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

Regional Planning and Environmental
Division South
Environmental Planning and
Compliance Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE

**WBV, LAKE CATAOUCHE LEVEE
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA.
IER SUPPLEMENTAL 15.a**

Introduction. This Public Notice is issued in accordance with provisions of Title 33 CFR Parts 336.1(b)(1) and 337.1, which establish policy, practices, and procedures to be followed on federal actions involving the disposal of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Project Authority. The authority for the proposed action was provided as part of a number of hurricane protection projects spanning southeastern Louisiana, including the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) Hurricane Protection Project and the WBV Hurricane Protection Project. Congress and the Administration granted a series of supplemental appropriations acts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to repair and upgrade the project systems damaged by the storms that gave additional authority to the USACE to construct 100-year GNOHSDRRS projects.

The Westwego to Harvey Canal Hurricane Protection Project was authorized by the WRDA of 1986 (P.L. 99-662, Section 401(b)). The WRDA of 1996 modified the project and added the Lake Cataouatche Project and the East of Harvey Canal Project (P.L. 104-303, Section 101(a)(17) & P.L. 104-303, 101(b)(11)). The WRDA 1999 combined the three projects into one project under the current name (P.L. 106-53, Section 328).

The Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act of 2006 (3rd Supplemental - P.L. 109-148, Chapter 3, Construction, and Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies) authorized accelerated completion of the project and restoration of project features to design elevations at 100% Federal cost. The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery of 2006 (4th Supplemental - P.L. 109-234, Title II, Chapter 3, Construction, and Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies) authorizes construction of a 100-year level of protection; the replacement or reinforcement of floodwalls; and the construction of levee armoring at critical locations. Additional Supplemental Appropriations include the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 H.R. 2206 (pg. 41-44) Title IV, Chapter 3, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies, (5th Supplemental), General Provisions, SEC. 4302.

Location. The proposed pipeline relocation and new access road is located in Jefferson Parish (figure 1).

