

the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (DCM) to determine the projects consistency with the Coastal Zone Management Act. The COE will closely work the DCM through the EIS to ensure the process complies with all State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements. It is the COE and DCM's intentions to consolidate both NEPA and SEPA processes to eliminate duplications.

6. Availability of the Draft EIS

The Draft EIS is expected to be published and circulated sometime in 2003, and a public hearing will be held after the publication of the Draft EIS.

Dated: October 4, 2002.

Charles R. Alexander, Jr.,

Colonel, U.S. Army, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 02-26336 Filed 10-15-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-GN-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the North Palm Beach County Project, Part 1 in Palm Beach County, FL

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), intends to prepare an integrated Project Implementation Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the North Palm Beach County (NPBC) Project, Part 1. The study is a cooperative effort between the Corps and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), which is also a cooperating agency for this DEIS. One of the recommendations of the final report of the Central & South Florida (C&SF) Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy) was the NPBC Project. This project includes 6 separable components that together will provide environmental, urban, and agricultural water supply needs, flood attenuation, and some water quality improvements for NPBC. The components include the Pal-Mar and Corbett Hydropattern Restoration, L-8 Basin Modifications, C-51 and L-8 Basin Reservoir, Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration, C-17 Backpumping and Treatment, and C-51 Backpumping and Treatment.

DATES: A public scoping meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2002, 6:30 p.m., at the B1-Auditorium, SFWMD,

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Rebecca Weiss, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019, or by telephone at 904-899-5025.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

a. *Authorization:* Entitled "Everglades and South Florida Ecosystem Restoration", section 528 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996 authorized a number of ecosystem restoration activities, including the North Palm Beach County Project (Pub. L. 104-303). The restoration activities were a continuation of earlier efforts started during the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project Comprehensive Review Study (Restudy), authorized by section 309(l) of the WRDA of 1992 (Pub. L. 102-580). Signed on December 11, 2000, section 601 of the WRDA of 2000 authorized a framework and guide for modifications to the C&SF Project to restore the south Florida ecosystem and to provide for the other water-related needs of the region.

b. *Project Scope:* The NPBC project will promote environmental restoration and sustainable water resources in Palm Beach County through 6 separable components. The Pal-Mar and J.W. Corbett Hydropattern Restoration involves acquisition of 3,000 acres of land to extend the spatial extent of protected natural areas and provide a hydrologic connection between the Pal-Mar and Corbett Wildlife Management Area. The L-8 Basin Modification consists of conveyance improvements to increase water supply availability and enhance hydroperiods in Loxahatchee Slough. C-51 and L-8 Basin Reservoir involves construction of 48,000 acre-feet reservoir or reservoirs for long term storage to meet water supply and to reduce discharges to Lake Worth Lagoon. Lake Worth Lagoon Restoration includes sediment removal to provide improvements to the lagoon environment and augment local habitat restoration efforts planned by Palm Beach County. The C-17 and the C-51 backpumping components include backpumping facilities and construction of a 550-acre and a 600-acre stormwater treatment area, respectively, to increase water supplies to West Palm Beach Water Catchment Area and enhance hydroperiods in Loxahatchee Slough.

c. *Preliminary Alternatives:* Formulation of alternative plans will involve the selection of the most suitable site for the reservoirs, pump stations, land acquisitions, and other surface facilities, impoundment depths

and configurations, canal modifications, water treatment requirements, investigation of intake and discharge sites of stored water, and investigation of best configuration of surface facilities for the project.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will include an evaluation of adverse environmental impacts, including but not limited to, water quality, socio-economic, archaeological and biological. In addition, to adverse impacts, the evaluation will also focus on how well the plans perform with regard to specific ecological performance measures.

d. *Issues:* The EIS will consider impacts on water quality, ecosystem habitat, threatened and endangered species, health and safety, aesthetics and recreation, fish and wildlife resources, cultural resources, water availability, flood protection, and other potential impacts identified through scoping, public involvement, and interagency coordination.

e. *Scoping:* A public scoping meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2002 (see **DATES**). A scoping letter will also be issued October 2002 to interested parties. In addition, all parties are invited to participate in the scoping process by identifying any additional concerns on issues studies needed, alternatives, procedures, and other matters related to the scoping process.

f. *Public Involvement:* We invite the participation of affected Federal, state and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties.

g. *Coordination:* The proposed action is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, with the FWS under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

h. *Other Environmental Review and Consultation:* The proposed action would involve evaluation for compliance with guidelines pursuant to section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act; application (to the State of Florida) for Water Quality Certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act; certification of state lands, easements and right of ways, and determination of Coastal Zone Management Act consistency.

i. *Agency Role:* As the cooperating agency, non-Federal sponsor, and leading local expert, SFWMD will provide information and assistance on the resources to be impacted and alternatives.

j. *DEIS Preparation:* The integrated Project Implementation Report,

including a DEIS, is currently scheduled for publication in June 2004.

Dated: October 8, 2002.

James C. Duck,

Chief, Planning Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Regulatory Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by October 31, 2002. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 16, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Karen Lee, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget; 725 17th Street, NW, Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address Karen_F_Lee@omb.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Leader, Regulatory Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes this

notice containing proposed information collection requests at the beginning of the Departmental review of the information collection. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, *e.g.*, new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. ED invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: October 9, 2002.

John D. Tressler,

*Leader, Regulatory Management Group,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Type of Review: New.

Title: Reading Excellence Act (REA) Performance Report.

Abstract: This Annual Performance Report will allow the Department of Education to collect information required by the Reading Excellence Act.

Additional Information: Emergency clearance is necessary due to unanticipated events related to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). The No Child Left Behind Act, enacted in January 2002, increased Departmental expectations for State reporting, strengthened accountability provisions and emphasized the implementation of proven strategies, particularly those proven through scientific research, in NCLB programs. Clearance is requested for a new performance report that will provide accurate, timely and useful performance information from individual States. This performance report will also enhance the capability of the REA program office to ascertain technical assistance needs and identify compliance concerns. The third and final round of REA States completed their subgrant competitions in August 2002, resulting in several hundred new schools with Reading Excellence programs. This level of program growth

necessitates performance reports for effective monitoring of each State's activities. To align with these unanticipated events, the Department is requesting approval to obtain performance reports from each State with an active REA grant. This will replace, not add to, the performance report information collection through the State-District-School Study. This applies to 23 States reporting in November 2002 and 13 States reporting in November 2003. We seek this information each November so that REA staff can quickly accommodate and align with the events described above, and to enable staff to provide relevant technical assistance during the second half of the school year. To give States adequate time to prepare the report, we are requesting OMB approval of the performance report by October 31, 2002.

Frequency: Annually.

Affected Public: State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden: Responses: 18. Burden Hours: 24.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 2171. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view. Written requests for information should be addressed to Vivian Reese, Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Room 4050, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651 or to the e-mail address vivan.reese@ed.gov. Requests may also be electronically mailed to the internet address OCIO_RIMG@ed.gov or faxed to (202) 708-9346. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements, contact Kathy Axt at her e-mail address Kathy.Axt@ed.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice.