

**Appendix A**  
**SCOPING AND**  
**RESPONSE LETTERS**

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REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 4970  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

April 17, 1995



Planning Division  
Environmental Branch

APR 20 1995

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

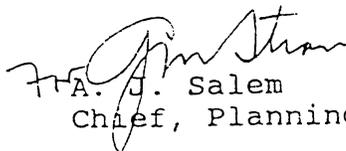
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, has requested that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) offshore Port Everglades, Florida, for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area when ocean disposal is the preferred disposal alternative. An Environmental Impact Statement is required to provide the necessary information to evaluate alternatives and designate the preferred ODMDS.

The entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation. The dredged material has been disposed of at the existing interim ODMDS for Port Everglades in the past. Designation of a Port Everglades ODMDS is being evaluated to determine the most feasible and environmentally acceptable ocean disposal site for anticipated future dredging.

The area that will be investigated lies between 3 and 10 miles offshore of Port Everglades in the Atlantic Ocean. The alternative to selecting a site is no action, being defined as not designating an ocean disposal site.

The Corps welcomes your views, comments, and information about resources, study objectives, and important features within the described study area, as well as any suggested improvements. Letters of comment or inquiry should be addressed to the letterhead address to the attention of Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section, and received by this office within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

  
F. A. J. Salem

Chief, Planning Division



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER  
CARDEROCK DIVISION

SOUTH FLORIDA TESTING FACILITY  
8010 NORTH OCEAN DRIVE  
DANIA, FL 33004

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5000  
Ser 7110/159  
30 Jun 95

From: Officer in Charge, Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division  
Detachment, South Florida Testing Facility  
To: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section, Department of the  
Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970,  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Subj: OFF-SHORE DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE

Ref: (a) Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
ltr of 17 Apr 95

1. This is in response to reference (a) regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida, for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area. As the referenced letter states, the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

2. The Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division Detachment, South Florida Testing Facility strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades. Due to the nature of the South Florida Testing Facility's operations, however, some careful attention to the location of the site is requested.

3. The South Florida Testing Facility (SFTF) conducts surface and subsurface trials of Navy vessels, and has an extensive underwater cable range off the coast south of Port Everglades. It is requested that all considerations involving the actual disposal site include the exclusion of the SFTF test range bounded by the following coordinates:

North-west corner: 80° 06' 30" West, 26° 06' 30" North  
North-east corner: 79° 40' 00" West, 26° 06' 30" North  
South-east corner: 79° 40' 00" West, 26° 00' 00" North  
South-west corner: 80° 07' 00" West, 26° 00' 00" North

Exclusion of this area shall insure that any disposal activities will not interfere with range operations. Additional information regarding our test range is contained in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Navigation and Navigable Waters, designated as restricted area 334.580.

Subj: OFF-SHORE DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE

4. If you have any questions, please contact William Baxley, Environmental Site Manager, at (305) 926-4015.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M.C. Ruddeforth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

M.C. RUDDEFORTH



STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

2740 CENTERVIEW DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100

LAWTON CHILES  
Governor

LINDA LOOMIS SHELLEY  
Secretary

June 6, 1995

Mr. A. J. Salem  
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

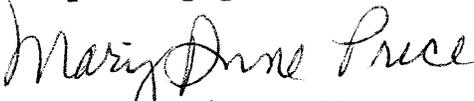
RE: Beach Erosion Control Projects - Port Everglades -  
Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site, Broward  
County, Florida  
SAI: FL9504190258C

Dear Mr. Salem:

The Florida State Clearinghouse is awaiting additional comments from our reviewing agencies on the above referenced project. We are therefore requesting an additional fifteen (15) days for completion of the consistency review in accordance with 15 CFR 930.41(b).

We will make every effort to conclude the review and forward the consistency determination to you on or before June 15, 1995.

Very truly yours,

*for*   
Linda Loomis Shelley  
Secretary

LLS/rk



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

December 3, 1998

4WM-WC'WQ

Mr. Don Fore  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CESAJ-DP-1  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Fore:

I have completed my review of the draft final report entitled, "Dispersion Characteristics for Palm Beach and Port Everglades Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS)" completed by the Waterways Experiment Station. Overall, the effort appears sound, comprehensive and useful for the designation EIS. My comments on the STFATE simulations and long-term fate analysis are attached. However, prior to any additional analysis per my comments, it may be prudent to await comments from the State of Florida. If there are any questions regarding my comments, please contact me at (404) 562-9391.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris J. McArthur".

Christopher J. McArthur, PE  
Environmental Engineer  
Wetlands, Coastal & Water Quality  
Branch

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Rea Boothby, CESAJ-PD-ER  
Mr. Glenn Schuster, CESAJ-PD-EE  
Ms. Lynn Griffin, State of Florida DEP  
Ms. Mary Cialone, CEWES-CR-P

EPA REGION 4 COMMENTS  
DISPERSION CHARACTERISTICS FOR PALM BEACH AND PORT EVERGLADES OCEAN DREDGED  
MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES (ODMDS)

STFATE Results:

1. In our previous comments prior to modeling initiation, we requested that a "typical" current profile ( $V_{50}$  for angle band 1) be modeled to provide a description of the disposal event under typical conditions at the ODMDS. This was not done and should be conducted.
2. In our previous comments prior to modeling initiation, we raised concerns regarding the validity of the Navy ADCP data set for use at Palm Beach located 40 miles to the north. This issue has still not been addressed. Additional sources of current data should be consulted to determine the validity of this data set at Palm Beach.
3. Model coefficients were selected based on recommended default values and values more appropriate for the study. However, the report does not discuss which coefficients were modified from the default values and what was the basis of the modification besides personal communication. The rationale for selected coefficient values should be stated. Additionally, acoustic plume measurements conducted by NOAA at the Miami ODMDS could assist in the development of more accurate entrainment coefficients. This should be examined.
4. The STFATE results should include figures showing total suspended solids concentrations. Additionally, the scales should be adjusted to show the entire plume decay. In some cases the plots end with sediment concentrations as high as 20mg/l.

Long Term Fate Analysis:

5. Long term modeling and screening assumed a disposal project volume of 50,000 cubic yards. It is unclear that this is a suitable project volume. It is stated that 50,000 cubic yards is an annual disposal amount. Disposal mounds are created not by annual averages, but by project volumes. It is expected that these ODMDSs will not be used on an annual basis. The 1994 Port Everglades Disposal Area Study showed harbor shoals of 162,500 cubic yards and 68,500 cubic yards. The Palm Beach Disposal Area Study showed harbor shoals of 16,000 and 60,000 cubic yards. Additional discussions with Tim Murphy and Don Fore of the Jacksonville District indicate that ocean disposal project sizes of 30,000 to 50,000 cubic yards are reasonable, but that projects on the order of 600,000 to 700,000 cubic yards are possible for use of the ODMDS. The sites should be re-evaluated using a more conservative project volume in addition to the typical project size.



STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

2740 CENTERVIEW DRIVE • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100

LAWTON CHILES  
Governor

LINDA LOOMIS SHELLEY  
Secretary

June 16, 1995

Mr. A. J. Salem  
Chief of Planning  
Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers  
Jacksonville District  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Scoping Letter for Offshore Dredged Materials Disposal  
Site - Port Everglades - Broward County, Florida  
SAI: FL9504190258C

Dear Mr. Salem:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Governor's Executive Order 93-194, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) recommends that the environmental impact statement for the above-referenced project include an analysis of disposal options, including the reuse of beach quality materials, and the results of a detailed survey to identify suitable disposal sites. The DEP also indicates that significant marine resources including hard bottom, soft bottom and reef communities, and areas utilized by marine mammals and turtles, may occur within the project area. Therefore, the Corps of Engineers is encouraged to coordinate closely with the DEP during all stages of the site investigations and project planning. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments for further discussion of these recommendations and concerns.

Based on the information contained in the scoping document and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the

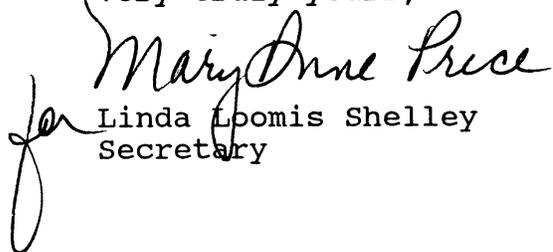
Mr. A. J. Salem

June 16, 1995

Page Two

state has determined that, at this stage, the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). All subsequent environmental documents prepared for this project must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. All future documents prepared for this project must be submitted to the Florida State Clearinghouse for interagency review.

Very truly yours,

  
Linda Loomis Shelley  
Secretary

LLS/rk

Enclosures

cc: George Percy, Department of State  
Lynn Griffin, Department of Environmental Protection



# Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles  
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Virginia B. Wetherell  
Secretary

June 16, 1995

Suzanne Traub-Metlay  
Executive Office of the Governor  
Office of Planning and Budgeting  
Room 1603, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Ms. Traub-Metlay:

Re: Scoping Request, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site Designation  
Port Everglades, Florida.  
SAI FL9504190258

The Corps of Engineers is planning to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to determine an appropriate location for a new ocean dredged material disposal site (ODMDS) offshore of Port Everglades. The primary use of the site will be to dispose of sediments dredged from the port's entrance channel and turning basin. In addressing the purpose and need to designate a site off of Port Everglades, the EIS should clearly acknowledge that the site is not intended for the disposal of beach quality material. There should also be an exhaustive analysis of alternative upland sites and reuse options which could avoid the need to dispose of usable material in the ocean environment.

In 1990, the department objected to any further use of the interim-designated disposal site located near Port Everglades, due, in part, to documented impacts to hard bottom communities. It appears that the Corps and EPA are intending to relocate the permanent disposal site to deeper waters 3-10 miles offshore. However, this area, and downcurrent areas further inshore, may also include significant marine resources, such as hard bottom, reef communities; artificial reefs and other fish havens; areas frequented by marine mammals and turtles; and possibly significant soft bottom communities. The ideal location for a site would be removed from such areas so that disposal operations do not result in direct or indirect impacts to bottom habitats and other important biological resources.

*"Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources"*

Ms. Traub-Metlay  
June 16, 1995  
Page Two

Although the scoping notice indicates that a broad area will be investigated, old correspondence regarding this site designation refers to surveys which were probably conducted around the mid-1980s and focused on two locations 3 and 7 nmi offshore. While geophysical information gathered in old surveys may be useful for comparative purposes, biological information presented in the EIS needs to be up-to-date. Rather than selecting specific locations to investigate, we recommend conducting a wide area search of the study area shown in the notice, using bathymetry, side scan sonar, and photography, to identify potential disposal site locations based primarily on gross physiographic characteristics. Promising candidate sites can then be investigated in greater detail for evaluation in the EIS.

Surveys of candidate sites should include detailed bathymetry and, depending on water depths and current conditions, may warrant sediment sampling, biological sampling, and more detailed video and still photography. Surveys should cover the site and the area within .5 nmi surrounding the site. If video surveys are conducted, survey transects should be set at 150-200m line spacings to allow the type, areal extent, and density of bottom resources to be mapped. Sufficient biological sampling should be performed to ground truth photographic information and characterize benthic communities. Maps depicting bathymetry, distribution of representative benthic communities, and sediment types should be presented in the draft EIS.

Dredged material transport is an issue of concern, particularly where sensitive marine communities are located in close proximity to the disposal site. It is expected that the same eddy currents present at the Miami ODMDS would be present in the area off of Port Everglades. If this is the case, transport of fine sediments may be an issue at this site also, depending on what resources are found to be present and the site location. We recommend that EPA and the Corps continue the consultation with NOAA-AOML and UM-RSMAS ongoing at the Miami site on matters pertaining to current conditions, hydrographic modeling, and sediment transport at Port Everglades.

We request that the department be consulted at all stages of this site investigation. We would like to assist in developing the survey protocols and review survey data, particularly site photography, before it is presented in the draft EIS. We recommend that EPA establish the site management and monitoring team for this site at this time so

Ms. Traub-Metlay  
June 16, 1995  
Page Three

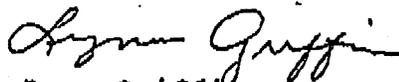
that a working group is involved in the site search and alternatives analysis from inception. The team can also participate in developing the dredged material disposal plan and site management and monitoring plan which should be included in the draft EIS.

At other sites, the department has been given the opportunity to review a preliminary copy of the draft EIS and provide informal, early coordination comments. This consultation has been invaluable in resolving issues before the draft EIS was officially published. We request that such consultation take place for this site as well.

The draft EIS should include a federal consistency determination which evaluates the consistency of the proposed designation with the department's statutory authorities in the Florida Coastal Management Program, particularly Chapters 373 and 370, Florida Statutes. This analysis should focus on the issues raised above.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this scoping notice. If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me at 487-2231.

Cordially,



Lynn Griffin  
Environmental Manager  
Office of Intergovernmental  
Programs

/1

cc: George Henderson



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Sandra B. Mortham  
Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 South Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Director's Office  
(904) 488-1480

Telecopier Number (FAX)  
(904) 488-3353

**RECEIVED**

MAY 14 1995

Florida Coastal  
Management Program

May 11, 1995

Ms. Suzanne Traub-Metlay  
State Clearinghouse  
Executive Office of the Governor  
Room 1603, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

In Reply Refer To:  
Frank J. Keel  
Historic Sites Specialist  
(904) 487-2333  
Project File No. 951538

RE: Cultural Resource Assessment Request  
SAI# FL9504190258C  
Proposed Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Area  
Port Everglades, Broward County, Florida

Dear Ms. Traub-Metlay:

In accordance with the provisions of Florida's Coastal Zone Management Act and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, as well as the procedures contained in 36 C.F.R., Part 800 ("Protection of Historic Properties"), we have reviewed the referenced project(s) for possible impact to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical or architectural value.

A review of the Florida Site File indicates that no significant archaeological or historical sites are recorded for or likely to be present within the project area. Furthermore, because of the project location and/or nature it is unlikely that any such sites will be affected. Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical or architectural value. The project is also consistent with the historic preservation laws of Florida's Coastal Management Program.

Ms. Traub-Metlay  
May 11, 1995  
Page 2

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.  
Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
*Laura A. Kammerer*

*for* George W. Percy, Director  
Division of Historical Resources  
and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

GWP/Kfk  
xc: Jasmin Raffington, FCMP-DCA

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: May 8, 1995

To: State Clearinghouse

From: Robert G. Hebert, Jr.  
Manager-Ports/Intermodal  
Florida Department of Transportation  
SC 278-5704 FAX SC 277-3403

**RECEIVED**

MAY 9 1995

Florida Coastal  
Management Program

Copies: FDOT ICAR Coordinator w/att., FDOT District 4 Public  
Transportation Manager, Florida Coastal Management  
Director (DCA), File

Subject: ICAR Federal Consistency Project Review Process  
Port Everglades Dredging  
SAI#'s FL9504190258C

In accordance with departmental procedure 525-010-205-c, and State Clearinghouse requirements for review and comment on potential federal projects that may affect state programs and objectives, please be advised that the above-referenced proposed study or project:

       Does influence and impose a potential impact on existing state programs or objectives under Rail Office jurisdiction to the extent noted in the following comments:

  X   Does not influence or impose a potential impact on existing state programs or objectives under Rail Office jurisdiction at this time, and no comments or recommendations are required.

Should further information or explanation be required, please feel free to contact the Rail Office at (904) 488-5704.

RGH/  
Attachment

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW  
ROUTING SHEET

DATE: 05/05/95

TO: Norm Feder, D1; Aage Schroder, D2; Marvin Stukey, D3; Joe Yesbeck, D4; Jim Kimbler, D5; Servando Parapar, D6; David Twiddy, D7; Leroy Irwin, MS37; Rob Hebert, MS25; Ashbaker, MS46.

SAI#: FL9504190258C

Application Transmitted: Port Everglades Dredging

Date Response Due to the Clearinghouse: 05/10/95

Please review and comment regarding the attached application in accordance with Department Procedure 525-010-205. A letter of response to the Director of the Clearinghouse and this routing sheet should be completed and returned as directed in the procedure.

The following criteria, as appropriate to the project, should be used to evaluate the application and develop your comments:

- Florida Transportation Plan
- Adopted Work Program
- Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
- Right of Way Preservation and Advanced Acquisition
- Transit Development Program
- MPO Comprehensive Transportation Plan and 20 year Transportation Plan
- Florida Rail System Plan
- Florida Aviation System Plan
- Local Airport Master Plan
- Florida Seaport Mission Plan
- Environment Commitments
- Unified Planning Work Program
- Level of Service
- Access Management

If comments are warranted based on other criteria, they should be included.

Work Program Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

Ronnice Freeman  
Central Office ICAR Coordinator, MS28

Type: GENERAL AVIATION  
RAIL SEAPORTS ENVIRONMENT  
TRANSIT

COUNTY: Broward

DATE: 04/25/95  
COMMENT DUE DATE: 05/10/95  
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 06/02/95  
SAI#: FL9504190258C

STATE AGENCIES

LOCAL/OTHER

OPB POLICY UNITS

Community Affairs  
Environmental Protection  
Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm  
Health and Rehabilitative Services  
State  
Transportation

South Florida Water Manag. District

Environmental Policy/C & ED

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X- Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.



FOR CONSISTENCY PROJECTS, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

To: State Clearinghouse  
Executive Office of the Governor -OPB  
Room 1603, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
(904) 488-8114 (SC 278-8114)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

Florida Coastal Management Program  
Department of Community Affairs  
Suite 305, Rhyne Building  
2740 Centerview Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
(904) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: FDOT RAIL OFFICE

Reviewer: Walt S. Yulet J. Manager - Ports/Intermodal

Date: 5/8/95

RY: Broward

DATE: 04/25/95  
COMMENT DUE DATE: 05/10/95  
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 06/02/95  
SAI#: FL9504190258C

STATE AGENCIES

Community Affairs  
Environmental Protection  
Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm  
Health and Rehabilitative Services  
State  
Transportation

LOCAL/OTHER

South Florida Water Manag. District

OPB POLICY UNITS

Environmental Policy/C & ED

RECEIVED  
MAY 14 1995

Florida Coastal  
Management Program

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

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- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

FOR CONSISTENCY PROJECTS, SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS.

To: State Clearinghouse  
Executive Office of the Governor -OPB  
Room 1603, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
(904) 488-8114 (SC 278-8114)  
  
Florida Coastal Management Program  
Department of Community Affairs  
Suite 305, Rhyne Building  
2740 Centerview Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
(904) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:  
Division/Bureau: Comprehensive Planning  
Reviewer: Frank Duke  
Date: May 11, 1995



Port Everglades  
Department of Broward County  
1850 Eller Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL, U.S.A. 33316-4201  
(305) 523-3404 · Fax 525-1910  
~~xxxxxxx~~ 468-3506

May 11, 1995

Mr. Erik Hvide, President  
Port Everglades Association, Inc.  
c/o Hvide Marine  
P.O. Box 13038  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Re: Assistance of Port Everglades Association, Inc.  
Attached Public Notice from the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (COE)

Dear Mr. Hvide: *Erik*

We are requesting that the Port Everglades Association respond to the referenced COE Public Notice with positive comments regarding this study. In addition, it will be to our advantage if the individual members of the Association also responded to this request for comments, as the COE likes to see volume as well as quality in these matters.

As you are aware, one of the most important aspects of running a port is to maintain safe navigational channels and to increase our harbor and channel depths when needed as the result of new construction dredging projects. Currently, the Port has very limited areas to place dredge soil material within the confines of the our property. By having an approved Offshore Dredge Material Disposal Site (ODMDS), the Port can be assured that the channels will be maintained to depths necessary to ensure safe passage of all vessels transiting and utilizing our facility. The study process currently underway, is a rather lengthy one (2.5 to 3 years), and it would be helpful to the Port to show the COE support for this project from the Port users.

If you feel that there is a need for me to explain the study further to you or your members, please do not hesitate to call me. Congratulations on your new undertaking.

Sincerely,

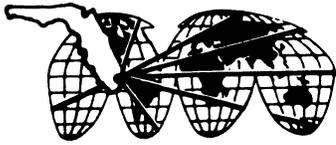
Allan D. Sosnow  
Environmental Projects Manager

✓ ADS:rhc

cc: Maurice F. Canady, Jr.

Enclosure

File: ODMDS



**PORT EVERGLADES  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

May 23, 1995

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Attention: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the April 17, 1995, letter from A.J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concerning the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida, for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area.

