually eliminating the need for ocean disposal of NS Mayport's maintenance dredged material;

beneficially reusing the dredged material now contained in NS Mayport's two upland disposal sites to produce construction blocks and artificial reef material;

creating a new reef habitat by using the artificial reef material;

reducing the potential for adverse impact to the Northern Right Whales (NRWs) population by reducing and eventually eliminating the transits of the dredged material disposal vessels across NRW critical habitat and restricting artificial reef placement to outside the NRW calving season;

reducing the potential for adverse impacts to water quality and benthic communities due to ocean disposal;

creating the potential to reduce flyash in the waste streams and the need for mining brick-making clay; and,

reducing the amount of raw materials, such as cement and aggregate, necessary for making concrete.

APPROACHES TO BE TESTED

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 permit's renewal and public comment periods. Through Project XL, NS Mayport seeks to synchronize the dredging and ocean disposal permitting process.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder involvement is essential for the success of this innovative environmental program.

Stakeholder input will also help to further develop the Project specifics and evaluate performance.

Public meetings were held to inform the general public and national environmental groups about the Project and to invite their comments and participation. Additional public meetings may be held during implementation of the Agreement based on public interest or as decided by the direct participants.

Stakeholder input and community goals have been and will continue to be considered throughout project implementation.

The effectiveness of a multi-agency partnership between EPA, NS Mayport, COE, Florida DEP and the City of Jacksonville to improve public health, the environment and marine habitat.

The ability to produce construction blocks and artificial reef material from dredged material.
The value of streamlining NS Mayport's dredging and ocean disposal permitting process.

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FOR ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

More information about the NS Mayport XL Project, or the Project XL Program, is available on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/projectxl> under "Information on Specific XL Projects," or via Project XL's Information Line at 202-260-5754. Also, for more information on NS Mayport visit its web sites at www.mayportnelp.com or www.nsmayport.navy.mil.