December 16, 2005

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

REVISED SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN

FOR THE

CHARLESTON OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE (ODMDS)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, have revised the Charleston Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP). This SMMP addresses the disposal of dredged material at the Charleston ODMDS. Copies of the SMMP are available from the Corps or the EPA at the addresses listed in this notice. Comments on the SMMP are requested from interested parties.

The original Charleston ODMDS was designated in 1987 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. As part of site designation, a SMMP was developed for the Charleston ODMDS. The present Charleston ODMDS, which is within the original 1987 ODMDS, was designated by EPA in 2002. This SMMP serves as a revision to, and supersedes, the original SMMP.

The Charleston ODMDS has an area of four square nautical miles. Depths within the ODMDS range from approximately 26 to 36 feet below mean lower low water. Disposal of dredged materials in the ODMDS has been, and in the future is expected to be, associated with the maintenance and deepening of Charleston Harbor.

Under the MPRSA, it is the responsibility of the EPA and the Corps 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, the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, and a Memorandum of Agreement between the EPA and the Corps require the development of a site management and monitoring plan (SMMP) to specifically address the disposal of dredged material at ODMDSs. Following an opportunity for public review and comment, the SMMP provisions shall be requirements for all dredged material disposal activities at the site. All Section 103 (MPRSA) ocean disposal permits or evaluations shall be conditioned as necessary to ensure consistency with the SMMP.

Section 228.3 of the EPA's Ocean Dumping Regulations and Criteria (40 CFR 220-229) states: "Management of a site consists of regulating times, rates, and methods of disposal and quantities and types of materials disposed of; developing and maintaining effective ambient

monitoring programs for the site; conducting disposal site evaluation studies; and recommending modifications in site use and/or designation." The WRDA of 1992 indicates that the SMMP shall include but not be limited to:

- a baseline assessment of conditions at the site;
- a program for monitoring the site;
- special management conditions or practices to be implemented at each site that are necessary for the protection of the environment;
- consideration of the anticipated use of the site over the long term;
- a schedule for review and revision of the plan.

The objective of the SMMP is to provide guidelines in making management decisions necessary to fulfill mandated responsibilities to protect the marine environment, as discussed previously. Risk-free decision making is an impossible goal; however, an appropriate SMMP can narrow the uncertainty.

Copies of the SMMP can be downloaded from the internet (in PDF format) at *www.sac.usace.army.mil/ea/* or a copy may be obtained by contacting the Corps or the EPA at the addresses shown below. Comments should be addressed to the Corps and the EPA at the following addresses:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District
Attn.: Mr. Phil Wolf
69A Hagood Ave
Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107
telephone (843) 329-8069
e-mail: philip.m.wolf@usace.army.mil

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
Attn.: Gary Collins, Coastal Programs and NonPoint Source Section
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
telephone (404) 562-9395
e-mail: collins.garyw@epa.gov

We request that you provide comments in writing and within 30 days of the date of this notice.

Joseph A. Jones for
Chief, Planning Branch