

# **Disposal Dredge Material into Federal Dredged Material Disposal Facilities**

Applicants wishing to perform dredging within Waters of the United States must first obtain a valid Dredging Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) - Galveston District Regulatory Division. The Regulatory Permit process can be found on the following webpage: <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Permits.aspx>

If the applicant desires to place dredged material within a private Dredged Material Disposal Facility (DMDF), no further coordination with the USACE is required.

If the non-Federal entity desires to dispose of dredged material within a Federal DMDF, the applicant must submit a Real Estate Application. The Real Estate Application is available as a downloadable PDF on the [Real Estate Outgrants Webpage](#) and may be submitted to the Real Estate Division through its electronic mail box at [swg-re@usace.army.mil](mailto:swg-re@usace.army.mil).

## **Real Estate Application**

Once the Real Estate Application is received, USACE – Galveston District will perform an initial review to determine whether disposal capacity is available for non-Federal purposes and if the timing of the disposal can be sequenced with Federal work. Federal use of the DMDF will take precedent over all non-Federal disposal requests. If it is determined that the proposed non-Federal disposal can be accommodated, higher approval from USACE – Headquarters will be sought by USACE – Galveston District. If approval is granted, Sediment Testing, Disposal Fees and Timing requirements will continue as summarized below.

## **Sediment Testing**

USACE has developed a Sediment Testing Protocol for the purpose of evaluating non-Federal sediment prior to disposal into Federal DMDFs. The Sediment Testing Protocol requires that the applicant first submit a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) to USACE – Galveston District for approval BEFORE beginning sediment testing. SAP should be developed in accordance with the *Sampling and Analysis Plan Protocol* and *Sampling and Analysis Plan Protocol Figures and Tables*. This documentation can be found on the [Navigation Land Use Webpage](#). The SAP must identify the horizontal and vertical location of the proposed sediment samples. Once USACE – Galveston District provides approval of the SAP, the applicant must collect the sediment samples and perform chemical testing in accordance with the approved SAP. The applicant must then submit a report of the findings in the prescribed format to USACE – Galveston for approval.

## **Disposal Fees**

While there are no fees for permitting or processing Real Estate Applications related to dredging requests, there 'are' fees associated with the disposal of non-Federal dredged material into the Federal DMDF. Reimbursement to the Federal government is required for lost capacity within

the DMDF(s). DMDF fees are determined from the actual construction costs and assessed on a dollar per cubic yard basis (\$ / cy). Typical disposal fees range between \$2.00 - \$5.00 / cubic yard with variation in cost depending on the DMDF selected. Email Operations Division at [SWG-LandUseCoordinator@USACE.army.mil](mailto:SWG-LandUseCoordinator@USACE.army.mil) and leave contact information for the current Disposal Fee associated for each DMDF.

A requirement of the Outgrant will be for the applicant to submit Before- and After-dredge hydrographic surveys (and associated volume computations) of the dredging area to USACE – Galveston District. Final dredging quantities are determined based on the volume difference between the Before- and After-dredge hydrographic surveys.

### **Time**

The entire process starting with the Regulatory Permit Application through approval for use of Federal DMDF can vary significantly depending on several factors, including: complexity, scope and scale of the proposed project, quantity of dredged material proposed for disposal, ongoing Federal Operations and Maintenance activities, etc.

### **FAQs**

Please visit the [Navigation Land Use Webpage](#) for answers to commonly asked questions regarding dredging in U.S. Waterways and the disposal of non-Federal dredge material.