

document by writing to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, ATTN: CENAB-PL-P (Ms. Maria de la Torre), P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715, or by telephone at (410) 962-2911 or 1-800-295-1610. Written comments or inquiries may also be sent by fax to Ms. de la Torre at (410) 962-4698 or by electronic mail to cenab-pl-p@usace.army.mil. The combined Decision Document and SEIS is also available on the Baltimore District's Internet website as an Adobe Acrobat file at www.nab.usace.army.mil/pbriefs/scranton/seis299.

7. A Public Meeting for the Plot community is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 1999, at 7 p.m., at St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church (corner of Main Avenue and Theodore Street), Scranton, Pennsylvania. A Public Meeting for the Green Ridge community is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 1999, at 7 p.m., also at St. Joseph's Lithuanian Church. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the status of the reevaluation and related issues, and to address any comments, questions, and suggestions from the public.

Robert F. Gore,

Acting Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 99-3986 Filed 2-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-41-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army

Cancellation of the Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, for a Test Beach Fill Using a Foreign Source of Carbonate Sand

AGENCY: Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Cancellation notice.

SUMMARY: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hereby cancels its Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement as published in FR, Vol. 63, No. 162, page 44850, August 21, 1998 and Vol. 63, No. 207, page 57282, October 27, 1998.

The Notice is cancelled because Congress, in the Conference Report for FY 1999 appropriations, stated that none of the funds added by Congress (in FY 1999) for the Dade County, Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project shall be used for the acquisition of foreign source materials

for the project unless the Secretary of the Army provides written certification to the committees on Appropriations that domestic sources of material are not available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions can be forwarded to Mr. Kenneth Dugger, Environmental Branch, Planning Division, Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers, Post Office Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019, Phone: 904-232-1686.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Dated: February 8, 1999.

James C. Duck,

Chief, Planning Division.

[FR Doc. 99-4192 Filed 2-18-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Notice of Determination Regarding the Assimilative Capacity of the Tidal Delaware River for Toxic Pollutants; Public Hearings

AGENCY: Delaware River Basin Commission.

ACTION: Notice of Commission determination and public hearings.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Delaware River Basin Commission will hold public hearings to receive comments on a determination that the assimilative capacity of the tidal Delaware River is being exceeded for certain toxic pollutants. This determination will authorize the Executive Director to establish wasteload allocations for specific point source discharges of these pollutants.

DATES: The public hearings are scheduled as follows:

May 3, 1999 beginning at 1:30 p.m. and continuing until 5:00 p.m., as long as there are people present wishing to testify.

May 5, 1999 beginning at 1:30 p.m. and continuing until 5:00 p.m. as long as there are people present wishing to testify; and resuming at 6:30 p.m. and continuing until 9:00 p.m., as long as there are people present wishing to testify.

May 11, 1999 beginning at 1:30 p.m. and continuing until 5:00 p.m., as long as there are people present wishing to testify.

ADDRESSES: The May 3, 1999 hearing will be held in the Second Floor Auditorium of the Carvel State Building, 820 North French Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

The May 5, 1999 hearing will be held in the Goddard Conference Room of the

Commission's offices at 25 State Police Drive, West Trenton, New Jersey.

The May 11, 1999 hearing will be held in the Jefferson Room of the Holiday Inn at 400 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan M. Weisman, Commission Secretary, Delaware River Basin Commission, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, New Jersey 08628. Telephone (609) 883-9500 ext. 203.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Rationale

On October 23, 1996 the Delaware River Basin Commission amended its Comprehensive Plan, Water Code and Water Quality Regulations concerning water quality criteria for toxic pollutants, and policies and procedures to establish wasteload allocations and effluent limitations for point source discharges to the tidal Delaware River.

Specifically, water quality criteria for selected toxic pollutants were incorporated in the Comprehensive Plan and Article 3 of the Water Code and Water Quality Regulations as stream quality objectives. Article 4 of the Water Quality Regulations was amended to include policies and procedures to be used to establish wasteload allocations for those discharges containing pollutants which exceed the stream quality objectives and impact the designated uses of the river following a Commission determination that the assimilative capacity of a zone of the Delaware River is exceeded. These amendments provided a mechanism for identifying toxic pollutants which impair aquatic life and human health, and developing uniform and equitable wasteload allocations for those NPDES discharges to the tidal Delaware River which contribute to their impairment. The permitting authorities of the Basin states will utilize allocations developed by the Commission to establish effluent limitations for NPDES permittees in their jurisdiction, as appropriate.

