

Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army**Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Herbert Hoover Dike Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (MRER); Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, FL**

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

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the feasibility phase of the Herbert Hoover Dike Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (MRER).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions about the proposed action and DEIS can be answered by: Mark Ziminske, Planning Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019; Telephone 904-232-1786; Fax 904-232-3442; e-mail: mark.t.ziminskeusace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: a. Authorization: The Flood Control Act, approved by Congress on 30 June 1948, authorized the first phase of a comprehensive plan to provide flood protection and other water control benefits in central and south Florida. The Act included measures for improving control of Lake Okeechobee by constructing or modifying the spillways and other structures, and enlarging the water storage and water supply capacity of the lake. The authorization for levee repairs to be done under the Herbert Hoover Dike MRER, are justified as a means to provide for the authorized project purposes of this Act.

b. Study Area: The study will include the entire Herbert Hoover Dike (HHD) system, which surrounds Lake Okeechobee, Florida. The HHD system, made up of approximately 143 miles of levee, has for the purposes of the study, been divided up into nine levee segments, or "Reachers". The initial phase of the study will be the preparation of a Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (MRER) for Reach 1, a segment of levee 22.4 miles long, along the southeast shore of the lake from The Hurricane Gate Structure #4, at Belle Glade, Palm Beach County, to the St. Lucie Canal, at Port Mayaca, Martin County, Florida. The DEIS will also address, to a lesser degree, an environmental analysis of the entire dike system surrounding the lake (Reaches 2-8) in a comprehensive

manner. It is anticipated that additional NEPA documents will then be tiered from the Final Environmental Impact Statement, once it is completed, for subsequent studies on the remaining Reaches.

c. Project Features and Scope: The general goal of the HHD MRER is to provide a reliable embankment system around Lake Okeechobee to contain the lake waters for water supply, flood protection, navigation, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Analysis of the existing dike system has revealed areas where the factors of safety relative to stability are less than current regulation requirements. The first report will define the extent and severity of any unstable condition within Priority Reach 1 and describe necessary remedial action to repair or manage the problem. The DEIS will evaluate the array of alternative plans, including the selected alternative plan and the no-action alternative, and determine if, and to what extent, implementation of these various plans may affect the surrounding environment. An array of alternative plans will be developed and evaluated based on economic, engineering, and environmental considerations. Preliminary alternatives may include, but are not limited to: use of drainage blankets, landslide seepage berms, relief wells, sub-levees, impervious cut-off walls, slope modifications, and changes in the lake regulation schedule.

d. Scoping: The scoping process as outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality is being utilized to involve Federal, State, and local agencies, affected Indian Tribes, and other interested private organizations and parties. A Scoping Letter has been sent to interested Federal, State and local agencies, interested organizations and the public, requesting their comments and concerns regarding issues they feel should be addressed in the DEIS. Interested persons and organizations wishing to participate in the scoping process should contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the address above. Significant issues anticipated include concern for: maintenance of flood protection and water supply for the project area; maintenance of lake access routes primarily for amphibians and reptiles, historical and archeological resources in the adjacent area, effects on water based recreation, commercial fishing and certain species of plants and animals listed under the Endangered Species Act. Public meetings will be held over the course of the study, the exact location, dates, and times will be

announced in public notices and local newspapers.

e. It is estimated that the DEIS will be available to the public in early 1998.

George M. Strain,

Acting Chief, Planning Division.

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Department of the Navy**Revised Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and To Open Scoping for the Disposal and Reuse of Long Beach Naval Shipyard, Long Beach, CA**

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Department of the Navy announced in the Federal Register (September 3, 1996) its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and to open scoping to evaluate the environmental effects associated with the disposal and reuse of Long Beach Naval Shipyard (NSY), Long Beach, California.

This Revised Notice of Intent supersedes the previous notice and sets a new date for a scoping meeting. Long Beach NSY is located in Long Beach Harbor, immediately east of Long Beach Naval Station, and includes approximately 259 acres of real estate. Of this, approximately 4 acres will be retained as a government-owned, contractor-operated parcel, and 85 acres will revert automatically to the City of Long Beach in conformance with the original deed which transferred land from the City to the Navy. These parcels are not included as part of the disposal and reuse of the Long Beach NSY. The proposed action involves the disposal of land, buildings, and infrastructure for subsequent reuse of the remaining 170 acres.

As a result of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act (DBCRA) of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), and in accordance with the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process of 1995, Long Beach NSY is slated for operational closure on September 30, 1997. The DBCRA, as amended by the Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996, established procedures to minimize hardships on local communities adversely affected by base closures and to facilitate economic recovery of such communities. In this regard, job creation and economic development are given the highest priority in the reuse of closed military

bases, in accordance with objectives for disposal of federal property.

