



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

March 27, 2009

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

TO INTERESTED PARTIES

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District has prepared a final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock (IHNC) Lock Replacement project. The existing IHNC Lock allows for navigation between the higher water surface elevations of the Mississippi River and lower water surface elevations of the IHNC, the eastern reach of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and the remaining authorized portion of the Mississippi River - Gulf Outlet. The original final EIS for the project was prepared in 1997 and was entitled, "Mississippi River - Gulf Outlet, New Lock and Connecting Channels."

The draft Supplemental EIS was provided for public comment and review from October 10, 2008, through January 24, 2009. A public hearing to describe the proposed project and solicit input from the public was held on November 12, 2008, at Martin Luther King, Jr. Charter School, New Orleans, Louisiana. The transcripts from the public meeting and comments received during the public review period are included as Appendix S of the final Supplemental EIS.

The final Supplemental EIS recommends replacement of the existing IHNC Lock with a new deep-draft lock to be constructed north of the Claiborne Avenue Bridge, using the float-in-place construction method. The recommended plan also includes the replacement of the St. Claude Avenue Bridge with a new low-level double-bascule bridge, modifications to the Claiborne Avenue Bridge, an off-site construction area for lock module fabrication, improvements to levees and floodwalls, dredging to accommodate project features, and resumption of a community impact mitigation plan. The recommended plan is the same as the plan recommended in the draft Supplemental EIS.

A detailed human health and risk assessment was conducted to address public comments on the draft Supplemental EIS concerning the placement of dredged material into an upland confined disposal facility. The results of the assessment indicate that there is a low risk of human health and environmental impacts from the proposed plan for disposal of dredged material.

Enclosed for your review are the abstract page and summary section of the final Supplemental EIS. The final Supplemental EIS can be viewed at www.nolaenvironmental.gov. Copies of the final Supplemental EIS are available for viewing at:

- St. Bernard Parish Library, 7701 Judge Perez Dr., Arabi, LA
- Orleans Parish Library Main Branch, 219 Loyola Ave. (3rd Floor), New Orleans, LA
- Martin Luther King Branch Library, 1611 Caffin Ave., New Orleans, LA
- Alvar Library, 913 Alvar St., New Orleans, LA

If you are not able to access the final Supplemental EIS by either of these means, a bound or electronic copy is available upon request. The review period for the final Supplemental EIS ends on May 4, 2009.

Please send all inquiries to Mr. Richard Boe, either by mail, email or FAX. Mr. Boe's address is US Army Corps of Engineers (PM-RP), P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267. Mr. Boe's telephone number is (504) 862-1505, his FAX number is (504) 862-2088, and his email address is richard.e.boe@usace.army.mil.

/S/

Joan Exnicios
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