



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 80  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVD-PD-N

**31 JAN 2008**

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, New Orleans District

SUBJECT: Amite River and Tributaries, Bayou Manchac, LA (PRP)

1. References:

a. EC 1105-2-408, Peer Review of Decision documents, 31 May 2005.

b. Memorandum, CECW-CP, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.

c. Memorandum, March 2007, subject: Supplemental information for the "Peer Review Process."

2. I hereby approve subject Peer Review Plan and concur in the conclusion that external peer review of this project is not necessary for the following reasons: (1) no influential scientific information will be produced by the study, and (2) the risk was assessed as low. The proposed PRP has been coordinated with the Flood Damage Reduction Center of Expertise and concurred in by the FDR-PCX. The PRP complies with all applicable policy and provides an adequate independent technical review of the plan formulation, engineering and environmental analyses, and other aspects of the plan development. Non-substantive changes to this PRP do not require further approval.

3. The District should post the PRP to its web site and provide a link to the FDR-PCX for posting on their web page, as well as providing a copy of the final approved PRP to the FDR-PCX for their use. Before posting to the web site, the names of Corps/Army employees should be removed in accordance with reference 1.d. above.

CEMVD-PD-SP

SUBJECT: Amite River and Tributaries, Bayou Manchac, LA (PRP)

4. The MVD point of contact is Ms. [REDACTED]  
601-634-5982



Encl

ROBERT CREAR  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

CF:  
CECW-CP



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New Orleans District

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## **Peer Review**

### **Amite River and Tributaries Bayou Manchac, LA**



October 2007

The project management plan (PMP) for *Amite River and Tributaries, Bayou Manchac* is a plan of study that is used to define and manage the development and conduct of this feasibility study undertaken by the New Orleans District (NOD). This PMP is developed to be consistent with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Business Process (PMBP), specifically ER 5-1-11. There are seven imperatives of the PMBP: 1) One project, one project delivery team (PDT), one project manager (PM), 2) Plan for success and keep commitments, 3) The PDT is responsible for the success of the project, 4) Measure quality with the goals and expectations of the PMP, 5) Manage all work with the PMBP, using corporate automated information systems, 6) Build effective communications into all activities and processes, and 7) Use best practices and seek continuous improvement.

This Feasibility Study is being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NOD as a continuation of the Amite River and Tributaries Initial Evaluation Study, dated November 1984. The Amite River and Tributaries Study was initiated in response to a resolution of the committee on Public Works of the United States Senate. The resolution is under the authority of the Board of Engineers for the River and Harbor Act approved on June 13, 1902. The resolution, sponsored by the late Senator Allen J. Ellender and Senator Russell B. Long of Louisiana, was adopted on April 14, 1967, and reads as follows:

“RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, That the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors, created under Section 3 of the River and Harbor Act approved June 13, 1902, be, and is hereby requested to review the report of the chief of Engineers on Amite River and Tributaries, Louisiana, published as House Document Numbered 419, Eighty-fourth Congress, and other pertinent reports, with a view to determining whether the existing project should be modified in any way at this time with particular reference to additional improvements for flood control and related purposes on Amite River, Bayou Manchac, and Comite River and their tributaries.”

The study area is located in southeastern Louisiana and encompasses portions of Ascension, Iberville, and East Baton Rouge Parishes. The study area includes the entire Bayou Manchac Watershed and associated watersheds that could be used to meet project goals. This watershed-wide approach is needed to ensure sustainable benefits of the project and to resolve problems in the overall public interest. The watershed-wide approach is consistent with Corps guidance and that of other resource agencies. The study area includes Bayou Braud, Alligator Bayou, Bayou Paul, Spanish Lake, Bluff Swamp, Bayou Fountain, Dawson Creek, and Ward Creek.

The activities presented in this PMP will be completed to determine the feasibility of providing multipurpose benefits to mainly include flood damage reduction and possibly ecosystem restoration for the Bayou Manchac Watershed, Louisiana. The

description of tasks and associated costs sections reflect the required efforts to complete feasibility scope designs and costs. The Project Manager is Jason P. McCrossen (504-862-1723) under the supervision of Falcolm Hull (504-862-2539). PDT members are listed below:

First	Last	Discipline	Phone Number	Office Symbol	Org. Code
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Project Management (Lead Planner)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Project Management	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Economics	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Systems & Programming	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Project Engineering	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Real Estate	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Real Estate	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Environmental	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Office of Counsel	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Hydraulics & Hydrology Branch	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

The quality control plan (QCP) for the Amite River and Tributaries, Bayou Manchac, LA will be consistent to the NOD Quality Control Plan for Planning Studies and the NOD Quality Management Plan ([www.intra.usace.army.mil/eng/eda/nodqmp6.doc](http://www.intra.usace.army.mil/eng/eda/nodqmp6.doc)). The QCP includes an ITR plan to ensure that quality products are developed during the course of the study by the NOD. The Level of ITR for this project will be Inter District/Regional. The Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) will be responsible for verifying that NOD's products meet the needs and expectations of the customer and that competent technical resources are utilized throughout the design and review process. Policy review for this study will be performed at the Headquarters of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE) and will insure that all applicable statutes have been applied with respect to cost sharing, project purpose, and budget criteria. All processes, quality control, quality assurance, and policy review should complement each other, producing a seamless review process, which identifies and resolves technical and policy issues during the course of the study and not during the final study stages.