The Secretary of the Navy must consider the community's redevelopment plan proposed for the base slated for closure. The development plan is a plan approved by the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) which provides for the reuse or redevelopment of the closed military installation. The City of Long Beach was designated as the LRA by the Secretary of Defense. The City of Long Beach has prepared a reuse plan (July 1996) with recommendations for the reuse of surplus Long Beach Naval Shipyard property.

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being prepared by the Department of the Navy in accordance with NEPA and DBCRA requirements. The EIS will analyze the environmental effect of the disposal and reuse of the Long Beach NSY. The environmental studies will be based on the reasonably foreseeable reuse of the existing buildings and redevelopment of the site. The EIS will analyze three reuse alternatives in an equal level of detail and a "no action" alternative. The proposed action is the disposal of the base for reuse. Alternative 1 is consistent with the reuse plan proposed by the LRA and would involve demolition of three piers, two dry-docks (one large dry-dock would remain), and most buildings. These would be replaced by a 152-acre container terminal; an intermodal railyard; an 18-acre (one pier) shipyard facility surrounding the remaining dry-dock, with a 100,000 square-foot support building (possibly an existing building); and six 500,000-barrel tanks in a 36-acre liquid bulk facility. Alternative 2, Two-pier Shipyard, would be identical to the proposed action except that the shipyard area would be expanded to 32 acres and contain 2 piers and some additional buildings. Alternative 3, Commercial Shipyard, would involve the conversion of the existing shipyard for commercial use. Under this alternative, all the piers and dry-docks would remain and most of the buildings could be reused. The EIS will also address any alternatives that are raised during the public scoping process. Environmental issues to be addressed in the EIS include: geology, topography, and soils; hydrology; biology; noise; air quality; land use; historic and archaeological resources; socio-economic; transportation/circulation; public facilities/recreation; safety and environmental health; aesthetics; and utilities. Issue analysis will include an evaluation of the direct, indirect, short-term, and cumulative impacts

associated with the proposed action. The decision to implement the proposed action will not be made until the NEPA process is complete.

ADDRESSES: The Department of the Navy will initiate a scoping process for the purpose of determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying significant issues relative to this action. A public meeting to allow oral comments from the public will be held at the Long Beach Public Library, Main Branch, 101 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach, California on October 17, 1996 at 7:00 P.M. This meeting will be advertised in area newspapers. Navy representatives will be available at the scoping meeting to receive comments from the public regarding issues of concern. A brief presentation describing the disposal and NEPA processes will precede request for public comments. It is important that federal, state, and local agencies, as well as interested organizations and individuals, take this opportunity to identify environmental concerns that they feel should be addressed during the preparation of the EIS.

Agencies and the public are invited and encouraged to provide written comments in addition to, or in lieu of, oral comments at the public meeting. To be most helpful, scoping comments should clearly describe specific issues or topics that the commenter believes the EIS should address. Written comments or questions regarding the scoping process and/or EIS should be postmarked no later than October 28, 1996 and sent to the following address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Melanie Ault (Code 232MA), BRAC Program Office, Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1420 Kettner Boulevard, Suite 507, San Diego, CA 92101-2404; telephone (619) 556-0250 Ext. 226.

Dated: September 25, 1996.

D.E. Koenig,
LCDR, JAGC, USN, *Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of Vocational and Adult Education; Intent To Repay to the Vermont Department of Education Funds Recovered as a Result of a Final Audit Determination

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of intent to award grantback funds.

SUMMARY: Under Section 459 of the General Education Provisions Act (GEPA), 20 U.S.C. 1234h (1988), the Secretary of Education (Secretary) intends to repay to the State of Vermont Department of Education (Vermont), under a grantback arrangement, an amount equal to 75 percent of the principal amount of funds recovered by the U.S. Department of Education (Department) as a result of the final audit determination in this matter. The Department's recovery of funds followed a settlement reached between the parties under which Vermont refunded a total of \$10,000 in principal to the Department in full resolution of the Department's final audit determination (ACN: 01-23119) for fiscal year (FY) 1990. This notice describes Vermont's plan for the use of the repaid funds and the terms and conditions under which the Secretary intends to make those funds available. This notice invites comments on the proposed grantback.

DATES: All comments must be received on or before October 30, 1996.

ADDRESSES: All written comments should be addressed to Dr. Marcel R. DuVall, Chief, Finance Branch, Division of Vocational-Technical Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue SW, (Mary E. Switzer Building, Room 4320, MS-7324), Washington, D.C. 20202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Marcel R. DuVall, (202) 205-9502. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern time, Monday through Friday. (Internet address: Marcel_DuVall@ed.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

Under a settlement agreement negotiated between the Department and Vermont, the Department recovered \$10,000 from Vermont in full resolution of all claims arising from an audit of the Vermont Department of Education covering FY 1990.

The Department's original claim of \$36,307 was contained in a final letter of determination issued by the Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education on November 8, 1993. The claim arose from findings related to Vermont's administration of its vocational education program under provisions of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Education Act of 1984, 20 U.S.C. § 2301 *et seq.* (1988), (Perkins I).