



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

30 May 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, New Orleans District

SUBJECT: Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation, Louisiana, Dredged Material Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Study, Peer Review Plan (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. Subject Peer Review Plan submitted via email, 19 May 2008.

2. I approve the subject PRP and concur in the conclusion that independent external peer review (IEPR) of this project is necessary for the following reasons: (1) there is potential for controversy to surface during the public review period, (2) lessons learned on this project, and especially those regarding the Beneficial Use (BU) program, would be better leveraged across a broader group of agencies and stakeholders, (3) Consistent with BU interests, IEPR would assist in bringing attention to BU objectives in determining the Federal Standard for the project. The proposed PRP has been coordinated with the National Deep Draft Navigation Planning Center of Expertise (DDN-PCX) and concurred in by the DDN-PCX. The PRP complies with all applicable policy and provides an adequate independent technical review of the plan formulation, engineering and environmental analysis, and other aspects of the plan development. Non-substantive changes to this PRP do not require further approval.

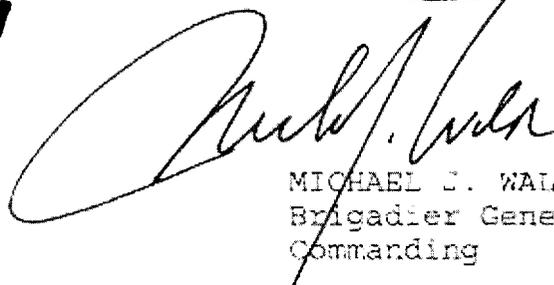
3. The District is required to post the PRP to its web site and provide a link to the DDN-PCX for their use. Before posting to the web site, you are required to remove the names of Corps/Army employees in accordance with reference 1.b. above.

CEMVD-PD-N

SUBJECT: Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation, Louisiana, Dredged
Material Management Plan/Supplemental Environmental Impact
Statement Study, Peer Review Plan (PRP)

4. The MVD point of contact is Mr. [REDACTED], CEMVD-PD-N,
[REDACTED]

Encl



MICHAEL C. WALSH
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

CF:

CEFSAM-PD-FE (ATTN: [REDACTED])
CECW-CP



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

Peer Review Plan

***Calcasieu River and Pass, LA
Dredged Material Management Plan and
Supplemental Environmental Impact
Statement***

***May 2008
Revised June 2008***

This document provides the Peer Review Plan (PRP) for the Calcasieu River and Pass Dredged Material Management Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DMMP/SEIS) project. The basis for the PRP is Engineering Circular 1105-2-408 dated 31 May 2005 "Peer Review of Decision Documents", which establishes procedures to ensure the quality and credibility of Corps decision documents by adjusting and supplementing the review process and requires that documents have a peer review plan.

1) Project Description

- a) **Decision Document.** The Calcasieu River and Pass Project is an existing Federally authorized project that is not seeking any new authorizations. The purpose of the DMMP/SEIS study is for the Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (MVN) to develop a 20-year DMMP for the placement of material dredged for the maintenance of the Calcasieu Ship Channel. The actions and strategies set for in the DMMP/SEIS would provide for the management of materials dredged through operations and maintenance of the ship channel and berthing areas for a period of 20 years while updating and redefining the base plan/Federal Standard for the project. Preparation of the DMMP/SEIS will enable MVN to comply with the requirement of ER 1105-2-100 to prepare a DMMP for each Federally authorized navigation channel.
- b) **General Site Description.** The Calcasieu River and Pass DMMP/SEIS study area is located in southwest Louisiana in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes, extending from Lake Charles, Louisiana, southward into the Gulf of Mexico. The existing Calcasieu River and Pass Project provides deep-draft navigation access to oil refineries, chemical plants, liquefied natural gas plants, and other facilities along the Calcasieu River. The study area includes this navigation channel and the areas adjacent to them that would potentially be used as a disposal location for the material dredged from the channel. The local sponsor for the Calcasieu River and Pass is the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District (LCHTD).
- c) **Problems and Opportunities.** The Calcasieu Ship Channel does not have adequate dredged material disposal capacity needed to maintain the channel to authorized dimensions. The proposed action is to develop a plan to provide for the placement of sediment dredged from the Calcasieu River and Pass project. The plan will identify means for the management and disposal of dredged material to enable the channel to be maintained at its authorized dimensions for at least the next 20 years.
- d) **Project Delivery Team.** The project delivery team (PDT) is comprised of those individuals directly involved in the development of the decision document. Disciplines are listed in the table below.

DISCIPLINE
Project Management
Project Management
Economics
Waterways
Geotechnical
Systems & Programming
Relocations
Project Engineering
Real Estate
Cost Engineering
Surveys
Environmental
H&H Branch
Sponsor
Office of Counsel
Operations Division
Engineering

- 2) **Quality Control.** Quality control planning for the DMMP/SEIS is based upon applicable guidance from higher authority including the Engineering Circular 1105-2-408 titled: Peer Review of Decision Documents dated May 31, 2005, Report of the Task Force on Technical Review, dated December 1994, and CELMV-ET memorandum of 23 September 1995, subject: Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Directorate of Engineering and Technical Services, Quality Control and Quality Assurance Guidance. The DMMP/SEIS peer review plan was developed to insure that high quality products are produced within MVN. The plan establishes the policies, procedures, and organizational responsibilities for providing quality control of planning products for this project.

