

**Technical Oversight Committee
January 8, 2004**

**STA Operations and Performance (all data are preliminary and subject to QA/QC
revisions)**

1. STA-1 West

- a. STA-1W outflow phosphorus (12-month average) continues to increase - as of November 2003 it was 63.6 ppb. It is likely that the Water Year 2004 (WY2004) outflow value will exceed 50 ppb for the 2nd year in a row. We will continue to take steps to help the STA recover from the high loading of last year. Towards this end, the following STA-1W operations/vegetation management activities have been implemented in WY04.
 - i. No Lake Okeechobee releases have been made to STA-1W since February 2003 - despite the need to lower the level of the lake.
 - ii. In addition, for the balance of the dry season, we intend to close down the western flow-way (Cells 2 and 4) to lower water levels to about 12 inches in an attempt to allow Cell 2 floating cattail tussocks (islands) to root, and to allow Cell 4 vegetation to recover as well. While this may or may not allow Cell 2's tussocks to re-root, it should immobilize them so that SAV can re-grow in previously scoured areas.
 - iii. Cell 5 (approximately 2,800 acres) is back on-line after construction of the limerock berm (March – August 2003).
 - iv. Extensive vegetation management activities have been completed in Cell 2 consisting of chopping and removing floating cattail tussocks.
 - v. Extensive vegetation management activities have been completed in Cell 5 that effectively treated over 1,000 acres of undesirable floating aquatic vegetation.
 - vi. Continued close coordination with the Corps of Engineers to complete STA-1 East as soon as possible. Until STA-1 East is in a full flow-through mode, STA-1 West will continue to be overloaded with EAA runoff that is designed to be sent to STA-1 East.
- b. WY04 Performance to date (May – November 2003) has been mixed – much lower phosphorus loads to Refuge, although higher concentration:
 - i. In: 231,236 AF, 43.5 metric tons (MT), 153 ppb
 - ii. Out: 236,710 AF, 15.7 MT, 54 ppb (compared to 20.2 MT and 41 ppb for the same period last year)
 - iii. Performance to be discussed with TOC and Special Master
- c. Dye tracer in Cell 5 in spring 2004 – 670 cfs steady flow for two weeks; will use the Refuge as the source (recycle) if possible

2. STA-2

- a. <1,000 acre feet (AF) of Lake Okeechobee deliveries to maintain dry season target depths. The delivery from the Lake is less than 1979-88 historic average of 3,000 AF/yr.
- b. WY04 performance to date (May – November 2003) has been better than last year:
 - i. In: 217,556 AF; 22.1 MT; 82 ppb
 - ii. Out: 248,225 AF; 4.4 MT; 14 ppb (compared to 4.4 MT and 18 ppb for the same period last year)
- c. Dye tracer study planned for Cell 3; approximately 2 months summer 2004

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3. STA-3/4

- a. Flow-ways 1 and 3 in start-up operations; maintaining average depth of about 12 inches
- b. Collecting weekly TP since 12/3/03:
 - i. In: 40 ppb (G-370 and G-372 pump stations)
 - ii. Out: 9 ppb (Flow-way 1) and 14 ppb (Cell 3)
- c. STA demonstration project construction (see handout)
- d. Cell 2B vegetation management (see handout)

4. STA-5

- a. Some Lake Okeechobee water has been delivered to maintain dry season target depths
- b. WY04 performance to date (May – November 2003) has been better than last year:
 - i. In: 140,413 AF; 46.7 MT; 270 ppb
 - ii. Out: 127,896 AF; 15.4 MT; 98 ppb (compared to 23.1 MT and 144 ppb for the same period last year)

5. STA-6

- a. No Lake Okeechobee deliveries
- b. WY04 performance to date (May – November 2003) has been better than last year:
 - i. In: 41,830 AF; 2.9 MT; 57 ppb
 - ii. Out: 31,873 AF; 0.5 MT; 12 ppb (compared to 0.9 MT and 31 ppb for the same period last year)

6. All STAs WY04 performance to date (May – November 2003) has been better than last year:

- a. In: 631,035 AF; 115 MT; 148 ppb
- b. Out: 644,704 AF; 36 MT; 45 ppb (compared to 49 MT and 69 ppb for the same period last year)