



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

CORPUS CHRISTI, NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS
MAINTENANCE AND NEW WORK
OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES

SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN

AS REQUIRED BY SECTION 102 OF THE
MARINE PROTECTION, RESEARCH, AND SANCTUARIES ACT

This page intentionally left
blank for duplex printing

The following Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for the Corpus Christi Maintenance and New Work Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDSs) complies with Section 102(c)(3) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972 (33 U.S.C. Section 1401, et seq.) as amended by Section 506 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Amendments of 1992 (Public Law 102-580), and has been approved by the following officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Southwestern Division, Galveston District.

Sam Coleman
Acting Regional Administrator Region 6
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Date

Lars N. Zetterstrom
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date

This plan goes into effect upon the date of the last signature for a period not to exceed ten years. The plan shall be reviewed and revised more frequently if site use and conditions at site indicate a need for revision.

This page intentionally left
blank for duplex printing

**CORPUS CHRISTI, NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS PROJECT
OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES (ODMDSs)
SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN**

Table of Contents

| | | |
|-----------|---|----|
| 1. | INTRODUCTION | 8 |
| 2. | SITE MANAGEMENT | 10 |
| 2.1 | Site Management Objectives | 10 |
| 2.2 | Roles and Responsibilities | 11 |
| 2.3 | Funding | 11 |
| 2.4 | Disposal and Reference Site Characteristics..... | 12 |
| 2.4.1 | Maintenance Disposal Site Characterization | 12 |
| 2.4.2 | New Work Disposal Site Characterization | 13 |
| 2.4.3 | Reference Site Characterization..... | 14 |
| 2.5 | Disposal History and Dredged Material Volumes | 14 |
| 2.5.1 | Site Use Modification | 15 |
| 2.6 | Testing Requirements | 15 |
| 2.7 | Dredged Material Characteristics..... | 16 |
| 2.7.1 | Previously Placed Materials..... | 16 |
| 2.7.2 | Anticipated Materials for Placement..... | 16 |
| 2.7.3 | Dredged Material Quality Verification..... | 17 |
| 2.7.4 | Time of Disposal..... | 17 |
| 2.7.5 | Disposal Technique..... | 17 |
| 2.7.6 | Disposal Location | 18 |
| 2.8 | Permit and Contract Conditions | 21 |
| 2.8.1 | Permit Process | 21 |
| 2.9 | Special Management Conditions or Practices..... | 21 |
| 3. | SITE MONITORING | 21 |
| 3.1 | Baseline Assessment..... | 22 |
| 3.2 | Routine Monitoring for the ODMDS Site-User | 23 |
| 3.2.1 | Navigational Safety..... | 23 |
| 3.2.1(i) | Routine Bathymetric Survey – Navigational Safety | 24 |
| 3.2.1(ii) | Advanced Bathymetric Survey – Navigational Safety | 25 |
| 3.2.2 | Bathymetric Surveys Conducted for Unauthorized Discharges | 26 |
| 3.2.2(i) | Routine Bathymetric Survey – ODMDS Boundaries | 26 |
| 3.2.2(ii) | Advanced Bathymetric Survey – ODMDS Boundaries..... | 26 |
| 3.3 | Project Disposal Compliance Monitoring..... | 26 |
| 3.4 | EPA R6 Tiered Long-Term Monitoring | 27 |
| 3.5 | Future Monitoring Efforts..... | 28 |
| 4. | REPORTING AND DATA FORMATTING | 28 |
| 4.2 | Disposal Monitoring Data..... | 28 |
| 4.3 | Post Disposal Summary Report..... | 28 |
| 4.4 | Environmental Monitoring Reporting..... | 29 |
| 5.0 | SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW AND REVISION | 29 |

| | | |
|-----|----------------------|----|
| 6.0 | IMPLEMENTATION | 30 |
| 7.0 | REFERENCES | 31 |

LIST OF APPENDICES

| | |
|--|----|
| Appendix A – Site User Monitoring Requirements for Maintenance ODMDS | 34 |
| Appendix B – Site User Monitoring Requirements for New Work ODMDS | 35 |
| Appendix C – Corpus Christi New Work and Maintenance ODMDS Monitoring Requirements . | 36 |
| Appendix D – EPA R6 Post Disposal Summary Report Template..... | 37 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | |
|--|----|
| Figure 1. Corpus Christi Area Map | 9 |
| Figure 2. Maintenance ODMDS disposal zone boundary coordinates | 19 |
| Figure 3. New Work ODMDS disposal zone boundary coordinates | 20 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | |
|---|----|
| Table 1. Corpus Christi Channel Reaches Description | 9 |
| Table 2. Corpus Christi Maintenance ODMDS Coordinates | 12 |
| Table 3. Particle Size Distribution for the Corpus Christi Reaches, ODMDSs & Reference Area | 12 |
| Table 4. Corpus Christi New Work ODMDS Coordinates | 13 |
| Table 5. Corpus Christi Reference Site Coordinates | 14 |
| Table 6. Estimated Disposal Volumes and Frequency | 14 |
| Table 7. Sediment Quality Assessment History | 16 |

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|--|
| ADDAMS | Automated Dredging and Disposal Alternatives Management System |
| CCCIP | Corpus Christi Channel Improvement Project |
| CESWG | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District |
| CFR | Code of Federal Regulations |
| CY | Cubic yards |
| DQM | Dredge Quality Management |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EPA R6 | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 |
| ESA | Endangered Species Act |
| ETS | Electronic Tracking System |
| FEIS | Final Environmental Impact Statement |
| ft. | Feet |
| ITM | Inland Testing Manual |
| m | Meters |
| MCY | Million cubic yards |
| MLLW | Mean Lower Low Water datum |
| MPRSA | Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 |
| μ | Micron |
| NMFS | National Marine Fisheries Service |
| ODMDS | Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site |
| PA | Placement Area |
| QAPP | Quality Assurance Project Plan |
| RIA | Regional Implementation Agreement |
| SMMP | Site Management and Monitoring Plan |
| STFATE | Short-Term Fate of Dredged Material Model |
| USACE | U. S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| USEPA | U. S. Environmental Protection Agency |
| WRDA | Water Resources Development Act of 1992 |
| XML | eXtensible Markup Language |

Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas
Maintenance and New Work
Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDSs)
Site Management and Monitoring Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

It is the responsibility of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972 to manage and monitor each of the Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDSs) designated by the USEPA pursuant to Section 102 of MPRSA. Section 102(c)(3) of the MPRSA requires development of a Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for each ODMDS and review and revision of the SMMP not less frequently than every 10 years.

The following jointly-developed USEPA Region 6 (EPA R6) and USACE Galveston District (CESWG) documents have been used as guidance in developing this SMMP:

- Guidance Document for Development of Site Management Plans for Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (USEPA/USACE, 1996), and
- Regional Implementation Agreement (RIA) for Testing and Reporting Requirements for Ocean Disposal of Dredged Material Off the Louisiana and Texas Coasts Under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (USEPA/USACE, 2003).

This SMMP is intended to provide management and monitoring strategies for the disposal of suitable dredged material from the greater Corpus Christi, Texas vicinity. Two ODMDSs, a New Work ODMDS for both construction (virgin) and maintenance material and a Maintenance ODMDS for maintenance dredged material only are covered under this SMMP. These ODMDSs would provide alternative disposal sites to the existing upland Placement Areas (PAs), thereby extending the life of those sites by allowing time for management between dredging cycles to include activities such as dewatering, damping and levee raises. An overview of the greater Corpus Christi, Texas vicinity is shown in Figure 1. Emphasis is on the system of navigation channels with various reaches defined in the legend, the ODMDSs and reference area (Table 1).

Final designation of the Corpus Christi Maintenance ODMDS was first sought in September 1988 with the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). After review, the draft was approved as final and the Final Rule for designation was published in the Federal Register July 11, 1989 (54 FR 131). A modification to the use restriction of the Corpus Christi Maintenance ODMDS was sought to include suitable dredged material from the greater Corpus Christi, Texas vicinity. No comments were received on the proposed rule published June 18, 2015 (80 FR 117). A Final Rule was published in the Federal Register September 18, 2015 (80 FR 181). The use restriction became effective October 19, 2015.

The final designation of the Homeport Project ODMDS was first sought in November 1987 with the release of the draft EIS. After review, the draft was approved as final and the Final Rule for designation was published in the Federal Register August 31, 1988 (53 FR 169). The Homeport Project ODMDS was designated to provide a disposal area for placement of suitable construction dredged material from the U.S. Navy's Homeport Project at Corpus Christi/Ingleside, Texas and future maintenance dredged material. The Homeport Project never materialized and therefore, the

ODMDS was never used. To accommodate placement of construction material from the Corpus Christi Channel Improvement Project (CCCIP), the use restriction, period of use and name were changed. A Final Rule was published in the Federal Register August 6, 2014 (79 FR151) which became effective September 5, 2014.

