

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401**

August 23, 2023

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**DRAFT SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLANS
for the
SAVANNAH AND BRUNSWICK OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (USACE), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, have reviewed and revised the Savannah and Brunswick Site Management and Monitoring Plans (SMMP) to address the disposal of dredged material at the Savannah Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) and the Brunswick ODMDS.

Pursuant to Section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, as amended, the EPA designated the Savannah ODMDS as an approved dumping site in 1996 (40 CFR 228.15(h)(6)). The original SMMP was included in the August 1996 Savannah Harbor Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS), with a Record of Decision signed February 3, 1997, an updated SMMP was signed in December 2013. EPA designated the Brunswick ODMDS in 1989 (40 CFR 228.15(h)(7)). The first SMMP for the Brunswick ODMDS was included in the 1998 Brunswick Harbor Deepening Final Environmental Impact Statement (Record of Decision signed May 12, 1999), an updated SMMP was signed in December 2013.

Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of the EPA and the USACE to monitor and manage ODMDSs to ensure that ocean dredged material placement activities will not unreasonably degrade the marine environment or endanger human health. The MPRSA requires the review and update of SMMPs at least every ten years. Following

public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material placement activities at the ODMDs. All Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits or approvals shall be conditioned as necessary to ensure consistency with the updated SMMP for that ODMDs.

These proposed updated SMMPs serve as revisions to, and supersede, the Savannah and Brunswick 2013 SMMPs. The draft SMMPs are available at <https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-and-Offices/Planning-Division/Plans-and-Reports/>. Copies may also be obtained through email request to: CESAS-Planning@usace.army.mil.

The EPA and USACE encourage your participation to assure the plan provides necessary information for effective ODMDs management. Persons desiring to express their views or provide information to be considered in evaluating this document are requested to mail their comments to both of the following e-mail addresses or postal addresses. The public comment period closes at midnight September 22, 2023.

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