The subject of the hearings is a proposed determination by the Commission that the assimilative capacity of the tidal Delaware River (Trenton, NJ to the head of Delaware Bay) is being exceeded for 1,2-dichloroethane, tetrachloroethene, chronic toxicity and acute toxicity. These parameters were selected based upon their mass loading to the estuary, minimal interaction with estuary sediments, and the availability of calibrated and validated water quality models that could be used to develop the wasteload allocations. This determination will authorize the



STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Helping Floridians create safe, vibrant, sustainable communities"

BUDDY MacKAY
Governor

December 24, 1998

JAMES F. MURLEY
Secretary

Mr. Kenneth Dugger
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Department of Defense
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army - Federal Register Notice -
Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact
Statement for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and
Hurricane Protection Project, for a Test Beach Fill
Using a Foreign Source of Carbonate Sand; Correction -
Miami-Dade County, Florida
SAI: FL9810270690C

Dear Mr. Dugger:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Bureau of Protected Species Management notes that although they have previously reviewed the proposed project (see attached comments dated June 3, 1997, and November 6, 1997), based on the available information, the DEP is unable to determine whether this project will be consistent with the DEP's authorities in the Coastal Zone Management Program. The DEP's primary concern is the need to ensure that the test plan includes an assessment of the effects of the alternative sand source on nesting success and nest site selection of female turtles, as well as the potential impacts to hatchling marine turtles. When information on the impacts of the alternative sand source is received, the DEP will be able to evaluate the consistency of the project. Please refer to the enclosed DEP comments.

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: (850) 488-8466/Suncom 278-8466 FAX: (850) 921-0781/Suncom 291-0781
Internet address: <http://www.state.fl.us/comaff/>

Mr. Kenneth Dugger
December 24, 1998
Page Two

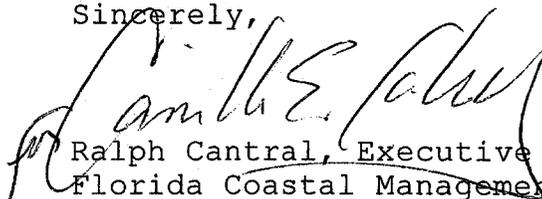
The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) notes that, under the operating agreement between the DEP and the Water Management Districts, the DEP will be taking the lead in the review of this project. Please refer to the enclosed SFWMD comments.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting (OPB) recommends that the draft EIS address the need to conduct a complete biological analysis prior to the test beach fill to identify and assess the risk to Florida beaches from exotic or pathogenic species. Please refer to the enclosed OPB comments.

Based on the information contained in the notice of intent to prepare a draft environmental impact statement and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, at this stage of project development, the state is unable to determine whether the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). Therefore, the project will be reevaluated when additional information becomes available. All subsequent environmental documents should be forwarded to the Florida State Clearinghouse for interagency review. Comments received from the South Florida Regional Planning Council are also enclosed for your review.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,



Ralph Cantral, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

Enclosures

cc: Robert Hall, Department of Environmental Protection
Jim Golden, South Florida Water Management District
Carliane Johnson, Office of Planning and Budgeting
Eric Silva, South Florida Regional Planning Council



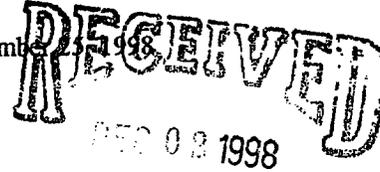
Department of Environmental Protection

Lawton Chiles
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Virginia B. Wetherell
Secretary

November



State of Florida Clearinghouse

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Re: Department of the Army Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, Miami, Dade County.

SAI: FL9810120673C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

This Department has reviewed the above-described project proposal and based on the information provided, we submit the following comments and recommendations regarding preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project.

Our Bureau of Protected Species Management reports that it has previously provided reviews of this project (see attached comments dated June 3, 1997 and November 6, 1997). However, based on the information provided thus far it is not yet possible to determine if this project is consistent with our authorities in the Coastal Zone Management Program. Our primary concern is that the test plan include assessment of the effects of the alternative sand source on nesting success (number of nests compared with the total number of emergences) and nest site selection by female turtles as well as potential impacts to hatchling marine turtles. When information on the effects of the alternative sand source is received, we will be able to make a consistency determination for this project.

Thank you for the opportunity of commenting on this proposal. For clarification of the requested information please contact Robbin Trindell, Ph.D., 850/922-4330. If you have any questions regarding this letter please give me a call at (850) 487-2231.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Hall
Office of Intergovernmental
Programs

Attachment

cc: Fritz Wettstein
Robbin Trindell

"Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources"

Attachment II

TO: Bob Brantly, P.E.
Bureau of Beaches & Coastal Systems

FROM: Robbin N. Trindell, Ph.D.
Bureau of Protected Species Management

DATE: November 6, 1997

SUBJECT: Dade County Alternate Sand Source Investigation

I have reviewed the referenced document. Any material from an upland sand source proposed for beach placement should be tested on a small scale to document its performance in the marine inter- and supratidal environmental. Blocks of replicate test plots and control plots, both treatment controls and areas of existing "beach" sand, should be monitored at different locations along the coastline. A complete analysis of the sediments, including grain size, angularity, skewness, kurtosis, ect., should be completed on the material prior to its placement on the beach, immediately after its placement on the beach, and at set intervals thereafter. *In situ* measurements, including compaction, shear resistance, bulk density, moisture, and organic content, should also be collected. A minimum of three years of sampling should be conducted at the experimental plots. This sampling interval can be shortened if it can be documented that the upland sediments have been lost from the site or completely reworked and no longer distinguishable from surrounding "beach" sediments. Marine turtle nesting information should also be collected from the test plots during the experimental interval.

We are willing to participate in the design of any experiments, and can request assistance from staff of the Florida Geological Survey if necessary. Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal.

Cc: Paulette Bond, FGS
Bob Lutz, BBCS

Attachment I

June 3, 1997

Mr. Hanley K. Smith
Acting Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32231-0019

Dear Mr. Smith:

I have reviewed the test beach proposal contained in your letter of May 3, 1997, to David Arnold. The environmental testing program for marine turtles was fairly detailed; additional clarification of components of the experimental design are listed below.

Experimental analyses should be designed to determine if placement of foreign aragonite on marine turtle nesting beaches alters marine turtle nesting behavior and success. Marine turtle nesting patterns and success vary both temporally among years and spatially along the shoreline. To detect treatment effects, in this case placement of foreign aragonite, on the response variable, marine turtle nesting patterns and success, a test beach site and a control site must be identified. Background and baseline information must be collected on both sites.

The test beach and control sites should be as similar as possible with respect to background conditions, including slope, temperature, color, moisture, gas exchange, lighting, overland drainage, upland development, beach/dune profile, nearshore environment and biotic communities, and offshore bathymetry. Marine turtle nesting patterns, including nest density, nest to false crawl ratio, hatch success, and emergence success, should also not differ between the test and control beach prior to the placement of the foreign aragonite. Differences between the two sites should be assessed by comparing one or more years of baseline measurements from the test and control beach prior to the nourishment activity.

Standard experimental methodology requires that the test and control beach be treated identically with the exception of the treatment effect. Thus, the control beach should be nourished with native beach sand at the same interval and using the same methodology as the test beach. Otherwise, we will not be able to separate differences in marine turtle nesting due to renourishment in general from differences due to use of foreign aragonite as fill material, if any exist.

Postconstruction measurements of substrate suitability, including scarps, compaction, slope, stability, temperature, color, moisture and gas exchange, should be collected on both the test and control beaches after nourishment. Marine turtle nest site selection, including the number of false crawls, the type of false crawl, the number of nests, nest morphology, the false crawl to nest ratio, and nest success parameters, including incubation period, nest success, sex ratios, and emergence success, should be collected on both test and control beaches after nourishment. The number, duration, and location of scarps and associated false crawls, should also be measured.

Given the lower density of marine turtle nests in Dade County, there is potential that there will be too few nests on the test or control beach for statistical comparisons. A similar study has been proposed for Broward County. Addition of a second control and test plot in Broward County would increase the power of the proposed experiments to assess effects of a foreign aragonite source on marine turtle nesting. This additional set of experiments should be implemented simultaneously, if possible.

COUNTY: Miami-Dade

DATE: 11/03/1998

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 11/18/1998

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 12/11/1998

SAI#: FL98102706901

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

- X Agriculture
- Community Affairs
- Environmental Protection
- Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm
- Marine Fisheries Commission
- State
- Transportation

South Florida WMD

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State of Florida Clearinghouse

Environmental Policy/C & ED

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Department of Defense - Department of the Army - Federal Register Notice - Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, for a Test Beach Fill Using a Foreign Source of Carbonate Sand; Correction - Miami-Dade County, Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse
 Department of Community Affairs
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
 (850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
 (850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: FORESTRY / FRP + SS

Reviewer: Bob Mc Donald

Date: 11-3-98

COUNTY: Miami-Dade

DATE: 11/03/1998

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 11/18/1998

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 12/11/1998

Message:

SAI#: FL9810270690

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
 Community Affairs
 Environmental Protection
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OFFICE OF
 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From: GFWFC

Division/Bureau: Environmental Services

Reviewer: Douglas B. Bailey

Date: 11-5-98

COUNTY: Miami-Dade

DATE: 11/03/1998

COMMENTS DUE-2 WKS: 11/18/1998

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 12/11/1998

SAI#: FL98102706901

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
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 Environmental Protection
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm
 X Marine Fisheries Commission
 State
 Transportation

South Florida WMD

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Environmental Policy/C & ED

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MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

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EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
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- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION
 2540 EXECUTIVE CENTER CIRCLE WEST
 SUITE 106
 TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

From:

Division/Bureau: _____

Reviewer: *[Signature]*

Date: 11/9/98

COUNTY: Miami-Dade

Message:

DATE: 12/03/1998
COMMENTS DUE -2 WKS: 11/18/1998
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 12/11/1998
SAI#: FL9810270690C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm
Marine Fisheries Commission
State
X Transportation

South Florida WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12872/NEPA

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: Planning
Reviewer: Jo Laurie Penrose
Date: 12-03-98

COUNTY: Miami-Dade

DATE: 11/03/1998

COMPLETION DATE-2 WKS: 11/10/1998

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 12/11/1998

SAT#: FL9810270690C

Message:

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPR POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
 Community Affairs
 Environmental Protection
 Game and Fresh Water Fish Comm
 Marine Fisheries Commission
 State
 Transportation

X South Florida WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

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- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

UNDER THE OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEP AND THE WMDs, DEP WILL BE TAKING THE LEAD IN THE REVIEW OF THIS PROJECT.