Figure 1. Corpus Christi Area Map

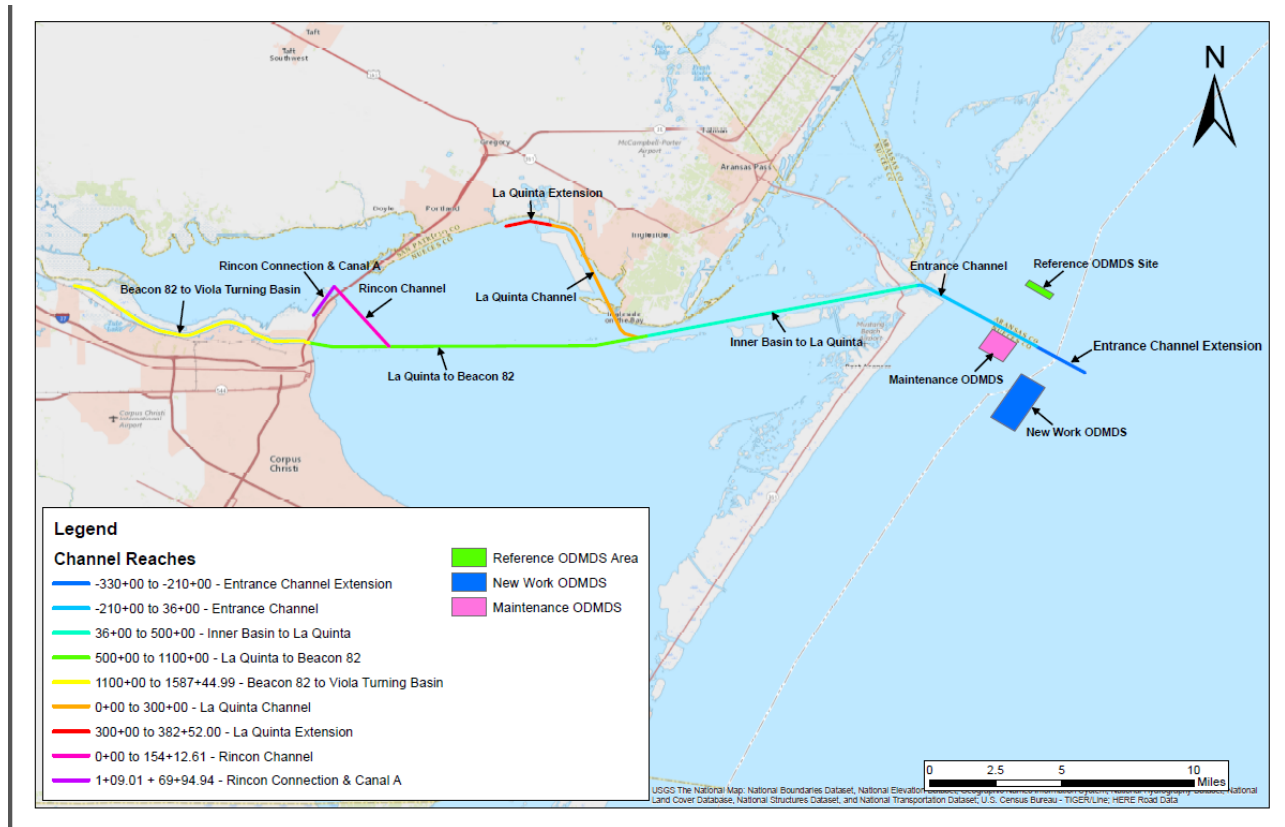


Table 1. Corpus Christi Channel Reaches Description

| Corpus Christi Channel Reach | Stations | |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------|
| | From | To |
| Main Channel | | |
| Entrance Channel Extension | -330+00 | -210+00 |
| Entrance & Jetty Channel | -210+00 | 36+00 |
| Inner Basin to La Quinta | 36+00 | 500+00 |
| La Quinta to Beacon 82 | 500+00 | 1100+00 |
| Beacon 82 to Viola Turning Basin | 1100+00 | 1587+44.99 |
| La Quinta Channel | | |
| La Quinta Channel | 0+00 | 300+00 |
| La Quinta Extension | 300+00 | 382+52.00 |
| Rincon Channel | | |
| Rincon Channel | 0+00 | 154+12.61 |
| Rincon Connection and Canal A | 1+09.01 | 69+94.94 |

A SMMP was first written for the Corpus Christi Maintenance ODMDS in September 1996 and revised in December 2008. A SMMP was never written for the Corpus Christi New Work (formerly Homeport Project) ODMDS. The current revision to the Corpus Christi Maintenance ODMDS SMMP (2008) includes site monitoring and management for the Corpus Christi New Work ODMDSs creating a single SMMP to cover both ODMDSs.

This combined revision to the Corpus Christi Maintenance and New Work ODMDS SMMP supersedes all previous SMMPs. The SMMP itself, however, does not authorize the use of any ODMDS for ocean disposal of dredged materials. Use of any ODMDS for ocean disposal of dredged materials is regulated under a permit (or contract specification) under MPRSA Section 103.

SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the site. All MPRSA Section 103 ocean disposal permits or contract specifications shall be conditioned as necessary to assure consistency with the SMMP.

2. SITE MANAGEMENT

The MPRSA of 1972 (33 U.S.C. Section 1401, et seq.) provides the legislative authority to regulate the disposal of dredged material into ocean waters, including the territorial sea. The transportation of dredged material for the purpose of placement into ocean waters is permitted by the USACE or, in the case of Federal projects, authorized for disposal under MPRSA Section 103(e), applying environmental criteria established by the USEPA in the Ocean Dumping Regulations (40 CFR Parts 220-229). This plan may be modified if it is determined that such changes are warranted as a result of information obtained during the monitoring process.

This SMMP for the Corpus Christi ODMDSs was developed jointly by EPA R6 and CESWG, in accordance with Section 102(c)(3) of the MPRSA, as amended by WRDA 92. At a minimum the SMMP shall include but not be limited to:

- A baseline assessment of conditions;
- A program for monitoring;
- Special management conditions or practices to be implemented that are necessary for the protection of the environment;
- Consideration of the quantity and physical/chemical characteristics of dredged materials to be disposed of;
- Consideration of the anticipated use over the long-term; and,
- A schedule for review and revision of the plan.

2.1 Site Management Objectives

ODMDS management is intended to assure that disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade or endanger human health, and welfare, the marine environment, or economic potential (MPRSA section 103(a)). The primary objectives in the management of the Corpus Christi ODMDSs are:

1. Protection of the marine environment;
 - a. Ocean discharge of only that dredged material that satisfies the criteria set forth in 40 CFR Part 227 Subparts B, C, D, E, and G and 40 CFR Part

228.4(e) and is suitable for unrestricted placement at the ODMDs;

- b. Avoidance of excessive mounding either within the site boundaries or in areas adjacent to the site, as a direct result of disposal operations.
2. Documentation of disposal activities and compliance; and,
3. Maintenance of a long term disposal alternative for dredged material generated in the greater Corpus Christi, Texas vicinity.

These objectives will be achieved through the following measures:

1. Regulation and administration of ocean dumping permits;
2. Development and maintenance of a site monitoring program; and,
3. Evaluation of permit compliance and monitoring results.

The following sections provide the framework for meeting these objectives.

2.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Development of SMMPs for ODMDs within CESWG's area of operation is the joint responsibility of EPA R6 and CESWG. Both agencies are responsible for assuring that all components of the SMMP are implementable, practical, and applicable to site management decision-making.

Specific responsibilities of EPA R6 and CESWG are:

- In accordance with Section 102(c) of the MPRSA, EPA R6 is responsible for designation/de-designation of ODMDs, for evaluating environmental effects of disposal of dredged material at these sites and for reviewing and concurring on dredged material suitability determinations.
- CESWG is responsible for evaluating dredged material suitability and issuing MPRSA Section 103 permits, regulating site use, and developing and implementing disposal-monitoring programs.

2.3 Funding

Physical, chemical, and biological effects-based testing shall be undertaken on sediments to be deposited at the ODMD. This testing will be conducted at five year intervals, or as necessary to address contaminant concerns due to unanticipated events, and will be funded by the permittee if the project is permitted or CESWG for Federal projects. The permittee or CESWG, as appropriate, shall also be responsible for costs associated with placement site hydrographic monitoring. Should this monitoring conclude that additional studies and/or tests are needed at the ODMD, the scope and cost-sharing of such work would be discussed and agreed upon, between the permittee and CESWG and/or EPA R6.

Physical, chemical, and biological effects-based testing at the ODMD or in the site environs after discharge that is not required as a result of hydrographic monitoring shall be funded by EPA R6.

Federal funding of all aspects of this SMMP is contingent on availability of funds.

2.4 Disposal and Reference Site Characteristics

2.4.1 Maintenance Disposal Site Characterization

The Maintenance ODMDS is located approximately 1.5 miles offshore (Figure 1) and about 1,000 feet southwest of the centerline of the Outer Bar Channel. This site occupies an area of approximately 0.63 square nautical miles with water depths ranging from 35 to 50 feet. Disposal shall be limited to suitable dredged material from the greater Corpus Christi, Texas vicinity. The site is rectangular in shape with corner coordinates as shown in Table 2.

Table 2. Corpus Christi Maintenance ODMDS Coordinates

| Maintenance | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| NAD 27 | | NAD 83 | |
| Latitude | Longitude | Latitude | Longitude |
| 27° 49' 10" N | 97° 01' 09" W | 27° 49' 11.0994" N | 97° 1' 9.9546" W |
| 27° 48' 42" N | 97° 00' 21" W | 27° 48' 43.1022" N | 97° 0' 21.9522" W |
| 27° 48' 06" N | 97° 00' 48" W | 27° 48' 7.1064" N | 97° 0' 48.9528" W |
| 27° 48' 33" N | 97° 01' 36" W | 27° 48' 34.1136" N | 97° 1' 36.9654" W |

Coordinate Systems: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27) and North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83)

Baseline conditions at the Maintenance ODMDS were assessed during the disposal site designation processes. Details of baseline conditions, including descriptions of the marine environment in the site vicinity and the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the sediments and the water column at the site, are contained in the Draft and Final Environmental Statement (EIS) for site designation prepared by USEPA (USEPA, September 1988, April 1989). In 2015, EPA R6 conducted a status and trend assessment survey to reassess baseline conditions. Sampling included collection of sediment for physical, chemical and biological analysis and sediment profile images.

The Maintenance ODMDS sediment can be characterized as predominantly sand (93.6 %) with a small fraction of silt (0.5%) and clay (1.4%).

