



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division
Environmental Planning
and Compliance Branch

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(FONSI)**

Jefferson Parish Pump Station Stormproofing Activities

Environmental Assessment # 475

Description of Proposed Action. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, proposes stormproofing activities for 21 of the existing drainage pump stations in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide flood, hurricane, and storm damage risk reduction to those Jefferson Parish pump stations located on the east and west banks of the Mississippi River in order to ensure station operation during and immediately following tropical storm events.

The project will consist of structural upgrades and reinforcements to existing buildings including roof structures, windows, louvers and doors, enhanced water intrusion prevention, elevation of electrical equipment, establishing backup power, providing protection for existing backup power, enhancing fuel systems and capacities, providing alternative sources of water for equipment maintenance and operations, automating pump station control that allows for remote operation and other miscellaneous protection features.

This amended EA includes additional information and analysis of the construction sequencing plan not included in the EA originally released on April 14, 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. There is a risk of encountering HTRW, as there was evidence of RECs at two pump stations that were greater than *de minimus*. However these will be designated no work zones and be avoided during construction. 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 February 6, 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. In a letter dated February 21, 2006 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 letter 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. HTRW identified RECs in the form of oil drums and other storage containers that showed evidence of spills. While these spills are greater than *de minimus*, they are not believed to pose a significant environmental risk to the subject property. With implementation of the recommended plan, the small spills of diesel fuel and lubricating oil at several pump stations would be avoided. The contaminated area will be marked as a no work zone.
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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fishery Service, and 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.

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 # 475 (EA #475) for their review and comment. EA# 475 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 #475, 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
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District Commander