

Special Joint Public Notice: 2023 HI SMMP

SPECIAL JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE: REVISED SITE MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING PLAN (SMMP) FOR FIVE EXISTING HAWAII OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Honolulu Engineer District (USACE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (EPA) have prepared a revised Site Management and Monitoring Plan (SMMP) for the five existing Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDSs) serving Hawai'i: South O'ahu, Hilo, Port Allen, Nawiliwili, and Kahului. The five existing Hawaii ODMDSs were designated by EPA in 1981 based on a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issued in 1980, and the SMMP covering these five sites was last updated in 2015. SMMPs describe the coordinated approach by which EPA and USACE manage each ODMDS to ensure that significant adverse impacts to the environment or uses of the ocean do not occur. Although this SMMP covers all five Hawai'i ODMDSs, each site is managed independently, and all of the information required for each site by the 1996 SMMP guidance and the regulations is available within this document.

The 2023 revised SMMP is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/site-management-and-monitoring-plan-hilo-kahului-nawiliwili-port-allen-and-south-oahu>

EPA conducted site monitoring surveys at the South O'ahu and Hilo ODMDSs in 2013 and at the Kahului, Nawiliwili, and Port Allen ODMDSs in 2017. The site monitoring results confirm that there have been no significant adverse impacts of ocean disposal activities, and for this reason EPA and USACE propose to continue site use with modified (updated) Site Use Conditions and an updated reference site location that will apply to all authorized projects proposing to transport dredged material for disposal at any of the Hawaii ODMDSs. Beginning in 2018, EPA additionally conducted informal programmatic consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), and with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the ESA, for the continued use of the five existing Hawai'i ODMDSs. These consultations were completed in late 2020 and early 2021, and the documentation is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/esa-and-efh-consultation-documents-five-hawaii-ocean-disposal-sites>.

The Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (WRDA 92) requires that each EPA-designated ODMDS be covered by an SMMP, and that the SMMP be periodically reviewed. The periodic reviews must include opportunity for public input. Once the public comment period has expired, the final SMMP will be posted at: <https://www.epa.gov/ocean-dumping/site-management-and-monitoring-plan-hilo-kahului-nawiliwili-port-allen-and-south-oahu>

Comments on the revised SMMP must be submitted in writing within 30 days of this public notice. Correspondence concerning the public notice should refer to “Special Public Notice - 2023 HI SMMP.” Questions and comments should be directed to:

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