Table 3. Particle Size Distribution: Corpus Christi Reaches, ODMDSs & Reference Area

| Location | Physical Parameter | | | | D50 (mm) |
|--|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|----------|
| | % Gravel | % Sand | % Silt | % Clay | |
| Entrance | 0.0 | 56.6 | 25.1 | 19.2 | 0.251 |
| Inner Basin to La Quinta | 0.0 | 80.5 | 11.7 | 9.1 | 0.201 |
| La Quinta to BCN 82 | 0.0 | 6.9 | 45.7 | 47.4 | 0.014 |
| BCN 82 to Viola TB (Inner Harbor) | 0.0 | 27.2 | 35.3 | 37.5 | 0.046 |
| La Quinta | 0.0 | 25.3 | 54.9 | 19.8 | 0.036 |
| Rincon | 0.0 | 53.2 | 26.3 | 20.6 | 0.254 |
| Maintenance ODMDS* | 0.3 | 98.1 | 0.5 | 1.4 | -- |
| New Work ODMDS* | 0.0 | 51.5 | 30.8 | 17.0 | -- |
| Reference Area* | 0.0 | 50.7 | 26.7 | 21.2 | -- |
| CEWSG long term averages from 1977 to 2016 | | | | | |
| * EPA 2015 monitoring data | | | | | |

As described in the 2003 FEIS for the CCCIP, the size of the maintenance ODMDS was re-evaluated by simulations run on a computer model. These simulations assumed an average of 955,000 CY per year or 1.35 MCY of material to be dredged per maintenance dredging cycle (2.5 years) after the CCCIP is constructed. This quantity is greater than the most recent 25-year average of approximately 866,447 CY per dredging cycle. The site can be described as dispersive; therefore, the dredged material deposited there is expected to erode and dissipate.

2.4.2 New Work Disposal Site Characterization

The New Work ODMDS is located approximately 3.4 miles offshore (Figure 1) and about 6,200 feet southwest of the centerline of the Outer Bar Channel, occupying an area of approximately 1.36 square nautical miles. Water depths range from 46 to 53 feet. The site is rectangular in shape with corner coordinates at:

Table 4 Corpus Christi New Work ODMDS Coordinates

| New Work | | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| NAD 27 | | NAD 83 | |
| Latitude | Longitude | Latitude | Longitude |
| 27° 47' 42" N | 97° 00' 12" W | 27° 47' 43.1052" N | 97° 0' 12.9522 W |
| 27° 47' 15" N | 96° 59' 25" W | 27° 47' 16.1052" N | 96° 59' 25.9512 W |
| 27° 46' 17" N | 97° 01' 12" W | 27° 46' 18.1086 N | 97° 1' 12.9534" W |
| 27° 45' 49" N | 97° 00' 25" W | 27° 45' 50.1084" N | 97° 0' 25.9488" W |

Coordinate Systems: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27) and North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83)

The original baseline conditions at the New Work ODMDS (formerly Homeport Project) were assessed during the disposal site designation processes. Details of baseline conditions, including descriptions of the marine environment in the site vicinity and the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the sediments and the water column at the site, are contained in the Draft and Final EIS for site designation prepared by USEPA (USEPA, November 1987, June 1988).

Baseline conditions at the Corpus Christi New Work ODMDS were re-assessed during the preparation of the 2003 Final Feasibility Report and EIS associated with improvements to the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. Details of baseline conditions, including descriptions of the marine environment in the site vicinity and the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the sediments and the water column at the site, are contained in the Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas Channel Improvement Project prepared by USACE-SWG in April 2003.

The New Work ODMDS sediment can be characterized as predominantly sandy (51.5%) silt (30.8%) with a small fraction of clay (17%) (Table 3).

As described in the site designation DEIS, the size of the New Work ODMDS (formerly Homeport Project) was based on computer simulations for the placement of approximately 2.4 MCY of new work (virgin) material from the Navy's Homeport Project. This modeling is sufficient to show the New Work ODMDS can accommodate the 2.5 MCY proposed for placement from the CCCIP described in the 2003 Final Feasibility Report and EIS. Other considerations included avoidance of biologically sensitive and recreationally important areas, navigation safety and transportation costs.

2.4.3 Reference Site Characterization

The reference site for both the New Work and the Maintenance ODMDSs is located north of the Maintenance ODMDS as shown in Figure 1. Coordinates for the reference site are shown in Table 5. The reference sediment can be characterized as dominantly sand (50.7%) with similar fractions of silt (26.7%) and clay (21.2%) (Table 3).

Table 5. Corpus Christi Reference Site Coordinates

| Reference Site | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| NAD 27 | | NAD 83 | |
| Latitude | Longitude | Latitude | Longitude |
| 27° 50' 8.9016" N | 96° 59' 16.0476 W | 27° 50' 10" N | 96° 59' 17" W |
| 27° 50' 18.9024" N | 96° 59' 8.0448" W | 27° 50' 20" N | 96° 59' 09" W |
| 27° 50' 46.9026" N | 96° 59' 56.0472" W | 27° 50' 48" N | 96° 59' 57" W |
| 27° 50' 36.9018" N | 97° 0' 4.0464" W | 27° 50' 38" N | 97° 00' 05" W |

Coordinate Systems: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD27) and North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83)

2.5 Disposal History and Dredged Material Volumes

Maintenance ODMDS

The Corpus Christi Maintenance ODMDS has been historically used for placement of dredged material from the Corpus Christi Jetty and Entrance Channel. During the period from 1989 through 2016, the average maintenance dredging frequency for the Jetty and Entrance Channels was about 2.5 years, with an average of 991,900 CY of material excavated per dredging contract. Maintenance quantities are expected to double following construction of the proposed Jetty and Entrance channel deepening and Entrance channel extension project. Therefore, the projected average maintenance dredging frequency is two (2) years for the Jetty and Entrance Channels with an estimated volume of 1.25 MCY per dredging contract (Table 6). Future suitable maintenance material from the other channel segments (Table 6) may be placed at the Maintenance ODMDS on a case by case basis.

Table 6. Estimated Disposal Volumes and Frequency

| Channel Segments | Dredge Area Station Nos | Est. Volume (CY) per contract | Dredging Rate (years) |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Entrance | -210+00 to 36+00 | 1,000,000 | 2.0 |
| Inner Basin to La Quinta | 36+00 to 500+00 | 800,000 | 5.0 |
| La Quinta to BCN 82 | 500+00 to 1090+00 | 1,000,000 | 2.0 |
| Bcn 82 to Viola TB (Inner Harbor) | 1100+00 to 1587+00 | 1,500,000 | 4.0 |
| La Quinta | 0+00 to 382+00 | 500,000 | 3.0 |
| Rincon | 0+00 to 150+00 | 400,000 | 7.0 |

New Work ODMDS

The Corpus Christi New Work ODMDS site previously received final designation as the Homeport Project, Port Aransas, Texas ODMDS for the placement of dredged material from the U.S. Navy Homeport Project, Ingleside, Texas. However, the Homeport project was never implemented and the site has not been used. In a Final Rule published in the Federal Register on August 2, 2014, the EPA modified the period of use and use restriction for the ODMDS to change the use of the site to include suitable dredged material from the greater Texas vicinity over an indefinite period of time. The modification also changed the name to Corpus Christi New Work ODMDS.

New work material from the extension of the Entrance Channel would be placed at the New Work ODMDS. Under a construction contract, a hopper dredge would deepen the Jetty and Entrance channels and extend the Entrance channel approximately 10,000 feet seaward. The total length of these channels (after extension of the Entrance Channel) would be approximately 4.6 miles. Approximately 2.5 MCY of new work material would be removed by hopper dredge and placed at the New Work ODMDS.

2.5.1 Site Use Modification

On September 18, 2015, a final rule was published in the Federal Register (effective October 19, 2015) modifying site use restrictions in 40 CFR Part 228 for the Corpus Christi ODMDSs as well as several other ODMDSs located in the Gulf of Mexico offshore of Texas. These sites are EPA designated ocean dumping sites for the disposal of suitable dredged material. This action was taken at the request of the CESWG to allow disposal of suitable dredged material from the vicinity of the federal navigation channels to alleviate pressure on the capacity of its upland dredged material placement areas, when necessary.

The use restriction modification to both the Maintenance and New Work ODMDS expands the use to include the placement of suitable dredged material from maintenance and new work projects from within the Corpus Christi, Texas vicinity. The primary user of these ODMDSs is the USACE for civil works projects. Secondary users of the ODMDSs would consist of non-federal users (port authorities, private parties, etc.) for the placement of suitable dredged material.

2.6 Testing Requirements

On September 24, 1992, a RIA was executed between EPA Region 6 and the Galveston District. This RIA was updated on November 3, 2003 (U.S. EPA and USACE, 2003), and describes protocols for evaluating the quality of the dredged material and implementation of the “GREEN BOOK” (U.S. EPA and USACE, 1991). These protocols describe chemical parameters to be analyzed, as well as required detection limits. It also specifies how toxicity testing and bioaccumulation assessments are to be conducted, as well as organisms to be utilized. Since that time, all sediment evaluations have been conducted in accordance with the RIA. Since the mid-1970s, before development of the RIA, dredged material from the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Project had been evaluated numerous times to determine suitability for offshore placement. This testing was performed to determine levels of metals and organic constituents, as well as toxicity and bioaccumulation assessments. Testing performed for this project is summarized Table 7.