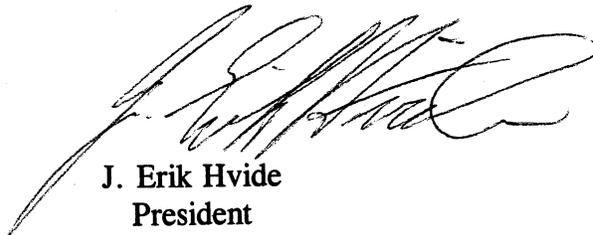
As you know, the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

Port Everglades is a major U.S. seaport, the second largest cruise port in the world, and the major petroleum port for South Florida. Nearly 4,500 ships transit the Port's entrance channel each year. Clearly, safety of navigation at Port Everglades is of the highest importance, and maintenance dredging is an essential aspect of the port's continuing operations.

The Port Everglades Association, a not-for-profit group of South Florida businesses organized to promote the growth and development of the Port, strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades.

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions about this matter.

Sincerely,



J. Erik Hvide  
President



**Coastal**  
The Energy People

PAUL D. STANTON  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
COASTAL FUELS MARKETING, INC.

AD-ER  
(Boothby)

June 7, 1995

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Attention: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

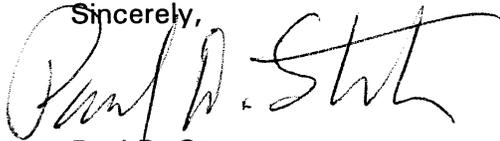
Dear Sir:

We are writing in response to the April 17, 1995, letter from A.J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida, for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area.

Coastal Fuels Marketing, Inc. strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades.

We are a long term operator of a large facility within Port Everglades and, through our affiliate companies, supply petroleum products into the Port using our own vessels as well as chartered shipping. Accordingly, we are keenly interested in activities that will help maintain and improve the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades.

Coastal has been and will always be very active in bettering the Port. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
  
Paul D. Stanton

PDS/kc



June 7, 1995

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Attention: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the April 17, 1995 letter from A. J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida, for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area. As the referenced letter states, the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

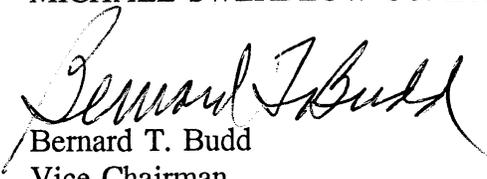
Port Everglades is a major U.S. seaport, the second largest cruise port in the world, and the major petroleum port for South Florida. More than four thousand ships transit the Port's entrance channel each year. Clearly, safety of navigation at Port Everglades is of the highest importance, and maintenance dredging is an essential aspect of the port's continuing operations.

The Michael Swerdlow Companies, Inc. strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore at Port Everglades.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL SWERDLOW COMPANIES, INC.



Bernard T. Budd  
Vice Chairman

xc: Eric Hvide



# Rinker

June 2, 1995

**Rinker Materials Corporation**  
1200 N.W. 137th Avenue  
Miami, FL 33182

P.O. Box 650679  
Miami, FL 33265-0679

Facsimile (305) 223-5403  
Telephone (305) 221-7645

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers P.O.. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Attention: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the April 17, 1995, letter from A.J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida, for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area. As the referenced letter states, the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

Port Everglades is a major U.S. seaport, the second largest cruise port in the world, and the major petroleum port for South Florida. More than four thousand ships transit the Port's entrance channel each year. Clearly, safety of navigation at Port Everglades is of the highest importance, and maintenance dredging is an essential aspect of the port's continuing operations.

Rinker Materials Corporation strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades.

Please feel free to contact me should you have questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

James S. Jenkins III  
Vice President Cement Operations

JSJ:lg



# CROWLEY AMERICAN TRANSPORT, INC.

May 31, 1995

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Attention: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

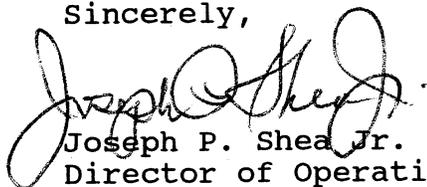
I refer to correspondence from A.J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corp of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) to designate an offshore dredged material disposal site. This site offshore of Port Everglades would be the designated area for dredged material from the Port Everglades area. The attached letter states that the entrance channel and turning basin must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

Port Everglades is the site of a major terminal for Crowley American Transport, Inc. which serves South America, Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean. Safety of navigation and clear, unobstructed access to our berths at Southport, Port Everglades, is a major concern. Considering that Crowley American Transport, Inc., estimates 572 vessels in 1995, maintenance dredging and navigational safety is a major priority to our continuing operation.

Crowley American Transport, Inc. strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an offshore dredged material disposal site adjacent to Port Everglades.

If you have any questions on this matter, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Joseph P. Shea Jr.  
Director of Operations, South Florida

JPS/bcp



**ELLER**

& COMPANY, INC.

701 S.E. 24th STREET / FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33316 / P.O. BOX 13133  
PHONE (305) 525-3381 / TELEX: (RCA) 275168  
CABLE: "ELLERCO" / FAX: (305) 524-2644  
"COMPLETE MARITIME SERVICES"

June 6, 1995

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Attention: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

Gentlemen:

You are referred to the April 17, 1995 letter from A.J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area. Our company is port agent and stevedore for most of the cruise lines serving Port Everglades, as well as many of the cargo lines. It is vital to our principals that the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

We, therefore, strongly support your request to the EPA and the designation of an offshore Dredged Material Site offshore Port Everglades. If we can be of any assistance, please let me know.

Yours very truly,

**ELLER & COMPANY, INC.**

  
Arthur C. Novacek  
President

ACN/jd



## PORT EVERGLADES PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 13017  
PORT EVERGLADES, FLORIDA 33316  
Telephone (305) 522-4491 / 7

*Florida's Deepest Harbor*

June 8, 1995

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Attn: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the April 17, 1995, letter from A.J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida, for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area. As the referenced letter states, the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

Port Everglades is a major U.S. seaport, the second largest cruise port in the world, and the major petroleum port for South Florida. More than seven/eight thousand ships transit the Port's entrance channel each year. Clearly, safety of navigation at Port Everglades is of the highest importance, and maintenance dredging is an essential aspect of the port's continuing operations.

The Port Everglades Pilots' Association strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Site offshore Port Everglades.

Please feel free to contact us should you have questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

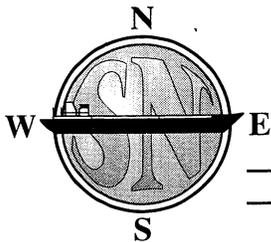
PORT EVERGLADES PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian F. Hanley".

