



**CHARLOTTE HARBOR NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM**

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May 2, 2006

Ms. Mindy Hogan  
Department of the Army  
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Division  
10117 Princess Palm Ave., Suite 120  
Tampa, Florida 33610

RE: Mosaic - Ona Mine, Permit Application No. SAJ-1998-2067-IP-MGH

Request 90 day Extension to Comment Period for Public Notice (dated March 27, 2006)

Dear Ms. Hogan,

The Charlotte Harbor NEP is a partnership program, created by Section 320 of the Clean Water Act, to protect and preserve the Charlotte Harbor estuary, recognized as an estuary of national significance and one of the most productive estuaries in the State. The Peace is a major tributary to and key component of the Charlotte Harbor estuary; protecting the natural flow regime, water quality and ecological integrity of this river is of great importance to the Charlotte Harbor NEP. The Charlotte Harbor NEP adopted a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the estuary and its watershed. This plan was developed utilizing four committees of citizens, scientists, resource managers, industry representatives and policy makers. Our partnership includes, among others, Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Manatee and Charlotte Counties; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; and both the South and the Southwest Florida Water Management Districts. A part of the implementation of this CCMP is determining the consistency of proposed actions in the Charlotte Harbor watershed with the CCMP.

On November 17, 2003 the Charlotte Harbor NEP requested the following from the U.S. ACE:

- “1. A summary of phosphate mining permits with review timetables. We may forward a federal consistency determination within the applicable review timetables.
2. A presentation by Corps staff on their progress to address cumulative impacts of the proposed phosphate mine projects, pending phosphate mining permits in the Charlotte Harbor Study area, and how the Charlotte Harbor NEP can best assist the Corps in their review and CCMP consistency requirements.”

We have received neither from the U.S. ACE to date. We request a 90-day extension to allow our Management Conference an opportunity to consider the Ona mine permit application.

In addition, it should be noted that we have requested a Region-wide Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to address cumulative impacts from all development in the Peace and Myakka River basins on September 15, 2000, November 17, 2003 and again on March 20, 2006. The information from such an EIS would greatly inform the U.S. ACE and others on the potential impacts of the proposed project on offsite and downstream resources and allow resource management and protection strategies on a watershed basis.

We thank you in advance for your input and efforts to address these concerns. If you have any questions, please contact me at (239) 338-2556 extension 235 or lbeever@swfrpc.org.

Sincerely,



Lisa B. Beever, PhD, AICP  
Director  
LBB/CAC/cac

CC: Colonel Robert M. Carpenter, District Engineer  
Mr. John R. Hall, Chief Regulatory Division and  
Mr. Ron Silver, Chief West Permits Section  
Mr. Charles A. Schnepel, Team Leader  
Mr. Tom Welborn, U.S. EPA, Region 4, CHNEP Policy Committee Co-Chair