



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Jacksonville District

News Release

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P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Contact: Nanciann Regalado, CCO
Phone: 904-232-2236 - FAX: 904-232-2237
Email:nanciann.e.regalado@saj02.usace.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers schedules public meetings on proposed revisions to Lake Okeechobee Water Control Plan

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, will host a series of public meetings to present proposed revisions to the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Agricultural Area Water Control Plan as supported in the recently released draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Details of the meetings are as follows:

Tuesday, September 12, 6:30 p.m.
Indian River Community College - Chastain Campus
Wolf High-Technology Center
2400 SE Salerno Road
Stuart, FL 34997

Wednesday, September 13, 6:30 p.m.
Okeechobee Civic Center
1750 Highway 98 North
Okeechobee, FL 34972

Thursday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.
Lee County Commission Chambers
2120 Main Street
Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Monday, September 18, 6:30 p.m.
John Boy Auditorium
1200 WC Owen Avenue
Clewiston, FL 33440

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Presentations will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a public comment period.

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss the draft SEIS and to present the proposed revisions to the existing Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Agricultural Area Water Control Plan. The proposed revisions include a new regulation schedule to replace the existing Water Supply Environment (WSE) regulation schedule and associated operational guidance. The operational guidance and regulation schedule were revised as a result of findings of the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule Study and a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

The proposed new regulation schedule and operational guidance was analyzed in a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), released for public review on August 18. If the SEIS leads to a Record of Decision, then a request for approval of the new water control plan for Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Agricultural Area will be sent to the Corps' South Atlantic Division Office in.

Operational guidance contained within the existing approved Water Control Plan, such as Everglades Agricultural Area canal levels, will not be discussed at these public meetings, and will remain in effect and be incorporated into the new Water Control Plan.

A 45-day public comment period on the proposed revisions will take place between August 18 and October 2, 2006. At that time, the Corps will consider public input received at the above meetings as well as written feedback received by the closing date of the comment period, and will prepare a new control plan for Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Agricultural Area.

More detailed information on the proposed revisions to the Water Control Plan

can be found on the water management page on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Jacksonville District web site at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/h2o/index.htm> . The LORSS draft SEIS can be found at: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/>

For more information, please contact Mr. Barry Vorse, Corporate Communication Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at 904-232-2236. Special needs assistance or Spanish Interpreter requests can be made by calling Erica Robbins at 561-472-8893 at least five days prior to the scheduled meeting.