

REVISED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
L-31N (L-30) Seepage Management Pilot Project
Miami-Dade County, Florida

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) and prior FONSI for the proposed action. This Revised Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the Environmental Assessment. This EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the Corps' regulation ER-200-2-2 for implementing NEPA on Civil Works actions. Based on information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from agencies having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

- a. The proposed action is a pilot project to investigate seepage management technologies that could be applied along L-30 and L-31N canals in the future. The pilot project seepage feature is located along the "triangle area" of L-30, which is the 1.25 mile segment of the L-30 levee between S-335 and S-336. Two types of structural seepage reduction technologies will be tested as part of this project: a slurry wall and a sheet pile wall. The sheet pile wall was described in the preferred alternative as a steel sheet pile wall.
- b. The proposed project and project impacts were fully analyzed in an integrated Pilot Project Design Report (PPDR) and EA, and a FONSI for this project was signed on 20 November 2009.
- c. The preferred alternative identified in the EA (Alternative 6), includes the construction of a slurry wall (Type 1) and a steel sheet pile cut-off wall (Type 2). However, in order to maintain flexibility in the solicitation process for this project, materials other than steel may be considered for use in the construction of the Type 2 wall. As described in the PPDR/EA, a performance based acquisition strategy is expected to provide the best technological demonstration, leverage innovation, and achieve the best value for the Government, while at the same time limiting contractual risk.

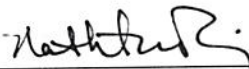
Use of a material other than steel for the Type 2 wall will not result in impacts to resources beyond those described in the 2009 PPDR/EA for this project. The primary concerns regarding Type 2 wall construction are: 1) corrosivity or leaching of wall constituents into ground water; 2) physical effects during wall installation, including duration and/or intensity of vibration, noise, or other effects; and 3) cost-effectiveness.

- i. Corrosivity Concerns. Materials other than steel have been proven by their respective manufacturers and independent Corps of Engineers testing protocols to be long-lived, durable, and environmentally inert with regard to dissolution or physical degradation in the subsurface. Previous studies

indicate all cut-off wall materials show structural integrity and performance characteristics over time spans ranging between 21 and 83 years in saturated, subsurface environments (references available upon request). The performance period for all materials greatly exceed the duration of this pilot project.

- ii. Physical effects during sheet pile installation. The type 2 wall will be constructed to a depth of -26 ft NAVD88, without blasting the limestone rock. Therefore, any sheet pile component will be installed using driving methods, excavation and vibration, or some combination thereof. Steel sheet pile is typically installed using driving methods, while alternative materials are installed using less disruptive methods of excavation and vibration. Therefore, installation of alternative cut-off wall materials such as vinyl or fiber-reinforced plastic may actually have lesser physical environmental impact when compared to those of steel sheet pile.
 - iii. Cost-effectiveness. Steel costs fluctuate widely on the world market. Depending on market conditions that prevail during construction, it may be more cost-effective to consider alternative materials compared to steel for the type 2 wall. The Government allows the contractor to determine the suitability of each material given current market conditions.
- d. No information is known that alters the conclusions in the 2009 FONSI. Agency coordination, as described below, would not be altered by any change in the construction material of the Type 2 wall.
- e. The Final Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report of April 2009 indicates no objection by the Department of the Interior and anticipates full compliance with the Endangered Species Act, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding protection of endangered species during project activities is ongoing.
- f. The State has concurred with our Coastal Zone Consistency (CZM) Determination (Appendix B of the EA) and therefore the action is consistent with the State's CZM programs.
- g. The Jacksonville District has determined that the project will have no effect on historic properties. Coordination with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer has been completed.

- h. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to environmental resources include the following: (1) complete the appropriate threatened and endangered species surveys as recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2) analyze material used for Type 1 wall construction, (3) use standard protection measures and best management practices during installation, and (4) monitor for contaminants.



Fre Alfred A. Pantano, Jr.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

June 9, 2010
Date