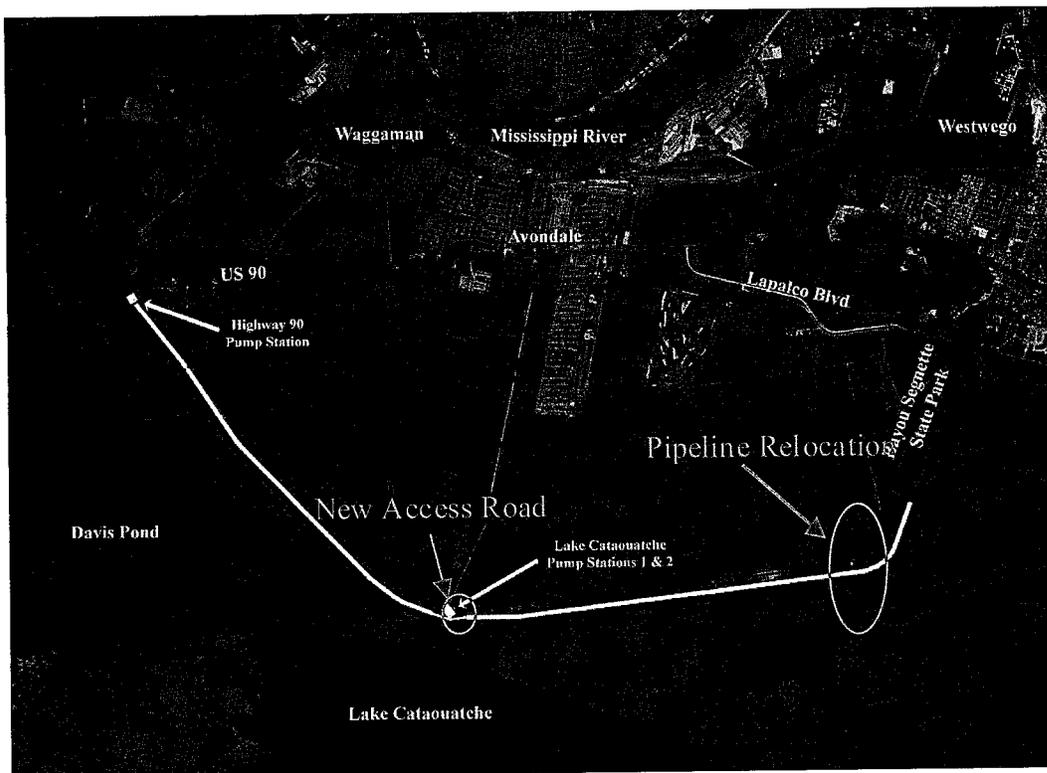


Figure 1. IERS 15.a propose actions within the WBV Lake Cataouatche project area.

Project Description. The USACE approved a final IER 15 on June 12, 2008 as part of the USACE Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System project. At the time of completion of the original IER 15 report, engineering designs had not been finalized for all of the actions and alternatives. Since that time, final engineering details and additional required actions (e.g., pipeline relocation) have been determined. The proposed action would be instrumental in providing 100-year level of risk reduction for Jefferson and St. Charles Parishes, Louisiana. The proposed action was developed to ensure the most engineeringly feasible, least damaging, and cost effective alternative would be brought forward for construction

Oil/Gas Pipeline Relocation

The pipeline located in the 15a.2 reach currently is laid on the surface of the existing levee crown and slope (up and over configuration; figure 2). The Lake Cataouatche levee is currently being raised and enlarged to meet the requirements of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), and the pipeline in its current pipeline configuration would interfere with the approved levee construction on that levee segment.

The oil/gas pipeline would be permanently relocated approximately 170ft underground, under the levee, via direction drilling. This relocation method would require both truck and barge access to reach the temporary relocation work sites (drill entrance and exit sites) on either side of the Lake Cataouatche Levee (figure 3) The following project description starts in the most northern aspect of the project (at the Nicholle Blvd/access road intersection; figure 3) and ends at the very southern end of the project where the pipe would be back strung prior to drilling.

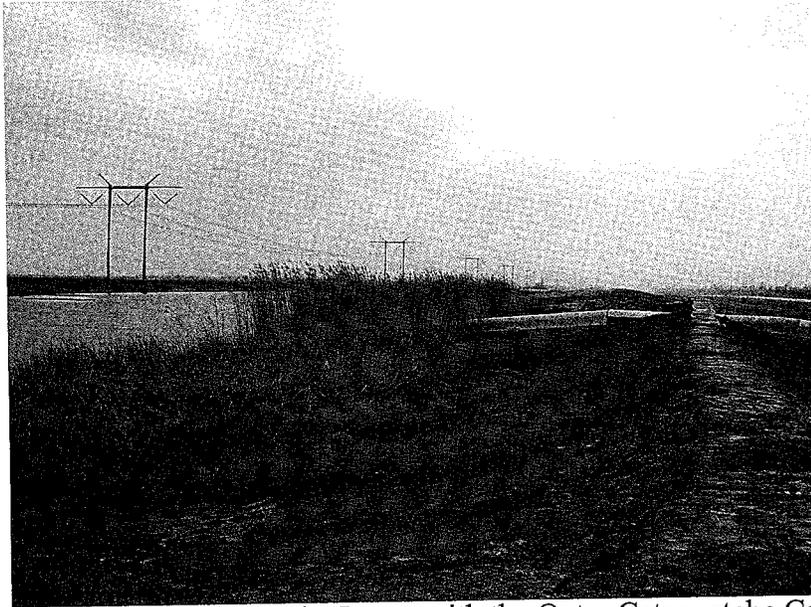


Figure 2. Facing west –Lake Cataouatche Levee with the Outer Cataouatche Canal on the flood side (to the left). The existing pipeline is going up and over the existing, non-upgraded levee.

