

**Environmental Assessment
Emergency Temporary Housing
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
FEMA-1603-DR-LA, FEMA-1607-DR-LA
Gillis W. Long Center Emergency Temporary Housing Site
Louisiana Army National Guard
Iberville Parish, Louisiana**

A. Introduction:

Hurricane Katrina, a Category 4 hurricane with a storm surge above normal high-tide levels, moved across the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama gulf coasts on August 29, 2005. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 140 miles per hour. On September 24, 2005 Hurricane Rita made landfall just east of Sabine Pass, Texas, near the Louisiana border. The storm was a Category 3 hurricane with sustained winds in excess of 120 mph.

President Bush declared a major disaster for Louisiana due to damages from Hurricane Katrina, and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. A second Presidential disaster declaration in response to damages from Hurricane Rita was declared on September 24, 2005. FEMA proposes to administer this federal disaster assistance per the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5206, as amended (Stafford Act). Section 403 of the Stafford Act authorizes the Public Assistance Program to provide federal assistance to eligible local and state governments and private non-profit organizations. The Governor of the State of Louisiana has requested assistance under FEMA's Public Assistance Program for temporary housing. Consistent with FEMA's guidance *Temporary Shelter for Workers of Public Entities* (September 30, 2005), the proposed activities are required to provide emergency temporary housing for essential workers who are also disaster victims eligible for temporary housing assistance.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1800), and FEMA's regulations implementing NEPA (44 CFR 10.9). The purpose of this EA is to analyze potential impacts of temporary and transient emergency group housing for disaster victims as part of an expedited review process. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

B. Purpose and Need:

The catastrophic damage that has resulted from the hurricanes has had a tremendous impact on the Louisiana Army National Guard (LAARNG). Many LAARNG personnel stationed at military facilities in hurricane damaged areas have been displaced from their

homes. These personnel are currently living in billeting, barracks, or with friends and relatives and have been assigned to the Gillis W. Long Center located in Iberville Parish, Louisiana. As a result, the LAARNG has applied for federal assistance to provide suitable temporary housing for the displaced personnel and their families near the LAARNG facility at the Gillis W. Long Center.

C. Environmental Review Process:

In order to meet the urgent needs of the LAARNG personnel requiring temporary housing, FEMA has implemented an expedited environmental review process. The purpose of this document is to assist FEMA in fulfilling its environmental review responsibilities under NEPA and serve as a vehicle to document compliance under other applicable environmental laws. Laws and Executive Orders addressed through this EA include: the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice), and Farmland Protection Policy Act. Expedited agency consultation consisted of establishing a programmatic agreement with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office and an expedited review process with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other resource areas evaluated in this EA include noise, visual resources, traffic, socioeconomics, safety and security, and hazardous and toxic waste.

The scope of FEMA's environmental review includes evaluating project alternatives, characterizing the affected environment, identifying potential environmental impacts, and outlining ways to reduce or minimize adverse affects. This EA examines the site-specific environmental impacts associated with building a proposed FEMA group housing park.

This EA was prepared based on a site evaluation conducted between October 18 and 20, 2005, document research, and agency information. An electronic version of the Draft EA will be provided to interested agencies prior to and during the public comment period. The public participation period will be brief, as necessitated by the emergency circumstances. Agency coordination and consultation will be deemed complete at the end of the public comment period. FEMA believes that this process will allow for sufficient action analysis and meet the goal of providing timely federal assistance to disaster victims.

D. Site Selection and Alternatives Analysis:

NEPA requires investigation and evaluation of reasonable project alternatives as part of the project environmental review process. Federally assisted housing options, including hotel/rental assistance and locating a travel trailer or mobile home on a private site or in an existing park, would not satisfy the need of providing housing in close proximity to the LAARNG facility at the Gillis W. Long Center. Therefore, the LAARNG identified potentially feasible sites for placement of temporary housing. Factors considered in

choosing a site include: site topography, property owner willingness, cost, past land use, if it is already planned for development, access to existing utilities, engineering feasibility, and environmental/cultural resource sensitivities. The proposed project site was selected for further analysis because it meets specific site selection criteria.

E. Project Location:

The proposed project is located on property owned by the Louisiana Department of Corrections, adjacent to the Gillis W. Long Center. The project site is located approximately 0.3-mile north of LA Highway 141, west of Carville, Iberville Parish, Louisiana (Coordinates: 30.2046° North / 91.1249° West) (Figures 1 and 2).

F. Site Description:

The site consists of approximately 34 acres of former agricultural land located adjacent to and east of the Gillis W. Long Center (Figure 3). A portion of the site has been previously graded, with the remaining site consisting of fallow fields. The project site is bound on the west by the Gillis W. Long Center, by agricultural fields on the north and east, and by LA Highway 141 and the Mississippi River to the south.

G. Project Description:

The project description is based on the site design completed on September 29, 2005 (Forte and Tablada 2005).

The proposed action would involve the construction of a travel trailer site (hereafter “the Park”) which would accommodate approximately 198 travel trailers (Figure 3). The travel trailers would serve as temporary housing for military personnel displaced by damages resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Louisiana Army National Guard has entered into an agreement with the Louisiana Department of Corrections to utilize this site as a temporary travel trailer site.

Based on the site design (Forte and Tablada 2005), the following features would be included with this temporary housing site:

- Potable water and electricity services would be connected to existing utilities located near the project site.
- Three lift stations would be installed to lift wastewater through a forcemain to a proposed wastewater treatment plant. Three ponds would be constructed as part of the wastewater treatment plant. Effluent would be discharged through rock filters into the leach field.
- Access to the Park would be provided via an access road to LA Highway 141.
- Site preparation would include mowing, site grading, and the installation of drainage features to provide positive drainage of stormwater.

- Geotextile grade fabric and limestone rock would be used for the interior roadways and trailer pads. The remaining disturbed area would be seeded following grading activities.

When the temporary housing need has ended, FEMA expects that the travel trailers would be transported from the site to suitable locations elsewhere (to be determined on a case-by-case basis). The Park would then be seeded and restored to previous conditions and/or used by the landowner in a manner consistent with the parish zoning classification.

H. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Table 1 summarizes the results of the environmental review process. Potential environmental impacts that were found to be negligible are not evaluated further. Resource areas that have the potential for impacts of minor, moderate, or major intensity are further developed in the following Section I. Definitions of the impact intensity are described below:

Negligible: The resource area (e.g., geology) would not be affected, or changes would be either non-detectable or if detected, would have effects that would be slight and local. Impacts would be well below regulatory standards, as applicable.

Minor: Changes to the resource would be measurable, although the changes would be small and localized. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, as applicable. Mitigation measures would reduce any potential adverse effects.

Moderate: Changes to the resource would be measurable and have both localized and regional scale impacts. Impacts would be within or below regulatory standards, but historical conditions are being altered on a short-term basis. Mitigation measures would be necessary and the measures would reduce any potential adverse effects.

Major: Changes would be readily measurable and would have substantial consequences on a local and regional level. Impacts would exceed regulatory standards. Mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required to reduce impacts, though long-term changes to the resource would be expected.

Table 1. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences Matrix

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Geology and Soils	X				Potential for localized increase in soil erosion during construction.	LAPDES stormwater construction permit to be obtained by construction contractor.	Implement construction BMPs, install silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation. Area soils would be wetted during construction to minimize wind erosion. If fill is stored on site, the contractor would be required to cover it appropriately.
Hydrology and Floodplains (Executive Order 11988)	X				Project area is located in an area designated as Zone C, which is outside of the 100-year floodplain, per the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 220083 0008 C) (FEMA 1991). No impacts anticipated.		
Wetlands (Executive Order 11990)	X				No wetlands were observed at the project site during the site reconnaissance and none were noted on the USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps (USGS 2005).		
Coastal Zone Management	X				Project site is not located within the boundaries of the Coastal Zone. No impacts to Coastal Zone Management.		
Water Quality	X				Potential for localized increase in sedimentation during construction. Proposed project would include the construction of a wastewater treatment plant, oxidation and settling ponds, and a rock filter leach field. No impacts to groundwater quality would be anticipated with this treatment system.	LAPDES stormwater construction permit and discharge permit for wastewater treatment plant to be obtained by construction contractor.	Contractor to implement requirements of LAPDES wastewater discharge permit. Wastewater would receive primary and secondary treatment in compliance with State standards. Implement construction BMPs as required by the stormwater construction permit, including the use of silt fences/straw bales to reduce sedimentation.

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Air Quality	X				Parish is in attainment for criteria pollutants per the Clean Air Act. Negligible impact would be anticipated from vehicle exhaust emissions and increased dust during construction.		Vehicle operation times would be kept to a minimum. Area soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize dust. Rock cover for roads and housing pads would be wetted and/or treated periodically to minimize dust particles.
Vegetation and Wildlife	X				Site is former agricultural field with low quality wildlife habitat. No impacts would be anticipated with the conversion of 34 acres of agricultural land.		
Threatened and Endangered Species (Endangered Species Act Section 7)	X				According to information obtained from the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LDNR 2005) and the USFWS, the only threatened or endangered species with the potential to occur near the project area is the bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>). No bald eagle habitat is located within or adjacent to the project site; therefore, the project would not result in adverse impacts to this species.	USFWS determination of no effect. (11/4/05).	
Cultural Resources (National Historic Preservation Act Section 106)		X			The project site is located adjacent to the Gillis W. Long Center, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Gillis W. Long Center is outside of the Area of Potential Effect for the proposed project, and no other known cultural resources were recorded in the area. Initial background review conducted for different project, same property resulted in a verbal no effect determination by the LA SHPO. See Section I.	Initial SHPO review conducted 9/25/05. Coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office is currently being performed.	See Section I.
Socioeconomics	X				Park occupancy would consist exclusively of military personnel and their family assigned to the Gillis W. Long Center. This facility would be considered a host facility for LAARNG personnel displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.		

