

CHAPTER 7

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

On October 4, 2006, a Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* (see Appendix A) announcing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE's) intention to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) on the potential impacts of further limestone mining within the Lake Belt area. A letter describing the proposed project and soliciting comments was sent to interested governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and interested members of the public in early October 2006 (see Figure 7-1). Advertisements announcing the public meeting were published on October 16, 2006, in the *Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald*. On October 19, 2006, a public scoping meeting was held at the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Headquarters in Doral, Florida. In addition, a website was established at www.lakebeltseis.com that allowed the public to submit scoping comments during the scoping period and to request information related to the SEIS. The scoping period covered from October 4, 2006, through November 17, 2006.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4400 PGA Boulevard, Suite 500
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33410

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Palm Beach Gardens Regulatory Office

Dear Interested Party,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will hold a public meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2006 to receive comments on the scope of the Lake Belt Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). A Notice of Intent appeared in the *Federal Register* on October 4, 2006, announcing the scoping meeting and the public comment period, which ends November 17, 2006. We wanted to extend this personal invitation to participate in the scoping process because of your previous interest in the issues being addressed. The Corps will also place public notice of the meeting in the *Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald* and make information available on the project website www.lakebeltseis.com.

The Lake Belt SEIS will address the limestone industry's request to continue mining and related activities in the Lake Belt, an area which is in northwest Miami-Dade County between the Everglades and urbanized areas. The public is invited to participate in an open exchange of information and submission of comments on the scope of the SEIS, the environmental and socioeconomic issues to be addressed, and the alternatives to be considered.

A facilitated Public Scoping Meeting will take place on October 19, 2006, at the Miami Dade Fire Rescue Headquarters, 9300 NW 41st Street, Doral, Florida. The planned agenda is as follows:

7:00 pm	Registration, sign up to present oral comments, opportunity to review exhibits/information.
7:15 pm	Meeting begins with information presented by USACE
8:00 pm	Public invited to ask general questions
8:15 pm	Public comments on scope of SEIS presented/recorded.
10:00 pm	Meeting ends

For additional information, please contact: Ms. Leah Oberlin, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at 561-472-3506 or by email at Leah.A.Oberlin@saj02.usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John F. Studt".

John F. Studt
Chief, South Permits Branch

Figure 7-1. Letter of Invitation to Scoping Meeting