

**APPENDIX N:**  
**Phase I Environmental Site Assessment**

**Volume III  
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**LCA ARNTM  
Mississippi River Delta, Louisiana  
HTRW Initial Assessment (IA) Documentation**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Coastal Louisiana covers a vast area and consists of a variety of physiographic features such as estuaries, wetlands, rivers, urban areas and flood control structures. In particular, the Atchafalaya Basin, at nearly 1 million acres, is the nation's largest river-swamp system (Demas et al. 2001). Located in south central Louisiana, the system stretches from the river's origin near Simmesport to its termination into the Atchafalaya Bay. It is contained on its east and west borders by flood protection levees. Water flow into the Atchafalaya Basin is controlled at the Old River control structure. The structure diverts approximately 30% of the Mississippi River water down through the Atchafalaya Basin.

The Terrebonne Basin is bordered by Bayou Lafourche on the east, the Atchafalaya Basin floodway on the west, and the Gulf of Mexico on the south. The Terrebonne Basin is an abandoned delta complex characterized by a thick section of unconsolidated sediments that are undergoing dewatering and compaction. The Terrebonne Basin supports about 155,000 acres of swamp and almost 574,000 acres of marsh, grading from fresh marsh inland to brackish and saline marsh near the bays and gulf.

The restoration project to convey Atchafalaya River water to the northern Terrebonne marshes would increase existing Atchafalaya River influence to central (Lake Boudreaux) and eastern (Grand Bayou) Terrebonne marshes via the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

Restoration features may include increasing freshwater flow into the northern Terrebonne marshes through repairing banks along the GIWW, enlarging constrictions within the GIWW, and diverting additional Atchafalaya River freshwater into the Bayou Chene/GIWW system.

A Phase I Environmental Assessment (HTRW Initial Assessment) was conducted to satisfy the requirement of ER-1165-2-132, HTRW Guideline for Civil Works Projects, and to address the impact of any Recognized Environmental Condition (REC's) for the areas designated in the project scope of work. The objective of this Environmental Assessment is to identify, to the extent feasible pursuant to the processes described herein, recognized environmental conditions in connection with the designated target property. Based upon data reviewed and observations made within the project area, this assessment revealed that all of

the potential alternatives for this project have a low to moderate chance in encountering HTRW during the construction phase of this project. However the impact that the construction and subsequent operation of this project has on HTRW is low.

## **ASSESSMENT FINDINGS**

### Summary of Results

HTRW Initial Assessment documentation for the restoration project was prepared on all project features that did not trigger other environmental regulations such as dredging or marsh creation which are covered under either section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), or section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. Or the administrative equivalent of such permits where the work involves an Army Corps of Engineers civil works project, 40 C.F.R. 261.4(g), 63 F.R. 65874, 65921; November 30, 1998. ER1165-2-132 states, dredged material and sediments beneath navigable waters proposed for dredging qualify as HTRW only if they are within the boundaries of a site designated by the EPA or a state for a response action (either a removal or a remedial action) under CERCLA, or if they are a part of a NPL site under CERCLA. In conformance with the scope and limitations of ASTM Practice 1527-05 with exceptions to or deletion from this practice are documented in Section 9.0 of this report.

### Risk Assessment

The environmental professionals who have conducted the site visit and reviewed the results of the data collection effort have concluded that the following are “Recognized Environmental Conditions” which may have the following range of qualitative impacts on the soil and water resources on the subject properties.

<u>Feature</u>	<u>Recognized Environmental Condition</u>	<u>Potential Environmental Impact</u>
CP1	Marked under-canal pipeline located at the target property	Moderate
EC5 & ES2	Known Large Quantity Generator of Hazardous Waste within one-quarter mile (Bollinger Larose, LLC)	Moderate
EC6	Adjacent Property Waste Disposal site (US Liquids)	Moderate
EC7	Pipes carrying unknown contents Above ground tank on adjacent property Adjacent Property Waste Disposal site (US Liquids)	Moderate Moderate Moderate

### 8.3 Recommendations

This assessment has revealed the aforementioned moderate evidence of Recognized Environmental Conditions in connection with five potential features that are included in Alternatives 2 through 5 and Alternative 8. All other features within the alternatives have no to low impact. Based upon the data reviewed and observations made within the immediate areas of the target property coordinates, no further environmental actions are warranted at this time. If further information is needed on the Phase 1 please contact USACE St. Louis District EC-HMQ at 314-865-6311.