



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

28 SEP 2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECI-ZA

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMANDER, SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION

SUBJECT: Data Quality Act Request for Correction from Ms. Madeleine Fortin

1. Enclosed please find a request for correction (RFC) under the Data Quality Act, from Ms. Madeleine Fortin concerning the Supplemental EIS for the Central and Southern Florida Project, Modified Water Deliveries to Everglades National Park, Florida, 8.5 Square Mile Area, published July 2000 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District. Ms. Fortin claims that the computer model used by the Corps lacks transparency, that the data presented in the report is incomplete and asks that the report be corrected.
2. The Data/Information Quality Act (the Act) requires agencies to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information they disseminate to the public, and allows the public to question the information. Under the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Department of Defense (DoD) regulations, affected persons can seek and obtain correction of information that does not comply with OMB and DoD information quality guidelines, 67 Fed. Reg. 8452 (2002).
3. The information proponent should review the information being challenged to determine whether it meets the information quality guideline (IQG) requirements of quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity as defined by OMB and DoD. Specifically, the information must be accurate, clear, complete, reliable and unbiased. In reviewing the challenged information you will need to identify the source of the information, any supporting data and models used, whether there is existing literature or other documentation supporting the data, whether the data was generated and the analytic results developed using sound engineering, statistical and research methods, how the quality of the information was assured (whether it was peer reviewed), etc. You should also determine whether the quality is appropriate to the nature, use, type, importance and timeliness of the information.
4. Please provide us with a draft response indicating whether you agree or disagree with the RFC and whether the requester has adequately supported his claim. If you agree with the RFC please provide a summary of your analysis and the steps to be taken to correct the information. If you disagree with the RFC, please explain how the information challenged meets the guidelines, based on your substantive review of the information quality (discussed in paragraph 3) or procedural arguments. The draft response should be coordinated with your Counsel Office.

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5. Headquarters will review the draft response, add a paragraph describing the appellate procedures and coordinate the response with OMB. The Headquarters Office responsible for the program will sign the response.

6. If you have any questions concerning this process, or anticipate that you will not meet the suspense date, please contact Mr. Richard Frank at 202-761-8557.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wilbert Berrios', with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

WILBERT BERRIOS
Chief Information Officer

Encl.

CF:
CESAD-OC
CESAJ-OC