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**Michele P. Peterson,**

*Editor, Defense Acquisition Regulations System.*

[FR Doc. E6–16420 Filed 10–3–06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6820–08–P

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Rock Mining in Wetlands in the Lake Belt Region of Miami-Dade County, FL

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army corps of Engineers (Corps) Jacksonville District intends to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to evaluate potential impacts of further rock mining within wetlands in western Miami-dade county, FL. The original EIS, The Rock Mining-Freshwater Lakebelt Plan Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, issued in May 2000 focused on the potential impacts of a 50-year mining plan within the Lake Belt area. After evaluating the EIS, the Corps issued a Record of Decision and permits that allowed mining within a smaller, 10-year plan in April 2002. The Corps decision was challenged in United States District Court and the Court's Order on Motions for Summary Judgement was issued on March 22, 2006 as part of Case No. 03–23427–CIV–HOEVELER, United States District Court Southern District of Florida. The decision instructed the Corps to engage in additional analyses of rock mining in the Lake Belt region. Accordingly, the Corps is preparing this SEIS.

**DATES:** The Corps plans to hold a public scoping meeting on October 19, 2006 at 7 p.m. EST.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Miami Dade Fire Rescue Headquarters, 9300 NW 41st Street, Doral, FL 33178. (786) 331–5000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. Leah Oberlin, (561) 472–3506.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** a. *Project background and Authorization.* The Corps examined the potential impacts of rock mining activities with a 50-year life under the Miami-Dade County Lakebelt Plan (Lakebelt Plan), as accepted by the Florida Legislature in Section 373.4149, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The Corps participated in the committee of agency and industry representatives created in 1992 by the Florida Legislature, prepared an EIS, and participated in a technical review and advisory group formed by the Working Group for the Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem. While the original EIS reviewed a 50-year plan for rock mining, the Corps issued Department of the Army (DA) authorization to ten rock mining companies on April 11, 2002 authorizing 10 year of mining activities over a 5,712 acre area. Mining under the 10-year permits has been underway for four years.

b. *Need or Purpose.* The purpose of the proposed action is to continue to provide high-quality construction grade limestone to the construction industry in Florida. The Corps recognizes that there is a public and private need for this product. The purpose of the proposed SEIS is to evaluate the environmental effects of alternatives to meet these requirements while protecting the aquatic environment.

c. *Prior EAs, EISs.* In May 2000, the Corps produced a Final Programmatic EIS for rock mining in the Lake Belt Region considering a 50-year mining plan. This SEIS will update and supplement that EIS and will also evaluate alternatives for present and possible future mining operations.

d. *Alternatives.* An evaluation of alternatives, including a “No Action” alternative and rock mining in other areas both inside and outside of Miami-Dade County and/or Florida will be done. The SEIS will analyze reasonable alternatives to obtaining construction grade limestone and other limestone products to meet the identified purpose and need. Alternatives will be determined through scoping, but are expected to vary according to location, timing, and breadth of mining, in addition to a “no action” alternative.

e. *Issues.* In addition to updating and supplementing the information from the 2000 EIS, the following issues have been identified for analysis in the SEIS. This list is preliminary and is intended to facilitate public comment on the scope of the SEIS. The SEIS will consider the effects on Federally listed threatened and endangered species, essential fish

habitats, health and safety, conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands (and other aquatic resources), historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations and property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people, and other issues identified through scoping, public involvement, and interagency coordination. At the present time, our primary environmental focus will be on endangered species (including but not limited to possible effects on the wood stock and the Eastern indigo snake), the loss of wetland functions and value, mitigation (including but not limited to the available of land for acquisition in Pennsocco and other mitigation options), drinking water well field protection (including but not limited to possible contaminants including benzene, cryptosporidium, and giardia), groundwater seepage to the east (including but not limited to possible impacts to resources of Everglades National Park), and surface water quality.

We expect to better define the issues of concern and define the methods that will be used to evaluate those issues through the scoping process.

f. *Scoping Process.* CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1501.7) require an early and open process for determining the scope of an EIS and for identifying significant issues related to the proposed action. The public will be involved in the scoping and evaluation process through advertisements, notices, and other means. At a minimum, all parties who have expressed interest in the Lake Belt Rock Mining Permits will be given the opportunity to participate in this process. Federal, state and local agencies, and other interested groups will also be involved. Meetings to address discrete issues or parts or functions of the study area may be called. 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 scope of the SEIS.

A public scoping meeting is scheduled for (see **DATES** and **ADDRESSES**). The Corps will provide additional notification of the meeting time and location through newspaper advertisements and other means. Following a short presentation on the planned SEIS, verbal and written comments on the scope of the SEIS will

be accepted. A transcript of verbal comments will be generated to ensure accuracy. A Spanish language translator will be available. To submit comments on the scope of the Lake Belt SEIS or to request copies of materials related to this effort as they become available to the public, contact: Ms. Leah Oberlin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Palm Beach Gardens Regulatory Office, 4400 PGA Boulevard, Suite 500, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, 33410, by e-mail at [Leah.A.Oberlin@saj02.usace.army.mil](mailto:Leah.A.Oberlin@saj02.usace.army.mil), or by telephone at (561) 472-3506. Comments or requests for information can also be submitted on the Lake Belt SEIS Web site at <http://www.lakebeltseis.com>. The Corps will consider all comments for the scope of the SEIS received by November 17, 2006.

g. *Public Involvement.* The Corps invites Federal agencies, American Indian Tribal Nations, state and local governments, and other interested private organizations and parties to attend the public scoping meeting and to comment on the scope of the planned Lake Belt SEIS.

h. *Coordination.* The proposed action is being coordinated with a number of Federal, state, regional, and local agencies including but not limited to the following: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, State Historic Preservation Officer, South Florida Water Management District, Miami-Dade County, and Everglades National Park, and other agencies as identified in scoping, public involvement, and agency coordination.

i. *Other Environmental Review and Consultation.* The proposed action will involve an evaluation for compliance with all applicable guidelines pursuant to section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. This review will involve a detailed evaluation of alternatives to the ongoing rock mining in the Lake Belt area, which is not a water dependent activity.

j. *Agency Role.* The Corps will provide extensive information and assistance on the resources to be impacted, mitigation measures, and alternatives. Although the Corps does not plan to invite any Federal agencies to be cooperating agencies, we expect to receive input and critical information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal, state, and local agencies.

k. *Draft Lake Belt SEIS Preparation.* It is estimated that the SEIS will be available to the public on or about May

2007. At least one additional public meeting will be held at that time, during which the public will be provided the opportunity to comment on the Draft SEIS before its becomes final.

**Brenda S. Bowen,**

*Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

[FR Doc. 06-8476 Filed 10-3-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3710-AJ-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

**AGENCY:** Department of Education.

**SUMMARY:** The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, invites comments on the proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before December 4, 2006.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. OMB may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment. The Department of Education is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) Is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility,

and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology.

Dated: September 28, 2006.

**Angela C. Arrington,**

*IC Clearance Official, Regulatory Information Management Services, Office of Management.*

### Office of Vocational and Adult Education

*Type of Review:* Reinstatement.

*Title:* Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-270) State Plan Guide.

*Frequency:* Annually.

*Affected Public:* State, Local, or Tribal Gov't, SEAs or LEAs.

*Reporting and Recordkeeping Hour Burden:*

*Responses:* 54.

*Burden Hours:* 5,112.

*Abstract:* Federal vocational education legislation has been reauthorized. The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV), 20 U.S.C. 2301 *et seq.* as amended by Pub. L. 109-270, was signed into law on August 12, 2006. The purpose of this request is to reinstate and update the information collection package 1830-0029 (The Carl D Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998; Pub. L 105-332—State Plan) to include: instructions regarding contents of a one-year transition plan or six-year State plan; new State plan narrative requirements from the new Act; information States must provide regarding the consolidation of Title II funds under Title I; budget information; accountability information; and a cover page that must be submitted with the State plan.

Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request may be accessed from <http://edicsweb.ed.gov>, by selecting the "Browse Pending Collections" link and by clicking on link number 3212. When you access the information collection, click on "Download Attachments" to view.

Written requests for information should be addressed to U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., Potomac Center, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20202-4700. Requests may also be electronically mailed to [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) or faxed to 202-245-6623. Please specify the complete title of the information collection when making your request.

Comments regarding burden and/or the collection activity requirements should be electronically mailed to