

**Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study (LORSS) of the Central and Southern Florida Project for Flood Control and Other Purposes.**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) upon completion of the feasibility study and prior to implementation of an alternative regulation schedule for Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the proposed action and draft EIS can be answered by: Mark Ziminske, U.S. Army Engineer District, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019; Telephone 904-232-1786.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Lake Okeechobee is a large, shallow, subtropical lake, of 1,732 km<sup>2</sup> surface area located in Central-South Florida. Lake Okeechobee's drainage basin covers almost 12,000 km<sup>2</sup> much of which is agricultural land, dairy and beef cattle to the north, and the 280,000 ha Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA; mostly sugar, rice, and winter vegetable crops) to the south. Major surface water inflows to the lake are from the Kissimmee River, Harney Pond and Indian River basins, Fisheating Creek, and Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough. Major outflows include evapotranspiration, the Caloosahatchee River to the west, the St. Lucie Canal to the east, and several canals draining into the EAA and south to the Water Conservation Areas and ultimately to the Everglades and Florida Bay.

The scope of this study is to consider a range of regulation schedule alternatives for Lake Okeechobee in order to optimize environmental benefits at minimal or no impact to the competing project purposes, primarily flood control and water supply. The alternatives to be considered include: The existing Run 25-3, Run 25-3 with Natural System Model (NSM) demands, Run 22 AZE, Run 22 AZE with NSM demands, and the Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan (LECRWSP) Alternative 1.

The current regulation schedule (Run 25-3) maintains lake surface water elevations ranging from 15.65 feet to 16.75 feet and releases water to the estuaries at relatively high lake stages, in a more graduated fashion. Run 22 AZE is basically Run 25-3 with the

addition of a large Zone E, which allows for low level discharges at low stages of 13.75 feet to 15.60 feet. The NSM demands put an additional water supply demand on Lake Okeechobee by establishing targets for delivering water to restore the Everglades to their pre-drainage condition. Runs 25-3 and 22 AZE with NSM demands would tend to lower the water surface in the lake without changing the regulated water levels. The LECRWSP Alternative 1 schedule varies from 14.0 feet to 17.0 feet and differs significantly from the other schedules described above.

The scoping process as outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality will be utilized to involve Federal, State, and local agencies and other interested persons and organizations. A scoping letter will be sent to interested Federal, State, and local agencies requesting their comments and concerns regarding issues they feel should be addressed in the EIS. Interested persons and organizations wishing to participate in the scoping process should contact the Corps of Engineers at the address above. Significant issues anticipated include concern for: water supply, continued flood control, agricultural impacts, protection of the lake's environmental resources and its downstream estuaries, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. Public scoping meetings will be conducted in the future, the exact location, dates, and times will be announced in public notices and local newspapers.

It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public in July 1997.

**Gregory D. Showalter,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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**BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M**

**Department of the Army Corps of Engineers**

**Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplement I to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Wilmington Harbor Channel Widening, New Hanover and Brunswick Counties, NC**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** Wilmington Harbor is an approximately 31-mile-long Federal navigation project located along the Cape Fear and Northeast Cape Fear Rivers in southeastern North Carolina. Local interests, represented by the North Carolina State Ports Authority, the North Carolina Division of Water

Resources, and the Cape Fear River Pilots Association, have requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study the following improvements for Wilmington Harbor: (1) construction of a 6.2-mile-long passing lane at a central location between the North Carolina State Port and the mouth of the Cape Fear River; and (2) widening of five turns. This recommended plan may require the blasting of nondredgeable rock. Possible adverse impacts could occur to endangered species, primary nursery areas, and anadromous fish migrations. This Draft Supplement I to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will address the effects of blasting on the estuarine environment and develop a post-blast monitoring plan. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is looking at alternative disposal areas for dredged material.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions about the Draft Supplement I to the FEIS can be answered by: Mr. Hugh Heine, Environmental Resources Section, at the U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, Post Office Box 1890, Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890; telephone: (910) 251-4070.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This study was conducted under authority of a resolution adopted 8 September 1988 by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives. The authorizing resolution directs studies of the entire Wilmington Harbor-Northeast Cape Fear River navigation system. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on August 13, 1993, and was circulated for a 45-day public review period. Comments received on the DEIS were addressed in the FEIS. The FEIS was filed with USEPA in April 1994. The Record of Decision was signed on August 25, 1994.

1. As indicated in both the DEIS and FEIS, the principal adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed action stem primarily from the blasting required to remove any nondredgeable rock. Possible adverse impacts could occur to endangered species, primary nursery areas, and anadromous fish migrations. Since the publication of the DEIS and FEIS, it is estimated from core borings, the most recent geophysical surveys, and historical data that the top of rock is below minus (-) 41 feet mean lower low water (mllw) for Turn 1, the 6.2-mile-long passing lane (which includes Turn 5), and Turn 6. However, this same data indicates that the top of rock is located above - 41 feet mllw for Turns

2, 3, and 4 (from Keg Island Channel to Lower Brunswick Channel). As a worst case, it is estimated that such nondredgable rock comprises less than 35,000 cubic yards or about 5 percent of all material to be dredged in Turns 2, 3, and 4. Approximately 122 blasts would be required to remove the nondredgable rock. This assumes that the maximum number of holes per day would be drilled and then fired together as a unit making up one blast. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is looking at alternative disposal areas for dredged material originally planned to be placed in disposal island Nos. 4, 11, 12, and 13. The Draft Supplement I to the FEIS will address these environmental issues and develop a post-blast monitoring plan.

2. The project will utilize mechanical dredging with disposal in the USEPA designated Wilmington Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (Wilmington ODMDS) and hydraulic pipeline dredge with disposal in existing upland disposal islands.

3. All private interests and Federal, State, and local agencies having an interest in the project are hereby notified of project authorization and are invited to comment at this time. The scoping process will consist of public notification to explain and describe the proposed action, early identification of resources that should be considered during the study, and public review periods. Coordination with the public and with other agencies will be carried out through public announcements, letters, report review periods, telephone conversations, and meetings. A scoping letter requesting input to the study will be sent to all known interested parties in June 1995. As previously stated, the significant issues to be addressed in the Draft Supplement I to the Final EIS are the blasting impacts on endangered species, primary nursery areas, and anadromous fish migrations and the development of a post-blast monitoring plan. Also to be considered will be the effect of alternative disposal areas for the project.

The lead agency for this project is the U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington. Cooperating agency status has not been assigned to, nor requested by, any other agency.

The Draft Supplement I to the Final EIS is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and will address the project's relationship to all other applicable Federal and State laws and Executive Orders.

4. No formal scoping meetings are planned at this time but, based on the

responses received, scoping meetings may be held with specific agencies or individuals as required.

5. The Draft Supplement I to the Final EIS is currently scheduled for distribution to the public in October 1995 and the Final Supplement I to the Final EIS is scheduled for distribution in December 1996.

Dated: June 9, 1995.

**Robert J. Sperberg,**

*Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.*

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## DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

### Notice of Commission Meeting and Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Delaware River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 28, 1995. The hearing will be part of the Commission's regular business meeting which is open to the public and scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m. in the Goddard Conference Room of the Commission's offices at 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, New Jersey.

An informal conference among the Commissioners and staff will be held at 10 a.m. at the same location and will include discussion of proposed Delaware Estuary toxics management issues, plans for DRBC's 35th anniversary and an opportunity for public dialogue.

The subjects of the hearing will be as follows:

### Applications for Approval of the Following Projects Pursuant to Article 10.3, Article 11 and/or Section 3.8 of the Compact

1. *Homestead Water Utility Co., Inc. D-81-73 CP RENEWAL-2.* An application for the renewal of a ground water withdrawal project to supply up to 12.8 million gallons (mg)/30 days of water to the applicant's distribution system from Well Nos. 1 and 2. Commission approval on September 28, 1988 was limited to five years. The applicant requests that the total withdrawal from all wells remain limited to 12.8 mg/30 days. The project is located in Mansfield Township, Burlington County, New Jersey.

2. *Delaware County Solid Waste Authority D-89-18 CP (Revised).* An application to revise the applicant's 0.08 million gallons per day (mgd) capacity landfill leachate treatment plant project by relocation of the proposed outfall, with effluent diffuser, to a point in Oley

Township, one mile further downstream on the Manatawny Creek than previously considered for a total dissolved solids (TDS) determination in Docket No. D-89-18 CP. A new TDS determination has been requested for the new location. The tertiary treatment system will continue to serve the Colebrookdale Landfill site situated along Schenck Road in Earl Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The Colebrookdale Landfill accepts non-hazardous municipal solid wastes generated in Delaware and Berks Counties, Pennsylvania.

3. *Logan Wells Water Company D-94-38 CP.* An application for approval of a ground water withdrawal project to supply up to 41 mg/30 days of water to the applicant's distribution system from existing Well Nos. 2 and 3 and from new Well Nos. 4 and 5, and to increase the existing withdrawal limit of 35.1 mg/30 days from all wells to 41 mg/30 days. The project is located in Logan Township, Gloucester County, New Jersey.

4. *Logan Township Municipal Utilities Authority D-95-7 CP.* A project to upgrade and expand the applicant's existing 1.0 mgd sewage treatment plant (STP) to 2.0 mgd and provide service for growth in portions of Logan and Woolrich Townships. The project STP is located in the Township of Logan, Gloucester County, New Jersey, approximately 2,000 feet west of High Hill Road and just south of the Pennsylvania-Reading Railroad right-of-way through Maple Swamp. The applicant's discharge will continue to be on the Delaware River in Water Quality Zone 4 via an existing outfall pipe.

5. *Doylestown Township Municipal Authority D-95-9 CP.* An application for approval of a ground water withdrawal project to supply up to 1.2 mg/30 days of water to the applicant's public water distribution system from new Well No. CK-1 (previously owned by Cross Keys Development Corporation); and to increase the existing withdrawal limit of 32.2 mg/30 days from all wells to 45.9 mg/30 days. The project is located in Doylestown Township, Bucks County, in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protected Area.

6. *Trigen-Philadelphia Energy Corporation D-95-10.* A project entailing operation of an existing oil-fired steam turbine formerly owned and operated by PECO Energy at the Schuylkill Generation Station located on Christian Street on the east bank of the Schuylkill River in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The applicant will continue to utilize PECO's existing intake and discharge facilities on the Schuylkill River (which