



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Ryan E. Matthews
Interim Secretary

May 4, 2017

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Gina P. Ralph
701 San Marco Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Gina.P.Ralph@usace.army.mil

Re: File No. 0353318-001-BE
St. Petersburg Harbor Maintenance Dredging

Dear Ms. Ralph:

We are in receipt of your April 18, 2017, notice to use the Port Maintenance Dredging Exemption in Section 403.813(3), Florida Statutes. The Department acknowledges your intention to use the exemption and your certification that you meet the requirements of the statute (see attachment).

This letter does not relieve you from the responsibility of obtaining other permits (Federal, State, or local) that may be required for the project.

Sincerely,

Ivana Kenny Carmola

Ivana Kenny Carmola
Environmental Specialist III
Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program
Division of Water Resource Management

Enclosures: Section 403.813(3), F.S.
Project Drawings (16 pages)

cc: Paul Karch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Karch, Paul.J.Karch@usace.army.mil
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403.813 Permits issued at district centers; exceptions.

(3) A permit is not required under this chapter, chapter 373, chapter 61-691, Laws of Florida, or chapter 25214 or chapter 25270, 1949, Laws of Florida, for maintenance dredging conducted under this section by the seaports of Jacksonville, Port Canaveral, Fort Pierce, Palm Beach, Port Everglades, Miami, Port Manatee, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Port St. Joe, Panama City, Pensacola, Key West, and Fernandina or by inland navigation districts if the dredging to be performed is no more than is necessary to restore previously dredged areas to original design specifications or configurations, previously undisturbed natural areas are not significantly impacted, and the work conducted does not violate the protections for manatees under s. 379.2431(2)(d). In addition:

(a) A mixing zone for turbidity is granted within a 150-meter radius from the point of dredging while dredging is ongoing, except that the mixing zone may not extend into areas supporting wetland communities, submerged aquatic vegetation, or hardbottom communities.

(b) The discharge of the return water from the site used for the disposal of dredged material shall be allowed only if such discharge does not result in a violation of water quality standards in the receiving waters. The return-water discharge into receiving waters shall be granted a mixing zone for turbidity within a 150-meter radius from the point of discharge into the receiving waters during and immediately after the dredging, except that the mixing zone may not extend into areas supporting wetland communities, submerged aquatic vegetation, or hardbottom communities. Ditches, pipes, and similar types of linear conveyances may not be considered receiving waters for the purposes of this paragraph.

(c) The state may not exact a charge for material that this subsection allows a public port or an inland navigation district to remove. In addition, consent to use any sovereignty submerged lands pursuant to this section is hereby granted.

(d) The use of flocculants at the site used for disposal of the dredged material is allowed if the use, including supporting documentation, is coordinated in advance with the department and the department has determined that the use is not harmful to water resources.

(e) The spoil material from maintenance dredging may be deposited in a self-contained, upland disposal site. The site is not required to be permitted if:

1. The site exists as of January 1, 2011;
2. A professional engineer certifies that the site has been designed in accordance with generally accepted engineering standards for such disposal sites;
3. The site has adequate capacity to receive and retain the dredged material; and
4. The site has operating and maintenance procedures established that allow for discharge of return flow of water and to prevent the escape of the spoil material into the waters of the state.

(f) The department must be notified at least 30 days before the commencement of maintenance dredging. The notice shall include, if applicable, the professional engineer certification required by paragraph (e).

(g) This subsection does not prohibit maintenance dredging of areas where the loss of original design function and constructed configuration has been caused by a storm event, provided that the dredging is performed as soon as practical after the storm event. Maintenance dredging that commences within 3 years after the storm event shall be presumed to satisfy this provision. If more than 3 years are needed to commence the maintenance dredging after the storm event, a request for a specific time extension to perform the maintenance dredging shall be submitted to the department, prior to the end of the 3-year period, accompanied by a statement, including supporting documentation, demonstrating that contractors are not available or that additional time is needed to obtain authorization for the maintenance dredging from the United States Army Corps of Engineers.