

January 31, 2006

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

Ms. Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Cultural Development
Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804

Date: <u>2/21/06</u>
No known archaeological sites or historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.
Pam Breaux: <u>Pam Breaux</u> State Historic Preservation Officer

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The New Orleans District is planning a project to be performed under PL84-99 to repair the drainage stations in Jefferson Parish. Corps of Engineers repairs include repairs to equipment and buildings.

Repair is necessary to return the system to adequate functioning and reduce the immediate threat to life and property. Planned rehabilitation will return to the system to a pre-storm condition and level of protection. While the next Atlantic hurricane storm season will begin on 1 June 2006, significant rainfall can occur at any time.

Our research and discussions with the Jefferson Parish Department of Drainage indicates that the drainage stations were constructed at various times from the 1920s to the 1980s.

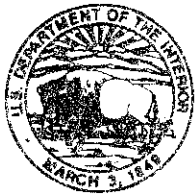
The Hero pumping station dates back to the early 1920s and contains 2 Albert Baldwin Wood screw pumps. The pumps were not damaged and require no repairs. The building has no characteristics that would qualify it for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The roof on the building will be repaired as will the aluminum cable tray covering.

The other stations became operational in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s (Bonnabel, 1986; Suburban, 1970; Elmwood, 1981; Duncan, 1986; Ames, 1985; Bayou Segnette No. 1, 1962; Cousins No. 1 1972; Cousins No. 2, 1985; Estelle No. 1, 1962; Harvey, 1986; Hero, early 1920s; Planters, 1973; Lake Cataouche No. 2, 1985; Whitney Baratavia, 2005; Westwego No. 1, 1969; and Westwego No. 2, 1985. These buildings are of standard industrial construction of a steel frame with metal skin. The buildings have no characteristics that would make them eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The pumps are standard pumps with no characteristics that would make them eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Future Conditions with No Action

Without implementation of the proposed action, the pumping stations of Jefferson Parish will remain in a diminished state of integrity and will not provide adequate protection against flooding and storm surge to the residents and resources of Jefferson Parish. Without restoration of the pumping stations, a future storm could have a severely adverse impact on cultural resources of Jefferson Parish.

Future Conditions with the Proposed Action



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

646 Cajundome Blvd.

Suite 400

Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

December 8, 2008



Colonel Alvin B. Lee
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Lee:

Please reference the storm proofing of drainage pump stations (DPS) within Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. Those project features are being conducted in response to Public Law 109-234, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Supplemental 4). That law authorized the Corps of Engineers (Corps) to upgrade some existing hurricane protection projects to provide protection against a 100-year hurricane event. This report contains an analysis of the impacts on fish and wildlife resources that would result from the implementation of storm proofing of DPS and provides recommendations to minimize and/or mitigate project impacts on those resources.

The proposed project was authorized by Supplemental 4 which instructed the Corps to proceed with engineering, design, and modification (and construction where necessary) of the hurricane protection projects so those projects would provide 100-year hurricane protection. Procedurally, project construction has been authorized in the absence of the report of the Secretary of the Interior that is required by Section 2(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). In this case, the authorization process has precluded the normal procedures for fully complying with the FWCA. The FWCA requires that our Section 2(b) report be made an integral part of any report supporting further project authorization or administrative approval. Therefore, to fulfill the coordination and reporting requirements of the FWCA, the Service will be providing post-authorization 2(b) reports for each IER.

This draft report incorporates and supplements our FWCA Reports that addressed impacts and mitigation features for the West Bank and Vicinity (WBV) of New Orleans (dated November 10, 1986, August 22, 1994, November 15, 1996, and June 20, 2005) and the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) (dated July 25, 1984 and January 17, 1992) Hurricane Protection projects and the November 26, 2007 Draft Programmatic FWCA Report that addresses the hurricane protection improvements authorized in Supplemental 4. However, this report does not

constitute the report of the Secretary of the Interior as required by Section 2(b) of the FWCA. This report has been provided to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); their comments will be incorporated into our final report.

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA

Orleans Parish is located in southeast Louisiana in the metropolitan New Orleans area. It is bounded by the parishes of St. Tammany (north), St. Bernard (east), Plaquemines (south), and Jefferson (south and west). Lake Pontchartrain, part of which is included in the city limits, lies to the north, and Lake Borgne lies to the east. Jefferson Parish is located in southeast Louisiana and contains part of the metropolitan New Orleans area. The Mississippi River divides urban Jefferson Parish into an east bank (located north and east of the Mississippi River), and west bank (located south and west of the Mississippi River).