From: REGULATION DEPT.
 Division/Bureau: REGULATION DEPT.
 Reviewer: JFM GOLDEN
 Date: 11/18/98

South
Florida
Regional
Planning
Council



December 9, 1998

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DEC 11 1998

VIA FACSIMILE & MAIL

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

RE: SFRPC #98-1105, SAI #FL98101270690C - Response to a request for comments on the Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, City of Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County.

Dear Ms. Trainor:

We have reviewed the above-referenced project and have the following comments:

- The project methodology and design, as proposed, is generally consistent with the goals and policies of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)*. Council staff recognizes that offshore borrow sources along Miami-Dade County are nearly depleted and that future erosion control projects will require alternative sand sources.
- Beaches and dune systems are identified as natural resources of regional significance in the *SRPP*. Staff supports the use of buffer zones to protect these important resources. Sand movement and downdrift erosion should be monitored on a region wide basis to ensure the livelihood of wildlife habitats and the stability of the project area. All actions should be consistent with the goals and policies of the City of Miami Beach comprehensive plan.
- Staff recommends that, if the proposed actions are implemented, 1) impacts to the natural systems be minimized to the greatest extent feasible and 2) the permit grantor determine the extent of sensitive marine life and vegetative communities in the vicinity of each project and require protection and or mitigation of disturbed habitat. These guidelines will assist in reducing the cumulative impacts to native plants and animals, wetlands and deep water habitat and fisheries that the goals and policies of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida* seek to protect.
- The goals and policies of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida*, in particular those indicated below, should be observed when making decisions regarding this project.

Strategic Regional Goal

- 3.1 Eliminate the inappropriate uses of land by improving the land use designations and utilize land acquisition where necessary so that the quality and connectedness of Natural Resources of Regional Significance and suitable high quality natural areas is improved.

3440 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 140, Hollywood, Florida 33021
Broward (954) 985-4416, Area Codes 305, 407 and 561 (800) 985-4416
SunCom 473-4416, FAX (954) 985-4417, SunCom FAX 473-4417
e-mail sfadmin@sfrpc.com

Regional Policies

- 3.1.9 Degradation or destruction of Natural Resources of Regional Significance, including listed species and their habitats will occur as a result of a proposed project only if :
- a) the activity is necessary to prevent or eliminate a public hazard, and
 - b) the activity is in the public interest and no other alternative exists, and
 - c) the activity does not destroy significant natural habitat, or identified natural resource values, and
 - d) the activity does not destroy habitat for threatened or endangered species, and
 - e) the activity does not negatively impact listed species that have been documented to use or rely upon the site.
- 3.1.10 Proposed projects shall include buffer zones between development and existing Natural Resources of Regional Significance and other suitable natural resources. The buffer zones shall provide natural habitat values and functions that compliment Natural Resources of Regional Significance values so that the natural system values of the site are not negatively impacted by adjacent uses. The buffer zones shall be a minimum of 25 feet in width. Alternative widths may be proposed if it is demonstrated that the alternative furthers the viability of the Natural Resource of Regional Significance, effectively separating the development impacts from the natural resource or contributing to reduced fragmentation of identified Natural Resources of Regional Significance.
- 3.1.11 Implement monitoring and maintenance of Natural Resources of Regional Significance and other suitable natural resources so that an Overall Positive Gain in quality and quantity of the Natural Resources of Regional Significance is achieved. The monitoring of the Natural Resources of Regional Significance shall be included on all projects that have not been demonstrated to not adversely impact the resource or associated listed species.
- 3.1.19 Uses of the land shall be consistent with the sustained ecological functioning of the Natural Resources of Regional Significance and suitable adjacent natural buffer areas and will be based upon the radius required to provide protection to the natural system and associated inhabitants. The radius will vary in size depending upon the resource or species that is to be protected.

Strategic Regional Goal

- 3.8 Enhance and preserve natural system values of South Florida's shorelines, estuaries, benthic communities, fisheries, and associated habitats, including but not limited to, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay and the coral reef tract.

Regional Policies

- 3.8.1 Enhance and preserve natural shoreline characteristics through requirements resulting from the review of proposed projects and in the implementation of ICE, including but not limited to, mangroves, beaches and dunes through prohibition of structural shoreline stabilization methods except to protect existing navigation channels, maintain reasonable riparian access, or allow an activity in the public interest as determined by applicable state and federal permitting criteria.