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)	X				The population density within this area of Iberville Parish is less than 90 individuals per square mile, with a minority population of approximately 77 to 84 percent and a family poverty rate of approximately 19 percent. The proposed action would provide a beneficial impact to the military personnel that would occupy the housing, regardless of race and income. The project would not be expected to pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations near the project site.		
Noise	X				During the construction period, an increase in noise levels may be experienced at the Gillis W. Long Center near the project area. No other residences or facilities are located near the project area. No impacts would be anticipated from this minor increase in noise.		If necessary, the following noise reduction measures should be considered: (1) restricting the 24-hour schedule to the first two weeks of construction; (2) using a 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. construction schedule; (3) completing construction closest to adjoining residents first; and (4) completing noisier activities during the day if a 24-hour schedule is used.
Safety and Security	X				No impact anticipated.		The Park would be a military facility, and safety and security would be consistent with Army National Guard security procedures. Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes.

Resource Area	Impact Intensity				Impact Summary	Agency Coordination / Permits	Mitigation
	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major			
Hazardous Materials and Toxic Wastes	X				Hazardous materials database search queried per ASTM standards on November 4, 2005. The Gillis W. Long Center was identified as being the site of a former leaking underground storage tank. The site has been remediated and closed with LDEQ approval. No impacts would be anticipated with respect to hazardous materials or toxic wastes.		If any hazardous materials are found during construction or occupation, all hazardous materials shall be remediated, abated, or disposed of as appropriate, and otherwise handled in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
Traffic and Transportation	X				Traffic volumes in the area would not increase since the residents of the proposed Park would be those individuals currently stationed at the LAARNG unit at the Gillis W. Long Center. The existing infrastructure would be able to accommodate all traffic without impacting local traffic.		

I. Additional Impact Analysis

Cultural Resources

The project site consists of a former agricultural field, a portion of which has been recently graded. To determine the presence of recorded archaeological sites in the project area, and to assess the potential or likelihood for unrecorded sites occurring in the project area, FEMA conducted a cultural resource review at the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (LA SHPO) (September 25, 2005). A supplemental database search was conducted November 11, 2005. The review and database search indicated that no cultural resources are located in the project area.

The nearest recorded resource, the Gillis W. Long Center, is located immediately west of the project area. The Gillis W. Long Center is listed on the National Register of Historic; this property comprises a former plantation subsequently converted to a treatment facility for leprosy. The treatment center, later renamed Hansen's Disease Center, closed its doors in 1999; the center now hosts the LAARNG, Carville Job Corps Academy, Youth Challenge Program, the First Tee of Carville, and the National Hansen's Disease Museum.

The placement of temporary housing and a permanent wastewater treatment plant would be outside the Area of Potential Effect for the Gillis W. Long Center; no adverse impacts are anticipated. Initial background site review (September 25, 2005) for a separate project (Maryland Farms) on the same property resulted in a verbal no effect determination from the SHPO; however, given that the proposed undertaking for the current project may result in impacts not covered under the earlier project, supplemental coordination with the LA SHPO to review these potential impacts has been initiated and is ongoing. In addition, FEMA is recommending that an archaeologist be on site to monitor all ground disturbing activities.

If unanticipated historic or cultural materials are discovered during construction, all construction activities shall immediately cease within 100 feet of the resources until their cultural affiliation and ultimate disposition are determined in consultation with the LA SHPO, FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer and other interested parties.

I. References

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 1991. Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Community Panel 220083 0008 C. Revised February 2.
- Forte and Tablada, Inc. 2005. Site Design for Gillis W. Long Center Housing Site. September 29.
- U.S. Bureau of the Census (Census). 2005. American Factfinder. <http://www.census.gov>. Website accessed November 4.
- U.S. Geological Survey. 2005. The National Map. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory Map. <http://nationalmap.gov/>. Website accessed November 4.

J. Public Involvement

A Public Notice was published in the Baton Rouge Advocate on November 14, 2005. Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be brief – November 14 to November 16, 2005. Written comments on the Draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be faxed to FEMA’s Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge at (225) 346-5848; and verbal comments will be accepted at (225) 376-5270 and TTY for hearing or speech-impaired at 800-462-7585; between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The Draft EA and FONSI are available for public review at the Disaster Recovery Center located at the Iberville Parish Library, 24605 J. Gerald Barrett Boulevard, Plaquamine, Louisiana 70764. The library hours are 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. The Draft EA and FONSI are also made available for viewing and download from FEMA’s website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and FONSI will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the Final documents.

K. Figures

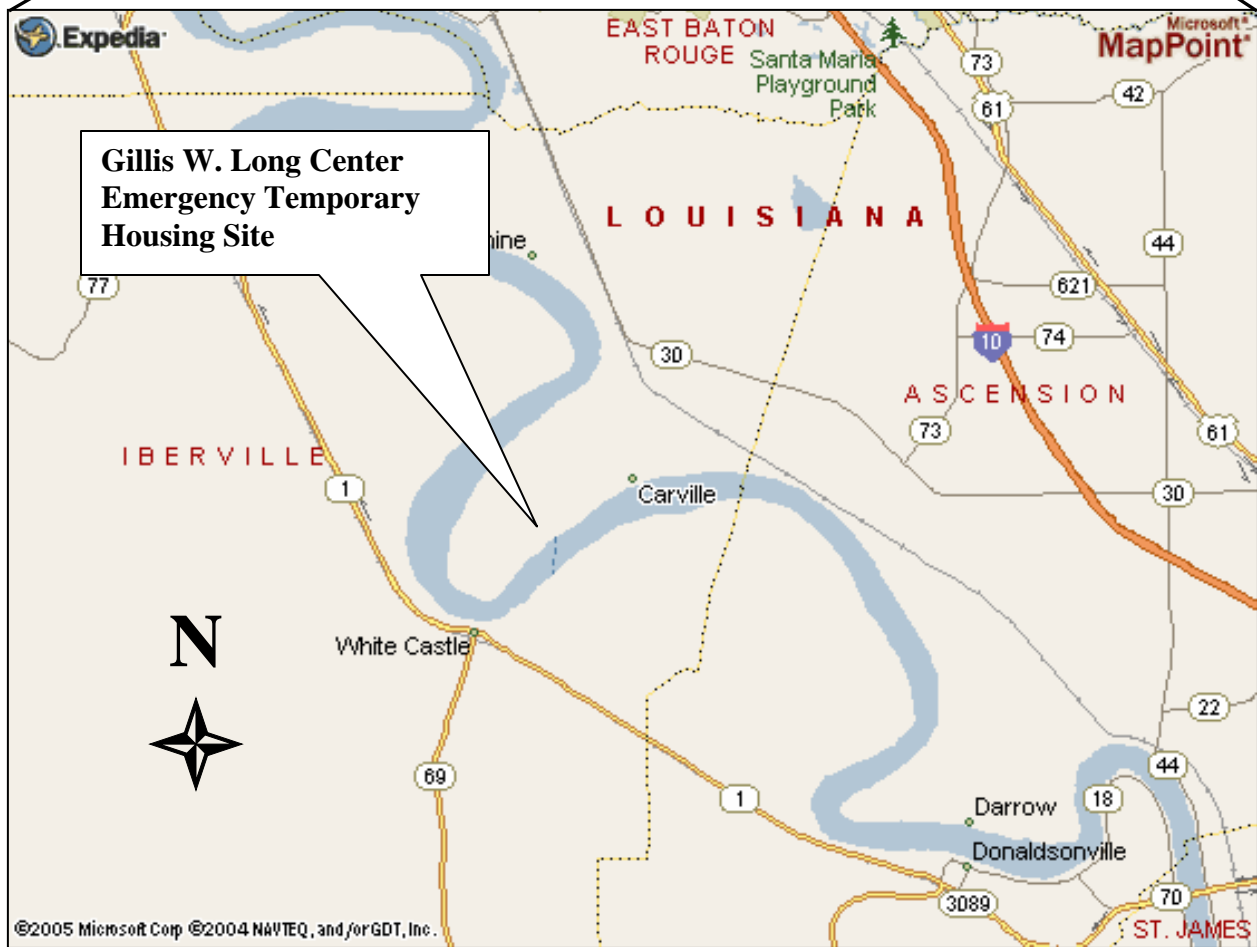
Figure 1: Project Location

Figure 2: Site Location

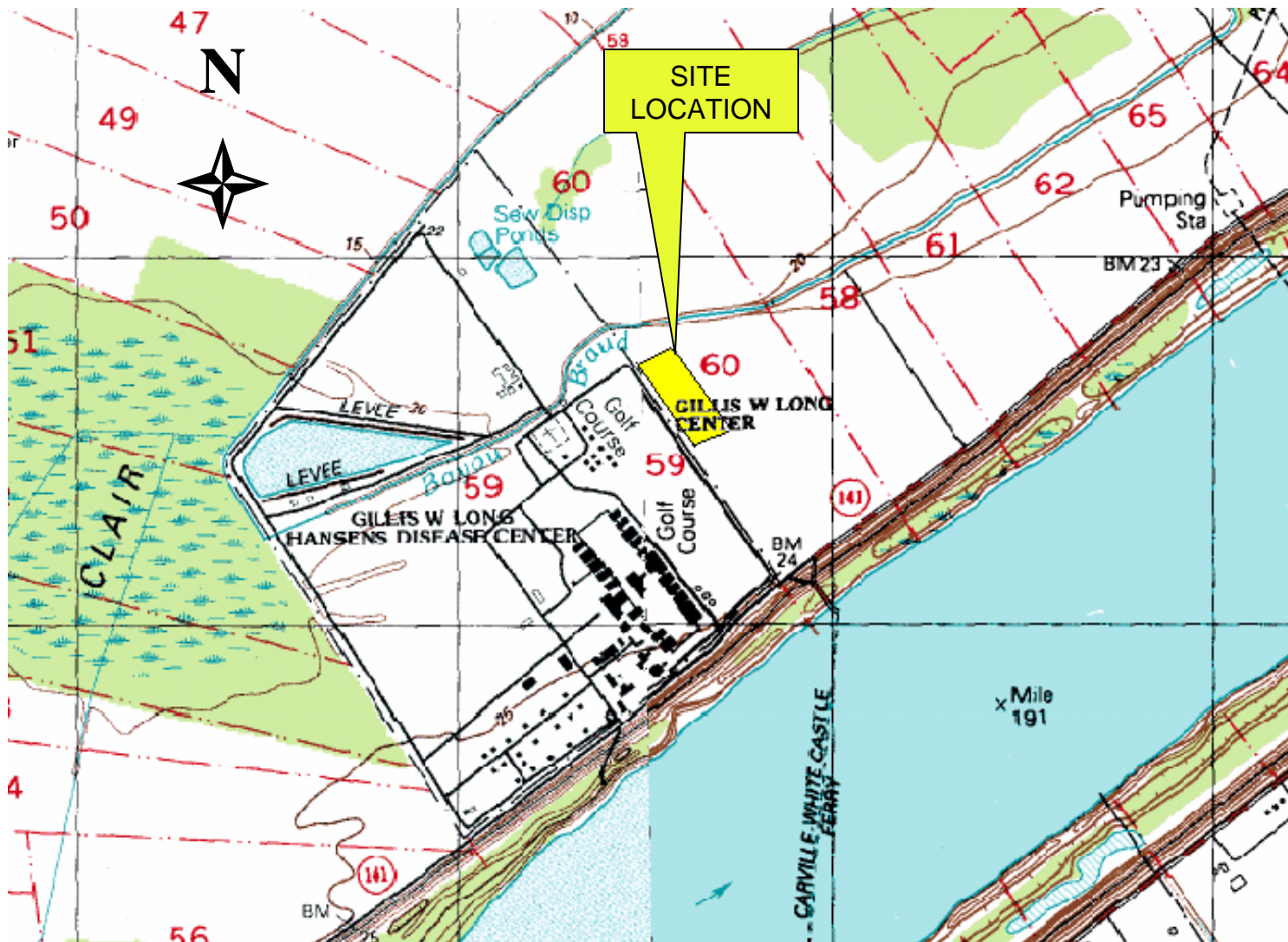
Figure 3: Photographs

Attachment 1. Hazardous Materials Database Search

Attachment 2. Finding of No Significant Impact



**FIGURE 1:
PROJECT LOCATION
GILLIS W. LONG CENTER
EMERGENCY TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE
CARVILLE, LOUISIANA**



**FIGURE 2:
SITE LOCATION
GILLIS W. LONG CENTER EMERGENCY TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE
CARVILLE, LOUISIANA**

**Figure 3:
Site Topography and Vegetation
Gillis W. Long Center Emergency Temporary Housing Site
Carville, Louisiana**



Looking over site at typical landscape



Previously graded portion of the project site

InfoMap
Technologies Incorporated

Environmental FirstSearch™ Report

TARGET PROPERTY:

SR-141

CARVILLE LA 70721

Job Number: 14702422

PREPARED FOR:

URS Corp./FEMA

415 N. 15th Street

Baton Rouge, LA 70802

IB-05 Camp Caville

Iberville Parish

11-04-05



Tel: (610) 430-7530

Fax: (610) 430-7535

Environmental FirstSearch *Search Summary Report*

Target Site: SR-141

CARVILLE LA 70721

FirstSearch Summary

Database	Sel	Updated	Radius	Site	1/8	1/4	1/2	1/2>	ZIP	TOTALS
NPL	Y	05-17-05	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CERCLIS	Y	08-01-05	0.50	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
NFRAP	Y	08-01-05	0.25	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
RCRA TSD	Y	09-22-05	0.50	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
RCRA COR	Y	09-22-05	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RCRA GEN	Y	06-13-05	0.25	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
ERNS	Y	12-31-04	0.15	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
State Sites	Y	NA	1.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spills-1990	Y	NA	0.25	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
SWL	Y	01-01-99	0.50	0	0	0	0	-	0	0
REG UST/AST	Y	11-12-03	0.25	0	0	0	-	-	0	0
Leaking UST	Y	03-26-99	0.50	0	0	0	1	-	0	1
- TOTALS -				0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Notice of Disclaimer

Due to the limitations, constraints, inaccuracies and incompleteness of government information and computer mapping data currently available to InfoMap Technologies, certain conventions have been utilized in preparing the locations of all federal, state and local agency sites residing in InfoMap Technologies's databases. All EPA NPL and state landfill sites are depicted by a rectangle approximating their location and size. The boundaries of the rectangles represent the eastern and western most longitudes; the northern and southern most latitudes. As such, the mapped areas may exceed the actual areas and do not represent the actual boundaries of these properties. All other sites are depicted by a point representing their approximate address location and make no attempt to represent the actual areas of the associated property. Actual boundaries and locations of individual properties can be found in the files residing at the agency responsible for such information.

Waiver of Liability

Although InfoMap Technologies uses its best efforts to research the actual location of each site, InfoMap Technologies does not and can not warrant the accuracy of these sites with regard to exact location and size. All authorized users of InfoMap Technologies's services proceeding are signifying an understanding of InfoMap Technologies's searching and mapping conventions, and agree to waive any and all liability claims associated with search and map results showing incomplete and or inaccurate site locations.

***Environmental FirstSearch
Sites Summary Report***

TARGET SITE: SR-141
CARVILLE LA 70721

JOB: 14702422
IN-05 CAMP CARVILLE

TOTAL: 1 **GEOCODED:** 1 **NON GEOCODED:** 0 **SELECTED:** 0

Page No.	ID	DB Type	Site Name/ID/Status	Address	Dist/Dir	Map ID
1	1	LUST	GILLIS W. LONG HANSEN S DISEASE 93-2-0176	5445 POINT CLAIR ROAD CARVILLE LA 70721	0.43 SE	1

**Environmental FirstSearch
Site Detail Report**

TARGET SITE: SR-141
CARVILLE LA 70721

JOB: 14702422
IN-05 CAMP CARVILLE

LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

SEARCH ID: 1 **DIST/DIR:** 0.43 SE **MAP ID:** 1

NAME: GILLIS W. LONG HANSEN S DISEASE
ADDRESS: 5445 POINT CLAIR ROAD
CARVILLE LA 70721

REV: 03/26/99
ID1: 93-2-0176
ID2: 24-004643
STATUS:
PHONE:

CONTACT:

CORRECTIVE ACTION INFORMATION

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN DUE:

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN RECEIVED:

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN APPROVED: 12/19/94

CONTRACTOR: CRA SERVICES G&E ENGINEERING DIVISION

DATE ADDITIONAL CORRECTIVE ACTION INFO DUE:

DATE ADDITIONAL CORRECTIVE ACTION INFO RECEIVED:

CORRECTIVE ACTION COMMENTS: REMEDIATION STILL UNDERWAY AS OF 28-DEC-93. MONITOR WELL WORK PLAN APPROVED 6-8-94. DEQ APPROVED CLOURE OF (2) 4000 AND (1) 1000 GL GASOLINE USTS ON 12-8-95.

REMEDiation INFORMATION

METHOD OF REMEDIATION: PASSIVE REMEDIATION

METHOD OF REMEDIATION:

METHOD OF REMEDIATION:

REMEDiation TERMINATED DATE: 12/19/94

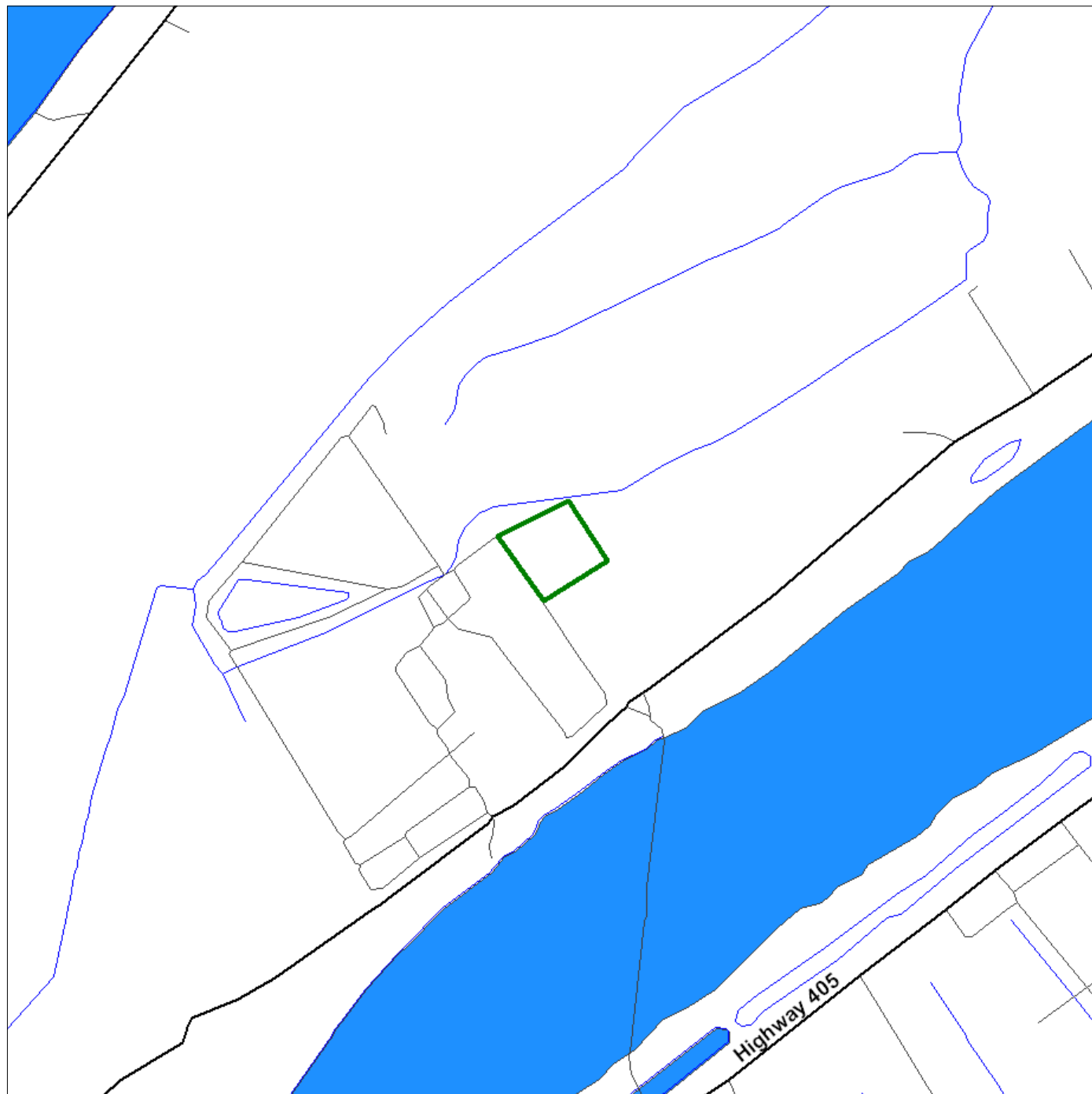


Environmental FirstSearch

1 Mile Radius from Area
ASTM Map: NPL, RCACOR, STATE Sites



SR-141 , CARVILLE LA 70721



Source: 2002 U.S. Census TIGER Files

- Area Polygon
- Identified Site, Multiple Sites, Receptor
- NPL, Brownfield, Solid Waste Landfill (SWL) or Hazardous Waste
- Railroads
- Black Rings Represent 1/4 Mile Radii; Red Ring Represents 500 ft. Radius



