



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P. O. BOX 60267

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

JUN 18 2010

Programs and Project Management Division
Protection and Restoration Office

Ms. Barbara Keeler
Coastal & Wetlands Planning Coordinator
Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6 (6WQ-EC)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Ms. Keeler:

This letter is in reference to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), V Line Levee Enlargement contract (WBV-14e.2). The contract is to raise and enlarge the existing levee to provide the 100-year level of risk reduction for National Flood Insurance Program certification of the West Bank Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. This contract is adjacent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) area.

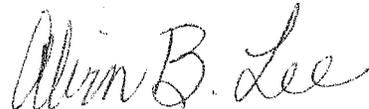
The WBV-14e.2 contract was part of Individual Environmental Reports 12 and 14. The contract was awarded on March 26, 2010; however, on May 3, 2010, we suspended construction activities. This suspension was issued after we were advised by Mr. David Muth of the Jean Lafitte National Park, that the contractor appeared to be ready to begin work on the floodside of the levee. After a review of the plans, the Corps has determined that such work would need additional environmental clearances and could impact the boundary of the Bayou aux Carpes Clean Water Act Section 404(c) area.

Consequently, the Corps is currently reviewing our contract plans and specifications, rights of way documents, environmental compliance documents and the EPA Final Determination for the Bayou aux Carpes area dated 1985. We are committed to take the necessary steps to be in full environmental compliance before the construction of this levee begins. We are looking at the feasibility of a levee redesign that would avoid impacts to wetland areas and the 404(c) area on the floodside of the existing levee.

We request that the EPA provide the Corps a written legal description and map of the boundary of the Bayou aux Carpes jurisdictional area. This will ensure that our coordination and path forward correctly addresses this important area and is documented appropriately.

If you have any questions, or need any additional information, please contact Senior Project Manager, Mrs. Julie Vignes at (504) 862-1058.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alvin B. Lee".

Alvin B. Lee
Colonel, US Army
District Commander

Copies Furnished:

Ms. Susan Maclay
President
Southeast LA Flood Protection Authority – West
Post Office Box 608
Marrero, Louisiana 70072

Mr. Jerry Spohrer
Special Assistant to the President
Southeast LA Flood Protection Authority – West
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Mr. David Muth
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419 Decatur Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-1035