- 3.8.2 Enhance and preserve benthic communities, including but not limited to seagrass and shellfish beds, and coral habitats, by allowing only that dredge and fill activity, artificial shading of habitat areas, or destruction from boats that is the least amount practicable, and by encouraging permanent mooring facilities. Dredge and fill activities may occur on submerged lands in the Florida Keys only as permitted by the Monroe County Land Development Regulations. It must be demonstrated pursuant to the review of the proposed project features that the activities included in the proposed project do not cause permanent, adverse natural system impacts.
- 3.8.3 As a result of proposed project reviews, include conditions that result in a project that enhances and preserves marine and estuarine water quality by:
- a) improving the timing and quality of freshwater inflows;
 - b) reducing turbidity, nutrient loading and bacterial loading from wastewater facilities and vessels;
 - c) reducing the number of improperly maintained stormwater systems; and
 - d) requiring port facilities and marinas to implement hazardous materials spill plans.
- 3.8.4 Enhance and preserve commercial and sports fisheries through monitoring, research, best management practices for fish harvesting and protection of nursery habitat and include the resulting information in educational programs throughout the region. Identified nursery habitat shall be protected through the inclusion of suitable habitat protective features including, but not limited to:
- a) avoidance of project impacts within habitat area;
 - b) replacement of habitat area impacted by proposed project; or
 - c) improvement of remaining habitat area within remainder of proposed project area.
- 3.8.5 Enhance and preserve habitat for endangered and threatened marine species by the preservation of identified endangered species habitat and populations. For threatened species or species of critical concern, on-site preservation will be required unless it is demonstrated that off-site mitigation will not adversely impact the viability or number of individuals of the species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We would appreciate being kept informed on the progress of this project. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Eric Silva
Senior Planner

ES/cp

cc: Dean J. Grandin Jr., City of Miami Beach
Jean Evoy, DERM



STATE OF FLORIDA

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Helping Floridians create safe, vibrant, sustainable communities"

LAWTON CHILES
Governor

JAMES F. MURLEY
Secretary

December 10, 1998

Mr. Kenneth Dugger
Department of Defense
Department of the Army
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army - Federal Register Notice -
Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact
Statement for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and
Hurricane Protection Project, for a Test Beach Fill
Using a Foreign Source of Carbonate Sand; Correction -
Miami-Dade County, Florida
SAI: FL9810270690C

Dear Mr. Dugger:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has been advised that our reviewing agencies require additional time to complete the review of the above-referenced project. In order to receive comments from all agencies, an additional fifteen days is requested for completion of the state's consistency review in accordance with 15 CFR 930.41(b). We will make every effort to conclude the review and forward the consistency determination to you on or before December 26, 1998.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 922-5438.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Cantral".

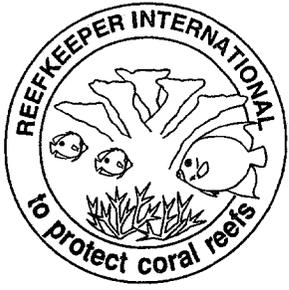
Ralph Cantral, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781
Internet address: www.state.fl.us/comaff/dca

FLORIDA KEYS
Area of Critical State Concern Field Office
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 212
Marathon, Florida 33050-2227

GREEN SWAMP
Area of Critical State Concern Field Office
205 East Main Street • Suite 104
Bartow, Florida 33830



30 November 98
Operations Center

ReefKeeper[®] International

Mr. Kenneth Dugger
Environmental Branch
Planning Division
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

PHONE FAX
(305)358-4600 (305)358-3030

Dear Mr. Dugger,

ReefKeeper International would like to receive a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Report when it becomes available.

ReefKeeper International is a non-profit, grass-roots membership organization dedicated to the conservation of coral reefs throughout the world.

Thank you for your time and effort in this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sean J. Heiss
Operations Associate
ReefKeeper International

OPERATIONS CENTER
Suite 162
2809 Bird Avenue
Miami, FL 33133

CARIBBEAN REGION
P.O. Box 1253
Boqueron, PR 00622

LATIN AMERICAN REGION
P.O. Box 185
Cozumel, QROO
MEXICO 77600

NOV 10 1998

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

Mr. George W. Percy
State Historic Preservation Officer
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee Florida 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Percy:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, has constructed and renourished the Dade County beach erosion control project. A project map is enclosed.

We intend to evaluate the physical and environmental performance of aragonite (or other carbonate sand) on a test segment on the beach located from NE 88th Street to south of NE 66th Street in Miami Beach. This beach segment is an erosional area in which the Corps has placed sand several times since the 1968 project authorization. Historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places are not likely to be located on this beach segment.

Offshore borrow sources of beach quality sediment along the Dade County shoreline have almost completely been depleted and alternative sources of material will be required to provide continued renourishment of the Dade County project. Foreign sources of aragonite are being considered, such as the Bahamas Bank and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As of this date, a borrow source has not been selected for this project. If a borrow source is identified in the State of Florida, or in adjacent U.S. waters, the Corps will coordinate with your office according to the procedures established in 36 CFR Part 800.

We are consulting with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to clarify appropriate procedures for compliance with the National Historic Preservation for utilization of a foreign sand source. Results of this consultation will be provided to your office separately.

It is the Corps' determination that placement of sand on this beach segment will not affect historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We request your written concurrence with the no effect determination for the beach placement only. This determination is coordinated with your office according to the guidelines established in 36 CFR Part 800 and in partial compliance with Section 106 of the National; Historic Preservation Act.

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Janice Adams at 904-232-2016.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Moore
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

bcc: CESAJ-DP-I (Stevens)
CESAJ-PD-ER (Dupes)
CESAJ-OC (Pax)

individuals wishing to attend should also call the below listed telephone number to obtain appropriate accommodations.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Kenneth Oprisko, Chief, Labor Relations Branch, Field Advisory Services Division, Defense Civilian Personnel Management Service, 1400 Key Blvd., Suite B-200, Arlington, VA 22209-5144, (703) 696-6301, ext. 704.

Dated: October 21, 1998.

L.M. Bynum,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 98-28636 Filed 10-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5000-04-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Notice of Availability of the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement for the McGregor Range Military Land Withdrawal Renewal at Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: This announces the availability of the Draft Legislative Environmental Impact Statement (DLEIS) which assesses the potential environmental impact of the proposed renewal of the McGregor Range military land withdrawal.

The alternatives considered in the DLEIS are (1) the current boundaries of McGregor Range would remain the same; (2) the Tularosa Basin and Otero Mesa portions of McGregor Range would be withdrawn for continued military use; (3) the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range would be withdrawn for continued military use; (4) the Tularosa Basin portion of McGregor Range south of New Mexico Highway 506 would be withdrawn for continued military use; (5) the no-action alternative was also considered in the DLEIS; (6) Congress could designate the Otero Mesa and Sacramento Mountain foothills as a National Conservation Area and Culp Canyon as a wilderness area on lands returned to the public domain under Alternatives 3, 4, and 5.

DATES: Comments should be received no later than February 5, 1999, to ensure due consideration.

ADDRESSES: To obtain copies of the DLEIS, contact Ms. Irene Reed, Office of the Program Manager, McGregor Renewal, ATTN: ATZC-CSA, Fort Bliss, TX 79916.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. Andrew Vliet, Program Manager, ATTN: ATZC-CSA, Ft. Bliss, TX 79916. Dr. Vliet may be contacted at (915) 568-6708 or toll-free at (888) 248-8329. For copies of the DLEIS, contact Ms. Irene Reed at (915) 568-6708 or toll free at (888) 248-8329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The analysis discusses potential impacts of varying degree under each alternative in the areas of land use, biological resources (including federally listed threatened and endangered species), cultural resources, geology, and soils, transportation, utilities, socioeconomics, hazardous materials and items of special concern, and regional cumulative effects on water resources. However, these impacts are not expected to differ significantly from the current conditions for each of these resources as they exist now.

Public meetings for the purpose of receiving comments on the DLEIS will be held in Alamogordo and Las Cruces, New Mexico and in El Paso, Texas. Additional details will follow in the media and through mailings to persons and organization on the McGregor Range Land Withdrawal Renewal mailing list. Public comments received on the DLEIS will be considered and addressed in the Final LEIS and considered by the Army in its recommendation to Congress.

Dated: October 20, 1998.

Raymond J. Fatz,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health), OASA (I, L&E).

[FR Doc. 98-28720 Filed 10-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability of Non-Exclusive, Exclusive, or Partially Exclusive Licensing of U.S. Patent Application 09/047,389 Concerning "Flow-through Cell Culture Chamber"

AGENCY: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 37 CFR 404.7, announcement is made of the availability of U.S. Patent Application SN 09/047,389 entitled "Flow-through Cell Culture Chamber." This patent has been assigned to the United States Government as represented by the Secretary of the Army.

ADDRESSES: Commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Command Judge Advocat

MCMR-JA, Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Charles Harris, Patent Attorney, 301-619-7807, Fax 301-619-5034.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Invention provides a simple and efficient flow-through cell culture chamber that can be easily assembled and disassembled without use of special tools, is constructed and arranged such that breakage of cover slips or other parts caused by uneven or over tightening is substantially avoided and is easily cleaned and sterilized. It can be used, over long periods of time, to study the effects of any type of agent, that can be added to the perfusate, on an unlimited variety of living cells using either visible microscopy or the rapidly expanding field of fluorescent imaging. The chamber can be adapted to any microscope stage while using a wide variety of objectives to allow observations ranging from large populations of cells to single-cell studies using oil immersion lenses.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-28672 Filed 10-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, for a Test Beach Fill Using a Foreign Source of Carbonate Sand; Correction

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Correction.

