

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON

REFER TO FILE NO. 7432 (Okeechobee Lk.) 6

August 24, 1926.

Mrs. Minnie Moore Willson,  
Room 245, Grand Hotel,  
Broadway & 31st Street,  
New York City.

Dear Madam:

1. The receipt is acknowledged of your letter of August 14, 1926, requesting information as to whether the elevation of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, has been lowered by a permit beyond the point it held in 1915.

2. In reply I would inform you that a revocable permit was granted by the Acting Secretary of War, August 21, 1924, in which condition No. 13 read as follows: "That while elevation 15 feet above mean low water at Punta Rasa, Gulf of Mexico, is authorized as a standard lake full elevation of the surface of the Lake, the said District Engineer may require the closing of any or all controlling works when the Lake level is still above elevation 15, if, in his opinion, such action is necessary for the conservation of navigation interests; and the permittee shall not, without the specific prior approval of the said District Engineer, knowingly or intentionally permit the elevation of Lake Okeechobee to fall below said elevation 15, provided, that upon application to said District Engineer, the latter may in his discretion authorize the permittee to lower the water surface in Lake Okeechobee to a stage below said elevation 15, whenever, in the opinion of said District Engineer, such lowering may be necessary or advisable to provide additional reservoir capacity or to reduce injury to agricultural or other non-navigation interests influenced by the level of the water in Lake Okeechobee, and will not cause unreasonable interference with navigation. For the administration of this permit the gauge established and maintained by the United States Engineer Department at Moore Haven, Florida, shall govern in the measurement of lake levels".

For the Chief of Engineers:

Very respectfully,



R. Park,  
Major, Corps of Engineers.