



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 4970  
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

**June 17, 1997**

Regulatory Division

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers(Corps), is circulating this notice to clarify the District's policy on "Submitting Surveys to Memorialize Wetland Jurisdictional Delineations". This policy will be effective as of the date stamped above.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404), a Department of the Army permit is required for the discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States", including wetlands. Wetlands are defined in the Corps regulations [33 CFR, 328.3(b)] as "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions." For the purposes of Section 404, the delineation of wetlands to determine jurisdiction is accomplished in accordance with the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. The jurisdictional delineation should be supported by proper documentation which substantiates the Corps decision. Documentation must also allow a reasonably accurate replication of the delineation at a future date. In this regard, documentation may include surveys of the jurisdictional delineation.

On January 17, 1997, the Jacksonville District issued a public notice to solicit comments on the District's proposed policy on "Surveying of Wetland Jurisdictional Delineations." After careful consideration of all comments, we have determined that we will not institute any blanket requirements specifying when a survey of the jurisdictional delineation is necessary to evaluate an application. The determination of whether a survey is needed for a particular project will continue to be made by the District Engineer (DE), as it has in the past, on a case-by-case basis. If the DE determines that a survey is required, the following paragraphs stipulate the type of information required in the survey and the manner in which it shall be presented.

### **SURVEY POLICY:**

The surveys may be performed by Global Positioning System (GPS) or by conventional methodology. Irrespective of which method is utilized to perform the survey, all jurisdictional delineation surveys shall be "tied-in" to the property boundary, and each page of the survey shall be signed and sealed by a registered surveyor licensed in the State of Florida, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, respectively. If GPS is used to perform the survey, the accuracy shall be at the submeter level, and a statement to that effect must appear on each page of the signed, sealed survey.

Each individual "flag" which is placed in the field to denote the wetland boundary shall be depicted on the survey as a point and shall be labeled with a descriptor. The descriptor of the wetland points shall correspond to the numbers which are marked on each "flag" placed in the field. These are normally marked in an alpha-numeric sequence. The property corners shall also be depicted on the survey and labeled with a descriptor.

Where appropriate, surveys shall be accompanied by the raw data, in digital format submitted on CD ROM, and tables which contain the respective state (FL, PR, VI) plane coordinates (x, y) of each point ("flag") on the survey, as well as those for the property corners. Each page of the state plane coordinates tables must also be signed and sealed by a registered surveyor. Each point in the state plane coordinates tables shall be identified by the corresponding descriptor depicted on the survey.

Unless precluded by state regulations, the horizontal datum shall be North American Datum of 1983.

GEOGRAPHIC APPLICABILITY:

This policy will be applicable to the entire Jacksonville District, including the State of Florida, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

If you have any questions, you may contact Stuart L. Santos at the letterhead address or by telephone (904) 232-2018.

Lawrence C. Evans  
Chief, Regulatory Division