



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: Calcasieu River Basin Flood Control Project (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: Calcasieu River Basin Flood Control Project (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

Peer Review

Calcasieu River Basin, LA

May 2007

Revised October 2007

1) Project Description

- a) **Decision Document.** This document outlines the peer review plan for the Calcasieu River Basin Flood Control project. EC 1105-2-408 dated 31 May 2005 “Peer Review of Decision Documents” 1) establishes procedures to ensure the quality and credibility of Corps decision documents by adjusting and supplementing the review process and 2) requires that documents have a peer review plan. The Circular applies to all feasibility studies and reports and any other reports that lead to decision documents that require authorization by Congress. This Feasibility Report will lead to Congressional Authorization and is therefore covered by the Circular. The Calcasieu River Basin, Calcasieu Parish, LA feasibility study addresses flooding and stream restoration issues associated with the Basin in Calcasieu Parish. The Calcasieu River is the major drainage way within Calcasieu Parish. The adjacent properties are being developed for residential, commercial, and industrial use. The feasibility phase of this project is cost shared 50/50 with the project sponsor, the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury. This study will develop alternative plans for addressing flooding problems and stream restoration for the Calcasieu River Basin, for the evaluation and screening of those plans, and for the development of a plan to be recommended for implementation as a Federal project.

- b) **General Site Description.** The Calcasieu River Basin is located in southwestern Louisiana in Calcasieu Parish. The study area for this feasibility study is Calcasieu Parish (specifically the southwest portion of Lake Charles (Oak Park), Bayou Contraband, Prien Lake Channel and Henderson Bayou, Hippolyte Coulee, Black Bayou, Bayou Choupique, Bayou d’Inde, and Kayouchee Coulee).

- c) **Project Scope.** The Calcasieu River Basin project will include all the necessary requirements to complete a feasibility study of the flooding problems and stream restoration needs in the drainage districts listed above. Additionally, the completed project management plan provides for the development and selection of the alternative plan that reasonably maximizes net economic development benefits, along with the assessment of the environmental and social effects of the selected plan. At present, construction costs have not been developed, but are estimated to be below \$40 million

- d) **Project Delivery Team.** The project delivery team (PDT) is comprised of those individuals directly involved in the development of the decision document. Contact information and disciplines are listed below.

Last	First	Discipline	Phone Number	Office Symbol	Org. Code
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Project Management	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Project Management	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Economics	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

		Waterways				
		Geotechnical				
		Systems & Programming				
		Relocations				
		Project Engineering				
		Real Estate				
		Cost Engineering				
		Surveys				
		Environmental				
		H&H Branch				

- 2) **Quality Control.** This quality plan was developed to insure that high quality products are produced within the New Orleans District. This plan establishes the policies, procedures, and organizational responsibilities for providing quality control of planning products for this project.

The quality control plan (QCP) for the Calcasieu River Basin feasibility study provides a technical review mechanism insuring that quality products are developed during the course of the study by the New Orleans District (MVN). The technical review of the feasibility study will consist of In House Review and Independent Technical Review. An additional level of policy review for the Calcasieu River Basin 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, will complement each other producing a seamless review process that identifies and resolves technical and policy issues during the course of the study.

Technical review will assure accountability for the technical quality of the product. Each technical review objective in the QCP will be satisfied through a seamless review process performed inside the MVN (In House Review), outside the NOD (Internal Technical Review), MVD (quality assurance of technical products), and HQUSACE (policy review). The quality control plan 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.

- 3) **Peer Review.** Based upon cost, technical expertise, and current and projected workload, the on-going review process for The Calcasieu River Basin feasibility study will be conducted by the New Orleans District in conjunction with another District with flood risk management experience. The local sponsor will also be involved in the review process by participating in Project Delivery Team (PDT) meetings. In terms of technical expertise, the New Orleans District has a vast amount

of experience and capability in order to produce a quality product for the Calcasieu River Basin feasibility study given the similarity to numerous other flood reduction projects constructed throughout the New Orleans District. Peer Review Teams (PRT) will be responsible for verifying; 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, and 5) reasonableness of results

a) **Independent Technical Review (ITR).** ITR will consist of a single level study review performed outside the New Orleans District by the Planning Center of Expertise of another District.

i) *Planning Center of Expertise (PCX).* The Calcasieu River Basin feasibility study primarily falls under the PCX business program “Flood Risk Management.” ITR for studies grouped in this program are performed under the supervision of [REDACTED] of the South Pacific Division (415) 503 6572. The ITR will be performed by another Corps district in coordination with the PCX and MVD. These potential reviewers may include nominations from scientific or professional societies, if the Center so chooses.

ii) *Independent Technical Review Team (ITRT).* ITRT members will be nominated based on competence in the same disciplines as the PDT. Each team member will have experience in the type of analyses in which they are responsible for reviewing and will be senior or equal in experience to the analyst or production person. Consistent with recent Corps guidance, the ITR team member for cost engineering will be obtained through the Walla Walla District. The number of reviewers participating in the ITR should include members with expertise in the following disciplines:

DISCIPLINE
Economics
Environmental
Cultural Resources
Recreational Resources
Project Management
Hydraulic Engineering
Civil Engineering
Geotechnical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Cost Engineering
Design Services
Realty Specialist
Appraisals and Planning
Acquisitions and Leasing

- iii) *DrChecks*. ITR of this decision document will be conducted using the online DrChecks system (www.projnet.org). Use of DrChecks will document all ITR comments, responses, and associated resolution accomplished throughout the study delivery process.
- iv) **Milestones and Schedule:** The amount of time it will take to conduct the ITR will depend on the Flood Risk Management PCX workload and schedule. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Milestone	Date
FCSA Execution	May 05
ITR Initiation	April 08
AFB	Fourth Quarter FY08
Draft Report	Second Quarter FY08
Draft Submittal	Second Quarter FY09
Technical review conference	If Needed Second Quarter FY09
NEPA Public Review	Third Quarter FY09
ITR Certification	Third Quarter FY09
Final Submittal	Third Quarter FY09
CWRB	Fourth Quarter FY09
MSC Commanders Public Notice	Fourth Quarter FY09

- v) *Planning Models:* The Study will be using certified HEC-HMS and HEC-RAS models for the H&H portion of the project, therefore no ITR of the models being used will be necessary.
- b) **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. Therefore the district and division believe that no formal EPR is necessary,
- c) **Public Involvement.** The public will have several opportunities to comment on the feasibility 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 allowing them to voice their views and concerns relative to the study process.

Public meetings and workshops will be conducted to gather and provide feedback from the public, formulate a consensus, and generally keep interested parties informed. A public meeting will be scheduled subsequent to the public release of

the draft feasibility report and environmental assessment to present the study conclusions. Throughout the study other public meetings and workshops will be held as necessary.

Although all comments will not be provided to the ITR team, significant and relevant public comments will have been addressed by In House Review prior to ITR submittal. Any major changes in the study resulting from these comments, and all pertinent comments, will be made available to the PCX.