



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

AN



June 6, 2006

Mr. Gustavo Schmidt
Florida Department of Transportation
Planning and Environmental Management
3400 West Commercial Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

Subject: Sole Source Aquifer Review for South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4(EPA) has received your request to assess the above referenced project and it has been reviewed pursuant to Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Specifically, the evaluation is to determine if the project lies within the boundaries (recharge and streamflow source zones) of an EPA designated Sole Source Aquifer (SSA); and to determine if the project poses potential, adverse health or environmental impacts. A Sole Source Aquifer is the sole or principle water source for a designated area, which, if contaminated, would create a significant hazard to public health and an economic burden to locate an alternative drinking water source.

EPA has reviewed your project for impacts to the sole source aquifer system. Regulatory groups within the EPA responsible for administering other programs may, at their own discretion and under separate cover, provide additional comments.

The project has been determined to lie:

- Outside of the designated boundaries of the Biscayne Aquifer system.**
A SSA review is not applicable to this project.
- Within the boundaries of the Biscayne Aquifer system.**
Based on the information provided, it has been established that this project is not expected to cause significant adverse impacts to the aquifer.
- Within the boundaries of the Biscayne Aquifer system.**
It is requested that the attached general comments and recommendations be incorporated into your project plans in an effort to minimize the possibility of adversely impacting the aquifer system. Project coordinator should contact EPA during the permit coordination process if any project changes have occurred.
- Within the boundaries of the Biscayne Aquifer system.**

_____ **Within the boundaries of the Biscayne Aquifer system.**

Based on the information provided, EPA has concluded that this project *will have adverse impacts to the aquifer and pose a significant threat to human health.*

Major project revisions, and consultation with other regulatory programs, is required.

Additional comments:

All findings of "no significant impact" are based on EPAs' understanding and expectation that those responsible for the project will strictly adhere to all Federal, State and local government permits, ordinances, best management practices, planning, design, construction, operation, maintenance, monitoring requirements and engineering recommendations to protect the integrity of the surrounding groundwater recharge zones. All best management practices for erosion and sedimentation control are expected to be followed. State and County environmental offices should be contacted to address proper drainage and stormwater designs. Project coordinators are expected to review and follow local Wellhead Protection plans to ensure full compliance. It is requested that you contact the Region 4 EPA office should there be any project changes.

Thank you for your concern with the environmental impacts of this project. If you have any questions, please contact Alanna Conley at 404.562.9443.

Sincerely,



Alanna M. Conley
Environmental Scientist
Ground Water/Drinking Water Branch