A permanent existing road (12ft wide and 5625ft long) north of the Lake Cataouatche Levee would be resurfaced with limestone to withstand heavy truckloads during construction (figure 3). A temporary board road (16ft wide and 1601ft long) would be constructed at the end of the existing road to enable truck traffic to continue the rest of the way to reach the temporary relocation work site (figure 3). There would be two small areas, “wings,” temporarily cleared, grubbed and filled to provide adequate turn space for large trucks where the limestone access road meets the board road and again where the board road meets the work site. A temporary work site/staging area (200ft by 200ft drill pad and 20ft X 20ft drill pit) would be required and would require temporary clearing, grubbing, filling and stockpiling (figure 3).

The area parallel to both sides of the segment of the pipeline to be relocated would require temporary clearing, grubbing, excavation and stockpile. The area parallel to the pipeline would be excavated to approximately 20ft-25ft wide and 7ft-8ft deep for most of the length of the pipeline except for certain areas, such as at the levee crossing and near specific work sites. There would be no excavation where the pipeline currently crosses the levee, and there would be more excavation in those places where placement of the new pipeline would require a greater excavated work site. The width of the temporary excavation parallel to the pipeline would range from 20ft in most places to 70ft in some places depending on the required activity. The width of the adjacent temporary stockpile sites would range from 60ft to 130ft as necessary. Note: these are worst case excavation and stockpile estimates. Best management practices would be used to minimize impacts to the maximum extent practicable throughout construction.

