

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is soliciting review and comment on the proposed modification of the Port Everglades Harbor Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) that includes a proposed rule, a draft Environmental Assessment (EA), and a draft Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP). The proposed modification to the ODMDS, including the proposed SMMP (appended to the draft EA), was developed pursuant to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA). In accordance with the MPRSA, SMMPs are established jointly by the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition, the draft EA was developed pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The draft documents may be accessed through the EPA Region 4 public notice website: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-epa-region-4-southeast#r4-public-notices>. The docket for the proposed rule is available at: <https://www.regulations.gov/> (EPA-R04-OW-2020-0056).

Concurrent with the solicitation for review and comment on the proposed modification of the Port Everglades Harbor ODMDS, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are soliciting review and comment on a draft SMMP for the existing Port Everglades Harbor ODMDS. Depending on the amount of time needed to take final action on the proposed modification of the ODMDS, the EPA and the Corps of Engineers may proceed with taking final action on the SMMP for the existing ODMDS prior to taking action on the SMMP for the modified ODMDS. The SMMP for the existing designated ODMDS is proposed to be effective for a 1-year period or until replaced with the SMMP for the modified ODMDS, if the rulemaking process and SMMP for the modified ODMDS are finalized within this period. The draft SMMP for the existing Port Everglades Harbor ODMDS may also be accessed through the EPA Region 4 public notice website: <https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-epa-region-4-southeast#r4-public-notices>

Please submit any comments postmarked by April 13, 2020. Responses are to be directed to the docket (EPA-R04-OW-2020-0056) or emailed to OceanDumpingR4@epa.gov.