

improvements to the Wyoming Valley Levee as they affect Luzerne County and the environment are urged to attend the meeting and provide comments.

USACE has distributed copies of the Draft SEIS to appropriate members of Congress, State and local government officials, Federal agencies, and other interested parties. Copies are available for public review at the following locations:

(1) Osterhout Free Library, 71 South Franklin Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701.

(2) Osterhout Free Library, South Branch, 2 Airy Street, Wilkes Barre, PA 18702.

(3) D. Leonard Corgan Library, King's College, 14 West Jackson Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711.

You may view the Draft SEIS and related information on our Web page at [http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/publications/non-reg\\_pub.htm](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/publications/non-reg_pub.htm).

After the public comment period ends on September 20, 2004, USACE will consider all comments received. The Draft SEIS will be revised as appropriate and a Final SEIS will be issued.

The Draft SEIS has been prepared in accordance with (1) The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508), and (3) USACE regulations implementing NEPA (ER–200–2–2).

**William D. Abadie,**

*Environmental Team Leader.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Restoration of Airfield Clear Zones and Storm Water Drainage Systems at Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West, FL

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DOD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section (102)(2)(c) 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 Navy (Navy) announces its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences of bringing the Boca Chica Field into compliance with Navy and Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA) Safety Regulations. Overgrowth of mangroves and other vegetation has negatively affected visibility and poses a strike hazard to aircraft landing and taking off at Boca Chica Field, thereby, adversely impacting airfield operations. Additionally, inadequate surface water drainage on the airfield has been identified as a significant safety hazard. NAS Key West's primary mission is to provide pilot training facilities and services as well as access to superior airspace and training ranges for tactical aviation squadrons. As such, NAS Key West serves as the Navy's premier East Coast pilot training facility for tactical aviation squadrons.

The EIS will evaluate the environmental effects associated with vegetation removal on airspace, safety, earth resources, land use, socioeconomic resources, infrastructure, cultural resources and biological resources; including endangered and sensitive species, specifically the Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit (LKMR) and mangroves. Methods to reduce or minimize impacts to these species and essential fish habitat provided by mangroves in the clear zones will also be addressed. The analysis will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. No decision will be made to implement any action alternative until the NEPA process is completed.

**DATES:** A public scoping meeting will be held in Key West, FL, to receive oral and/or written comments on environmental concerns that should be addressed in the EIS. The public meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2004, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held at Doubletree Grand Key Resort, 3990 S. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West, FL 33040.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division (NAVFAC EFD SOUTH), P.O. Box 190010, North Charleston, SC 29419–9010; Attn: Ms. Olivia Westbrook, telephone (843) 820–5841; facsimile (843) 820–7465; e-mail: [Olivia.westbrook@navy.mil](mailto:Olivia.westbrook@navy.mil). The point of contact at NAS Key is Richard Ruzich. He may be reached by telephone at (305) 293–2785; facsimile (305) 293–2542; or e-mail: [Ruzichri@naskw.navy.mil](mailto:Ruzichri@naskw.navy.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Historically, the Boca Chica Field did not have dense vegetation surrounding the area, as is the desired condition for any airfield or airport. However, due to a lack of maintenance and rapid growth

rate, excess vegetation has encroached upon the clear zones and now creates serious unsafe conditions on the airfield. In order to bring the airfield back into compliance with Navy and FAA safety regulations, some trees and shrubs within these safety clearance zones will have to be removed. Some portions of this removal process may have potential impacts to federally listed species and their habitat and the filling of wetlands. The primary species of concern is the endangered LKMR. Additional concerns involve wetlands within the project area that include freshwater marsh, saltmarsh, freshwater hardwoods, and mangroves (the predominant species). The Navy has conducted extensive research and surveyed Boca Chica Field in order to identify the non-compliant areas and develop a restoration/construction methodology. During this process the best possible technique(s) for restoring and enhancing the airfield clearance safety areas while minimizing the impacts of the restoration methods to the LKMR and wetlands were delineated.

The EIS will consider three alternatives: (1) Complete compliance with aviation regulations. Under this alternative, maintenance would be completed to allow the airfield to operate under the conditions originally established for the Boca Chica Field. Maintenance activities would include clearing, grading, and grubbing vegetation within airfield safety clearance zones. All trees within the Primary Surface Area, Type I, Type II, portions of Type III, and Transitional areas would be removed, and the area completely cleared of stumps (grubbing) and re-graded. Typical mechanized equipment would be used since the entire area would be disturbed due to grubbing and re-grading activities and there would be no benefit to the use of specialized low-impact equipment. Restoration of the existing drainage system would be implemented by removal of the mangroves in the canals and on the banks and dredging to original invert elevations. (2) The second alternative would include a combination of vegetation management, filling of wetlands, and salt marsh conversion. Restoration of the existing drainage system would be implemented by removal of the mangroves in the canals and dredging to original invert elevations. The proposed action would improve airfield conditions to correct deficiencies temporarily waived by the Navy, and return conditions to an airfield that complies with FAA and Navy standards with an acceptable level

of safety. (3) The No Action Alternative in accordance with Section 1502.14(d) of the NEPA regulations means that an action would not take place and the resulting environmental effects from taking no action would be compared with the effects of allowing the proposed action to move forward. Implementation of the No Action alternative would only allow the performance of minimal airfield maintenance that is eligible for Categorical Exclusion under NEPA requirements. Under this alternative, Boca Chica Field would remain in non-compliance with airfield safety criteria and NAS Key West operations would continue to be negatively impacted by existing conditions.

The Navy is initiating the scoping process to identify community concerns and local issues that should be addressed in the EIS. Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as interested persons are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments to the Navy to identify specific issues or topics of environmental concern for consideration in the EIS. The Navy will consider these comments in determining the scope of the EIS.

Written comments must be postmarked by September 21, 2004, and should be mailed to: Restoration of Airfield Clear Zones and Storm Water Drainage Systems at NAS Key West, FL EIS, c/o Commander, NAVFAC EFD SOUTH, P.O. Box 190010, North Charleston, SC 29419-9010, Attn: Code ES12/OW (Olivia Westbrook), telephone (843) 820-5841, facsimile (843) 820-7465, or by E-Mail [olivia.westbrook@navy.mil](mailto:olivia.westbrook@navy.mil).

Dated: August 3, 2004.

**S.K. Melancon,**

*Paralegal Specialist, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. IC04-582-001, FERC-582]

#### Commission Information Collection Activities, Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Submitted for OMB Review

July 30, 2004.

**AGENCY:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the requirements of section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3507, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) has submitted the information collection described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and reinstatement of this information collection requirement. Any interested person may file comments directly with OMB and should address a copy of those comments to the Commission as explained below. The Commission received no comments in response to an earlier **Federal Register** notice of April 14, 2004 (69 FR 19829-19830) and has made this notification in its submission to OMB.

**DATES:** Comments on the collection of information are due by August 31, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Address comments on the collection of information to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Desk Officer. Comments to OMB should be filed electronically, c/o [Pamela L. Beverly@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Pamela_L._Beverly@omb.eop.gov) and include the OMB Control No. as a point of reference. The Desk Officer may be reached by telephone at 202-395-7856. A copy of the comments should also be sent to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Office of the Executive Director, ED-30, Attention: Michael Miller, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426. Comments may be filed either in paper format or electronically. Those persons filing electronically do not need to make a paper filing. For paper filings, such comments should be submitted to the Office of the Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426 and should refer to Docket No. IC04-582-001.

Documents filed electronically via the Internet must be prepared in MS Word, Portable Document Format, Word Perfect, or ASCII format. To file the document, access the Commission's Web site at <http://www.ferc.gov> and click on "Make an E-filing," and then follow the instructions for each screen. First time users will have to establish a user name and password. The Commission will send an automatic acknowledgment to the sender's e-mail address upon receipt of comments. User assistance for electronic filings is available at 202-502-8258 or by e-mail to [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov). Comments should not be submitted to the e-mail address.

All comments are available for review at the Commission or may be viewed on the Commission's Web site at [http://](http://www.ferc.gov)

[www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov), using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. For assistance, contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll-free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Michael Miller may be reached by telephone at (202) 502-8415, by fax at (202) 273-0873, and by e-mail at [michael.miller@ferc.gov](mailto:michael.miller@ferc.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Description**

The information collection submitted for OMB review contains the following:

1. *Collection of Information:* FERC-582 "Electric Fees and Annual Charges."
2. *Sponsor:* Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
3. *Control No.:* 1902-0132.

The Commission is now requesting that OMB approve with a three-year extension of the expiration date, with no changes to the existing collection. The information filed with the Commission is mandatory.

4. *Necessity of the Collection of Information:* Submission of this information is necessary to enable the Commission to carry out its responsibilities in implementing the statutory provisions of the Independent Offices Appropriation Act of 1952 (IOAA) (31 U.S.C. 9701) which authorizes the Commission to establish fees for its services. In addition, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (OBRA) (42 U.S.C. 71778) authorizes the Commission "to assess and collect fees and annual charges in any fiscal year in amounts equal to all the costs incurred by the Commission in that fiscal year." In calculating annual charges, the Commission first determines the total costs of its electric regulatory program and then subtracts all electric regulatory program filing fee collections to determine the total collectible electric regulatory program costs. It then uses the data submitted under the Commission's information collection requirement FERC-582 to determine the total megawatt-hours of transmission of electric energy in interstate commerce. This is measured by the sum of the megawatt-hours of all unbundled transmission (including MWh delivered in wheeling transactions and MWh delivered in exchange transactions) and the megawatt-hours of all bundled wholesale power sales (to the extent these later megawatt-hours were not