

Chapter 3 Affected Environment and Potential Impacts

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the affected environment and potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action and Alternatives. The following resources are addressed:

- Section 3.2 Environmental Risks and Public and Occupational Safety and Health,
- Section 3.3 Land Use,
- Section 3.4 Geology and Soils,
- Section 3.5 Air Quality,
- Section 3.6 Water Resources,
- Section 3.7 Biological Resources,
- Section 3.8 Socioeconomics,
- Section 3.9 Cultural Resources,
- Section 3.10 Noise, and
- Section 3.11 Environmental Justice.

Most resource sections follow a standard organization.

- First is a description of the methodology and pertinent background information, including relevant Federal and state regulations.
- Next is a discussion of common impacts, that is, the potential impacts that would be the same or similar across the proposed sites. Discussing common impacts streamlines the document by reducing duplicative analysis across multiple sites.
- Then each proposed site and the no action alternative are analyzed in the following order: (1) the proposed new sites: Bruinsburg, Chacahoula, Richton, and Stratton Ridge; (2) the proposed expansion sites: Bayou Choctaw, Big Hill, and West Hackberry; and (3) the no action alternative.
- The analysis of each site and associated infrastructure is organized in two parts: description of the affected environment and analysis of the potential impacts.

The sections for a few resource areas, namely Environmental Risks and Public and Occupational Safety and Health, Socioeconomics, Noise, and Environmental Justice, are organized in a slightly different manner to simplify the presentation, while still distinguishing the methodology, affected environment, and potential impacts.

The potential impacts described in this chapter include direct and indirect impacts. Direct impacts, as defined by the CEQ at 40 CFR 1508.8, are those impacts “which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.” Indirect impacts are those impacts “which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.” Both direct and indirect impacts include those impacts “resulting from actions which may have both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on balance the agency believes that the effect will be beneficial.”

Chapter 4 analyzes cumulative impacts. Chapter 5 analyzes the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources.