

Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Herbert Hoover Dike Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (MRER); Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, FL

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the feasibility phase of the Herbert Hoover Dike Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (MRER).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by: Mark Ziminske, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019; Telephone 904-232-1786; Fax 904-232-3442; e-mail: mark.t.ziminske@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: a. Authorization: The Flood Control Act, approved by Congress on 30 June 1948, authorized the first phase of a comprehensive plan to provide flood protection and other water control benefits in central and south Florida. The Act included measures for improving control of Lake Okeechobee by constructing or modifying the spillways and other structures, and enlarging the water storage and water supply capacity of the lake. The authorization for levee repairs to be done under the Herbert Hoover Dike MRER, are justified as a means to provide for the authorized project purposes of this Act.

b. Study Area: The study will include the entire Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) system, which surrounds Lake Okeechobee, Florida. The HHD system, made up of approximately 143 miles of levee, has for the purposes of the study, been divided up into nine levee segments, or "Reachers". The initial phase of the study will be the preparation of a Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (MRER) for Reach 1, a segment of levee 22.4 miles long, along the southeast shore of the lake from The Hurricane Gate Structure #4, at Belle Glade, Palm Beach County, to the St. Lucie Canal, at Port Mayaca, Martin County, Florida. The DEIS will also address, to a lesser degree, an environmental analysis of the entire dike system surrounding the lake (Reaches 2-8) in a comprehensive

manner. It is anticipated that additional NEPA documents will then be tiered from the Final Environmental Impact Statement, once it is completed, for subsequent studies on the remaining Reaches.

c. Project Features and Scope: The general goal of the HHD MRER is to provide a reliable embankment system around Lake Okeechobee to contain the lake waters for water supply, flood protection, navigation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Analysis of the existing dike system has revealed areas where the factors of safety relative to stability are less than current regulation requirements. The first report will define the extent and severity of any unstable condition within Priority Reach 1 and describe necessary remedial action to repair or manage the problem. The DEIS will evaluate the array of alternative plans, including the selected alternative plan and the no-action alternative, and determine if, and to what extent, implementation of these various plans may affect the surrounding environment. An array of alternative plans will be developed and evaluated based on economic, engineering, and environmental considerations. Preliminary alternatives may include, but are not limited to: use of drainage blankets, landside seepage berms, relief wells, sub-levees, impervious cut-off walls, slope modifications, and changes in the lake regulation schedule.

d. Scoping: The scoping process as outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality is being utilized to involve Federal, State, and local agencies, affected Indian Tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties. A Scoping Letter has been sent to interested Federal, State and local agencies, interested organizations and the public, requesting their comments and concerns regarding issues they feel should be addressed in the DEIS. Interested persons and organizations wishing to participate in the scoping process should contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the address above. Significant issues anticipated include concern for: maintenance of flood protection and water supply for the project area; maintenance of lake access routes primarily for amphibians and reptiles, historical and archeological resources in the adjacent area, effects on water based recreation, commercial fishing and certain species of plants and animals listed under the Endangered Species Act. Public meetings will be held over the course of the study, the exact location, dates, and times will be

announced in public notices and local newspapers.

e. It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public in early 1998.

George M. Strain,

Acting Chief, Planning Division.

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Department of the Navy

Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and To Open Scoping for the Disposal and Reuse of Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, CA

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announced in the Federal Register (September 3, 1996) its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to open scoping to evaluate the environmental effects associated with the disposal and reuse of Long Beach Naval Shipyard (NSY), Long Beach, California.

This Revised Notice of Intent supersedes the previous notice and sets a new date for a scoping meeting. Long Beach NSY is located in Long Beach Harbor, immediately east of Long Beach Naval Station, and includes approximately 259 acres of real estate. Of this, approximately 4 acres will be retained as a government-owned, contractor-operated parcel, and 85 acres will revert automatically to the City of Long Beach in conformance with the original deed which transferred land from the City to the Navy. These parcels are not included as part of the disposal and reuse of the Long Beach NSY. The proposed action involves the disposal of land, buildings, and infrastructure for subsequent reuse of the remaining 170 acres.

As a result of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (DBCRA) of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), and in accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process of 1995, Long Beach NSY is slated for operational closure on September 30, 1997. The DBCRA, as amended by the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, established procedures to minimize hardships on local communities adversely affected by base closures and to facilitate economic recovery of such communities. In this regard, job creation and economic development are given the highest priority in the reuse of closed military