

Lieutenant General Carl A. Strock  
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August 15, 2005

Lieutenant General Strock:

On August 9, 2004 a Data Quality Act Challenge And Request For Correction was filed with Linda C. Genovese, Interim DQA Intake Officer, on a document published by the Corps Jacksonville, Florida office titled *SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT for the CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA PROJECT. MODIFIED WATER DELIVERIES TO EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, FLORIDA. 8.5 Square Mile Area, Volumes 1, 2, and 3.* Your office also received a copy of this DQA Challenge.

This DQA Challenge describes very clearly the inaccurate and incomplete data used by the Corps to justify its decision that Alternative 6D was the only viable alternative for providing the 8.5 Square Mile Area with flood protection while restoring natural hydrologic functioning to Everglades National Park. Further, the Corps methods of analysis lack transparency, do not evaluate the effects of Alternative 6D on surrounding communities, and arrive at the unsubstantiated opinion that Everglades National Park will be harmed if the entire 8.5 Square Mile community were to be protected.

So far the Corps has responded with three letters, dated September 23, 2004; November 30, 2004; and February 18, 2005. None of these responses offer any correction to the incomplete, inaccurate data on which the Corps has based its unjustified pursuit of Alternative 6D.

As you may be aware, the project was funded through DOI appropriations. The original cost for the Modified Water Delivery Project was \$80 million. Out of this, \$18 million was to be used to construct project features to protect the 8.5 Square Mile Area community. The project was supposed to be completed by 1997. It is now 2005 and this project is years from completion. The cost for the 8.5 Square Mile Area portion of the project has risen to \$300+ million. One third of this minority community is being destroyed and Corps staff continues to state that the remaining portion of the community will not be provided with flood protection, despite their Congressional mandate to do so.

As long as this critical project remains unfinished the Everglades continues to deteriorate, endangered species are being harmed, and Miami-Dade County is at risk of flooding every time there is a heavy rainstorm.

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~~The Corps has had over one year to offer correct data. The Data Quality Act gives citizens the right to seek and obtain correct data from federal agencies. In order to avoid legal action the Corps has until September 5, 2005 to correct the data used in the above-mentioned SEIS.~~

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cc

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Congressman Don Young, Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Congressman Richard Pombo, Chairman, House Resources Committee

Congressman J. Lewis, Chairman House Appropriations Committee

Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart

Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart

Congresswoman Ileana Ross-Lehtinen

Congressman David Hobson, Chairman Subcommittee on Energy and Water Appropriations

Congressman Charles Taylor, House Appropriations Committee

Congressman Norman Dicks, House Appropriations Committee

Congressman Peter Visclosky House Appropriations Committee

Senator James Inhofe, Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works

Senator Conrad Burns, Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations

Rusty Johnson, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee

Julene Theis, CPA, Field Office Supervisor, DOI, Office of the Inspector General

Bruce Evans, Staff, Senate Park Service Appropriations

John Anderson, House Subcommittee on Water Resources

Kurt Christenson, House Natural Resources Committee

Andy Wheeler, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Steve Davies, Endangered Species and Wetlands Report

John Nolgren Taxpayers For Common Sense

David Hoburg, Capital Research Group

R.J. Smith, Competitive Enterprise Institute

Dan Berman, E&E Daily

Bob King, Palm Beach Post