



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Galveston District

March 25, 2016

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
and
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN
FOR THE
GALVESTON, TEXAS OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE (ODMDS)

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 6 and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District have jointly reviewed and revised the Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for the Galveston, Texas Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS).

The Galveston, Texas ODMDS was designated by the EPA, pursuant to Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended, as suitable for the ocean disposal of dredged material. A SMMP was developed for the Galveston ODMDS in 1996 and revised in December 2008. This plan serves as a revision to and supersedes the original plan.

The proposed revisions to the SMMP take into consideration the use modification described in a final rule published in the Federal Register on September 18, 2015. This modification expands the use of the ODMDS to include the placement of suitable dredged material from both maintenance and new work projects from within the greater Houston-Galveston, Texas vicinity. The proposed revisions are intended to make the decision process for site management and dredged material monitoring requirements more transparent and understandable.

The primary user of the Galveston ODMDS is the USACE for disposal of maintenance dredged material from the Galveston Bay Complex (GBC) comprised of the Galveston Entrance and Jetty Channels, Galveston Harbor Channel, Houston Ship Channel and the Texas City Channel.

Secondary users of the Galveston ODMDS would consist of non-federal entities for the placement of suitable dredged material to maintain port slips, berthing areas, etc.

Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of the EPA and the USACE to monitor and manage ocean dredged material disposal sites to ensure that ocean dredged material disposal activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires the development and periodic review and revision of a site management and monitoring plan (SMMP) for each ODMDS. Following an opportunity for public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the site. Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits may be conditioned on a case by case basis to ensure consistency with the SMMP.

The USEPA and USACE encourage your participation to assure the plan provides necessary information for effective ODMDS management, and is easily understood. This Public Notice is being distributed via email and the SMMP is included as an attachment. It can also be obtained from EPA's website using the following link <https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/managing-ocean-dumping-epa-region-6>. Persons desiring to express their views or provide information to be considered in evaluating this document are requested to mail their comments to either of the following postal addresses or to either of the e-mail addresses:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
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The comments should make specific reference to this SMMP, and must be submitted to an above address on or before Monday, April 25, 2016.