



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

December 11, 2009

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division
Environmental Planning
and Compliance Branch

PUBLIC NOTICE

Iberia Parish Waste Water Treatment Facility and Wetland Assimilation

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 is Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (WRDA 92), as amended. This section of WRDA authorizes the Corps of Engineers to assist a non-Federal interest (Iberia Parish) in carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. Projects eligible for inclusion under the Section 219 program include water supply and storage, treatment and distribution as well as wastewater treatment systems, including wastewater treatment plants. The cost-share for the non-Federal interest must not be less than 25-percent.

Location. The proposed action is located in Iberia Parish, Louisiana just northwest of New Iberia.

Project Description. The proposed project will provide wastewater treatment for unincorporated areas of northern Iberia Parish in the vicinity of the Acadiana Regional Airport. The project is designed to provide a wastewater treatment capacity that is necessary for continued residential, commercial and industrial growth in this area. The targeted wetlands discharge area, Spanish Lake Wetlands, is in a severely degraded state at this time. The proposed project will provide a nutrient source (treated sanitary wastewater) for the existing wetlands. The influent will be conveyed from the vicinity of Pumping Station # 1 to the proposed oxidation pond location (aerated lagoon). Proposed routing and details of the system are shown on the attached Figures 1, 2A, 2B and 3. A flume or V-notch weir with a continuous recorder will be used to provide flow measurement. The effluent from the lagoon will be conveyed to the wetlands via pumping station #2 and the force main that enters the wetlands. Once the force main enters the wetlands the distribution system would be laid out so that treated oxidation pond effluent will be distributed throughout the southern part of the wetlands generally flowing overland to the north and northeast. The design of the discharge into the wetlands involves constructing distribution headers along the southern and western borders of the Spanish Lake Wetlands. Each header will be supplied with orifices, spaced at regular intervals to provide uniform distribution of effluent over the wetland. The proposed wetlands assimilation area will total approximately 335 acres. Details of the discharge system are shown in Figure 2B and 3. A description of the treatment facility including collection system, treatment method, type of disinfection method, and handling of the effluent is as follows:

Collection System – The collection system is largely in place. Both gravity and pumped flows are sent to an existing pump station which currently conveys these flows to the City for treatment. A new pump station will be built for this project and will convey the raw wastewater to the new treatment system.

Treatment System – A 4 stage aerated lagoon system consisting of one treatment aeration basin followed by 3 settling ponds, also all aerated.

Disinfection System - Chlorination

Effluent – