



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

SEP 01 2017

RECEIVED

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REG. WILM. FLD. OFF.

Mr. Elden J. Gatwood  
Chief  
Planning and Environmental Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Wilmington District  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343

Dear Mr. Gatwood:

This letter is in response to your request for concurrence on the proposed disposal of maintenance dredged material, as well as one new work dredging unit, from the Morehead City Harbor Federal Navigation Project (FNP) and North Carolina State Ports Authority (NCSPA) facilities, Morehead City, North Carolina, into the Morehead City Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS).

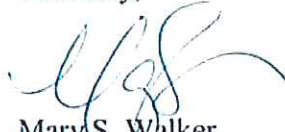
Pursuant to Section 103(c) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, as amended, concurrence from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is based upon compliance with the criteria, conditions and restrictions established pursuant to Sections 102(a) [environmental criteria], and Section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

This concurrence includes project segments as defined in the Section 103 Evaluation. The project is defined as maintenance areas throughout the Morehead City Harbor FNP and NCSPA facilities, Morehead City, North Carolina. In addition, new work material from the northern extent of Range A and the southern extent of Cutoff reaches are also included. The proposed dredged material from project segments are estimated to be approximately 757,500 cubic yards (307,000 of maintenance and 450,000 of new work) per dredging event, and include two feet of allowable over-depth. No advanced maintenance is authorized for this project. Project depth is -35 to -47 feet mean lower low water, plus two feet of allowable over-depth. Dredging is typically conducted by a combination of mechanical, hopper, or hydraulic dredges, depending upon project segment, timing and equipment availability.

As with all concurrences provided by this office, our concurrence on the disposal of this material is contingent upon compliance with all specifications and conditions of the Morehead City ODMDS Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP). Disposal of maintenance material from this project is limited to a maximum of 9,000 cubic yards per trip if dredged hydraulically, and 13,500 cubic yards if dredged mechanically. These load restrictions are based upon STFATE model results from the previous Tier 3 testing done in 2014. The new work material associated with MCCR has no load restrictions due to the fact that this material met the exclusion criteria and did not need testing. The District will also perform pre- and post-disposal bathymetric surveys and provide disposal summary reports to Region 4 in compliance with the requirements of the SMMP.

In addition, this concurrence is only valid for three years from the date of this letter. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Gary Collins at 404/562-9395.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MSW', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mary S. Walker  
Director  
Water Protection Division