



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division
Environmental Planning
and Compliance Branch

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Orleans Parish Pump Station Stormproofing Activities

EA #474

Description of Proposed Action. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, proposes stormproofing activities for 22 Orleans Parish pump stations, the Carrollton Frequency Changer Building, the Old River Intake Station, the New River Intake Station, and the Carrollton Water Plant and Power Complex. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide flood, hurricane, and storm damage risk reduction by helping to ensure pump station operation for the east and west banks of urbanized areas of Orleans Parish during, and immediately following large tropical storm events, and to provide safe refuge for Orleans Parish employees responsible for the operation and maintenance of the forced drainage system (i.e., pump operators).

The stormproofing activities of the proposed action vary for each facility but include: building hardening, elevated control rooms, modified roof structures, enhanced water intrusion and protection, protecting and enhancing electrical power production equipment, backup generators, underground ductbank for electrical lines, perimeter wall barriers, elevated generator buildings, pump replacement, installation of water wells to supply backup water for equipment cooling and lubrication, and other mechanical, electrical, and miscellaneous protection features (all as fully described in the EA).

This amended EA includes additional information and analysis of the construction sequencing plan not included in the EA originally released on April 17, 2009. The amended portions are highlighted in yellow.

Factors Considered in Determination. This office has assessed the impacts of the proposed action on significant resources, including non-wetland/upland resources, wildlife, endangered or threatened species, cultural resources, recreational resources, aesthetics, noise, air quality, social and economic resources and transportation. No significant adverse impacts were identified for any of the significant resources. The risk of encountering HTRW is low. No impacts were

identified that would require compensatory mitigation. By a facsimile dated July 24, 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species. In a letter dated January 5, 2009 the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources concurred with the determination that the proposed action is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. A Water Quality Certificate was not required. A Section 404(b)(1) Public Notice and a Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation were not required because no work would impact wetlands or waters of the United States. In a letter dated January 5, 2009 the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with a recommendation of no effect on historic properties. This office has concurred with, or resolved, all Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act recommendations contained in a Coordination Act Report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dated December 8, 2008.

Environmental Design Commitments. The following commitments are an integral part of the proposed action:

- 1) By a fax letter dated December 8, 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service confirmed that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species. The Corps and its contractors shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of manatees in the area, and the need to avoid collision with these animals. All construction personnel shall be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The Contractors shall be held responsible for any manatee harmed, harassed, or killed as a result of construction activities not conducted in accordance with these specifications.
- 2) The USFWS Coordination Act Report dated December 08, 2008 recommends that any proposed change in the proposed project features, locations or plans that would impact fish and wildlife habitat and/or wetlands shall be coordinated in advance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- 3) The USFWS Coordinated Act Report dated December 8, 2008 also recommends that if the proposed project has not been constructed within 1 year or if changes are made to the proposed project, the Corps should reinitiate Endangered Species Act consultation with the Service to ensure that the proposed project would not adversely affect any federally threatened or endangered species or their habitat.
- 4) If any unrecorded cultural resources are determined to exist within the proposed project boundaries, then no work will proceed in the area containing these cultural resources until a CEMVN-PM-RN archeologist has been notified and final coordination with the SHPO and THPO has been completed.
- 5) To minimize potential impacts to air quality, contractors would be instructed to conduct proper and routine maintenance of all vehicles and other equipment. These actions ensure that emissions would be within the design standards of all construction equipment. Contractors would be instructed to conduct proper and routine maintenance of all vehicles and other equipment.

These actions ensure that emissions would be within the design standards of all construction equipment. Dust suppression methods would be implemented to minimize fugitive dust emissions. Additionally, all construction equipment and vehicles would be required to be kept in good operating condition to minimize exhaust emissions.

Public Involvement. The proposed action has been coordinated with appropriate Federal, state, and local agencies and businesses, organizations, and individuals through distribution of Environmental Assessment #474 (EA #474) for their review and comment. EA #474 is attached hereto and made a part of this FONSI.

Conclusion. This office has assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action. Based on this assessment, a review of the comments made on EA #474, and the implementation of the environmental design commitments listed above, a determination has been made that the proposed action would have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

6-16-2009
Date

Alvin B. Lee
Alvin B. Lee
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander