

laboratories. Accreditation is offered in those areas necessary to support environmental laboratory testing of drinking water and waste water. The PPT program is a competence based program, meaning Proficiency Testing Providers are periodically assessed and found competent to prepare and analyze samples and to conduct studies. Proficiency Testing Providers are re-evaluated every two years requiring a complete review of their competence and their performance on studies conducted. Proficiency Testing Providers are also required to participate in proficiency testing activities administered by the NIST Analytical Chemistry Division (ACD).

In 2003, the National Environmental Accreditation Conference (NELAC) published the NELAC Standard, which modified and made more stringent the accreditation requirements for Proficiency Testing Providers. The NELAC standard requires that Proficiency Testing Providers be accredited by a Proficiency Testing Oversight Body (PTOB)/Proficiency Test Provider Accreditor (PTPA). Chapter 2 of the NELAC Standard sets out the requirements for the operation of a PTOB/PTPA. Specifically, clauses D.4 and D.5 of Chapter 2, Appendix D, require that the PTOB/PTPA provide ongoing oversight of Proficiency Testing Providers and the PTOB/PTPA develop and maintain a comprehensive database for the purpose of statistical monitoring of Proficiency Testing Providers' study data.

The NVLAP PPT program does not meet the requirements to be a PTOB/PTPA because it does not include ongoing oversight and NVLAP does not have the resources to develop and maintain the required database. NVLAP, therefore, did not apply to serve as a PTOB/PTPA and does not wish to be recognized by NELAC as having a program that meets the requirement for service as a PTOB/PTPA.

NELAC has approved at least one PTOB/PTPA that will satisfy the original need and that meets current requirements. NVLAP has been informed that this PTOB/PTPA's program will be operational by June 30, 2006. NVLAP will maintain the accreditations of the current NVLAP-accredited Proficiency Testing Providers until September 30, 2006, to ensure continuity in coverage. After that date, Proficiency Testing Providers will be able to obtain accreditation from a NELAC-approved PTOB/PTPA.

Dated: May 10, 2006.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E6-7676 Filed 5-18-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) A-1 Reservoir located in Palm Beach County, FL

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been completed and is available for review and comment.

DATES: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the USACE has filed the FEIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for publication of their notice of availability in the **Federal Register**. The EPA notice officially starts the 30-day review period for this document. It is the goal of the USACE to have the this notice published on the same date as the EPA notice. However, if that does not occur, the date of the EPA notice will determine the closing date for comments on the FEIS. Comments on the FEIS must be submitted to the address below under Further Contact Information and must be received no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, Monday, June 19, 2006.

ADDRESSES: The FEIS can be viewed online at http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/pao/hotTopics/hot_topics_acceler8.htm (follow the link to New Information). Copies of the FEIS are also available for review at the following libraries:

Belle Glade Branch Public Library, 530 S. Main Street, Belle Glade, FL 33430
Palm Beach County Main Library, 3650 Summit Blvd., W. Palm Beach, FL 33406

Clewiston Public Library, 120 W. Osceola Ave., Clewiston, FL 33440
Pahokee Branch Public Library, 525 Bacom Point Rd., Pahokee, FL 33476
Legislative Library, 701 The Capitol, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Glades County Public Library, PO Box 505, Riverside Dr., Moorehaven, FL 33471

South Bay Public Library, 375 SW. 2nd Ave., South Bay, FL 33493

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Tori White, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, 1400 Centrepark Suite 750, West Palm Beach, Florida 33410, Telephone: 561-472-8888.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is construction and operation of a 16,768-acre water supply reservoir located north of Stormwater Treatment Area 3/4 and between the Miami and North New River Canals in the EAA in Palm Beach County, Florida. The purpose of the EAA Reservoir A-1 is to store water from stormwater runoff and releases from Lake Okeechobee at any given time. As part of the USACE's review process, this FEIS has been prepared.

The SFWMD's proposed project, identified as Cell A-1, has the same footprint as a portion of the Selected Plan, identified in the USACE's September 2005 Draft Integrated Project Implementation Report (PIR)/EIS and the February 2006 Revised Draft Integrated PIR/EIS for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) EAA Storage Reservoirs project, which features a two-cell reservoir impoundment with a maximum normal pool storage depth of 12 feet at approximately 31,000 acres of above ground surface area storage. The SFWMD proposes to construct the EAA Reservoir A-1 project prior to implementation of the CERP EAA Storage Reservoirs project. The proposed project includes an open water reservoir with a capacity of 190,000 acre-feet at an approximate depth of 12.5 feet. The reservoir would be constructed on a 16,768-acre parcel of land. The USACE is proceeding with two separate and independent but related actions, the regulatory evaluation of the SFWMD's proposed EAA Reservoir A-1 project and the planning evaluation of the federal CERP EAA Storage Reservoirs project, both of which are described in the September 2005 Draft Integrated PIR/EIS and February 2006 Revised Draft Integrated PIR/EIS. The USACE and SFWMD had anticipated that the SFWMD would accelerate construction and achievement of benefits of certain CERP projects by obtaining required permits and initiating construction upon completion of the FEIS for the federal CERP project. Because of delays in completion of the FEIS for the CERP EAA Storage Reservoirs project, the SFWMD is pursuing a Department of the Army permit prior to completion of the