Captain Brian F. Hanley  
Co-Managing Pilot

BFH/be

cc: Port Everglades Association  
File



**S.N. SHIP MANAGEMENT, INC.**

---

---

TANKER AND BULK SPECIALISTS  
CRUISE SHIP AGENTS

June 9, 1995

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Attention: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the April 17, 1995, letter from A.J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida, for the disposal of dredged material from Port Everglades area. As the referenced letter states, the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

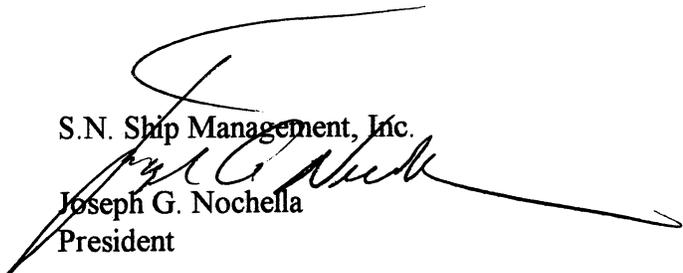
Port Everglades is a major U.S. seaport, the second largest cruise port in the world, and the major petroleum port for South Florida. More than four thousand ships transit the Port's entrance channel each year. Clearly, safety of navigation at Port Everglades is of the highest importance, and maintenance dredging is an essential aspect of the port's continuing operations.

S.N. Ship Management, Inc., strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades.

Please feel free to contact us, should you have any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

S.N. Ship Management, Inc.

  
Joseph G. Nochella  
President

cc: Mr. Erik Hvide, President, Port Everglades Assoc., Inc., Fort Laud., FL



**MAR, INCORPORATED**

*Casting Off for Your Horizons*

June 5, 1995

Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 4970  
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Attention: Planning Division, Environmental Coordination Section

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the April 17, 1995, letter from A.J. Salem, Chief, Planning Division, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, regarding your request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to designate an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades, Florida for the disposal of dredged material from the Port Everglades area. As the letter states, the entrance channel and turning basin of Port Everglades must receive periodic maintenance dredging to ensure safe navigation.

Port Everglades is a major U.S. seaport, the second largest cruise port in the world, and the major petroleum port for South Florida. More than four thousand ships transit the Port's entrance channel each year. Clearly, safety of navigation at Port Everglades is of the highest importance, and maintenance dredging is an essential aspect of the port's continuing operations.

MAR, Incorporated strongly supports your request to the EPA and the designation of an Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Site offshore Port Everglades.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

MAR, Incorporated

Denise A. Leibmann  
Vice President/General Manager  
MAR, Incorporated, Marine Division

cc: J. Erik Hvide



STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

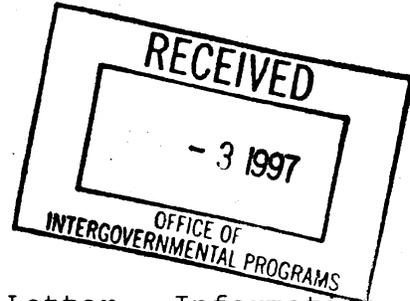
"Helping Floridians create safe, vibrant, sustainable communities"

LAWTON CHILES  
Governor

JAMES F. MURLEY  
Secretary

December 1, 1997

Mr. Dennis R. Duke  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 4970  
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019



RE: Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida  
SAI: FL9709300724C

Dear Mr. Duke:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has identified a number of issues and concerns for consideration in the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS should include complete descriptions of the disposal sites, including: bathymetry and other geophysical characteristics; sediment and water chemistry; biological communities; and physical oceanographic characteristics. The state requests that EPA and the Corps consult with the DEP on data needs, survey protocols, and review of preliminary survey results. The EIS should provide detailed historic and projected future disposal quantities, types and frequencies. Detailed dredged material dispersion modeling should project both short term sedimentation, mound formation and stability, and long term resuspension and redistribution. The EIS should include the terms and parameters that will be included in the Site Management and Monitoring Plans for these sites. These plans should also be developed in close consultation

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100  
Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781  
Internet address: <http://www.state.fl.us/comaff/dca.html>

FLORIDA KEYS  
Area of Critical State Concern Field Office  
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 212  
Marathon, Florida 33050-2227

GREEN SWAMP  
Area of Critical State Concern Field Office  
155 East Summerlin  
Bartow, Florida 33830-4641

SOUTH FLORIDA RECOVERY OFFICE  
P.O. Box 4022  
8600 N.W. 36th Street  
Miami, Florida 33159-4022

Mr. Dennis R. Duke  
December 1, 1997  
Page Two

with the DEP and the Site Management and Monitoring Plan teams. The EIS should fully evaluate the need for an ocean disposal site, as opposed to alternative disposal options. The analysis should be based on an ecosystem protection and enhancement strategy rather than on a comparison of land costs versus barge disposal costs. A determination of consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program should also be included. The DEP requests an advance copy of the preliminary draft EIS for informal review and comment prior to publication in the Federal Register. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments.

The referenced scoping notice is not subject to consistency review; however, the notice is provided by the applicant to ensure that the state's comments and concerns are addressed in the draft and final EIS. The state appreciates the efforts. The applicant is also advised that based on our preliminary evaluation of the proposed action and the adoption of the recommendations provided by the DEP, at this stage, the state does not object to the project. Comments received from the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils are also enclosed for your review.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the scoping notice. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,



G. Steven Pfeiffer  
Assistant Secretary

GSP/ct

Enclosures

cc: Liz Gulick, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council  
Eric Silva, South Florida Regional Planning Council  
Lynn Griffin, Department of Environmental Protection

COUNTY: State

DATE: 09/30/97

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 10/15/97

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 11/14/97

SAI#: FL9709300724

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

- X Agriculture
- Community Affairs
- Environmental Protection
- Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm
- Marine Fisheries Commission
- OTED
- State
- Transportation

South Florida WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 07 1997  
State of Florida Clearinghouse

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse  
 Department of Community Affairs  
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
 (850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)  
 (904) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: FORESTRY / FRP+SS  
 Reviewer: Bob McDonald  
 Date: 10-6-97



# Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles  
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Virginia B. Wetherell  
Secretary

November 24, 1997

**RECEIVED**  
NOV 26 1997

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Ms. Cherie Trainor, Director  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Florida Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Dear Ms. Trainor:

Re: Scoping Notice, Port Everglades and Palm Beach Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS) Designation, SAI No. FL 9709300724

The Corps of Engineers is proposing to draft an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the designation of new dredged material disposal sites offshore of both Palm Beach and Port Everglades. The sites would be designated primarily to receive dredged material from federal port and channel projects at these locations. A scoping notice was previously coordinated on the proposed Port Everglades site. However, because of similar site conditions and the proximity of the two sites, the EIS will be expanded to cover both designations. The Department of Environmental Protection has coordinated a review of this proposed designation and has identified the following issues and concerns, which should be considered in the document.

Based on some surveys conducted in 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified preferred sites. The Port Everglades site is approximately 4 nmi offshore, 650-700 ft. deep. The Palm Beach site is approximately 4.5 nmi offshore, 525-625 ft. deep. In the near future, EPA will be conducting a literature search of available information on the offshore in this area, as well as conducting further geophysical and biological surveys of the preferred sites to supplement previous survey information. This is expected to include side scan sonar and biological grab sampling. Although there may be useful information from the site surveys conducted nine years ago, the age of this data warrants updating, especially with respect to chemical and biological characteristics.