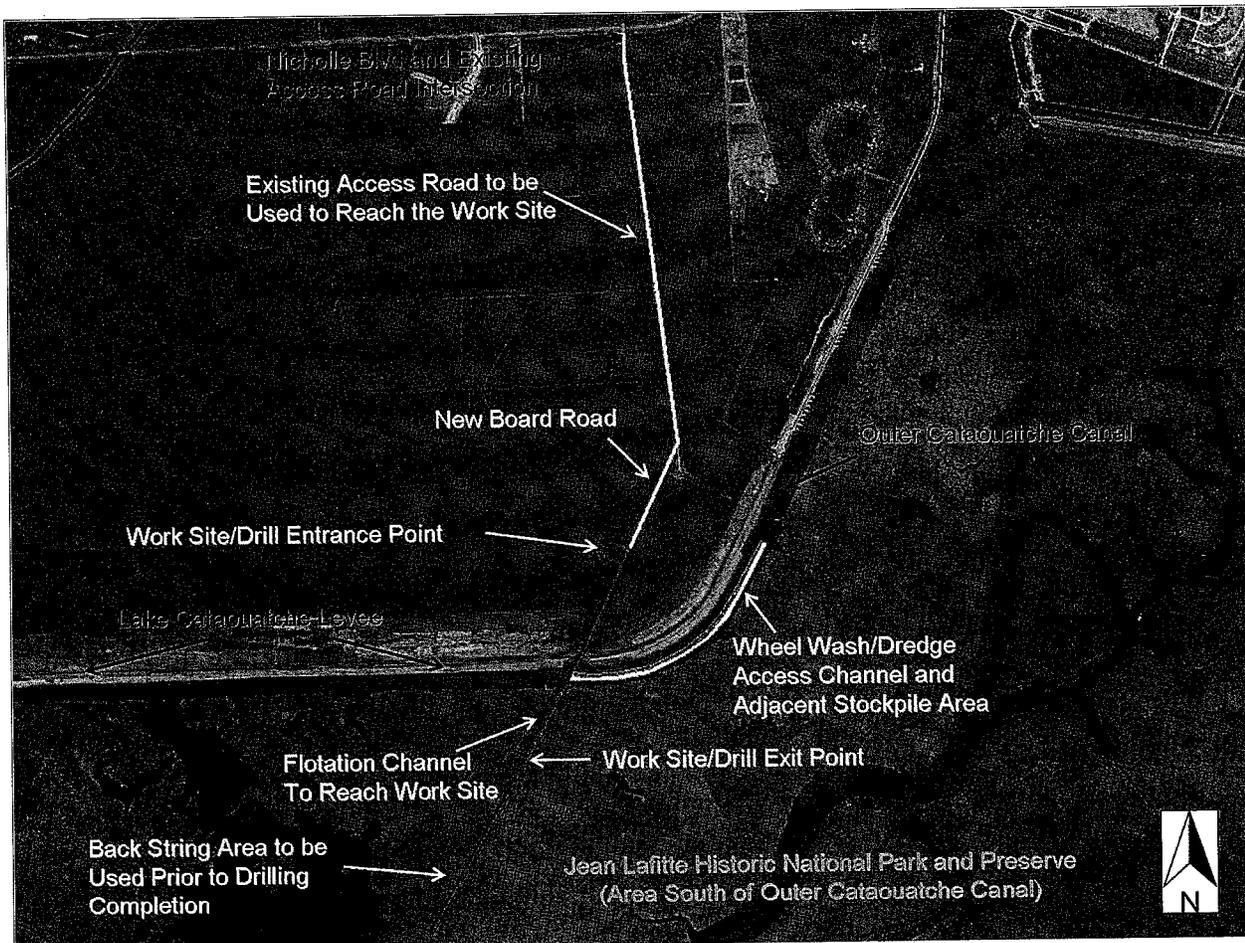


Figure 3. Pipeline relocation construction areas.

Temporary excavation and dredging would also be required in the Outer Cataouatche Canal. A 20ft by 365ft area would be excavated on both sides of the pipeline, as the pipeline crosses the open water bottom of the canal. Dredging would be required in the Outer Cataouatche Canal to provide barge access to the work site south of the Lake Cataouatche Levee. An approximate 70ft wide and 3620ft long access route would be cleared in the Outer Cataouatche Canal to allow for the barge draft (figure 3). Wheel washing, in which a tugboat would clear bottom sediment using propeller thrust, would be used first in attempt to merely spread the sediment without actually dredging. In the event wheel washing is not effective, bottom sediment would be dredged and placed adjacent the entire length of the required dredged area. The material would be temporarily stockpiled to a height of approximately 1.5ft in a stockpile site adjacent to the dredged area (figure 3).

A flotation channel (approximately 40ft wide and 1350ft long) running parallel with the pipeline would be required for the barge to reach the temporary work site (200ft by 200ft drill pad and 20ft X 20ft drill pit) south of the Lake Cataouatche Levee (figure 3). Material would be temporarily excavated and placed in approximately 35-60ft wide temporary disposal sites on either side of the newly created flotation channel. Material would be stockpiled in a scattered pattern across the stockpile site as to prevent permanent adverse impacts to the marsh on which it would be stacked. An area further south than the temporary work site and flotation channel would also require temporary excavation (14ft wide by 3035ft long) and adjacent stockpiling (approximately 38ft-60ft wide by 3035ft long) to accommodate the pipe before the drilling is completed (figure 3). Once the underground drilling from north to south (from protected side to

flood side of the levee) is completed, the actual pipe would then be threaded back through the drill hole from south to north.

Relocation of the pipeline would temporarily impact approximately 8 acres of intermittently drained, forested wetlands habitat on the protected side, north of the Lake Cataouatche Levee, approximately 12.9 acres of open canal bottom within the Outer Cataouatche Canal, and approximately 14.5 acres of high quality wetlands south of the Lake Cataouatche Levee within the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (table 1).

Multiple meetings were conducted with the CEMVN, National Park Service and the Utility company to ensure adverse impacts, especially impacts to high quality wetlands within the park, were minimized to the maximum extent practicable. The CEMVN agrees that all impacts occurring within the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve would be mitigated for within the National Park. In addition, as a project feature, the impacted area within the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve would be restored to its original state to the maximum extent practicable. Backfilling, planting, and other measures deemed necessary would be implemented in the park as project features immediately following construction in order to quickly restore the impacted environment and maintain the quality of the area that existed prior to construction.

