



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

News Release

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Corps' ongoing search for clay results in four possible borrow sites

Environmental document analyzes impacts of sites in Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines parishes

NEW ORLEANS – The Corps is continuing its search for suitable clay material to build earthen levees in the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Individual Environmental Report 25, titled “Government Furnished Borrow Material #3, Multiple Parishes,” identifies four sites which may contain material appropriate for use in the system. The environmental document was released today for a 30-day public review. Comments on IER 25 must be submitted to the Corps by 5 p.m., on Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009.

“The New Orleans District has effectively identified borrow material to use in construction projects scheduled through 2009,” said Soheila Holley, senior project manager of the borrow team. “The sites identified in IER 25 will be used to construct stronger earthen levees in the New Orleans area.”

IER 25 analyzes four potential government furnished borrow areas in Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines Parish. The sites are:

- Westbank D, 56 acres, Jefferson Parish
- Westbank E Phase 1 and Phase 2, 172 acres total, Jefferson Parish
- Stumpf Phase 1 and Phase 2, 815 acres total, Orleans Parish
- Tac Carrere, 27 acres, Plaquemines Parish

To be approved as a Government Furnished borrow area, a landowner must sign a right-of-entry form allowing the Corps to access his or her property to conduct soil testing, environmental testing, and other site analyses. The Corps may also secure access to investigate potential borrow areas through a non-federal partner. If the land and soil are deemed suitable, the necessary rights will be secured to allow the Corps to begin excavating suitable borrow material from the property.

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Initial investigations of the four potential borrow areas evaluated in IER 25 show that all or portions of the areas may be excavated to obtain suitable borrow material for construction of the HSDRRS. Potential borrow areas identified in IER 25 are currently under geotechnical investigation and could be rejected because of the presence of unsuitable soils.

The Corps currently needs approximately 75 million cubic yards of suitable borrow material to complete 350 miles of earthen levees and floodwalls throughout five parishes in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

The Corps mailed notices that IER 25 was available for review to parties who previously indicated their interest in reviewing the document. IER 25 can be downloaded at www.nolaenvironmental.gov, or a physical copy can be sent upon request.

Alternative arrangements allow the Corps to expedite the environmental process required of all federally funded projects while fully complying with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Corps encourages the public to provide written comments on IER 25 by mail, e-mail or by visiting www.nolaenvironmental.gov at any time throughout the comment period.

Questions or comments concerning proposed hurricane and storm damage risk reduction projects should be addressed to:

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For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list, please visit the following Web site: www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

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