Table 7. Sediment Quality Assessment History

| Date | Type of Testing |
|---|---|
| Maintenance Sediment Testing History | |
| September 17, 1975 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| October 6, 1975 | During-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| December 2, 1975 | After-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| April 1978 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |
| October 1978 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |
| July 1980 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |
| January 14, 1982 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| February 22, 1983 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| July 3, 1984 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| April 1985 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |
| May 15, 1985 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| March 28, 1986 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| March 18, 1987 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| March 15, 1988 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| April 7, 1989 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| March/April 1990 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| July 20, 1993 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| September 1995 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |
| January 28, 1999 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| November 2000 | Pre-dredging Bulk Analyses |
| August 2002 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |
| July 2009 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |
| January 2015 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |
| New Work (virgin sediment) Testing History | |
| December 2016/January 2017 | Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment |

2.7 Dredged Material Characteristics

2.7.1 Previously Placed Materials

Historically, shoal material from maintenance of the Corpus Christi Jetty and Entrance Channel has been placed at the Maintenance ODMDS. The New Work ODMDS (formerly Homeport Project ODMDS) has not been used since its designation. Physical characteristics are described in Table 3.

2.7.2 Anticipated Materials for Placement

Suitable dredged material from maintenance dredging projects is anticipated from the Corpus Christi Ship Channel segments as identified in Table 1. Maintenance dredged material from these reaches

consists of mixtures of sand, silt and clay in varying percentages as shown in Table 3. Suitable dredged material from construction projects is anticipated for placement at the New Work ODMDS.

2.7.3 Dredged Material Quality Verification

The suitability of dredged material for ocean disposal must be verified by the USACE and agreed to via written concurrence from USEPA prior to disposal. Verification will be valid for three years from permit date. For civil works projects, verification is required every five years.

Verification process:

- Case-specific evaluation against the Exclusion Criteria (40 CFR Part 227.13(b));
- Determination of testing requirements for non-excluded material based on the potential of sediment contamination since last verification; and,
- When applicable, execute testing and determination of suitability of non-excluded material for ocean disposal.

Verification documentation for suitability will be completed prior to use of the Corpus Christi ODMDSs. Documentation will be in the form of a MPRSA Section 103 Evaluation. Potential testing and the evaluation will follow the procedures outlined in the 1991 USEPA/USACE Dredged Material Testing Manual and 2003 RIA or the appropriate updated versions. Water Quality and Bioassay Compliance determinations will be made using the STFATE model (ADDAMS). Only material determined to be suitable through the verification process by the USACE and USEPA will be placed at the Corpus Christi ODMDSs.

2.7.4 Time of Disposal

A seasonal hopper dredging restriction has been recommended by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, 2007) during formal consultation undertaken pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This restriction was based on potential impacts of hopper dredging operations on several species of threatened and endangered sea turtles. The recommendation is to restrict hopper dredging to the period from December 1 through March 31, during which sea turtle abundance is at a minimum in the Gulf of Mexico. This recommendation pertains only to actual hopper dredging operations and not placement of the material into the ODMDS. Hopper dredging should be conducted in accordance with all reasonable and prudent measures and implementing terms and conditions described in the 2007 Gulf of Mexico hopper dredging regional biological opinion (NMFS, 2007). While it may not be practical to observe this restriction for all dredging cycles, it will be practiced when feasible.

2.7.5 Disposal Technique

Disposal shall take place within the disposal zone of the specified ODMDS (Figures 2 and 3 and shall be completed (doors closed) prior to departing the ODMDS. Standard surveillance and evasive measures to protect sea turtles and marine mammals shall be employed during all disposal operations at the Corpus Christi ODMDSs

MDFATE modeling was performed to determine if the Maintenance ODMDS had sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional volume of maintenance material resulting from the CCCIP.

Modeling was conducted for up to a 3,300 CY hopper dredge. Model predictions showed the size of the Maintenance ODMDS was sufficient to accommodate up to 3.7 MCY of maintenance material per dredging cycle. To avoid excessive mounding, it is necessary that a method be utilized to record the location of each discharge to ensure that the dredge distributes material uniformly over the disposal zone within the ODMDS while it avoids approaching the edges of the ODMDS disposal zone too closely (2003 Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas, CIP, Volume II Appendices).

Construction Material Disposal Technique

The following is the scheme used in the modeling to avoid excessive mounding and dispersal of material outside the ODMDS: one discharge at all exterior placement points inside the disposal zone, followed by one discharge at each of the interior placement points in a given sequence until each has been utilized. Continue repeating the sequence with one discharge at each interior placement point (shifting the placement slightly such that the disposal will fall in the valley between peaks formed from the previous placement) until construction is complete. (2003 Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas, CIP, Volume II Appendices).

Maintenance Material Disposal Technique

No specific disposal techniques are required for maintenance material placed in the Maintenance ODMDS for disposal volumes less than 1 MCY. For disposal volumes greater than 1 MCY, a placement strategy shall be followed such that the material is spread uniformly throughout the disposal zone.

2.7.6 Disposal Location

Maintenance ODMDS

40 CFR Part 227.28 requires that disposal occur no less than 330 feet (100 meters) inside the designated site boundaries. A 500-foot buffer no discharge zone has been established to satisfy this criterion and will continue to be used as a means of preventing the short-term transport of material beyond the Corpus Christi ODMDS boundary during disposal operations. Figure 2 provides the disposal zone boundary coordinates for the Maintenance ODMDS. All operations shall be conducted such that the dredged material remains within the bounds of the specified disposal release zone within the Corpus Christi Maintenance ODMDS immediately following descent to the ocean floor (Figure 2).

New Work ODMDS

As defined in the DEIS (USEPA 1987) for the Homeport Project ODMDS (now New Work ODMDS) only a 4,000 x 5,000 ft. section of the ODMDS. Figure 3 provides the disposal zone boundary coordinates for the Maintenance ODMDS. All operations shall be conducted such that the dredged material remains within the bounds of the specified disposal release zone within the Corpus Christi New Work ODMDS immediately following descent to the ocean floor (Figure 3).

Figure 2. Maintenance ODMDS Disposal Zone Boundary Coordinates

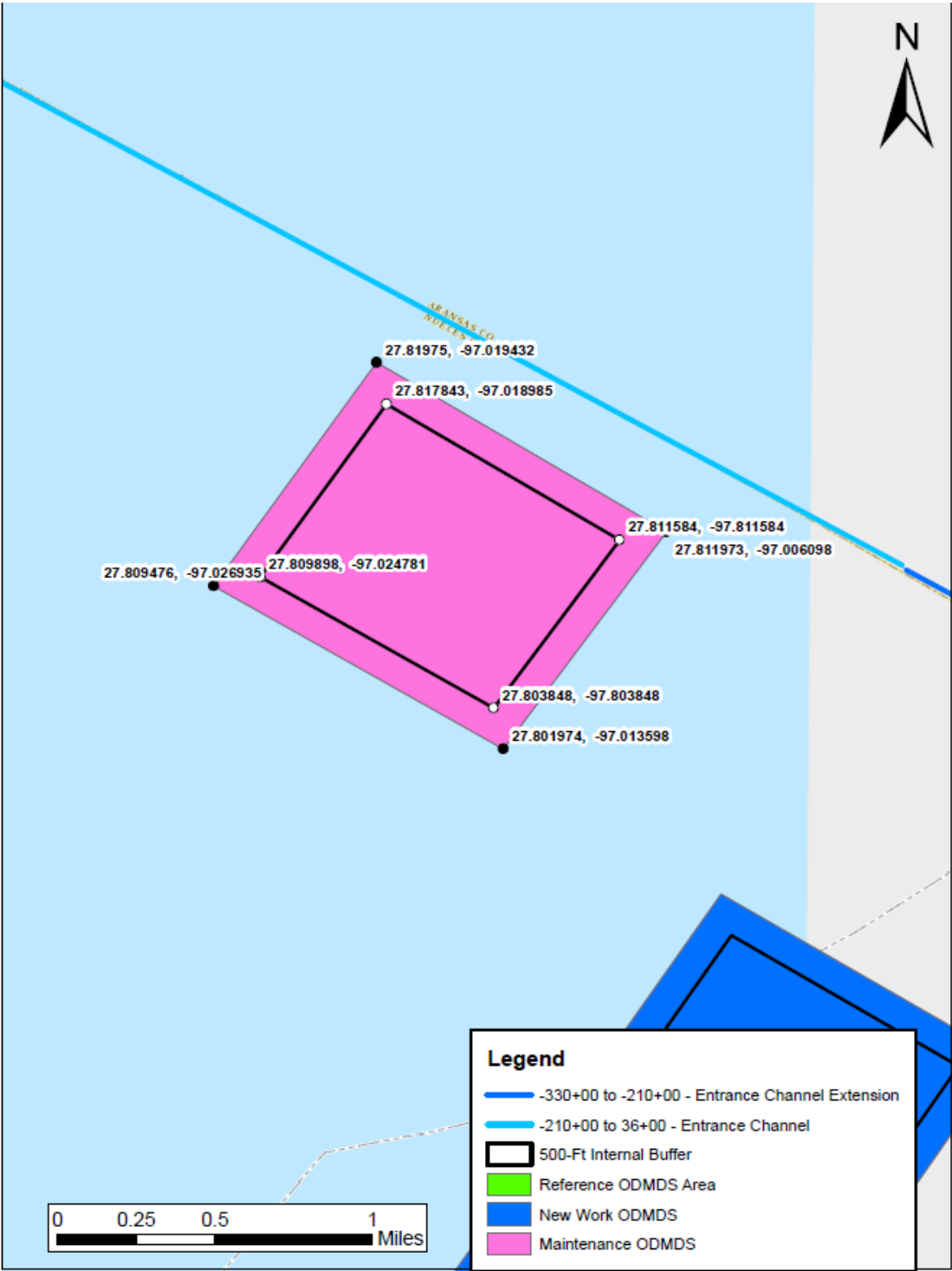
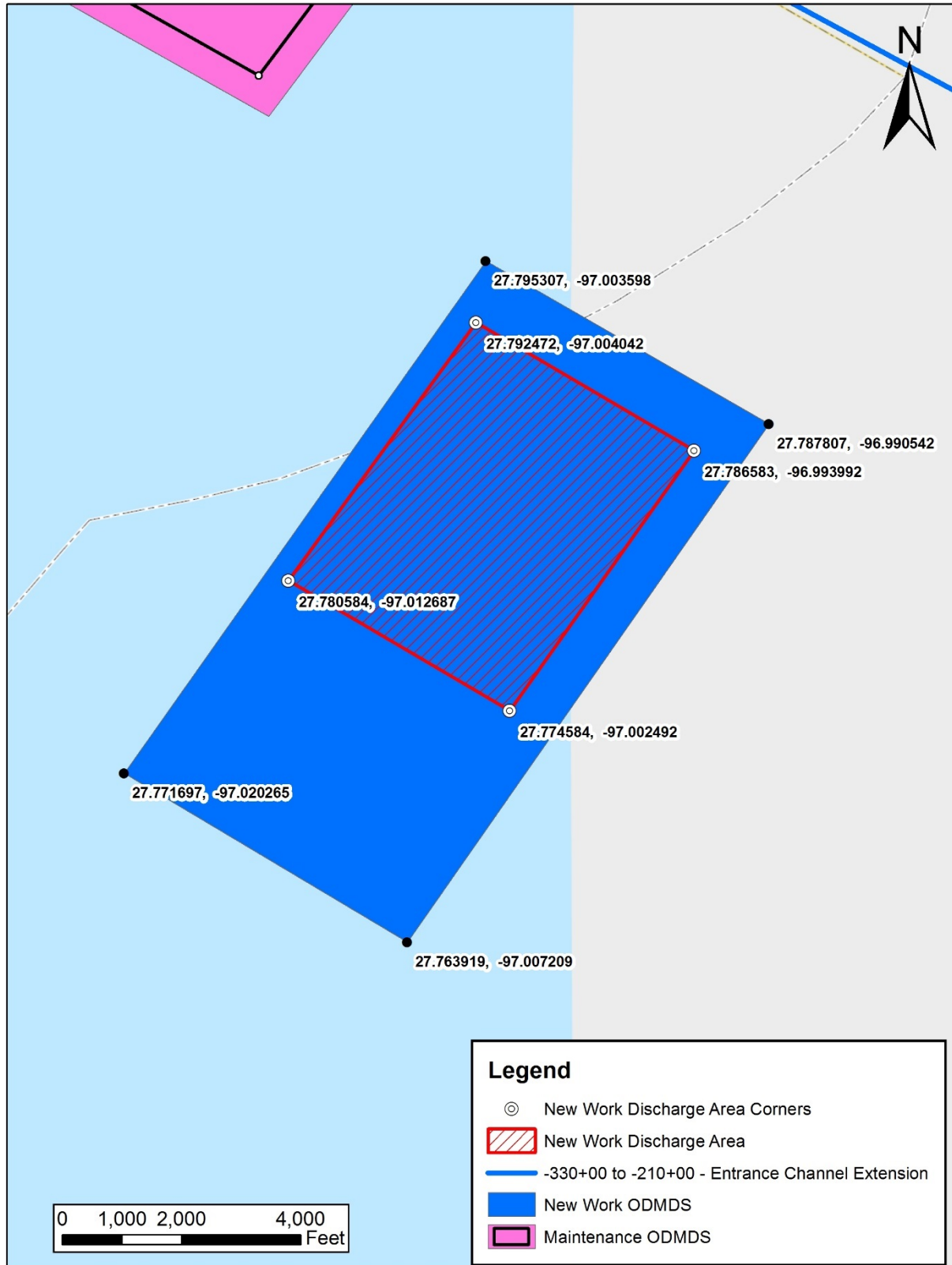


