

# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 Governor

Jennifer Carroll

Lt. Governor

Rick Scott

Herschel T. Vinyard, Jr. Secretary

### **CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

June 27, 2012

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Attn: Eric Summa, Chief Environmental Branch Jacksonville District P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Permit Modification No. 0220509-004-JN
Permit No. 0220509-001-JC, Broward County
Port Everglades Channels Maintenance Dredging – Add Pipeline Access Corridor

Dear Mr. Summa:

Your request to modify Permit No. 0220509-001-JC was received on April 30, 2012, and has been reviewed by Department staff. The proposed permit modification is to add an additional pipeline access corridor and associated staging areas, extend the beach placement template northwards towards monument R-86 and convert the berm height datum from NGVD29 to NAVD88, without changing the actual elevations.

# **Permit History**

On April 22, 2005, the Department issued Joint Coastal Permit No. **0220509-001-JC** to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), to maintenance dredge the Port Everglades entrance channel, turning basins, and Pier 7 channel. The authorized project depths (including 2 feet of allowable overdredge) were -49 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) for the outer channel, -46 feet MLLW for the inner channel, -33 feet MLLW for the north and south turning basins, -39 feet MLLW for the northwest corner of the south turning basin, -38 feet MLLW for the southwest corner of the south turning basin and -40 feet MLLW for the Pier 7 channel. Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of material was to be dredged at 3-year intervals, or as needed to maintain the authorized depths. The inner harbor dredged material was to be deposited in the EPA-approved Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) located approximately 4.5 miles northeast of Port Everglades Harbor, while beach-quality sand was authorized to be placed within the design template for the Broward County Beach Nourishment Project - Segment Ill during the life of Permit No. 0163435-001-JC, or any subsequent joint coastal permit for that nourishment project at John U. Lloyd Beach State Park (JUL).

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For additional background on this permit, please see the *Consolidated Notice of Intent to Issue Joint Coastal Permit and Authorization to Use Sovereign Submerged Lands* for Permit No. 0220509-001-JC, dated December 15, 2004, available at the Bureau website:

http://bcs.dep.state.fl.us/env-

<u>prmt/broward/issued/0220509\_Port\_Everglades\_Maintenance\_Dredging/001-JC/Intent%20(12-16-04)/.</u>

On February 10, 2012, the Department issued Permit Modification No. 0220509-003-JN to allow maintenance dredging of the Southport Access Channel Cut-1, Cut-2 and Cut-3 to a maximum dredge depth of -44 feet MLLW. The quantity of material to be dredged from the Southport Access Channel Cut-1, Cut-2 and Cut-3 was approximately 185,000 cubic yards. The material to be dredged was not anticipated to be beach compatible, and was to be placed in the ODMDS. Additionally, this modification removed the requirement that beach-quality sand may only be placed within the design template of the Broward County Beach Segment III Nourishment Project during the life of that permit, or any subsequent Joint Coastal Permit for that nourishment project, at JUL. The modification instead allowed placement of materials dredged during the subject maintenance permit within the Segment III template at any time, regardless of whether the permit was active or expired.

## **Project Justification**

The originally permitted pipeline corridor was well-situated for dredging the channel entrance and northern federal channels of the port, but dredging operations further south require a more direct pipeline route to the beach placement area. Therefore, the addition of a southern pipeline corridor would increase project efficiency and reduce costs for dredging channel areas in southern portions of the port.

Northern sections of JUL's beaches have undergone considerably more erosion than stretches to the south. In particular, the continuing loss of sand in the area of the T-head groin field, just south of R-86, could result in the loss of a boardwalk, according to park staff. Therefore, park staff requested that the beach placement template be extended northward to take advantage of the opportunity to place sand in these highly-eroded areas. The Permittee acknowledges the problem and is willing to accommodate the request to extend the beach placement area.

#### **Staff Assessment**

Staff acknowledges that the additional pipeline corridor was previously permitted and used for the Segment III project. Nevertheless, the corridor route and other details, such as the location of equipment staging areas, (which will be in areas currently designated for parking), were coordinated with staff at JUL and, after some adjustments were made, eventually determined to be acceptable. Placement and operation of the pipeline and staging areas will not impact natural resources in the area, and no impacts to such resources are authorized.

The extension of the beach placement area to the north was actually authorized by Permit Modification No. 0220509-003-JN (discussed above), because the proposed extended area was

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originally included in the fill template of the Segment III project, which extended from R-86 to R-92. Therefore, this modification requires only a revision to the appropriate permit drawing. The Project Description does not address the pipeline corridor (with associated staging areas), the location of the placement area or the vertical datum, so only the drawings need to be revised in this permit modification. Both the original permit and the first modification included drawings that are rendered obsolete by the subject modification. Rather than replacing these individual drawings in each of the previous authorizations, a new drawing set will be approved with this modification to replace all previously issued drawings.