CERP EAA Storage Reservoirs FEIS. Accordingly, this FEIS has been prepared by the Regulatory Division to address the environmental impacts of the SFWMD's proposed project. The Regulatory Division of the USACE is evaluating the SFWMD's proposed EAA Reservoir A-1 while the USACE Civil Works Planning Process continues with a separate and independent evaluation of the CERP project. Any regulatory decision on the SFWMD's proposed project will not affect the planning process and consideration of alternatives for the federal CERP EAA Storage Reservoirs project. The SFWMD's Acceler8 project may ultimately be a component of the federal CERP EAA Storage Reservoirs project. If it is not a part of the federal recommended plan, it will be considered as a locally preferred plan.

Dated: May 11, 2006.

Erik L. Stor,

Major(P), Corps of Engineers, Deputy Commander.

[FR Doc. E6-7644 Filed 5-18-06; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Construction of a Dredged Material Containment Facility in the Patapsco River, at Masonville, Baltimore City, MD

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed construction of a dredged material containment facility (DMCF) by the Maryland Port Administration (MPA). This DEIS was prepared as part of the submission of MPA's application for a Department of the Army permit to construct the facility in the Patapsco River, Baltimore City, MD. This application will be evaluated pursuant to section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The preferred alternative is for the construction of a stone, sand, and cofferdam structure that would impact approximately 131 acres of waters of the United States, including jurisdictional

wetlands. The structure would be initially constructed to 10 feet above the mean lower low water (MLLW) elevation, with a future temporary elevation to 42 feet above MLLW, and an ultimate elevation of 36 feet above MLLW. The project would also include mechanical dredging of approximately 1.7 million cubic yards of overburden material within the footprint of the proposed disposal site, and the placement of this material at the Hart Miller Island disposal site, Baltimore County, MD. Hydraulic dredging of approximately 1.5 million cubic yards of sand would be performed, and the sand used to construct the outer portion of the containment structure.

Approximately 0.5 million cubic yards of clay is to be mechanically/hydraulically dredged and placed on the inside of this structure. Two new spillway structures and discharge outfalls are to be included in the construction of the DMCF. Other work associated with the construction of the DMCF is the relocation of a city water main line and storm drain systems, and the relocation of a commercial mooring buoy. The total proposed footprint of the proposed project is 141 acres.

DATES: The Baltimore District must receive comments on or before July 7, 2006 to ensure consideration in the final action. A public hearing on the DEIS has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2006 at 7 p.m. Displays will be available and representatives of the project team will be present at 6 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held in the Baum Auditorium at Harbor Hospital, 3001 South Hanover Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21225. Please send written comments concerning this proposed project to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Attn: Mr. Jon Romero, CENAB-OP-RMN, PO Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715. You may submit electronic comments to jon.romeo@usace.army.mil. Your comments must be contained in the body of your message; please do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jon Romeo, (410) 962-6079.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EIS integrates analyses and consultation required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Section 401 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Air Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and

Management Act. All appropriate documentation (*i.e.* section 7 and section 106 coordination letters and public and agency comments) will be obtained and included as part of the EIS. The decision on whether or not to issue a Department of the Army permit for this project will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which may reasonably be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered. Among these are wetlands, fish and wildlife resources, cultural resources, land use, water and air quality, hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances, threatened and endangered species, regional geology, aesthetics, environmental justice, navigation, cumulative impacts, and the general needs and welfare of the public.

Vance G. Hobbs,

Chief, Maryland Section Northern.

[FR Doc. 06-4683 Filed 5-18-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-41-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Seven Oaks Dam Water Quality Study, San Bernadino County, CA

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: With the construction of Seven Oaks Dam, during and immediately after storm events, water flows into the pool of water impounded behind the dam may be turbid. Once water is impounded behind the dam, all water flowing in the Santa Ana River that enters Seven Oaks Reservoir must pass through that impoundment before being released at the dam. To the extent that water impounded behind the dam can have a higher level of sediment or algae than water flowing in the Santa Ana River below the Southern California Edison (SCE) No. 1 Powerhouse, the quality of water released from Seven Oaks Dam into the Santa Ana River may be reduced.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the potential impacts, if any, of the Seven Oaks Dam regarding downstream water quality and to characterize upstream water quality. This will entail characterization of the water quality conditions that existed