To support the designations, the draft EIS should include complete descriptions of the sites, including: bathymetry and other geophysical characteristics; sediment and water chemistry; biological communities; and physical oceanographic characteristics. Surveys

Nov 26 7 9:20 P. 02/02

Ms. Trainor  
November 24, 1997  
Page Two

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State of Florida Clearinghouse

and sampling should be conducted throughout the site and the surrounding area at least 1 nmi beyond each site boundary. Because of the depths of these sites, significant benthic communities are not anticipated. However, the EIS should report any fisheries habitat or other important biological resource characteristics found at these depths. We request that EPA and the Corps consult with the Department on data needs, survey protocols, and to review preliminary survey results.

The EIS needs to provide detailed historical and projected future disposal quantities, types and frequencies. Sediment quality data and toxicity testing in accordance with accepted Green Book procedures should be provided for all reaches of channels and turning basins which are proposed for offshore disposal. The Department will not approve the offshore disposal of beach quality material.

As is the case at the Miami ODMDS, the primary issue of concern at these sites will be the potential for dredged material to transport to reefs and bottom habitat located downcurrent. Although the behavior of eddy currents at these sites may differ from the system off of Miami, the EIS should include detailed dredged material dispersion modeling to project both short term sedimentation, mound formation and stability, and long term resuspension and redistribution. Modeling projections and historical records should provide conclusive predictions of the fate of disposed material so that impact assessments and monitoring decisions are well-founded. We recommend a continuation of the consultation with NOAA-AOML and UM-RSMAS ongoing at the Miami site on matters pertaining to current conditions, hydrographic modeling and sediment transport.

The EIS should also include the terms and parameters to be included in the Site Management and Monitoring Plans for these sites. These plans should be developed in close consultation with the Department and Site Management and Monitoring Plan teams.

In addition to the above technical components needed for a complete EIS, the document should also address more fundamental issues. As a primary matter, the EIS should fully evaluate the need for an ocean disposal site as opposed to alternative disposal options. This analysis should be based on an ecosystem protection and enhancement strategy rather than a simplistic comparison of land costs versus barge disposal costs. For instance, reuse options (in addition to beach disposal) should be given full consideration so that beneficial uses for the material are sought rather than discarding the sediments as waste. In comparing options, true project costs should be computed which reflect the economic value of better environmental results, the economic value of lost or injured resources, and the true costs of ocean disposal. For example, the derivation of the cost figures for ocean disposal should include such costs as: ODMDS site surveys (both past and future); current studies and dispersion modeling; disposal monitoring, bathymetric surveys and other ODMDS site management plan compliance activities.

Ms. Trainor  
November 24, 1997  
Page Three

The draft EIS should include a determination of consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The determination should address all relevant statutory authorities administered by the Department currently included in the FCMP, particularly sections 161.142 and 161.161, F.S., which addresses the retention of beach quality material in the littoral system; section 370.025, F.S., which addresses the protection of marine resources; and Chapter 373, part IV, F.S., which addresses environmental resource permit requirements. The Department is available to assist EPA and the Corps with these determinations.

The Department requests to be provided with an advance copy of the preliminary draft EIS for these designations for informal review and comment prior to publication in the Federal Register. This opportunity will be invaluable in insuring that the official draft is published with most concerns resolved, thereby allowing a streamlined review of the draft and final EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this notice. If there are any questions concerning this response, please contact me at 487-2231.

Cordially,



for Lynn Griffin  
Environmental Administrator  
Intergovernmental Programs

cc: Kirby Green  
Paul Moses  
Pam McVety  
Deborah Parrish  
Carlos Rivero deAguilar  
Ed Conklin  
Al Devereaux

COUNTY: State

DATE: 09/30/97

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 10/15/97

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 11/14/97

Message:

SAI#: FL970930072

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS GFC

Agriculture  
 Community Affairs  
 Environmental Protection  
 X Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm  
 Marine Fisheries Commission  
 OTED  
 State  
 Transportation

South Florida WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED  
 OCT 10 1997  
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 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
 OCT 1 1997  
 OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

*N/A*

Project Description:

Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida.

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RECEIVED OCT 6 1997  
 State of Florida Clearinghouse

To: Florida State Clearinghouse  
 Department of Community Affairs  
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
 (850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)  
 (904) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: OES-GFC - Vero Beach  
 Reviewer: Stephen J. Lam, Art Halsey  
 Date: October 7, 1997

COUNTY: State

DATE: 09/30/97

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 10/15/97

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 11/14/97

Message:

SAI#: FL970930072

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture  
 Community Affairs  
 Environmental Protection  
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm  
 X Marine Fisheries Commission  
 OTED  
 State  
 Transportation

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MARINE FISHERIES  
 COMMISSION

South Florida WMD

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State of Florida Clearinghouse

Environmental Policy/C & ED

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Project Description:

Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse  
 Department of Community Affairs  
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
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EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
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- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: *Alley Schaefer*

Date: 10/6/97

COUNTY: State

DATE: 09/30/97

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 10/15/97

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 11/14/97

SAI#: FL970930072

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture  
 Community Affairs  
 Environmental Protection  
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm  
 Marine Fisheries Commission  
 X OTED  
 State  
 Transportation

South Florida WMD

**RECEIVED**  
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 State of Florida Clearinghouse

Environmental Policy/C & ED

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- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
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- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse  
 Department of Community Affairs  
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
 (850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)  
 (904) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/~~Consistent~~
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: OTED

Reviewer: M Blakely

Date: 10/6/97

COUNTY: State

DATE: 09/30/97

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 10/15/97

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 11/14/97

SAI#: FL9709300724

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture  
 Community Affairs  
 Environmental Protection  
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm  
 Marine Fisheries Commission  
 OTED  
 X State  
 Transportation

South Florida WMD  
  
 EIS-WAIT

Environmental Policy/C & ED  
 ALFLCA  
 SAI-CORPS  
 975239  
 07 OCT -2 PM 3:41

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
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Project Description:

Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida.

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To: Florida State Clearinghouse  
 Department of Community Affairs  
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 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
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- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau:

Historical Resources

Reviewer:

*[Signature]* Laura L. Kammerer

Date:

10/21/97

10-21-97

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: October 14, 1997

To: State Clearinghouse

From: Robert G. Hebert, Jr.  
Administrator-Ports/Intermodal  
Florida Department of Transportation  
SC 278-5704 FAX SC 277-3403

Copies: FDOT ICAR Coordinator w/att., Public Transportation  
Manager-District 4, Florida Coastal Management Director  
(DCA), File

Subject: ICAR Federal Consistency Project Review Process  
Port Everglades-Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites  
SAI# FL9709300724C

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OCT 15 1997

State of Florida Clearinghouse

In accordance with departmental procedure 525-010-205, and State Clearinghouse requirements for review and comment on potential federal projects that may affect state programs and objectives, please be advised that the above-referenced proposed study or project:

- Does influence and impose a potential impact on existing state programs or objectives under Rail Office jurisdiction to the extent noted in the following comments:
- Does not influence or impose a potential impact on existing state programs or objectives under Rail Office jurisdiction at this time, and no comments or recommendations are required.