High rainfall amounts during short periods of time are typical of tropical storms, and have the potential to flood much of the low-lying areas of Orleans and Jefferson Parishes (with an average elevation of approximately 5 feet below sea level, and ranging from as high as -12 feet near the Mississippi River to -9 feet) in the absence of the full operation of the forced drainage system. Because of this situation, the area relies upon forced drainage (pumps) to remove excess water during storm events.

Storm water runoff collects in a grid of lateral canals that connect to major outfall canals running throughout the project area. Water flow in lateral canals can move in different directions depending on the rainfall patterns and available pump station capacities. Diesel powered and hydraulic pumps drain the outfall canals. Water is pumped from the outfall canal into adjacent water bodies including Lake Pontchartrain on the east bank and several tidal estuaries on the west bank. Pump operators are needed to run and maintain pumps and associated components and to remove trash and debris that can clog pump intakes. The system's pumping capacity is over 29 billion gallons a day. The flow rate is over 45,000 cubic feet per second. The drainage network includes approximately 90 miles of open canals and 90 miles of subsurface canals.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The Service provided a draft programmatic FWCA Report for the hurricane protection project on November 26, 2007. The Service also provided a letter, dated August 7, 2006, addressing threatened and endangered species for the coastal parishes of the New Orleans District. Those reports contain a thorough discussion of the significant fish and wildlife resources (including those habitats) and threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat that occur within the study area. For brevity, those discussions are incorporated by reference herein.

Habitat types found at the DPS sites include open water and developed areas. Due to urban development and a forced-drainage system with the levee system, the hydrology of the area has been altered. The forced-drainage system has been in operation for many years, and subsidence

is evident throughout the area. Developed habitats in the study area include residential and commercial areas, as well as roads and existing levees. Those habitats do not support significant wildlife use.

Open-water habitat within the project area consists of drainage canals in Jefferson and Orleans parishes. These canals are man made features created for control of storm water run-off. The network of these structures illustrates the highly manipulated hydrology of the project area. The canals in the project area do not support significant fishery or wildlife resources. In the future, the habitat value of those canals is not expected to change.

DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED PLAN

The proposed action in Orleans Parish consists of storm proofing twenty-two (22) DPS, the Carrollton Frequency Changer Building, the Old River Intake Station, the New River Intake Station, and the Carrollton Water Plant and Power Complex. The Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) is responsible for the water and drainage systems for Orleans Parish. The Orleans Parish Storm Proofing Description of Work Elements Document assessed each DPS, including operator room improvements, structural improvements, leakage removal, wind proofing, electrical improvements, mechanical improvements, and utility improvements. The document identified numerous storm proofing measures, which include, but are not limited to, building hardening, elevated control rooms, modified roof structures, enhanced water intrusion and protection, protecting and enhancing electrical power production equipment, backup generators, underground ducts 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. It is anticipated that during the design stage other miscellaneous electrical and mechanical improvements may be required.

This proposed project in Jefferson Parish involves storm proofing up to a total of 21 existing pump stations and associated structures within the Hurricane Protection System (HPS) in Jefferson Parish. Each pump station is slightly different and thus different storm proofing activities are proposed for each site. Table 1 contains a summary of the proposed actions for each pump station which are similar to those activities proposed for Orleans Parish.

Storm proofing design criteria were based on the threshold wind speed between the Category 4 and 5 hurricanes on the Saffir-Simpson scale. The design flood level (DFL) was chosen based as the static flood level experienced at each pump station during Hurricane Katrina plus 2 feet of freeboard. The design-build contractors are provided with the selected alternative, general engineering information, and a boundary, which will be used as a basis to submit their design of the proposed action. As a result of this design-build approach, specific design details of the proposed action and construction activities are not complete at this time.

PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed project sites have been located in areas that are developed therefore, impacts to wetlands and fish and wildlife habitat are minimal. Open-water habitats in the project area are enclosed within the hurricane protection projects. These canals may become stagnant except when pumps are operating to remove rain water. The open water habitat in Lake Pontchartrain at the mouths of the canals will be impacted by the pump station structures. Those habitats no longer support significant fish and wildlife use.

There will be no other habitat impacted as a result of the proposed project. As with the future without project, fish and wildlife and their habitats, in the future with project scenario, are expected to remain unchanged because most lands within the project area are developed.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Three threatened or endangered species of concern to this project area include the brown pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), the West Indian manatees (*Trichechus manatus*) and the Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*). However, the location of the project areas does not include habitat utilized by these species.