The QCP has been formulated to provide for a sound ITR process at the project study level that focuses on several objectives. Primarily, quality technical products will be produced through an effective and comprehensive single level technical review process throughout product development while verifying that functional, legal, safety, health and environmental requirements are satisfied. This review process will insure that a cost effective solution, while maintaining product requirements, is developed. Technical review will also act as a mechanism to avoid

startovers and redesign efforts, and will assure accountability for the technical quality of the product.

**Independent Technical Review.** The technical review will be coordinated by the PDT and performed at the New Orleans District throughout the course of the study. Based upon cost, technical expertise, and current and projected workload, the technical review for the feasibility study will be conducted by Memphis District resources. The local sponsor (Pontchartrain Levee District) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also be involved in the review process by participating in PDT meetings. These and other agencies, such as EPA, USDA, etc., will also be invited to have a representative on the Technical Review Team.

**Technical Review Team (TRT).** The TRT will be established at the initial stages of the study and will be maintained to the maximum extent possible during the life of the study. At the initial study stages, the TRT will consist of one or more reviewers from each functional area within each discipline, and will consist of existing senior staff that perform other technical work but are not involved in the technical products under review. The TRT will be comprised of the same disciplines on the PDT, and will have experience in the type of analyses in which they are responsible for reviewing. In addition to disciplines such as engineering, environmental, economics, and real estate, we will have representatives from the disciplines of contracting, construction, and operations. This will ensure that the recommended plans developed are consistent with these disciplines.

Each TRT member will be senior or equal in experience to the analyst or production person. The TRT will be responsible for verifying the following: 1) assumptions, 2) methods, procedures, and material used in analyses based on the level of analyses, 3) alternative evaluated is reasonable, 4) appropriateness of data used, and level of data obtained, 5) reasonableness of results, and 6) that products meet sponsor needs and are consistent with law and existing policy. The makeup of the TRT may be modified as the study progresses to match the review requirements.

**ITR Meetings and Concurrence Points.** The ITR will occur during the project with specific concurrence points. Much of this review can be accomplished via email, voice, file transfer, and automated information systems. A web-based review process may be set up to provide the TRT with review packages, track comments and responses, and provide ITR records. Major concurrence points or major resolutions of issues may require meetings. All ITR verifications will occur prior to the release of data and/or final products to another office/division, but may include reviewers and PDT members from other functional areas. These records will either be kept in ProjectWise or in some other electronic based system, such as Dr. Checks.

**Planning Center of Expertise (PCX).** The MVD and a Corps of Engineers PCX, other than the New Orleans District, will be responsible for verifying that the NOD's quality control processes meet the needs and expectations of the customer and that

competent technical resources are utilized throughout the design and review process, as it relates to study ITR. Six PCX's exist throughout the Corps, each with their own primary business program. Review is assigned to the appropriate Corps PCX based on these business programs.

The Amite River and Tributaries, Bayou Manchac feasibility study falls under the PCX business program "Flood Damage Reduction." ITR for studies grouped in this program are performed in the South Pacific Division under the supervision of Mark Charlton. The decision document has only a single purpose; therefore a Planning Advisory Board will not be needed to conduct the review.

**Team Members.** The amount of time it will take to conduct the ITR will depend on the Flood Damage Reduction PCX's workload and schedule. The number of reviewers participating in the ITR Team will also be determined at a later date by the PCX, but should include members with expertise in the following disciplines:

First	Last	Discipline
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Project Management
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Project Engineering
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Economics
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Environmental
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Hydraulics and Hydrology
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Office of Counsel
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Cost Engineering
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Real Estate
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Systems and Programming
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Hydraulics & Hydrology

**External Peer Review (EPR).** This feasibility study does not meet the EPR criteria of EC 1105-2-408. The cost of this project is not expected to exceed \$40 million and therefore its magnitude is determined as low. The study will not contain precedent-setting methods or models, present conclusions that are likely to change prevailing practices, or contain a potential for failure or controversy. Because of the anticipated cost and low magnitude there is a consensus at the District that EPR will not be necessary.

**Quality Control Records.** Quality control records for Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division and Engineering Division products will be maintained in an ITR Appendix, verified and signed by the TRT, and included in the Amite River and Tributaries, Bayou Manchac, LA feasibility report. The package will consist of review comments and a certification checklist. The review comments will summarize the major issues/comments from the ITR along with the response or resolution to each comment. An ITR checklist will also be included within the report as a means of documenting the ITR.

**Public Comment.** The public will have several opportunities to comment both on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as well as the draft feasibility report. A public scoping meeting was held on 15 November 2006 which was the first opportunity for public input. A complete scoping report has been drafted and was given to the ITR team for the review of existing conditions. The public will also have a chance to comment once the draft EIS is completed. After public comment is complete for the draft EIS, and a final version is drafted, public comment will begin on the draft feasibility report. At all times during this process, public comment is given strong consideration by the PDT, local sponsor, and other agencies involved in the feasibility report as well as the ITR and peer review teams.

**Milestones and Schedule:** ITR began in December and is currently underway using the Memphis District. Existing conditions for the hydraulic model are being reviewed with environmental and economics to follow. ITR is scheduled to continue the life of the project with a seamless pattern and will be complete in the first quarter of fiscal year 2010, which will coincide with the completion of the feasibility report.

Milestone	Date
Feasibility Initiation	29 November 2001
ITR Initiation	December 2006
AFB	Fourth Quarter FY08
Draft Feasibility	Second Quarter FY09
Draft Submittal	Third Quarter FY09
Technical review conference	Fourth Quarter FY09
NEPA Public Review	Fourth Quarter FY09
ITR Certification	First Quarter FY10
Final Submittal	First Quarter FY10
CWRB	Second Quarter FY10
MSC Commanders Public Notice	Fourth Quarter FY10