Should further information or explanation be required, please feel free to contact the Rail Office at (850) 414-4500.

RGH/  
Attachment

COUNTY: State

DATE: 09/30/97

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 10/15/97

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 11/14/97

SAI#: FL9709300724

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture  
 Community Affairs  
 Environmental Protection  
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm  
 Marine Fisheries Commission  
 OTED  
 State  
 X Transportation

South Florida WMD

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State of Florida Clearinghouse

Environmental Policy/C & ED

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Project Description:

Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse  
 Department of Community Affairs  
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
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EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: FDOT RAIL OFFICE

Reviewer: PLT D. J. [Signature], ADMINISTRATION - PORTS / INTRAMODAL

Date: 10/14/97

COUNTY: State

DATE: 09 97  
 COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 10 97  
 CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 11 97  
 SAI#: FL 300724C

Message:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNITS
Agriculture Community Affairs Environmental Protection Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm Marine Fisheries Commission OTED State Transportation	X South Florida WMD	Environmental Policy/C & F

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**Project Description:**

Department of the Army - Scoping Information Gathering to Define Interests and Concerns that will be Addressed in Environmental Impact Statement for Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Ft. Pierce Harbor - Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse  
 Department of Community Affairs  
 2655 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
 (850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)  
 (904) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistency Determination Attached
- Consistency/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

UNDER THE OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN FDEP AND THE WMDs, FDEP WILL BE TAKING THE LEAD IN THE REVIEW OF THIS PROJECT.

From: Division/Bureau: REGULATION DEPT.  
 Reviewer: JFM GOLDEN  
 Date: 10/8/97

COUNTY: State

DATE: 09/30/97

COMMENTS DJE-2 WKS: 10/15/97

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 11/14/97

Message:

SAI#: FL9709300724

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture  
 Community Affairs  
 Environmental Protection  
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm  
 Marine Fisheries Commission  
 OTED  
 State  
 Transportation

South Florida WMD

X Environmental Policy/C & ED

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 OCT 1 1997

OFFICE OF PLANNING  
 & BUDGETING  
 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY UNIT

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

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Project Description:

Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida.

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State of Florida Clearinghouse

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 Department of Community Affairs  
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 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
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EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

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- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

10-2-97

Kara, please send draft letter to us for review.

Thank you Aida

South  
Florida  
Regional  
Planning  
Council



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OCT 30 1997  
State of Florida Clearinghouse

October 28, 1997

Ms. Keri Akers  
Florida State Clearinghouse  
Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

RE: SFRPC #97-1003, SAI #FL9709300724C - Response to a request for comments on a scoping letter to define issues and concerns to be addressed by an Environmental Impact Statement for ocean dredge disposal sites at Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Palm Beach and Broward Counties.

Dear Ms. Akers:

We have reviewed the above-referenced project and have the following comments:

- Council staff is concerned about the cumulative impacts of this and similar projects. Staff analysis indicates that the proposed project may adversely impact benthic resources, designated as natural resources of regional significance in the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida*. The South Florida ecosystem is sensitive and is subject to significant growth pressures. While this project may have little effect on the system by itself, the cumulative impacts on the water quality and ecological integrity of the region are of concern to Council staff and need to be considered with all projects. The project should be consistent with the goals and policies of the Broward County comprehensive plan.
- Staff recommends that, if this permit is granted, 1) impacts to the natural systems be minimized to the greatest extent feasible and 2) the permit grantor determine the extent of sensitive marine life and vegetative communities in the vicinity of the project and require protection and or mitigation of disturbed habitat. This will assist in reducing the cumulative impacts to native plants and animals, fisheries and deep-water habitat that the goals and policies of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida* seek to protect.
- The goals and policies of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida*, in particular those indicated below, should be observed when making decisions regarding this project.

#### Strategic Regional Goal

- 3.8 Enhance and preserve natural system values of South Florida's shorelines, estuaries, benthic communities, fisheries, and associated habitats, including but not limited to, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay and the coral reef tract.

#### Regional Policies

- 3.8.1 Enhance and preserve natural shoreline characteristics through requirements resulting from the review of proposed projects and in the implementation of ICE, including but not limited

3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, Florida 33021  
Broward (954) 985-4416, Area Codes 305, 407 and 561 (800) 985-4416  
SunCom 473-4416, FAX (954) 985-4417, SunCom FAX 473-4417  
e-mail [sfadmin@sfrpc.com](mailto:sfadmin@sfrpc.com)

Ms. Keri Akers  
October 28, 1997  
Page 2

to, mangroves, beaches and dunes through prohibition of structural shoreline stabilization methods except to protect existing navigation channels, maintain reasonable riparian access, or allow an activity in the public interest as determined by applicable state and federal permitting criteria.

- 3.8.2 Enhance and preserve benthic communities, including but not limited to seagrass and shellfish beds, and coral habitats, by allowing only that dredge and fill activity, artificial shading of habitat areas, or destruction from boats that is the least amount practicable, and by encouraging permanent mooring facilities. Dredge and fill activities may occur on submerged lands in the Florida Keys only as permitted by the Monroe County Land Development Regulations. It must be demonstrated pursuant to the review of the proposed project features that the activities included in the proposed project do not cause permanent, adverse natural system impacts.
- 3.8.5 Enhance and preserve habitat for endangered and threatened marine species by the preservation of identified endangered species habitat and populations. For threatened species or species of critical concern, on-site preservation will be required unless it is demonstrated that off-site mitigation will not adversely impact the viability or number of individuals of the species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We would appreciate being kept informed on the progress of this project. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Eric Silva  
Regional Planner

ES/cp

cc: Cynthia Chambers, Broward County SPGM

# FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND RESPONSE SHEET

SAI #: FL9709300724C

DATE: 09/30/97

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE: 10/30/97

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY: State

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE     DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY     FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT     OCS

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Department of the Army - Scoping Letter - Information Gathering to Define Issues and Concerns that will be Addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for the Designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor - Florida.

**ROUTING:**

RPC

- X Treasure Coast RPC
- South FL RPC

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 02 1997  
TREASURE COAST REGIONAL  
PLANNING COUNCIL

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BELOW FROM WHICH COMMENTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED; ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RPC'S CLEARINGHOUSE RESPONSE PACKAGE. IF NO COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED, PLEASE CHECK "NO COMMENT" BOX AND RETURN TO CLEARINGHOUSE.**

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC: 10/21/97

NO COMMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

(IF THE RPC DOES NOT RECEIVE COMMENTS BY THE DEADLINE DATE, THE RPC SHOULD CONTACT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT REVIEW PRIOR TO FORWARDING THE RESPONSE PACKAGE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE.)

NOTES:

**ALL CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT (INCLUDING ANY RPC COMMENTS) SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE DATE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE. PLEASE ATTACH THIS RESPONSE FORM AND REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE.**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AT (904) 922-5438 OR SUNCOM 272-5438.

