



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

April 9, 2007

Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer
Dept. of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
Division of Historic Preservation
1051 N. Third Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: Request to Initiate Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Lake Ponchartrain and Vicinity (LPV), and the West Bank and Vicinity (WBV) Hurricane Protection Projects, St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes, Louisiana.

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (USACE), is proposing to construct improvements along the existing Lake Ponchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) and the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Projects located in St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, and St. Bernard Parishes, Louisiana. This proposed activity has the potential to cause effects on historic properties.

In response to the need for accelerated schedules, emergency alternative arrangements have been approved in order to expedite project review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Under these alternative arrangements, twenty-one sub-projects have been initially identified within the LPV and WBV project areas. Each sub-project will be studied and reviewed separately as an Interim Environmental Report (IER). Additional information on the Emergency Alternative Arrangements and individual IER's can be found on the District's web page ([HTTP://www.MVN.USACE.Army.Mil](http://www.MVN.USACE.Army.Mil)) under the Hurricane Recovery Links section, Environmental Processes & NEPA Compliance. Project fact sheets and a map showing IER locations are attached herein.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has requested the New Orleans District to execute a programmatic agreement that will establish Section 106 procedures under the alternative arrangements for the LPV and WBV projects. USACE staff recently held meetings with Duke Rivet, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office; Kimberly Walden, Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana; and Kenneth Carleton, Mississippi Band of the Choctaw at their prospective offices and briefed them on project plans, NEPA alternative arrangements, the programmatic agreement, and proposed cultural resources investigations. It was agreed that management summaries prepared in accordance with SHPO standards would be acceptable for

the initial review of cultural resources investigations and for providing comments on USACE determination of effects on historic properties. Draft and final reports incorporating all associated IER cultural resources investigations will be prepared after the IER investigations are complete.

During development of the programmatic agreement and until the programmatic agreement is executed, USACE is initiating standard Section 106 consultation procedures for the LPV and WBV projects. In order to determine if the area of potential effects (APE) established for this federal undertaking contains historic properties, USACE has prepared three draft scopes of work to conduct initial cultural resources investigations in seventeen IER's. These scopes of work are enclosed for your review and comment. Historic structure surveys and assessments will be conducted under separate scopes of work.

Thank you very much for your consideration in this matter. Please contact Mr. Michael Swanda at (504) 862-2036 if you have any questions or require further information.

Sincerely,


for Elizabeth Wiggins
Chief, Environmental Planning
And Compliance Branch

Enclosures

CF: Mississippi Band of the Choctaw, Carleton
Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, Walden
SHPO, Rivet
ACHP, Dwin-Vaughn
ACHP, Eddins
ACHP, Klima