The set of approved permit drawings shall be revised as follows:

All drawings from Permit No. 0220509-001-JC and Modification No. 0220509-003-JN shall be replaced with the attached drawings (14 sheets).

After thorough review of your application, staff finds that the proposed modification is not expected to adversely affect water quality or be contrary to the public interest. Staff has also determined that the proposed alteration does not increase the potential for adverse impact on the coastal system, public beach access seaward of the mean high water line or nesting sea turtles and hatchlings and their habitat, and that the proposed alteration does not reduce the design adequacy of the project. Since the proposed modification is not expected to result in any adverse environmental impact or water quality degradation, the **permit is hereby modified** as stated above. By copy of this letter, we are notifying all necessary parties of the modification.

This letter of approval does not alter the **April 22, 2015,** expiration date, other Specific or General Conditions, or monitoring requirements of the permit. This letter must be attached to the original permit.

This permit is hereby modified unless a sufficient petition for an administrative hearing is timely filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, as provided below. The procedures for petitioning for a hearing are set forth below. Mediation under Section 120.573, F.S., is not available for this proceeding.

#### **NOTICE OF RIGHTS**

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be filed (received by the clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to redetermine final agency action on the application, the filing of a petition for an administrative hearing may result in further

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modification of the permit or even a denial of the application. If a sufficient petition for an administrative hearing or request for an extension of time to file a petition is timely filed, this permit modification automatically becomes only proposed agency action on the application subject to the result of the administrative review process. Accordingly, the Applicant is advised not to commence construction or other activities under this permit modification until the deadlines noted below for filing a petition for an administrative hearing or request for an extension of time has expired.

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), Florida Administrative Code, a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon. If a request is filed late, the Department may still grant it upon a motion by the requesting party showing that the failure to file a request for an extension of time before the deadline was the result of excusable neglect.

In the event that a timely and sufficient petition for an administrative hearing is filed, other persons whose substantial interests will be affected by the outcome of the administrative process have the right to petition to intervene in the proceeding. Any intervention will be only at the discretion of the presiding judge upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the Applicant must be filed within 14 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the Applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the notice or within 14 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first.

Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 14 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication.

The petitioner shall mail a copy of the petition to the Applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing. The failure of any person to file a petition for an administrative hearing within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S.

In accordance with Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., a petition that disputes the material facts on which the Department's action is based must contain the following information:

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- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination;
- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action:
- (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and
- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by Rule 28-106.301, F.A.C. Under Sections 120.569(2)(c) and (d), F.S., a petition for administrative hearing must be dismissed by the agency if the petition does not substantially comply with the above requirements or is untimely filed.

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition is filed in accordance with the above. Upon the timely filing of a petition this order will not be effective until further order of the Department.

This permit modification constitutes an order of the Department. The Applicant has the right to seek judicial review of the order under Section 120.68, F.S., by the filing of a notice of appeal under Rule 9.110 of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000; and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date when the final order is filed with the Clerk of the Department. The Applicant, or any party within the meaning of Section 373.114(1)(a), F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under Section 373.114(1), F.S. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when the final order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

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The Department does not require notice of this agency action to be published. However, the Applicant may elect to publish notice as prescribed in Rule 62-110.106, F.A.C., which constitutes notice to the public and establishes a time period for submittal of any petition. When there has been no publication of notice of agency action or notice of proposed agency action as prescribed in Rule 62-110.106, F.A.C., a person may request a copy of the agency action. The Department shall upon receipt of such a request, if agency action has occurred, promptly provide the person with notice.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Bobby Halbert at the letterhead address (add Mail Station 300) or by telephone at (850) 921-7752.

Sincerely,

Martin K. Seeling

**Environmental Administrator** 

Bureau of Beaches & Coastal Systems

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MKS/jmc

Attachments: Drawings (14 pages)

cc (via electronic mail):

Russ Jones, USACE, Jacksonville
Jim McAdams, USACE, Jacksonville
Marshall Flake, DEP, Parks
Mary Duncan, FWC, ISMS
Robbin Trindell, FWC, ISMS
Jennifer Smith, DEP, Southeast District
Lainie Edwards, DEP, BBCS
Vladimir Kosmynin, DEP, BBCS
Robert Brantly, DEP, BBCS
Danielle Fondren, DEP, BBCS
Walter Denis, DEP, BBCS, Field Inspector
Sid Leve, DEP, Parks (JUL)

Jenny Cheng, DEP, BBCS
Joyce Papp, DEP, Parks
Eric Myers, Broward County
Kenneth Banks, Broward County
Debra Shaifer, DEP, Parks (JUL)
Alex Reed, DEP, BBCS
Roxanne Dow, DEP, BBCS
Gene Chalecki, DEP, BBCS
Catherine Florko, DEP, BBCS
Michael Carothers, DEP, BBCS
JCP Compliance Officer, DEP, BBCS
BBCS Permit File

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# FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FILED, on this date, pursuant to Section 120.52, Florida Statutes, with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

Deputy Clerk

Date