**DRAFT**

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION AND REVIEW LOG

TCRPC NUMBER: 97-PB-10-03 (SAI #FL9709300724C)

APPLICANT: United States Army Corps of Engineers

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Palm Beach & Port Everglades Harbor

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV, is gathering information to define issues and concerns that will be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS) for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor. The designation process for the two sites was originally to be done separately, but because of the great similarity between the sites, the decision was made to prepare a single EIS covering both.

The areas that are being investigated lie between approximately three and ten nautical miles offshore of Palm Beach Harbor in the Atlantic Ocean.

An upland disposal site study conducted by the Corps in 1994 initially considered 122 potential upland sites. Environmental and economic considerations eliminated all but 12 of these sites. However, these 12 sites still exceed the cost of using an ODMDS, but could be considered for disposal if the material proves unsuitable for ocean disposal.

FUNDING AGENCY: No funding requested

RECOMMENDATIONS: The disposal of dredged material in offshore locations is not considered inconsistent with the SRPP. However, offshore disposal should not result in negative impacts on sensitive natural resources, consistent with **Regional Goal 6.4**. Special concerns should be paid to impacts on coral and worm reef communities consistent with **SRPP Policy 6.4.2.1**.

AGENCIES CONTACTED: City of West Palm Beach  
City of Riviera Beach

Town of Palm Beach Shores  
Palm Beach County  
Port of Palm Beach

--	--

GEORGE R. FROST  
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER  
Post Office Box 2675  
PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33480

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region Four  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303

1 August 1997

RECEIVED

97 AUG -4 PM 3:00

CERTIFIED RRR

Attn: Mr. Christopher McArthur

Re: Environmental Impact Statement  
Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Site  
Offshore Palm Beach Harbor, Florida

COPY

Gentlepersons:

As one who has been a continuously and intensely involved observer of the monumental and insidious decimation of our littoral zone by the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, I am deeply concerned ( enraged would be a more accurate term ) over the proposal to establish a permanent offshore disposal area for material that has heretofore has been replaced in the surf zone.

Like many others who have lived or worked near or at the beaches of Florida for well over half a century, I have deep concerns for the demonstrated sorry stewardship of the Corps toward our beaches; if the enforcement conditions on dumping are not airtight, we will reap the results of the dereliction of the "Engineers" once again.

As a matter of history, I, along with Governor Claude Kirk and Senator Jerry Thomas, caused ocean dumping to be halted in the 1970's; I was again involved in a similar effort during the 1979 - 83 period when the interim disposal area was used inappropriately.

I believe that it is imperative that a Scoping Meeting be held on this matter.

THANK YOU !!! We will look forward to meeting you on this subject.

Sincerely,

George Frost

epabeach.087 file corr 6.1

XC: Mayor of Palm Beach & Regional Administrator, EPA

**GERALD M. WARD, P.E.**

*Consulting Engineer*

*Coastal - Environmental*

P.O. Box 10441

Riviera Beach, Florida 33419

30 June 1997

Office Location:

Suite 202

31 W 20th Street

Telephones:

561/863-1215

561/863-1216 FAX

E-Mail:

[wardgm@gate.net](mailto:wardgm@gate.net)

US Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Attn: Christopher McArthur

Re: Environmental Impact Statement  
Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Site  
Offshore Palm Beach Harbor, Florida

Gentlemen:

I have your notice of 27 June 1997 in the Federal Register, page 34747. I wish to be placed upon the Project Mailing List, however, in the mean time I dispute your decision not to hold a Scoping Meeting. The utilization of offshore disposal at various times over the past fifty years for the convenience of the Corps of Engineers in relation to Palm Beach Harbor has been the direct cause of millions of dollars of needless government and private expenditures. The last period of extensive offshore disposals about 1979-1983 was clearly tied to major destruction on Palm Beach Island.

In addition, the Jacksonville District is conjuring up future projects besides Palm Beach Harbor (one FIND project to be discussed with Jacksonville District staff 8 July 1997 in West Palm Beach) utilizing offshore disposal.

A Scoping Meeting in Palm Beach County is clearly needed for you to understand the serious problems inherent in further designation of an Ocean Dredge Material Disposal Site Offshore Palm Beach Harbor.

Please advise within 30 days the resolve of my request for a Scoping Meeting.

Very truly yours,



Gerald M. Ward, P.E.  
Consulting Engineer

9703EPA1

cc: EPA Region 4, Agency Clerk  
Florida Inland Navigation District  
FDEP Bureau of Beaches & Coastal Systems Bureau Chief  
George Frost, P.E.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P. O. BOX 4970  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

September 26, 1997

Planning Division  
Environmental Branch

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region IV, is gathering information to define issues and concerns that will be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the designation of Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS) for Palm Beach Harbor and Port Everglades Harbor. The designation process for the two sites was originally to be done separately, but because of the great similarity between the sites, the decision was made to prepare a single EIS covering both. In June 1996, a letter describing the proposed Port Everglades effort was coordinated with appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and other interested parties and will not be covered further in this letter.

The areas that are being investigated lie between approximately three and ten nautical miles offshore of Palm Beach Harbor in the Atlantic Ocean. The coordinates, depths and distance from shore of each are shown on the enclosed table 1.

An upland disposal site study conducted by the Corps in 1994 initially considered 122 potential upland sites. Environmental and economic considerations eliminated all but 12 of these sites. However, these 12 sites still exceed the cost of using an ODMDS, but could be considered for disposal if the material proves unsuitable for ocean disposal.

The Corps welcomes your views, comments and any information about resources, study objectives and important features within the study area, as well as any suggested improvements. Letters of comment or inquiry should be addressed to the letterhead address to the attention of Planning Division, Environmental Studies Section and received by this office within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Duke  
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

Table 1. Coordinates, water depths and distance from shore of the four considered Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites for Palm Beach Harbor.

Candidate Site	Corner Coordinates	Depth Ranges	Distance of Center from Shore
Historic Interim Site	26°46.00'N 79°58.92'W 26°46.00'N 79°57.78'W 26°45.00'N 79°57.78'W 26°45.00'N 79°58.92'W	130m to 160m 425ft to 525ft	3.4 nmi
Three Mile Site	26°46.00'N 79°58.25'W 26°46.00'N 79°56.03'W 26°48.00'N 79°58.25'W 26°48.00'N 79°56.03'W	125m to 190m 410ft to 625ft	4.3nmi
Four and Half Mile Site (Preferred Site)	26°47.50'N 79°57.15'W 26°47.50'N 79°56.03'W 26°46.50'N 79°57.15'W 26°46.50'N 79°56.03'W	160m to 190m 525ft to 625ft	4.8nmi
Nine Mile Site	26°45.00'N 79°53.00'W 26°45.00'N 79°51.00'W 26°47.00'N 79°53.00'W 26°47.00'N 79°51.00'W	260m to 300m 855ft to 985ft	9.0nmi

The alternative to selecting a site is no action, being defined as not designating an ocean disposal site.