Technical review for the study will consist of Agency Technical Review (ATR) conducted by the Deep Draft Navigation Planning Center of Expertise (DDNPCX) and Independent External Peer Review (IEPR). In addition, the report will be reviewed by MVN Office of Counsel and Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) prior to being released for public review to insure consistency with Corps policy. The quality control reviews conducted by DDNPCX and IEPR, quality assurance implementation by MVN, and policy reviews conducted by MVD and MVN Office of Counsel, will complement each other as a seamless review process that identifies and resolves technical and policy issues during the course of the study.

- 3) **Peer Review.** The DMMP/SEIS will be developed by a Contractor in close coordination with the Project Delivery Team (PDT). Peer review of all technical products will be conducted throughout the development of the DMMP/SEIS by the PDT. The local sponsor will also be involved in the review process by participating in Project Delivery Team (PDT) meetings. In terms of technical expertise and project familiarity, the PDT has a vast amount of experience and capability in order to conduct peer-level review for the Calcasieu River and Pass DMMP/SEIS study. The Peer Review Team (i.e., PDT) will be responsible for verifying: 1) assumptions, 2) methods, procedures, and material used in analyses based on the level of analyses, 3) alternatives evaluated are reasonable, 4) appropriateness of data used, and level of data obtained, and 5) reasonableness of results.
- 4) **Agency Technical Review (ATR).** ATR will consist of a single level study review performed outside MVN. ATR will be completed prior to completion of public review.
- i) *Planning Center of Expertise (PCX).* The Calcasieu River and Pass DMMP study will be assigned to DDNPCX headed by the Deputy Director, (251) 694-3884.
- ii) *Agency Technical Review Team (ATRT).* The ATRT 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. Each ATRT member will be senior or equal in experience to the analyst or production person. Consistent with recent Corps guidance, the ATRT member for cost engineering will be obtained through the Walla Walla District. The review team should consist of members with expertise in the following disciplines:

DISCIPLINE
Economics
Environmental
Cultural Resources
Recreational Resources
Project Management
Hydraulic Engineering
Civil Engineering - cost
Geotechnical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Civil Engineering – Projects
Civil Engineering - Operations
Real Estate – Acquisition and Leasing
Real Estate – Appraisal
Office of Counsel

iii) *DrChecks*. ATR of this decision document will be conducted using the online DrChecks system (www.projnet.org). Use of DrChecks will document all ATR comments, responses, and associated resolution accomplished throughout the study delivery process.

iv) *Milestones and Schedule*: ATR will be conducted throughout the majority of the study life. Following are project schedule milestones:

Milestone	Date
PPA Execution	FEB 2009
Initiate Study	JAN 2005
Initiate ATR	NOV 2006
Conduct Technical Review Conference	FEB 2008
Submit Draft to ATR	FEB 2008
Submit Draft to MVD for Review	MAY 2008
Complete ATR	JUN 2008
Initiate IEPR Review	JUN 2008
Finalize Draft	JUL 2008
MVD Release of Draft for Public Filing	JUL 2008
Initiate NEPA Public Review of Draft	JUL 2008
Complete NEPA Public Review of Draft	SEP 2008
Complete IEPR Review	SEP 2008
Address Public and IEPR Comments	SEP 2008
Submit Final to MVD for Review	SEP 2008
MVD Release of Final for Publishing	OCT 2008
Complete Agency Review	NOV 2008

v) *Planning Models*: The study will use the two-dimensional TABS-MD suite of models, a two-dimensional hydrodynamics model RMA2 and the convection-diffusion model SED2D that uses RMA2 hydrodynamics as input. These models are certified, therefore no model certification will be necessary.

a) **Independent External Peer Review (IEPR)**. The DMMP/SEIS study is for a federally authorized project that is not seeking Congressional authorization. The study is not anticipated to contain precedent-setting methods or models, or to present conclusions that are likely to change prevailing practices, but the DMMP/SEIS will redefine the Federal standard for the placement of dredged material along the Calcasieu River to include beneficial use sites. Although the Calcasieu River and Pass DMMP/SEIS is not currently considered controversial or precedent setting and coordination with the resource agencies has been ongoing for 2 years, there is the potential for controversy to surface during public review regarding the beneficial use sites. Potential controversy also exists in landowner concerns, Local Sponsor acquisition of disposal easements, and the potential for risk of CDF dike failure if implementation of the DMMP/SEIS does not occur. Should there be a challenge filed, an independent look at the project through IEPR

would help to validate the recommended plan and sufficiency of the DMMP/SEIS. If IEPR is conducted, lessons learned on this project, and especially on the beneficial use component, would be better leveraged across a broader cross section of the Federal, state and local stakeholders. The independent review of the project through IEPR will validate that the study has been developed in compliance with the Corps regulations and policies. Consistent with the objectives set forth at the Beneficial Use Summit in New Orleans (March 2008), IEPR would assist in the bringing attention to the incorporation of BU into the Federal Standard for this project. It is for these reasons that MVN recommends that IEPR be performed on this project.

MVN will coordinate with the PCX for deep Draft Navigation, Mr. [REDACTED] of Mobile District, to obtain a task order with Battelle to initiate IEPR in the early June time frame. Mr. [REDACTED] will coordinate with Battelle to determine resource availability to conduct the IEPR on the entire project with a special focus on the beneficial use portion of the project. IEPR will be scaled appropriately and is anticipated to cost between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

b) Public Involvement. The public will have several opportunities to comment on the study through a public involvement plan implemented through a notice of study initiation, public meetings, and workshops. This will give the Corps the opportunity to exchange information with the public and insure that individuals with an inherent interest in the study are identified and contacted, thereby allowing them to voice their views and concerns relative to the study process and outcome.

Public meetings and workshops will be conducted throughout the study to gather and provide feedback from the public, formulate a consensus, and generally keep interested parties informed.