



**US Army Corps
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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposes operational changes to the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Agricultural Area Water Control Plan, announces public meetings and open comment period

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, has proposed operational changes to the Lake Okeechobee and Everglades Agricultural Area Water Control Plan, as supported in a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). The document is available for public review and comment, and may be viewed in its entirety on the Jacksonville District's web site at: <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil>. Under "What's New," click on the revised draft Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule link.

A series of public meetings is planned, during which Corps representatives will present the revised plan and receive public comments. Dates and locations are as follows, with all meetings starting at 7 p.m.:

Tuesday, August 7- Stuart
Indian River Community College - Chastain Campus
Wolf High-Technology Center
2400 SE Salerno Road, Stuart, FL 34997

Wednesday, August 8 – Ft. Myers
Lee County Commission Chambers
2120 Main Street, Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Monday, August 13 – Belle Glade
Everglades Research & Education Center
3200 E. Palm Beach Road, Belle Glade, FL 33430



Tuesday, August 14 - Okeechobee
Okeechobee Civic Center
1750 Highway 98 North, Okeechobee, FL 34972

Proposed revisions to the Water Control Plan include a new regulation schedule that would replace the existing Water Supply Environment (WSE) regulation schedule and associated operational guidance. The draft regulation schedule and operational guidance were analyzed in the draft SEIS. If the draft 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 submitted to the Corps' South Atlantic Division.

A 45-day public comment period on the draft SEIS is open until August 20, 2007. Written comments may be submitted by mail to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Yvonne Haberer, Planning Division, 701 San Marco Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207, or by e-mail to LORSSComments@saj02.usace.army.mil.

Further information on the proposed revisions to the Water Control Plan and draft SEIS may be found on the water management page of the Jacksonville District web site, at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/h2o/index.htm>.

For additional information, please contact Barry Vorse of the Corporate Communication Office, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at 904-232-2236. Special needs assistance or Spanish interpreter requests for the upcoming public meetings may be made by calling Jean Pavlov, 904-232-1106 at least three business days prior to the scheduled meeting.

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