



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

DEC 16 2015

Mr. Jason Spinning
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

Dear Mr. Spinning:

This letter is in response to your request for concurrence on the proposed disposal of maintenance dredged material from the Jacksonville Harbor Deepening and Widening Project into the Jacksonville Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS).

Pursuant to Section 103(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (Act), as amended, concurrence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is based upon compliance with the criteria, conditions and restrictions established pursuant to Sections 102(a) [environmental criteria], and Section 102(c) [disposal site designation and management] of the Act. Based upon our review of the Section 103 Evaluation and testing report, we concur that the proposed dredged material meets the criteria for ocean disposal, as proposed.

This concurrence includes project segments defined as: maintenance areas throughout the Jacksonville Harbor Deepening and Widening Project, including the deepening and widening of the navigation channels from the entrance of the harbor to approximately river mile 13, widening two areas at Training Wall Reach and St. Johns Bluff Reach, and creating two new turning basins at Blount Island and Brills Cut, as well as improvements at Blount Island and Brills Cut Terminals. Proposed dredged material from these project segments, estimated to be approximately 18.51 million cubic yards, included two feet of allowable overdepth. An additional two feet of advanced maintenance is authorized for dredging units 1-4; 10; 12; 15-17; 20; 21; and 27-31. Project depth is -47 feet mean lower low water, plus -2 feet of allowable overdepth and -2 feet of advanced maintenance. Dredging may be conducted by either mechanical or hopper/cutter dredge, depending on project segment, timing, and equipment availability.

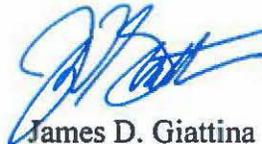
Our concurrence on the disposal of this material is contingent upon compliance with all specifications and conditions of the Jacksonville ODMDS Site Management and Monitoring Plan. Specifically, all disposals will be initiated at least 500 feet from the east and west boundaries and 1000 feet from the north and south boundaries of the ODMDS. Disposal will be completed (i.e. doors closed) prior to leaving the ODMDS boundaries. Disposal shall occur in one of the release zones based on sediment type as described in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1 (enclosed). As described in Table 1, all material from each dredging unit shall be placed into the first designated disposal zone for that unit up to the depth specified in the second column ("Dredging Depth"). Any material removed after this depth to the proposed project depth (including overdredge and advanced maintenance material) shall be placed into the second disposal zone specified for that dredging unit.

These conditions are based on October 2014 USACE estimates of rock in the proposed project area, as well as instances of refusal during sediment sampling. Continued coordination between the USACE and the EPA is required in order to ensure proper zone placement during ocean disposal. The EPA shall be notified of any changes to the October 2014 USACE estimates of rock in the proposed project area, as this may alter zone placement of dredged material. Furthermore, this concurrence is conditioned on the EPA review and approval of any relevant sections of dredging contract specifications dealing with ocean disposal.

Additionally, in order to meet dilution requirements as indicated by STFATE modeling, disposal of all material from the Jacksonville Harbor Deepening and Widening Project is restricted to less than or equal to 9,000 cubic yards for any single dump for a mechanical dredge and 13,500 cubic yards for any single dump for a hopper dredge.

This concurrence is only valid for three years from the date of this letter. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Ms. Lena Weiss at 404-562-9228.

Sincerely,



James D. Giattina
Director
Water Protection Division

Enclosure

Table 1. Dredged material shall be placed into disposal zones based on sediment type as described below. All material from each dredging unit shall be placed into the first designated disposal zone for that unit up to the depth specified in the second column ("Dredging Depth"). Any material removed after this depth to the project depth (including overdredge and advanced maintenance material) shall be placed into the second disposal zone specified for that dredging unit.

Dredging Unit	Dredging Depth (ft. MLLW)	Disposal Zone
1	≤PD	C-1
2	≤PD	C-1
3	≤PD	C-1
4	≤PD	B-1
5	≤-47	C-1
	≥-47	D-1
6	≤-42	C-1
	≥-42	D-1
7	≤PD	C-1
8	≤PD	C-1
9	≤PD	C-1
10	≤PD	C-1
11	≤PD	B-1
12	≤-41	C-1
	≥-41	D-1
13	≤-35	C-1
	≥-35	D-1
14	≤PD	C-1
15	≤-42	C-1
	≥-42	D-1
16	≤-43	B-1
	≥-43	D-1
17	≤-46	B-1
	≥-46	D-1
18	≤PD	B-1
19	≤PD	B-1
20	≤-46	B-1
	≥-46	D-1
21	≤-39	B-1
	≥-39	D-1
22	≤PD	B-1
23	≤PD	C-1
24	≤PD	C-1
25	≤PD	B-1
26	≤-44.8	B-1
	≥-44.8	D-1
27	≤PD	B-1
28	≤PD	C-1
29	≤PD	C-1
30	≤PD	C-1
31	≤PD	B-1
PD: Project Depth (including advanced maintenance and overdepth)		