Figure 3. New Work ODMDS Disposal Zone Boundary Coordinates



2.8 Permit and Contract Conditions

The disposal monitoring and post disposal monitoring requirements described under 3.0 SITE MONITORING will be incorporated into the contract language for all federal projects. Special conditions may be included on MPRSA Section 103 permits on a case by case basis.

2.8.1 Permit Process

All disposal of dredged material in the ocean, with the exception of Federal Civil Works projects, requires an ocean dumping permit issued by the USACE pursuant to MPRSA Section 103.

2.9 Special Management Conditions or Practices

Special management conditions or practices related to placement of dredged material into the designated Corpus Christi ODMDs are addressed in Section 2.7.

3. SITE MONITORING

The MPRSA Section 102(c)(3)(B) requires that SMMPs include a program for monitoring the site. Site monitoring is conducted to ensure the environmental integrity of a disposal site and the areas surrounding the site and to verify compliance with the site designation criteria, any special management conditions, and with permit or federal authorization requirements. Guidance for SMMP monitoring programs indicates that they should be flexible, cost effective, and based on scientifically sound procedures and methods to meet site-specific monitoring needs.

The monitoring program should provide the following:

1. Information indicating whether the disposal activities are occurring in compliance with the permit and site restrictions;
2. Information indicating short-term and long-term fate of materials disposed of in the marine environment; and,
3. Information concerning the short-term and long-term environmental impacts of the disposal.

The primary purpose of the SMMP is to determine whether dredged material site management practices and disposal operations at the site need to be changed to avoid unreasonable degradation or endangerment of human health and welfare and the marine environment. Monitoring programs should be structured to address specific questions (null hypotheses) and measure the conditions of key indicators and endpoints, particularly those identified during site designation, or major project-specific issues that arise.

Monitoring results will be used for making decisions, preventing unacceptable adverse effects beyond each site's boundary and ensuring regulatory compliance over the life of the Corpus Christi ODMDs. Testing of dredged material is conducted based on the Green Book, Inland Testing Manual (ITM) and RIA procedures.

The size and location of the Corpus Christi ODMDs were determined pursuant to the General Criteria as listed in 40 CFR Part 228.5, and the Specific Criteria at 40 CFR Part 228.6(a). There are

no significant environmental resources delineated within or immediately outside of either of the Corpus Christi ODMDSs. The primary concern regarding ODMDS use is the potential for short-term buildup of dredged material, such that a hazard to navigation is presented. Since the Corpus Christi ODMDSs are dispersive in nature, it is expected that material will eventually be transported outside of the site boundaries. It is also expected that this material will not move in distinct mounds, but instead will disperse and blend with the surrounding environment causing a progressive transition to sediment containing a higher percentage of silt and clay.

Discharges of dredged material outside of the Corpus Christi ODMDS's boundaries will be treated as "unauthorized discharges." Such discharges may occur as a result of dredging equipment malfunction during dredging operations with spillage of material outside of the ODMDS boundaries, or discharge of dredged material in close proximity to an ODMDS boundary such that it falls outside of the site during descent to the seafloor. While significant environmental resources were not identified immediately outside of the Corpus Christi ODMDSs during site designation evaluations, unauthorized discharges may be detrimental to immobile or slow moving benthic organisms. A laboratory study conducted by Maurer et al. (1978) suggested that benthic organisms can burrow through 6-9 inches of dredged material without significant impacts to the benthic community. The formation and persistence of mounds detected above this 6-9 inch threshold, as a direct result of unauthorized discharges outside of the ODMDS boundaries, warrants additional discussions between EPA R6 and SWG as to the need for and/or extent of investigation to determine if benthic communities have been adversely impacted.

While literature on maintenance material disposal on the Gulf coast indicates only minor short-term and negligible long-term mounding from placement activities, little information is available for new work material ODMDSs. While mounding from the construction material is acceptable, it is usually is higher and of firmer material than maintenance material. New work construction placement is expected to last for only a period of 2 years or less, which would result in more frequent monitoring than would be necessary for the periodic but short-term placement that occurs with maintenance dredging. Consequently, specific monitoring is required for each of the Corpus Christi ODMDSs.

Monitoring activities at the Corpus Christi ODMDSs are divided into three categories: (1) compilation of past monitoring studies to document baseline conditions (Section 3.1); (2) routine monitoring of the placement of dredge materials conducted by the site-user (Section 3.2 and Section 3.3); and (3) long term trend assessment monitoring, typically done by the USEPA, but which can be jointly executed by the USEPA and USACE (Section 3.4).

3.1 Baseline Assessment

Baseline conditions at the Maintenance ODMDS were assessed during the site designation process. Details of baseline conditions, including descriptions of the marine environment in the site vicinity and the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the sediments and the water column at the site, are contained in the draft (USEPA 1988) and Final EIS for the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation (USEPA 1989). Likewise, baseline conditions at the New Work ODMDS are contained in the draft (USEPA 1987) and Final EIS for the United States Navy Gulf Coast Strategic Homeporting Corpus Christi/Ingleside, Texas Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation.

3.2 Routine Monitoring for the ODMDS Site-User

Routine monitoring activities for the site-user at an ODMDS fall into three categories: (1) monitoring of the placement of dredged materials for the evaluation of navigational safety; (2) deposition of dredged material at the ODMDS boundaries, and (3) permit/civil works project compliance monitoring. The final component of routine monitoring is the compilation of the results in a post disposal summary report.

Bathymetric surveys will be used to monitor for mounding to ensure a navigation hazard is not produced, to assist in verification of material placement, and to monitor bathymetry changes and trends. Bathymetric surveys shall be obtained using a USACE or contract survey vessel equipped with electronic surveying capabilities. The vessel must be equipped with positioning equipment with a horizontal precision of one (1) foot. The fathometer, which shall display real-time depth on real-time location, must have a precision of approximately 0.5 feet. Note that although the fathometer has this precision, the survey may not have accuracy to 0.5 feet since it is challenging to measure bathymetry to this level of accuracy in the open Gulf. All data shall be collected using methodology described in Engineer Manual EM 1110-2-1003, dated 30 November 2013 [http://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerManuals/EM_1110-2-1003.pdf].

