

Volume IV

APPENDIX M:

Phase I ESA (HTRW)

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**LCA Small Diversion at Convent/Blind River
Project**

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

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Section 1

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted in a manner consistent with customary practice and in general conformance with the scope and limitations of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Designation E 1527-05, *Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process* (ASTM 1527); ASTM Designation E 2247-08 *Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process for Forestland and Rural Property*, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's All Appropriate Inquiry (AAI) standards Rule, 40 CFR Part 312. The purpose of this ESA is to identify and investigate recognized environmental conditions on the subject property and surrounding properties that may constitute actual or potential sources of environmental risk or liability that may have resulted from past or present land uses, construction activities, site management or operations. Information regarding environmental conditions on the subject property and surrounding properties was obtained from a review of historical aerial photographs and topographic maps, various reports and government record sources, and a site drive-by and walk-through.

As part of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM) performed an ESA of the approximately 36-square mile area designated as the LCA Small Diversion at Convent/Blind River Project (Subject Property). The project area consists of a portion of the Maurepas swamp and the Blind River southwest of Interstate I-10. Included in the project area are two proposed diversion routes between the Mississippi River and Maurepas swamp.

The purpose of the Phase I ESA is to determine the presence of recognized environmental conditions (REC) at the subject property and/or adjoining properties. A REC is defined as "...the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substance or petroleum products on a property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of any hazardous substances or petroleum products into structures on the property or into the ground, ground water, or surface water of the property" (ASTM Standard E-1527-05).

From June 24 - 26, 2009 Mr. Brendan Brown and Matthew Petty of CDM conducted a site visit of the subject property including Maurepas Swamp, the Blind River, and the proposed Romeville diversion route. CDM was not accompanied during these site visits at the subject property. General site visits were conducted in the interior of Maurepas Swamp on the following dates: March 10 & 11, July 7 & 8, August 18 - 20, September 14 - 16, and October 28, 2009. During these general site visits, CDM was accompanied by employees of St. James Parish. Site access agreements had not been obtained for all the properties along the proposed south bridge diversion route at the

time the site visits were conducted. Therefore, site visits were not conducted along this proposed diversion route.

Observations made by CDM during the site visits were noted, and photographs were taken. Photographs are presented in **Appendix A** of this report. Available historical aerial photographs and historical topographic maps are provided in **Appendix B**.

A search of State and Federal environmental databases was conducted by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. (EDR) to obtain information regarding any past or current hazardous waste disposal sites, reported petroleum or hazardous waste releases, listed hazardous waste generation, transportation, storage, or disposal facilities, listed solid waste disposal facilities, and other issues related to reported environmental contamination problems. These database records are included as part of the EDR radius report in **Appendix C**.

The results of this Phase I ESA are based on:

- A review of the subject property operations;
- A walk-through observation of conditions at the subject property;
- A review of environmental regulatory databases searches;
- Interview with available owners of the subject property;
- A review of acquired environmental regulatory agency documents; and
- A review of property ownership information obtained by CDM.

1.2 Limitations and Exceptions

CDM's assessment represents a review of certain information relating to the subject property that was obtained by methods described above and did not include sampling or other monitoring activities at the property. CDM is not able to verify the accuracy or completeness of all data and information obtained during the assessment and some conclusions could be different if the information upon which they are based is determined to be false, inaccurate or incomplete. CDM makes no legal representations whatsoever concerning any matter, including, but not limited to, ownership of any property or the interpretation of any law. CDM further disclaims any obligations to update the report for events taking place after the assessment was conducted. This report is based upon information researched and available to CDM through the date of this report.

The site reconnaissance did not include visiting all areas of the subject property. The subject property is relatively large and includes areas that could not be reasonably accessed. CDM therefore visited areas that were accessible with an automobile or were reasonable and safely accessible by walking. Wetlands were present in most of

the subject property, which did inhibit observations of some portions of the subject property.

1.3 Significant Assumptions

Significant assumptions associated with this ESA include the following:

- On CDM's behalf, EDR conducted a search of federal, state, tribal, and specialty environmental databases for records pertaining to the subject property, and those properties within the required ASTM search distances. CDM assumes that products provided to CDM by EDR are accurate, complete, and can be relied upon for the purposes of this ESA.
- Certain verbal information regarding the subject property was supplied to CDM through interviews with representatives from the owners of the subject property and government agencies as detailed in Section 2. CDM assumes that the information provided is reasonably accurate and can be relied upon for the purposes of this Phase I ESA.

Section 6

Conclusions and Recommendations

This Phase I ESA was performed on the Subject Property, an approximately 36-square mile area designated as the LCA Small Diversion at Convent/Blind River Project to determine the presence of recognized environmental conditions (RECs) at the subject property and/or adjoining properties. The project area consists of a portion of the Maurepas Swamp and the Blind River southwest of Interstate I-10. Included in the project area are two proposed diversion routes (South Bridge and Romeville) between the Mississippi River and Maurepas Swamp. Although preliminary investigations were performed on the properties within the corridors associated with both proposed diversion routes to gather information regarding environmental conditions, only the property owner associated with the Romeville Diversion was contacted for this investigation. Site access agreements had not been obtained for all the properties along the proposed south bridge diversion route as of the date this report was finalized. Therefore, site visits should be conducted along the proposed south bridge diversion route to determine if there are any potential RECs on this property.

The results of this Phase I ESA are based on a review of regulatory environmental databases, a review of the subject property operations, a walk-through observation of conditions at the subject property, interviews with local regulatory officials and representatives of the subject property and the Romeville diversion parcel representative, and a review of property ownership information.

Based upon the information reviewed, no RECs were identified within Maurepas Swamp, the Blind River, or the proposed Romeville diversion route that would be expected to impact the subject property.

Section 7

References

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