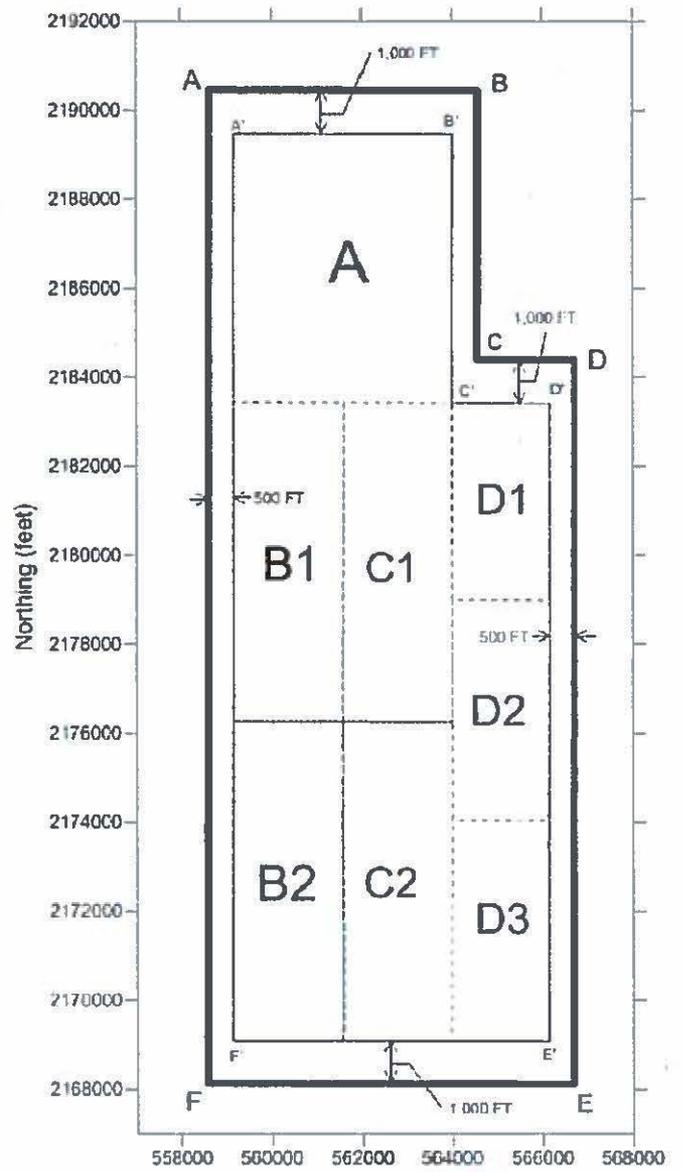
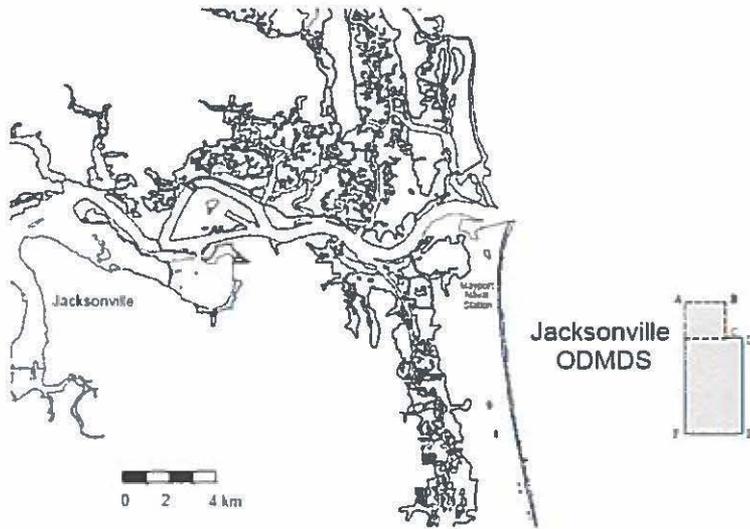


Figure 1. Jacksonville ODMDS Location Map and Disposal Release Zones (From: Jacksonville ODMDS Site Management and Monitoring Plan, 2015)