SUMMARY: In previous Federal Register notice (Vol. 63, No. 162, pages 44850-44851) Friday, August 1, 1998, make the following corrections:

On page 44850 in column 2, line 33, increase the volume and length of the test fill to approximately 600,000 cubic yards from monuments DNR-36 to DNR-47 (approximately from 63rd Street to 83rd Street) for a total length of approximately 8600 feet (project needs at time of contact award will dictate exact quantity, length, and location).

On page 44851 in column 1, line 14 entitled "DEIS Preparation", the estimated date of availability of the DEIS is now November 19, 1998.

We continue to invite the participation of all interested parties in the scoping process by identifying any additional concerns on issues, studies needed, alternatives, procedures or other related matters.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kenneth Dugger, 904-232-1686, Environmental Branch, Planning Division, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-28673 Filed 10-26-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for West Hayden Island Development, Multnomah County, Oregon

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The Port of Portland is proposing to construct marine cargo facilities on West Hayden Island, including an access bridge across North Portland Harbor. West Hayden Island is an 846-acre site on the Columbia River downstream of Interstate 5 in Multnomah County, Oregon. Filling of 12.7 acres of wetlands on the site will require a Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Construction of the ship and barge berth and any associated dredging will require a DA permit under Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899. The proposed project will also require a bridge permit from the U.S. Coast Guard under Section 9 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899. Construction of the bridge may involve Federal funds through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Coast Guard and FHWA will serve as cooperating agencies in preparing the Draft EIS. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, will be the lead agency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions about the proposed action and the Draft EIS can be answered by: David Kurkoski, Regulatory Branch, Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland, Oregon 97208-2946, telephone (503) 808-4377.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action

The Port of Portland is proposing to construct marine cargo facilities on West Hayden Island, located on the Columbia River between river mile 102.7 and 105.6 in Multnomah County, Oregon. The site is bounded on the east by the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) tracks, on the north and west by the Columbia River, and on the south by North Portland Harbor. The purpose of this project is to provide suitable waterfront marine cargo facilities within the service area of the Port of Portland to meet future market demands for international export and import. The Port proposes to develop this project in three phases over a 30-year period.

The first phase of development, which would occur within three to five years of permit approvals, would include: a grain or bulk mineral terminal, including a quadruple rail loop; a 17-acre storage and handling area inside the loop; an offshore berth and access channel for ships and barges; rail access from the BNSF main line consisting of two tracks, providing both access and train storage capacity; an interim highway access road from East Hayden Island, providing vehicle access for employees, grain inspectors, and occasional maintenance and supply vehicles; a dock on each bank of North Portland Harbor to allow transport of construction materials and equipment to the project site; recreation improvements; a new bridge across North Portland Harbor to provide access between North Marine Drive and West Hayden Island; and stockpiling of dredged materials for use in future development phases.

Phase 2 may include development of 220 acres for a container terminal, including necessary berths and intermodal container transfer facilities. Other improvements would include utility systems, navigation channel access and turning basin, domestic intermodal yard and remaining open space improvements not implemented in Phase 1.

Phase 3 would consist of either a second grain or bulk terminal or additional container facility. If warranted a secondary rail bridge may be constructed to connect West Hayden Island with the Rivergate Industrial area to the south.

When all phases are completed, the project would include 474 acres of development, 373 acres of undeveloped land which may contain recreational improvements (such as trails, park, boat dock, viewpoints, observation and

interpretation area, and wildlife preserve), and on-site mitigation for wetland and shallow-water habitats adversely affected by the project.

This phasing sequence would be affected by the dynamics of the marketplace, but it is considered the most likely outcome at this time. Other phasing scenarios are possible. At this time, permits and approvals are being sought only for Phase 1. Phases 2 and 3 are included in the project description to give a full picture of the long-term development program.

2. Alternatives

The alternatives to be considered in this EIS are:

a. the proposed action.

b. other sites, including:

(1) development of other Port-owned sites.

(2) re-development of other Port sites.

(3) acquisition of other property.

c. cooperative work with other ports.

d. no action.

3. Scoping and Public Involvement

The scoping process will commence in October, 1998 with the issuance of a scoping notice. Federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, and interested organizations and individuals will be asked to comment on the significant issues relating to the potential effects of the alternatives. There are no plans to hold a formal scoping meeting.

Potentially significant issues to be addressed in detail include the effects of the project on wetlands and fisheries, including federally listed threatened and endangered salmonid fish species, and shallow water habitat.

The Draft EIS will be prepared concurrently with other environmental compliance requirements, including the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. The Corps and the cooperating agencies intend to integrate the consultation procedures under these other statutes with the EIS. The Corps and the applicant have already begun consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Endangered Species Act.

This proposed project also requires a Removal-Fill Permit from Oregon Division of State Lands as well as a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019
October 7, 1998



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This Office intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project. The DEIS will address a proposed test beach fill on a portion of Miami Beach using aragonite as the source of sand.

I have enclosed a copy of the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the subject DEIS which was published in the Federal Register on August 21, 1998. Since publication of the NOI, the proposed project has been slightly modified. The volume of fill for has been increased to approximately 600,000 cubic yards and the limits of the test beach have been changed to between DNR monuments DNR-36 and DNR-47 (approximately from 83rd Street to 63rd Street). A correction to the August 21st NOI will be published in the Federal Register within the next two weeks.

Sincerely,


MICHAEL A. MOORE
LTC, Corps of Engineers
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

Epidemiological Board, Skyline Six, 5109 Leesburg Pike, Room 682, Falls Church, Virginia 22041-3258, (703) 681-8012/4.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: None.

Gregory D. Showalter,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-22512 Filed 8-20-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, for a Test Beach Fill Using a Foreign Source of Carbonate Sand

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, for a Test Beach Fill Using a Foreign Source of Carbonate Sand. The study is a cooperative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM), the non-Federal sponsor for the project.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth Dugger, 904-232-1686, Environmental Branch, Planning Division, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection (BEC & HP) Project for Dade County, Florida was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1968. The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 1985 and the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Pub. L. 99-662) provided authority for extending the northern limit of the authorized project to include the construction of a protective beach along the 2.5 mile reach of shoreline north of Haulover Beach Party (Sunny Isles) and for periodic nourishment of the new beach.

Offshore borrow sources of beach quality sediment along the Dade County shoreline have been almost completely depleted, and alternative sources of material will be required in the near future to provide continued renourishment of the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane

Protection Project. Although carbonate sediment from offshore borrow sites has traditionally been used for project renourishment, the use of oolitic aragonite or other carbonate sand from non-domestic sources may provide an effective alternative for future renourishment requirements.

Virtually unlimited supplies of beach-quality material are available in the Bahamas Bank, located 65 miles east of the project site, in the Turks and Caicos Islands located approximately 500 miles to the southeast, and possibly other locations. The proposed test fill will be constructed using aragonite from one of these sources. The purpose of the test fill, in addition to providing nourishment to an eroded portion of the Federal project along northern Miami Beach, is to evaluate the physical and environmental performance of aragonite on the beach erosion control project.

The proposed test fill site would be located along northern Miami Beach, and would extend along approximately one mile of shoreline which has been an erosional area since the project was constructed. The proposed site is located far from adjacent inlets, and no significant structures exist in this vicinity to disrupt the "natural" coastal processes. The total volume of the test fill is expected to be approximately 500,000 cubic yards. The currently proposed location for the test fill is between 65th and 80th Streets in Miami Beach (DNR monuments DNR-39 to DNR-44). The exact source of aragonite (or other non-domestic carbonate sand) for the test beach would be determined during the procurement process. Sand sources proposed by contractors would have to meet a set of generic and specifications and pass a screening process for sand characteristics and possible introduction of undesirable benthic organisms or other environmental impacts.

The different properties of the material being placed in the test fill will allow the sediment to be used as a natural tracer material, and data on longshore and cross-shore transport can be gained by studying the movement of this material. In order to evaluate the performance of the test fill, a monitoring program will be established. This monitoring program would consist of four areas of field data acquisition: physical surveys, sediment sampling and analysis, aerial photography, and wave data collection. The field data would be collected over a minimum 5-year period following project construction. The wave gage would be installed and activated prior to construction. Physical surveys, sediment samples, and aerial

photography would be taken immediately before and after project construction, and quarterly for the first year, semi-annually for the second year, and annually thereafter for the remainder of the 5-year monitoring period. Physical surveys, sediment samples, and aerial photography would therefore be taken a total of 11 times during the monitoring program, while the directional wave gauge would be operated continuously during the entire 5-year monitoring period.

In addition, environmental monitoring of the test fill would be performed. The environmental studies would focus mainly on the impacts of the non-native material on sea turtle nesting and benthic infaunal communities.

Alternatives: At this time, the only known alternative to performing the test beach fill is not performing the test or the no-action alternative.

Issues: The EIS will consider impacts on coral reefs and other hardbottom communities, endangered and threatened species, shore protection, water quality, aesthetics and recreation, fish and wildlife resources, cultural resources, energy conservation, socio-economic resources, and other impacts identified through scoping, public involvement, and interagency coordination.

Scoping: A copy of this notice will be sent to interested parties to initiate scoping. All parties are invited to participate in the scoping process by identifying any additional concerns on issues, studies needed, alternatives, procedures, and other matters related to the scoping process. At this time, there are no plans for a public scoping meeting.

Public Involvement: We invite the participation of affected Federal, state and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties.

Coordination: The proposed action is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, with the FWS under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and with the State Historic Preservation Officer. In addition, we have coordinated with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the dredging industry, certain foreign government representatives, academic experts, and other interests on this matter.

Other Environmental Review and Consultation: The proposed action would involve evaluation for compliance with guidelines pursuant to Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act;