Temporary Access Road, Staging Area and Pontoon Bridges

The temporary access road would be constructed for use in transporting construction equipment and materials to WBV15a.2 (figure 4). The primary use of the temporary road would be for hauling fill material from Churchill Farms borrow site to the project site which would allow a substantial decrease in haul distance, minimization of fuel consumption, minimization of road maintenance, etc. The temporary access road would be approximately 800 ft long and 40 ft wide and require two temporary canal crossings. The Avondale Canal crossing would consist of an approximately 40ft wide by 110ft long pontoon bridge, and the Cataouatche Canal crossing would consist of an approximately 40ft wide by 110ft long pontoon bridge. There are sections of the proposed temporary road alignment that are currently cleared; however, the remaining section of the road alignment must be cleared and grubbed.

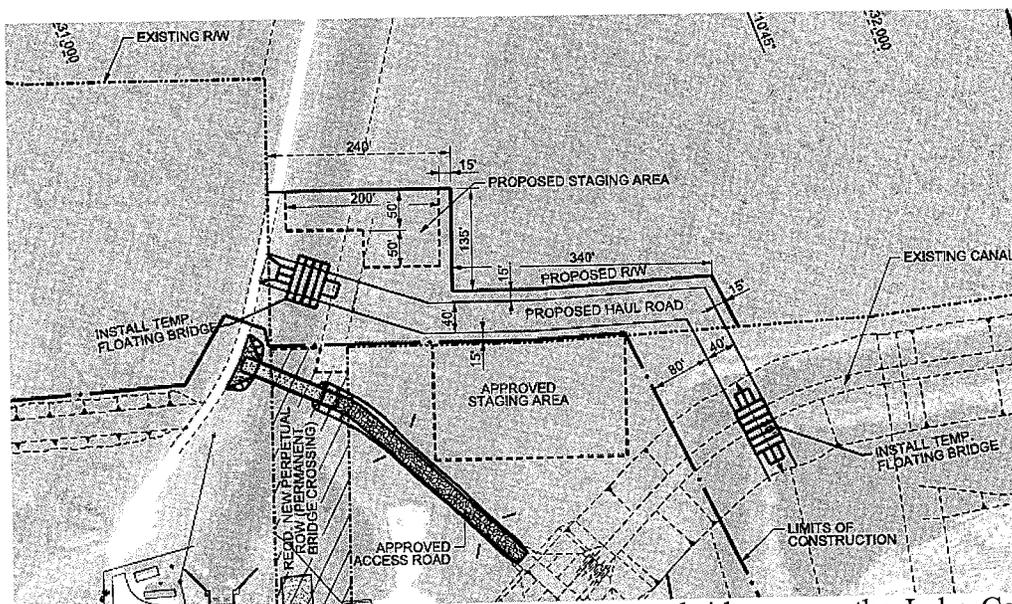


Figure 4. Proposed access road, staging area and pontoon bridges near the Lake Cataouatche Pump Stations 1 and 2.

A small temporary staging area would also be required for access road construction. The staging area would be used as a working area (equipment staging) to construct the crossing. Additionally, the staging area would be used for storage (equipment, etc.) for the crossing contraction. See attached plan for dimensions. Contractor shall dispose of cleared and grubbed organics offsite to an approved site in accordance with the governing jurisdiction. The temporary access road, staging area and pontoon bridges would impact previously cleared area and approximately 0.29 acres of low quality, non-wet bottomland hardwood habitat (table 1).

Even though there is an adjacent approved access road, this temporary access would be required to avoid multiple contractors using one access point. Multiple contractors using a single access point would likely result in projects delays, increased costs, safety hazards and claims made by the contractors.