Bathymetric surveys shall be conducted by CESWG or the permittee along transects within the ODMDS and extending 500 feet beyond the outside the periphery of the ODMDS. Transects will be taken perpendicular to the channel at a maximum spacing of approximately 1,000 feet. The minimum performance standards for bathymetric surveys are:

- Horizontal location of the survey lines and depth sounding points will be determined by an automated positioning system utilizing a differential global positioning system;
- Vertical datum will be referenced to prescribed NOAA Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) datum;
- Horizontal datum should be referenced to the local State Plane Coordinate System (SPCS) for that area or in Geographical Coordinates (latitude-longitude);

Horizontal reference datum should be the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) Results from post and pre dredge bathymetry shall be provided to EPA R6 when completed as part of the summary report.

3.2.1 Navigational Safety

The Corpus Christi ODMDSs are located outside of the safety fairway for large vessel traffic, therefore, the mounding will be considered only in regard to shallow-draft vessels. Significant mounding is not expected from discharge operations when the grain-size characteristics of typical maintenance dredged material from the Corpus Christi Jetty and Entrance Channels are considered. Mounding is more likely to occur and could be more persistent with new construction material due to the finer textural composition that would be dredged in large consolidated masses, as opposed to the coarser and unconsolidated material from maintenance dredging. To account for this, these parameters are factored into the rationale, frequency, action thresholds and management options for the Maintenance and New Work ODMDS that are summarized in Appendices A and B (respectively).

3.2.1(i) Routine Bathymetric Survey – Navigational Safety

Maintenance Material

Bathymetric surveys for each maintenance dredging contract shall be obtained before the start of the disposal operations and within 45 days of completion of disposal operations.

Routine bathymetry for navigational safety looks at the height of the mound from placing the material pre and post placement. If deposited dredged material is not mounding to heights greater than the ten (10) foot threshold height above the existing bottom elevation, the management objectives are met, and no further post-disposal monitoring will be required. If there is mounding to heights greater than the ten (10) foot threshold height above existing bottom elevation, the monitoring shall proceed to the Advanced Bathymetric Surveys.

Construction Material

While the literature on maintenance material disposal on the Gulf coast indicates only minor short-term and negligible long-term mounding from placement activities, little information is available for new work material ODMDS. Mounding from the construction material, while acceptable, is higher and of firmer material than is true for the maintenance material. Additionally, construction placement is expected to last for only a period of 2 years or less, and more-frequent monitoring would be expected than would be necessary for the periodic, but short-term placement that occurs with maintenance dredging.

Routine bathymetry shall be conducted for the New Work ODMDS to determine that there is no excessive mounding, e.g. to heights greater than eleven (11) feet (threshold) above the existing bottom elevation (unless an alternate height is determined in agreement between the EPA and USACE on a case-by case basis), and that there is no short-term transport of material beyond the limits of the ODMDS. Therefore, an accumulation of 1 foot of sedimentation along the ODMDS boundary will be considered the threshold level for movement of material outside of the New Work ODMDS. These determinations will be based on a comparison of the postplacement surveys with predisposal surveys.

Bathymetric surveys for each new work dredging contract shall be obtained before the start of the disposal operations, and monthly thereafter until operations are complete.

Based on the modeling studies, less than 0.5 feet of material is expected to accumulate along the boundaries of the ODMDS and dredged material is not expected to mound greater than eleven (11) feet if the placement scheme is followed. Allowing for a 0.5 foot margin of error in survey collection, a 1.0 foot change in elevation will be acceptable. Since the site is dispersive, movement of material from the site is expected to occur after completion of disposal operations. The post-disposal bathymetric surveying will serve only to document the extent and direction of this movement and verify the transport of material as predicted by the model.

If the monthly surveys indicate deposited dredged material is mounding to heights greater than the threshold elevation above the existing bottom elevation and/or there is movement of material outside

of the designated limits, then the disposal operation will be reviewed to determine if the disposal sequence is being properly followed. The disposal sequence shall be adjusted as necessary to compensate for the movement.

If the after-disposal surveys indicate mounding to heights greater than the threshold elevation, and/or movement of material out of the ODMDS has occurred, then the monitoring program shall proceed to the Advanced Bathymetric Survey (Section 3.2.1(ii)).

3.2.1(ii) Advanced Bathymetric Survey – Navigational Safety

Maintenance Material

Advanced bathymetric surveys are conducted semi-annually to determine changes in mound height until mound height impacts are no longer observed.

If at six (6) months the deposited dredged material is mounding to elevations above the 10-foot threshold height, but less than fifteen (15) feet above the existing bottom elevation, then bathymetric surveys shall be continued and a notice to mariners will be issued. Additionally, disposal/placement procedures will be reviewed to determine if they need to be modified and/or disposal operators will be directed to avoid areas shallower than the depth determined by bathymetry.

If deposited dredged material is mounding to elevations greater than fifteen (15) feet, CESWG together with EPA R6 will consider various management options to rectify the situation. Such options may include but are not limited to modification of disposal method/placement, restricting disposal volumes, physically leveling the mounds, and institution of Environmental Effects Monitoring.

Construction Material

Advanced bathymetric surveys are conducted semi-annually to determine changes in mound height and/or changes in dispersion of the material until impacts are no longer observed.

If significant transport of material from the site is occurring, hydrographic surveys shall be expanded to include the impacted areas to determine the changes in dispersion of the material. An accumulation of more than 1 foot of sedimentation along the New Work ODMDS boundary will be considered the threshold level for significant movement of material outside of the New Work ODMDS. Following completion of disposal operations, surveys shall continue on a semiannual basis for 1 year or until an agreement is reached between EPA and CESWG to discontinue monitoring. Findings shall be documented for future reference.

If deposited dredged material is mounding to heights greater than sixteen (16) feet above the existing bottom elevation, and there is no significant short-term transport of material beyond the limits of the New Work ODMDS, then bathymetric monitoring shall continue at predetermined 6-month intervals for 1 year, or until agreement is reached between the EPA and CESWG to discontinue monitoring. Findings shall be documented for future reference, and a Notice to Mariners shall be issued as appropriate.

3.2.2 Bathymetric Surveys Conducted for Unauthorized Discharges

Discharges of dredged material outside of the Corpus Christi ODMDSs boundaries will be treated as “unauthorized discharges.” Such discharges may occur as a result of dredging equipment malfunction during dredging operations with spillage of material outside of the ODMDSs’ boundaries, or discharge of dredged material in close proximity to either of the ODMDS boundaries such that it falls outside of the site during descent to the seafloor. In the event of an unauthorized discharge outside of either of the ODMDSs, bathymetric surveys will be conducted to identify the extent of the affected area or estimate the quantity of dredged material associated with the discharge. In such situation, joint discussions between EPA R6 and CESWG will determine management action appropriate to resolve the unauthorized discharge.

3.2.2(i) Routine Bathymetric Survey – ODMDS Boundaries

Routine bathymetry of the ODMDS boundaries and 500-foot area outside of the site (pre and post) is used to determine whether or not placement beyond either of the ODMDS boundaries has occurred as a result of the disposal event. If sedimentation along and beyond the boundary limits of the ODMDS is not greater than approximately 1 foot, then the management objectives are met, and no further post-disposal monitoring will be required. If sedimentation along and beyond the ODMDS boundary limits is greater than approximately 1 foot, as determined by the post dredging survey, then the monitoring shall proceed to the Advanced Bathymetric Surveys.

3.2.2(ii) Advanced Bathymetric Survey – ODMDS Boundaries

Advanced bathymetric surveys are performed semi-annually. Results are used to determine if changes in transport of material from the site is resulting in persistent accumulations of greater than approximately 1 foot of sedimentation beyond the ODMDS boundary. If at six months the material transported outside of the ODMDS has dispersed such that the sedimentation beyond the ODMDS boundary is less than approximately 1 foot, then no further monitoring is needed. If at six months the material transported outside the ODMDS has not dispersed such that the sedimentation beyond the ODMDS boundary is persistently greater than approximately 1 foot (has not improved), various management options should be considered e.g. modification of disposal method/placement, restriction of disposal volumes, expansion of the ODMDS or relocation of ODMDS.

3.3 Project Disposal Compliance Monitoring

For all disposal activities, an electronic tracking system (ETS) must be utilized. The ETS will provide surveillance of the transportation and disposal of dredged material. The ETS will be maintained and operated to continuously track the horizontal location and draft condition (accuracy ± 1 foot) of the disposal vessel (i.e. hopper dredge or disposal scow) from the point of dredging to the disposal site and return to the point of dredging. Data shall be collected at least every 0.25 nautical mile or every 4 minutes during travel to and from the ODMDS and twelve seconds or every 30 feet of travel, while the hull status is open within the ODMDS. In addition to the continuous tracking data, the following trip information shall be electronically recorded for each disposal cycle:

- a) Load number
- b) Disposal vessel name and type (e.g. scow)
- c) Estimated volume of load

- d) Description of material disposed
- e) Source of dredged material
- f) Date, time and location at initiation and completion of disposal event.

It is expected that disposal monitoring will be conducted utilizing the Dredge Quality Management (DQM) system for Civil Works projects (see specifics at <http://dqm.usace.army.mil/Specifications/Index.aspx>), although other systems are acceptable. Disposal monitoring and ETS data will be reported to EPA R6 on a weekly basis utilizing the eXtensible Markup Language (XML) specification and protocol. EPA R6 and the CESWG shall be notified within 24 hours if discharge of dredged material occurs outside of the ODMDS or authorized release zone, or if excessive leakage occurs. Leak warnings are triggered when the change in draft of the hopper or scow from the point of departure from the dredging site to the disposal site exceeds the established threshold. If the event occurs on the weekend or holiday, notification will take place the following business day.

A post disposal summary report is due 90 days after completion of the project. If reports are not submitted or are incomplete a request for an extension must be made to EPA R6.

3.4 EPA R6 Tiered Long-Term Monitoring

Monitoring of USEPA's ODMDSs is required under 40 CFR Part 228.9. The primary purpose of the monitoring program is to evaluate the impact of disposal on the marine environment by referencing the monitoring results to a set of baseline conditions. Monitoring can be trend assessment surveys, which are the responsibility of the federal government (40 CFR Part 228.9(a)(1)) or special studies (40 CFR Part 228.9(a)(2)) conducted by the permittee. A component of USEPA's monitoring strategy is the routine (approximately 10 year) assessment of the trends at the ODMDSs based on the requirements in 40 CFR Part 228.13. This includes monitoring for any changes in the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of the seafloor in and around the ODMDSs as well as any changes in the properties of the water column.

Trend assessment monitoring, environmental effects monitoring, and advanced environmental effects monitoring represent the tiered monitoring approach for the ODMDS sites (Appendix C). In general, specifications for such long term monitoring are decided on a case-by-case basis by collectively considering the characteristics of a site and any past issues that need to be examined for long term impacts. The objectives as well as the design and performance criteria for the monitoring are part of a QAPP that would be site-specific when it is designed, and will depend upon many factors. The action thresholds for the trend assessment monitoring are based in part on 40 CFR Part 228.10(b)(3-5) and the environmental effects monitoring on Part 228.10(1)(i-v). Monitoring to be conducted in the advanced environmental effects monitoring will depend in large part upon what the environmental concern is that was observed or identified in the earlier tiers.

Periodic trend assessment monitoring characterizes water and sediment quality and the benthic community. The action thresholds for the trend assessment monitoring are 1) the absence from the ODMDS of pollution sensitive biota and/or 2) progressive non-seasonal changes in water or sediment quality. Exceedance of these action thresholds would trigger the next level of monitoring. The Environment Effects monitoring focuses on sediment chemical monitoring within and outside of the ODMDS boundaries. The action threshold for the environmental effects monitoring is defined as "Concentrations above the range of contaminant levels in dredged sediments that the Regional

Administrator and the District Engineer found to be suitable for disposal at the ODMDS.” The acceptable level is what was approved for ocean disposal; therefore, anything higher would exceed the threshold and trigger the next level of monitoring. The advanced environmental effects monitoring includes tissue chemical analysis and benthic monitoring. The action thresholds for the advanced environmental effects monitoring are 1) benthic body burdens and risk assessment models indicate potential for food chain impacts and/or 2) unacceptable sub-lethal effects to benthic organisms.

3.5 Future Monitoring Efforts

Changes in bathymetry at the Corpus Christi ODMDSs will continue to be monitored in accordance with Section 3.2. Additionally, trend assessment surveys of the sediment, benthos and water column will continue to be performed periodically (approximately every 10 years) by EPA R6 as budgets allow. Should future disposal at the Corpus Christi ODMDSs result in unacceptable adverse impacts, further studies may be required to determine the persistence of these impacts, the extent of the impacts within the marine system, and/or possible means of mitigation. In addition, the management plan presented may require revision based on the outcome of any monitoring program.

4. REPORTING AND DATA FORMATTING

4.1 Project Initiation and Unauthorized Discharge Reporting

CESWG or the permittee shall complete and submit to EPA R6 a Project Set-Up Form a minimum of 15 days prior to the beginning of a dredging cycle or project disposal. The Project Set-Up Form can be obtained from EPA R6. The user is also required to notify the CESWG and the EPA R6 within 24 hours if a violation of the permit and/or contract conditions related to MPRSA Section 103 or SMMP requirements occur during disposal operations. If the event occurs on the weekend or holiday, notification shall take place the following business day.

4.2 Disposal Monitoring Data

Disposal monitoring data shall be provided to EPA R6 electronically on a weekly basis. Data shall be provided and delivered as an attachment to an email to DisposalData.R4@epa.gov. The XML format is available from EPA R6.

4.3 Post Disposal Summary Report

A Post Disposal Summary Report shall be provided to EPA R6 within 90 days after project completion. An extension can be requested for extenuating circumstances. The report should include:

- a) dredging project title
- b) permit number and expiration date (if applicable)
- c) contract number
- d) name of contractor(s) conducting the work
- e) name and type of vessel(s)
- f) disposal timeframes for each vessel
- g) dredged material volumes placed within the ODMDS

- h) number of loads to the ODMDS
- i) type of material disposed at the ODMDS
- j) dates of pre and post disposal bathymetric surveys of the ODMDS
- k) identification by load number of any misplaced material
- l) narrative discussing any violation(s) of the MPRSA 103 concurrency and/or permit (if applicable).
- m) bathymetric map with contours showing water depths
- n) isopach map with one-half to 1 ft. color contours showing Maintenance ODMDS post disposal elevation change. For New Work ODMDS post disposal elevation change, a minimum of 1 ft. color contours.

The report will be in the form of a narrative with the following sections: 1) introduction, 2) description of dredging and disposal operations, 3) description of pre- and post-disposal bathymetry including synopsis of findings, and 4) a summary. The summary will include a table with the following columns: ID (row identifier), ODMDS, date of Disposal, Gross Cubic Yards Placed, and Discharge Location (Latitude (North) and Longitude (West)). An example of a Post Disposal Summary Report along with guidance is provided in Appendix D.

If applicable, the report should also include a description of any violation(s), indicate the time it occurred and when it was reported to the EPA R6 and CESWG, discuss the circumstances surrounding the violation, and identify specific measures taken to prevent reoccurrence.

The Post Disposal Summary Report should be accompanied by the pre and post bathymetric survey, scatter plot showing disposal footprint, isopach map showing the change in elevation pre-post bathymetry, and a summary table of the trip information required by Section 3.3. If all data is provided in the required XML format, scatter plots and summary tables will not be necessary.

4.4 Environmental Monitoring Reporting

Other federal and state agencies, academia, and non-government organizations conduct research in the vicinity of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel. EPA R6 and CESWG will periodically review the findings of these groups or request data that are relevant to the navigation channel, ODMDSs, and project area to improve our understanding of site environs. Conversely, EPA R6 and CESWG should make every effort to provide project reports and data to interested parties upon request. New or existing information that is relevant to management of the ODMDS should be incorporated into future versions of this SMMP.

5.0 SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW AND REVISION

Pursuant to Section 102(c) of the MPRSA, as amended by WRDA 1992, the SMMP for the ODMDS will be reviewed not less frequently than ten years after adoption and every ten years, thereafter.

Modifications or updates to the SMMP may be necessary, based on scheduled reviews, as specific needs are identified for the project, and/or if results from monitoring surveys or reports indicate that continued use of the ODMDS would lead to unacceptable environmental impacts.

Modifications or updates to the SMMP may be proposed by CESWG or EPA R6. Following a 30-day review period of the proposed changes(s), the modifications may be incorporated into the plan by mutual consent of both agencies.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION

This plan is effective from the date of signature for a period not to exceed ten years.

7.0 REFERENCES

- Maurer, D.L., R.T. Keck, J.C. Tinsman, W.A. Leathem, C.A. Wethe, M. Huntzinger, C. Lord, and T.M. Church. 1978. Vertical Migration of Benthos in Simulated Dredged Material Overburdens, Vol. 1: Marine Benthos. Technical Report D-78-35. U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Station, Vicksburg, MS.
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2007. Revision 2 to the November 19, 2003 Biological Opinion concerning Dredging of Gulf of Mexico Navigation Channels and Sand Mining ("Borrow") Areas Using Hopper Dredges by COE Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, and Jacksonville Districts (Consultation Number F/SER/2000/01287).
- USACE 2003. *Corpus Christi Ship Channel, Texas Channel Improvement Project Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement, Volume I and Volume II*. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southwestern Division, Galveston District. April 2003.
- USEPA. 1996. Guidance document for development of site management plans for Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites. Office of Water (4504F), Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.
- USEPA 1989. *Final Environmental Impact Statement Corpus Christi Ship Channel Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) Designation*. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, EPA 906/04-89-005. April 1989.
- USEPA 1988. *Final Environmental Impact Statement United States Navy Gulf Coast Strategic Homeporting Corpus Christi/Ingleside, Texas Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation*. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6. EPA 906/06-88-001. June 1988.
- USEPA 1988. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement Corpus Christi Ship Channel Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) Designation*. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6. September 13, 1988.
- USEPA 1987. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement United States Navy Gulf Coast Strategic Homeporting Corpus Christi/Ingleside, Texas Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation*. U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6. EPA 906/11-87-006. November 1987.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USEPA/USACE). 2003. Regional Implementation Agreement for Testing and Reporting Requirements for Ocean Disposal of Dredged Material Off the Louisiana and Texas Coasts Under Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston and New Orleans Districts.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USEPA/USACE). 1996.

