



**US Army Corps
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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Comment period begins today on proposed Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District announced today a 30-day comment period for the final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement that supports proposed operational changes to the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule.

The comment period begins today and runs through Dec. 17, 2007.

“Our goal is to adopt a plan based on the best engineering, science and water management analysis available and the best plan for balancing the entire greater Everglades region,” said Jacksonville District Commander Col. Paul Grosskruger.

Based solely on current water storage capacity in the system, the operational changes will help water managers maintain the lake at lower water levels and allow for quicker response and operational flexibility to changing lake conditions and tributary inflows.

“This is an important step in minimizing the risk to public health and safety due to the present concerns with the Herbert Hoover Dike,” Grosskruger said.

The Corps’ goal is to manage Lake Okeechobee between 12.5 and 15.5 feet throughout the year – a safe range for operation of the dike and to best balance and meet the needs for all the water resource purposes that Lake Okeechobee serves. The proposed changes improve the rates of flow to the coastal estuaries by allowing low rates of flow to begin earlier as the lake rises, which in turn helps reduce the need for higher flows later in the year. The changes also improve the environmental health of



the lake by reducing the frequency and duration of high lake elevations that impact the lake's shore zones.

To review the final SEIS, go to www.saj.usace.army.mil/cco/lorss_desc.htm.

Through Dec. 17, 2007, interested parties can send their comments on the final SEIS via e-mail to LORSSComments@usace.army.mil or by mail to Yvonne Haberer U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District Planning Division, P.O. Box 4970 Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

For general information about the Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule study, please contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1953.

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