Table 1. IERS 15.a Proposed Impacts			
Impacts Associated with Pipeline Relocation Activities	Acres	Cubic Yards earthen material	Cubic Yards limestone
Access road	N/A	N/A	800
Area north of Lake Cataouatche Levee to be temporarily cleared, grubbed, excavated and stockpiled (including board road, work site/drill pad, drill pit and all excavation and stockpiling)	8	13,482	N/A
Canal Crossing temporary excavation and adjacent stockpile	0.4	4,326	N/A
Temporary Access channel wheel wash/dredging	5.8	14,077	N/A
Temporary Access wheel wash/dredging stockpile	6.7	N/A	N/A
Area south of Lake Cataouatche Levee to be temporarily excavated and stockpiled in the National Park (flotation channel, area parallel to pipeline, back string area)	14.5	41,615	N/A
Access road near Lake Cataouatche PS	0.29	N/A	N/A
Total project impacts*	35.7	73,500	800

*This total represents impacts to all habitat types and does not represent total impacts to wetland.

Discharges by Others. These wetlands are Waters of the U.S. and Navigable Waters of the U.S., and are therefore under the jurisdiction of the USACE and would require permitting in compliance with Section 404 of the CWA for any dredge and fill activities. There are no known discharges of fill material at or near the proposed project site.

Other Information. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) has reviewed the proposed action for consistency with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (LCRP). The

LDNR has neither accepted nor denied the CEMVN Consistency Determination; however, the CEMVN has coordinated closely with LDNR and a decision from LDNR regarding the CEMVN Consistency Determination is expected soon. Coastal Zone Consistency is pending resolution of National Park Service concerns regarding the method of proposed pipeline relocation and is expected no later than January 19, 2011.

Properties Adjacent to Disposal Sites.

The project area is adjacent to presently developed lands and a closed BFI Landfill. Interior drainage for the protected side of the levee is maintained by the Cataouatche pump stations 1 and 2. The flood side is mostly fresh marsh and swamplands within the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve.

Status of Individual Environmental Report Supplemental (IERS) and Other Environmental Documents. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN), has prepared an Individual Environmental Report 15.a Supplemental (IERS 15.a) to evaluate the proposed action and alternatives. The IERS was made available for public review on January 14, 2011. Numerous studies, reports and projects have been conducted in the IER 15 study area and are presented in Section 1.1 of the IERS.

Environmental compliance for the proposed action would be achieved upon: coordination of this IER Supplemental with appropriate agencies, organizations, and individuals for their review and comments; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) confirmation that the proposed action would not be likely to adversely affect any endangered or threatened species; Louisiana Department of Natural Resources concurrence with the determination that the proposed action is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program; receipt of a Water Quality Certificate from the State of Louisiana; public review of the Section 404(b)(1) Public Notice; signature of the Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation; receipt of the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer Determination of No Affect on cultural resources; receipt and acceptance or resolution of all USFWS Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act recommendations; receipt and acceptance or resolution of all Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality comments on the air quality impact analysis documented in the IER; and receipt and acceptance or resolution of all NMFS Essential Fish Habitat recommendations.

Coordination. The following is a partial list of agencies to which a copy of this notice is being sent:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Coast Guard, Eighth District
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development
- Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer

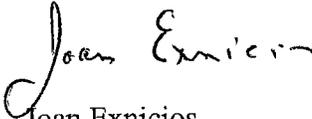
This notice is being distributed to these and other appropriate Congressional, Federal, state, and local interests, environmental organizations, and other interested parties.

Evaluation Factors. Evaluation includes application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through 40 CFR 230.

Public Involvement. Interested parties may express their views on the disposal of material associated with the proposed action or suggest modifications. All comments postmarked on or before the expiration of the comment period for this notice will be considered.

Any person who has an interest that may be affected by deposition of excavated or dredged material may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the comment period of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest that may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by the proposed action. You are requested to communicate the information contained in this notice to any parties who may have an interest in the proposed action.

For further information regarding the proposed action, please contact Ms. Sandra Stiles; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Regional Planning and Environmental Division South; CEMVN; P.O. Box 60267; New Orleans Louisiana 70160-0267. Requests also can be made by calling (504) 862-1583, by e-mail to mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil, or by fax (504) 862-2088.


Joan Exnicios
Chief, New Orleans
Environment Branch

COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PUBLIC NOTICE EXPIRES: February 12, 2011