Guidance document for development of site management plans for ocean dredged material disposal sites. Office of Water (4504F), Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USEPA/USACE). 1991. Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Ocean Disposal - Testing Manual. EPA-503/891/001. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

Appendices

Appendix A – Site User Monitoring Requirements for Maintenance ODMDS

| MONITORING CATEGORY | TECHNIQUE | SPONSOR | RATIONALE | FREQUENCY | ACTION THRESHOLD | MANAGEMENT OPTIONS | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|--|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | THRESHOLD NOT EXCEEDED | THRESHOLD EXCEEDED |
| Monitor Bathymetric Trends | Routine Bathymetric Survey | Site User | Determine the height and extent of the disposal mound | Pre and post disposal (45 days) for significant projects (>50,000 CY) | Mound height >10 ft. above existing bottom | Continue monitoring | Initiate Advanced Bathymetric Surveys of the affected area |
| | Advanced Bathymetric Survey | Site User | Determine changes in mound height until impacts are no longer observed | Semi-annually | (1) Mounding > 10 ft. above existing bottom (2) Persistence of a mound (limited or no dispersion observed between surveys) | Continue monitoring until mound height <10 ft., then resume routine bathymetric monitoring | (1) Modify disposal method/placement; (2) Direct disposal operators to avoid areas shallower than the depth determined by bathymetry; (3) Physically level material to 10 ft. or less; (4) Notify mariners of mound location and depth |
| ODMDS Boundaries | Routine Bathymetric Survey | Site User | Determine if placement beyond assigned disposal zone and/or ODMDS boundaries has occurred. | Pre and post disposal (45 days) | (1) Sedimentation > 1 ft. along and beyond site boundaries (2) Evidence of an unauthorized discharge outside of ODMDS boundary | Continue Monitoring | Initiate Advanced Bathymetric Surveys of the affected area |
| | Advanced Bathymetric Survey | Site User | Determine changes in dispersion of material until impacts are no longer observed | Semi-annually | Persistence of sedimentation > 1 ft. along and beyond site boundaries | Continue monitoring until sedimentation < 1 ft. along and beyond site boundaries, then resume routine monitoring | (1) Modify disposal method/placement; (2) Restrict disposal volumes; (3) Expansion of ODMDS; (4) Relocation of ODMDS |
| Project Disposal | Post Disposal Summary Report | Site User | (1) Ensure management requirements are being met; (2) to assist in site monitoring | 90 days after project completion | Disposal records required by SMMP are not submitted or are incomplete | Continue monitoring | Request extension from EPA R6 |

Appendix B – Site User Monitoring Requirements for New Work ODMS

| MONITORING CATEGORY | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|---|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| Monitor Bathymetric Trends | Routine Bathymetric Survey | Site User | Determine the height and extent of the disposal mound | Pre disposal, and monthly thereafter until operations are complete, then 6 months and 1 year after completion | Mound height >11 ft. above existing bottom or sedimentation > 1 ft. along and beyond site boundaries | Continue monitoring | (1) Monthly bathymetry: modify disposal method/placement (2) Post disposal bathymetry: Initiate Advanced Bathymetric Surveys of the affected area |
| | Advanced Bathymetric Survey | Site User | Determine changes in mound height until impacts are no longer observed | Semi-annually | (1) Mounding > 11 ft. above existing bottom (2) Persistence of a mound (limited or no dispersion observed between surveys) | Continue monitoring until mound height <11 ft., then resume routine bathymetric monitoring | (1) Modify disposal method/placement; (2) Direct disposal operators to avoid areas shallower than the depth determined by bathymetry; (3) Physically level material to 11 ft. or less; (4) Notify mariners of mound location and depth |
| ODMS Boundaries | Routine Bathymetric Survey | Site User | Determine if placement beyond assigned disposal zone and/or ODMS boundaries has occurred. | Pre disposal, and monthly thereafter until operations are complete, post disposal | Sedimentation > 1 ft. along and beyond site boundaries (2) Evidence of an unauthorized discharge outside of ODMS boundary | Continue Monitoring | Initiate Advanced Bathymetric Surveys of the affected area |
| | Advanced Bathymetric Survey | Site User | Determine changes in dispersion of material until impacts are no longer observed | Semi-annually | Persistence of sedimentation > 1 ft. along and beyond site boundaries | Continue monitoring until sedimentation < 1 ft. along and beyond site boundaries, then resume routine monitoring | (1) Modify disposal method/placement; (2) Restrict disposal volumes; (3) Expansion of ODMS; (4) Relocation of ODMS |
| Project Disposal | Post Disposal Summary Report | Site User | (1) Ensure management requirements are being met; (2) to assist in site monitoring | 90 days after project completion | Disposal records required by SMMP are not submitted or are incomplete | Continue monitoring | Request extension from EPA R6 |

Appendix C – Corpus Christi New Work and Maintenance ODMDS Monitoring Requirements

| MONITORING CATEGORY | TECHNIQUE | SPONSOR | RATIONALE | FREQUENCY | ACTION THRESHOLD | MANAGEMENT OPTIONS | |
|---|--|---------|---|---|---|------------------------|---|
| | | | | | | THRESHOLD NOT EXCEEDED | THRESHOLD EXCEEDED |
| ODMDS Trend Assessment | Water and Sediment Quality, Benthic Community Analysis (40CFR228.13) | EPA | Periodically evaluate the impact of disposal on the marine environment (40CFR 228.9) | Approximately every 10 years as funding allows | (1) Absence from the site of pollution sensitive biota (2) Progressive non-seasonal changes in water or sediment quality | Continue Monitoring | 1) Conduct Environmental Effects Monitoring or Advanced Environmental Effects Monitoring (2) Review dredged material evaluation procedures |
| Environmental Effects Monitoring | Chemical Monitoring | EPA | Determine if chemical contaminants are significantly elevated ¹ within and outside of site boundaries | Implement if (1) disposal footprint extends significantly beyond the site boundaries (2) Trend Assessment results warrant | Contaminants are found to be elevated ² . | Discontinue monitoring | (1) Institute Advanced Environmental Effects Monitoring (2) Implement case specific management options (i.e. Remediation, limits on quantities or types of material) |
| | Benthic Monitoring | | Determine whether there are adverse changes in the benthic populations outside of the site and evaluate recovery rates | | Adverse changes observed outside of the site that may endanger the marine environment. | | |
| Advanced Environmental Effects Monitoring | Tissue Chemical Analysis | EPA | Determine if site is a source of adverse bioaccumulation which may endanger the marine environment | Implement if Environmental Effects Monitoring warrants | Benthic body burdens and risk assessment models indicate potential for food chain impacts | Discontinue monitoring | (1) Discontinue site use (2) Implement case specific management options (i.e. Remediation, limits on quantities or types of material) |
| | Benthic Monitoring | | Determine if site is a source of adverse sub-lethal ² changes in benthic organisms which may endanger the marine | | Sub-lethal effects are unacceptable | | |

Footnotes:

- (1) Significantly elevated: Concentration above the range of contaminant levels in dredged sediments that the Regional Administrator and the District Engineer found to be suitable for disposal at the ODMDS.
- (2) Examples of sub-lethal effects include without limitation the development of lesions, tumors, development abnormality, and/or decreased fecundity.

Appendix D – EPA R6 Post Disposal Summary Report Template

The Post Disposal Summary Report includes a 1) title page, 2) tables providing description of dredging project and disposal operations with supporting narrative, and 3) bathymetric surveys. A template is provided below which can be filled in.

The purpose of the bathymetric surveys is to evaluate 1) consistency of the disposal operations with the permit or civil works project and 2) adherence to mounding thresholds (within and along the boundary of the ODMDS) established in the ocean dredged material disposal site management and monitoring plan. In order to make this evaluation, the bathymetric surveys should be provided as an isopach with color coded depths and contours. The ODMDS boundary, disposal zone boundary and disposal placement locations should be displayed.

Page 1: Title Page – Enter the ODMDS name, brief project description, and contract # in the appropriate places. The table topics in the table don't change, but the page numbers could.

Page 2: Table and supporting narrative – Complete the information on the right side of the table as directed. Write supporting narrative as directed.

Page 3: Contractor Disposal Summary Table – Insert Contractor Disposal Summary Table. Depending upon the size of the project, this could span more than one page.

Page 4 and beyond: Insert individual bathymetric surveys and isopach

Post Disposal Summary Report

[Insert name of ODMDS]

Project: *[Brief description of project]*

Contract: *[Insert Contract number]*

| Page | Topic |
|------|---|
| 2 | Includes: dredging project title, permit number and expiration date (if applicable), contract number, name of contractor performing work, name and type of vessel(s) disposing material in ODMDS, disposal timeframes for each vessel, volume disposed at the ODMDS, number of loads to ODMDS, material type, misplaced material, date of pre-disposal, monthly (if applicable), and post-disposal surveys, narrative discussing any violations of Section 103 concurrency and/or permit. |
| 3 | Disposal Summary Table |
| 4 | Pre-disposal Survey |
| 5 | Monthly Surveys (if applicable) |
| 6 | Post-disposal Survey |
| 7 | Isopach comparing pre-disposal survey with post-disposal survey |

| ITEM | INFORMATION |
|--|---|
| DOA Permit Number | <i>Enter DOA Permit Number</i> |
| Expiration Date Section 103 Concurrence | <i>Enter date</i> |
| 3. Contract Number | <i>Enter contract number</i> |
| 4. Contract Title | <i>Enter contract title</i> |
| 5. Prime Contractor Tracking System | <i>Enter name of contractor tracking system</i> |
| 6. Vessel Name(s) (type) | <i>Name of Dredge (type of dredge)</i> |
| 7. Disposal Timeframes | <i>Enter dates of disposal</i> |
| 8. Volume disposal at ODMDS | <i>Enter # CY placed</i> |
| 9. Number of loads to ODMDS | <i>Enter number</i> |
| 10. Material Type | <i>Enter type of material (e.g. Silty Sand)</i> |
| 11. Misplaced Material | <i>Enter quantity of misplaced material</i> |
| 12. Date of pre-disposal survey | <i>Enter month/day/year and (survey #)</i> |
| 13. Date(s) of monthly surveys (if applicable) | <i>Enter month/day/year and (survey #)</i> |
| 14. Date of post-disposal survey | <i>Enter month/day/year and (survey #)</i> |

Supporting Narrative:

If applicable, description of any violation(s), indicate the time it occurred and when it was reported to the EPA R6 and CESWG, discuss the circumstances surrounding the violation, and identify specific measures taken to prevent reoccurrence.

Description of pre-, monthly (if applicable) and post-disposal bathymetry including synopsis of findings

[Insert Contractor Disposal Summary Table]

| Load No. | Date | Area Dredged | Vessel | Captain | Hopper opened Time | Northing | Easting | Draft | Load CY | Disposal Area |
|----------|------|--------------|--------|---------|--------------------|----------|---------|-------|---------|---------------|
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

[Insert associated maps/figures]