If project construction has not been initiated within 1 year, follow-up consultation should be accomplished prior to making expenditures for construction. If the scope or location of the proposed work is changed, both threatened and endangered species and FWCA consultation should be reinitiated as soon as such changes are made.

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MEASURES

Coastal wetlands (marsh and forested) are considered by the Service to be aquatic resources of national importance due to their increasing scarcity and high habitat value for fish and wildlife within Federal trusteeship (i.e., migratory waterfowl, wading birds, other migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, and interjurisdictional fisheries). Because the project is not expected to have any adverse impacts to wetlands or other fish and wildlife habitats, the Service has no conservation measures to offer at this time.

SERVICE POSITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There will be no fish and wildlife resources impacted as a result of the proposed project. The Service does not object to the construction of the proposed project provided the following fish and wildlife conservation recommendations are implemented concurrently with project implementation:

1. 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 the Service, NMFS, and LDWF.

2. If the proposed project has not been constructed within 1 year or if changes are made to the proposed project, the Corps should re-initiate Endangered Species Act consultation with the Service to ensure that the proposed project would not adversely affect any federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat.

Sincerely,



James F. Boggs
Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office

cc: CEMVN, HPO, New Orleans, LA
EPA, Dallas, TX
NMFS, Baton Rouge, LA
LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA
LA Dept. of Natural Resources (CMD/CRD), Baton Rouge, LA

Table 1. Summary of the proposed actions at the 21 existing pump stations throughout Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

Pump Station	Louvers										Access	Safe	Climber				
	Frame	Walls	Roof	Windows	Ventilation	NPW System	Trash Rakes	Fuel System	Pumps	Electrical Equipment				Standby Power	House Power	SCADA Systems	CCTV
Bonnabel ^a	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Canal Street ^a	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X
Duncan ^a	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Elmwood No.1 ^a	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Elmwood No.2 ^a	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X						X
Parish Line ^a	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X						X
Suburban No.1 ^c	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Suburban No.2 ^a	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Ames ^c	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X
Bayou Segnette No.1 ^c	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X		X				X
Bayou Segnette No.2 ^a	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X		X
Cataouatche No.1 ^b	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X			X
Cataouatche No.2 ^c	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X						X
Cousins No.1 ^c	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X
Cousins No.2 ^b	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X
Cousins No.3 ^c	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X				X		X
Estelle No.1-1 ^b													X				X
Estelle No.1-2 ^b													X				X
Estelle 2 ^a	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X			X
Harvey ^a	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X
Hero No.1 ^c	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Hero No.2 ^c	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Highway 90 ^b													X				X
Mount Kennedy ^b													X				X
Planters No.1 ^c	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Planters No.2 ^c	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X						X
Westminster ^a	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Westwego No.1 ^c	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X				X
Westwego No.2 ^c	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X						X
Whimsey Baratavia ^c	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X		X

a. Frame, walls, and roof would be reinforced to withstand 165 mph winds b. No structural hardening would be done at these pump stations. c. Frame, walls, and roof would be reinforced to withstand 140 mph winds

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



SCOTT A. ANGELLE
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF COASTAL RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT

February 6, 2009

Elizabeth Wiggins
Chief, Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
Corps of Engineers- New Orleans District
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: **C20080590**, Coastal Zone Consistency
New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers
Direct Federal Action
EA #475 for stormproofing of the interior pump stations in **Jefferson Parish, Louisiana**

Dear Ms. Wiggins:

The above referenced project has been reviewed for consistency with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program in accordance with Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended. The project, as proposed in the application, is consistent with the LCRP. If you have any questions concerning this determination please contact Brian Marcks of the Consistency Section at (225)342-7939 or 1-800-267-4019.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Rives".

Jim Rives
Administrator

JR/JH/bgm

Laura Wilkinson, COE-NOD
Marnie Winter, Jefferson Parish
David Butler, LDWF
Richard Hartman, NMFS
Ismail Mehri, OCPR

James Boggs, USFWS
646 Cajundome Blvd., Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506
Fax: (337) 291-3139

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL # of pages ▶ 2

To <i>Patricia Leroux</i>	From <i>David Walther</i>
Dept./Agency	Phone #
Fax #	Fax #

NSN 7540-01-317-7388 5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Dear Mr. Boggs:

Shortly after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Task Force Guardian (TFG) was tasked with completing repairs to 68 non-Federal pump stations damaged by Hurricane Katrina in the four parishes (Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines) in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area.

An Environmental Assessment (EA), USACE Response to Hurricanes Katrina & Rite in Louisiana, EA #433, assessing the impacts for the pump station rehabilitations, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed on July 24, 2006. Additional EAs are currently being prepared to address the Orleans Pump Station Storm proofing (EA #474), Jefferson Pump Station Storm proofing, (EA #475) and the New Orleans to Venice pump station repair (EA #476).

USACE biologists have determined that no significant impacts to Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species or their critical habitat occurred as a result of the emergency actions taken in 2005, 2006, and 2007. CEMVN Environmental staff assigned to TFG routinely coordinated the actions being taken by TFG with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) liaison to ensure that no T&E species or their critical habitat was significantly impacted as a result of the actions taken. Per a letter dated May 23, 2006, the USFWS concurred that these actions were not likely to adversely affect any T&E species. Since it has been more than one year since this concurrence, we ask for your renewed concurrence on that portion of the pump station repair work not yet completed.

Although many of pump stations repairs were completed in 2006 and 2007, rehabilitation and repairs of pump stations is still ongoing in Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes. Detailed descriptions of the rehabilitations for each pump station scheduled to be ongoing in 2008 can be found in Attachment 1. CEMVN would like to request that USFWS review the proposed rehabilitation actions first documented in EA #433 and renew the concurrence that no T&E species or their critical habitats would be adversely impacted by the proposed actions because work is projected to be ongoing

If you have any questions about the project or need additional information please telephone me at 504-862-1544 or I can be reached via email at Patricia.S.Leroux@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Beth Wiggins, Chief
Environmental Planning & Compliance Branch

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resou
under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered
Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed,
() Will have no effect on those resources
(X) is not likely to adversely affect those resources.
This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the
Act.

[Signature]
Acting Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

7/24/08
Date



"Leroux, Patricia S MVN"
<patricia.leroux@usace.army.mil>
07/23/2008 08:40 AM

To "Walther, David" <david_walther@fws.gov>
cc "Walker, Lee Z MVN-Contractor"
<Lee.Z.Walker@usace.army.mil>
bcc

Subject Pumps Station Stormproofing for Orleans, St. Bernard,
Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish

Good morning David.

Per our conversation, the stormproofing work being performed at the Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson and Plaquemines Parish pump stations is all the work that is known at this time. There may be additional work in performed in the existing Right of Way in the future.

Thank you very much for your assistance and should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Best regards,

Patricia S. Leroux
Environmental Resource Specialist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
504-862-1544

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed,
() Will have no effect on those resources
(X) Is not likely to adversely affect those resources.
This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.
Acting Supervisor _____ Date 7/24/08
Louisiana Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

February 14, 2007

Execution Support Branch
Paul J. Hughbanks

Ms. Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
Office of Cultural Development
1051 North Third Street, Room 405
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The Hurricane Protection Office (HPO) of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is studying methods to offer flood protection to certain drainage pumping stations and pump personnel in Jefferson Parish. Following the drainage plans and needs of the Jefferson Parish Drainage Department (JPDD), seven pump stations are being studied for new construction of a "safe house" in close proximity to the existing pumps and buildings.

These seven pump stations are: Catouatche, Westwego #2, Estelle #2, Hero, Planters, Parish Line, and Westminster. Also under study is a fiberoptic connection to remotely operate Parish Line station (from Duncan station) and Westminster station (from Ames station). A map is included to show the location of each of these drainage stations. A map showing the proposed route of the fiberoptic cables is also included; these cables will be planted underground and adjacent to existing canals within JPDD Right-of-Way.

None of these Pumping Stations are considered to be historic resources, as stated in a USACE letter to your office dated January 31, 2006. Your office responded on February 21, 2006 in agreement of no impacts to cultural resources through ongoing repair efforts at these pump stations.

Date: 3-7-07

No known archaeological sites or historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

Pam Breaux: *Pam Breaux*
State Historic Preservation Officer

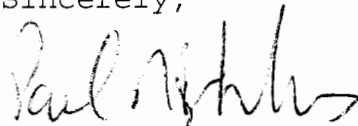
FEB 15 2007

The construction of safe houses at these pump stations is a new activity and will affect new ground, but land immediately adjacent to these pump stations is considered previously disturbed. Similarly, the path of fiberoptic cables will follow land previously disturbed by canal construction and other urban uses. A field visit by HPO archaeologist Paul Hughbanks found no indication or expectation of cultural resources either above ground or below ground at these pump stations or along the proposed route of fiber optic cables.

HPO concludes that construction of safe houses at these drainage pump stations, and placement of fiber optic cables between pump stations, will have no effect on cultural resources. Please review this information and provide your comments as soon as possible.

Please contact me at (504) 862-1100 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Hughbanks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul J. Hughbanks
Archaeologist

Enclosure