Environmental FirstSearch

.5 Mile Radius from Area
ASTM Map: CERCLIS, RCRATSD, LUST, SWL



SR-141 , CARVILLE LA 70721



Source: 2002 U.S. Census TIGER Files

- Area Polygon
- Identified Site, Multiple Sites, Receptor
- NPL, Brownfield, Solid Waste Landfill (SWL) or Hazardous Waste
- Railroads

Black Rings Represent 1/4 Mile Radii; Red Ring Represents 500 ft. Radius

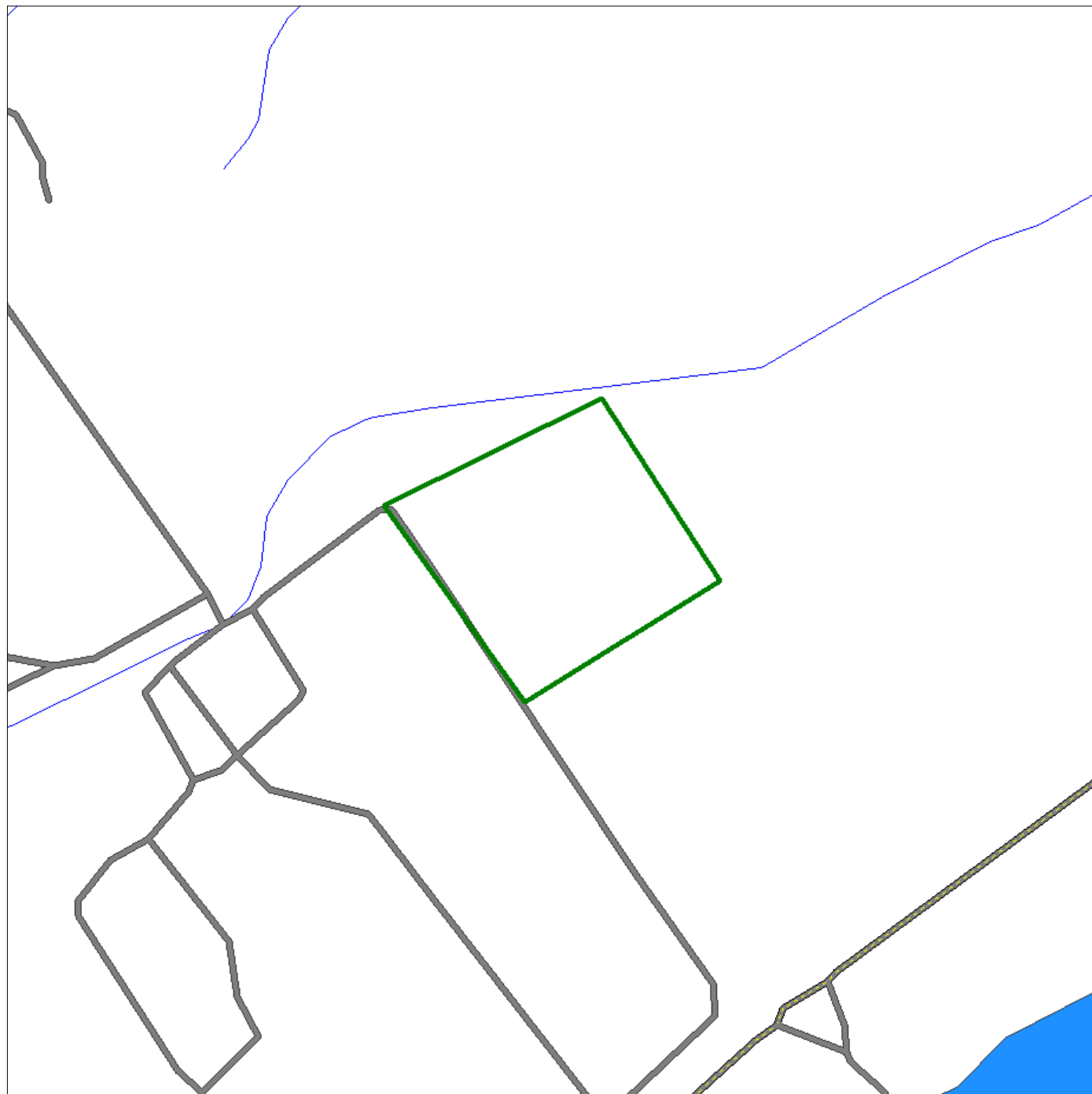


Environmental FirstSearch

.25 Mile Radius from Area
ASTM Map: RCRAGEN, ERNS, UST



SR-141 , CARVILLE LA 70721



Source: 2002 U.S. Census TIGER Files

- Area Polygon
- Identified Site, Multiple Sites, Receptor
- NPL, Brownfield, Solid Waste Landfill (SWL) or Hazardous Waste
- Railroads
- Black Rings Represent 1/4 Mile Radii; Red Ring Represents 500 ft. Radius



FEMA

Draft

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
EMERGENCY TEMPORARY HOUSING PROJECT
GILLIS W. LONG CENTER TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE,
IBERVILLE PARISH, LOUISIANA
*FEMA-1603-DR-LA, FEMA-1607-DR-LA***

As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under two Presidential disaster declarations (FEMA-1603-DR-LA; FEMA-1607-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. FEMA proposes to administer federal disaster assistance funds per the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5206, as amended (Stafford Act). Section 403 of the Stafford Act authorizes the Public Assistance Program to provide federal assistance to eligible local and state governments and private non-profit organizations. The Governor of the State of Louisiana has requested assistance under FEMA's Public Assistance Program for temporary housing. Consistent with FEMA's guidance *Temporary Shelter for Workers of Public Entities* (September 30, 2005), the proposed activities are required to provide emergency temporary housing for essential workers who are also disaster victims eligible for temporary housing assistance.

In order to implement its Public Assistance Program in a timely and effective manner, FEMA proposed an expedited process to assess the potential environmental impacts of building emergency temporary housing for displaced disaster victims. An Environmental Assessment (EA), dated November 13, 2005 was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10). The EA's purpose is to analyze and document the proposed alternative's potential environmental impacts, serve as a vehicle to document compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

The proposed project is located on property owned by the Louisiana Department of Corrections, adjacent to the Gillis W. Long Center. The project site is located approximately 0.3-mile north of LA Highway 141, west of Carville, Iberville Parish, Louisiana. The site consists of approximately 34 acres of former agricultural land located adjacent to and east of the Gillis W. Long Center. The project site is currently owned by the Louisiana Department of Corrections and is used for agricultural purposes. The project site is bound on the west by the Gillis W. Long Center, and by agricultural fields on the north, east, and south. The proposed action would involve the construction of a travel trailer site that would accommodate approximately 198 travel trailers. The travel trailers would serve as temporary housing for military personnel and their families displaced by damages resulting from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. New utilities will be installed,

including connecting potable water and electrical service to existing infrastructure. A wastewater treatment plant, including oxidation and settling ponds and a rock filter leach field would be constructed for sanitary wastewater. Site preparation would include vegetation removal and site grading. Geotextile grade fabric and limestone rock would be used for the interior roadways and trailer pads. The remaining disturbed area would be seeded following grading activities. When the temporary housing need has ended, FEMA expects that the trailers will be hauled from the site, to suitable locations elsewhere (to be determined on case-by-case basis). The project site will then be seeded and restored to previous conditions and/or used by the landowner in a manner consistent with county zoning classification.

FINDINGS

FEMA has made the following determinations from the information contained in the Gillis W. Long Center Temporary Housing Project EA:

The above described action will not result in any significant adverse impacts related to geology and soils; hydrology and floodplains; wetlands and jurisdictional waters of the U.S.; water quality; air quality; vegetation and wildlife; state and federally listed threatened and endangered species; cultural resources; socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations); safety and security; hazardous materials and toxic wastes; and traffic and transportation. The proposed alternative has been reviewed and, to the best of our knowledge, does not have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x).

The following summarizes what is outlined in the EA's Mitigation Actions section and are the conditions that must be met as part of implementing this proposed action alternative:

1. Use of best management practices (e.g., installation of silt fences and straw bales) will be required to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation. If fill is stored on site, the contractor is required to appropriately cover it to prevent erosion.
2. Construction contractor would be required to apply for and obtain all applicable wastewater and stormwater construction permits, including a LAPDES permit or waiver from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.
3. In order to control stormwater runoff, the contractor will be required to design drainage features so that flows will not flood Park residents or surrounding properties during storm events. The drainage system will be required to meet local and Parish requirements, including the acquisition of easements if applicable.
4. Area soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize dust.
5. An archaeological monitor would be placed onsite during all ground disturbing activities.
6. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, if unanticipated historic or cultural materials are discovered during construction, all construction activities shall immediately cease within 100 feet of the materials until their cultural affiliation and ultimate

disposition are determined in consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office, FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer and other interested parties.

7. If necessary, the following noise reduction measures should be considered: (1) restricting the 24-hour schedule to the first two weeks of construction; (2) using a 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. construction schedule; (3) completing construction closest to adjoining residents first; and (4) completing noisier activities during the day if a 24-hour schedule is used.
8. If any hazardous materials are found during construction or Park occupation, all hazardous materials shall be remediated, abated, or disposed of as appropriate, and otherwise handled in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.
9. The contractor will post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the incorporated EA, and in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 11990 (Wetland Protection), FEMA has determined that the proposed action implemented with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined above and in the EA will not have any significant adverse effects on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the proposed action alternative as described in the EA may proceed.

APPROVAL:

Science Kilner
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Date

Stephen DeBlasio
Housing Area Command
FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Date

William Lokey
Federal Coordinating Officer
FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Date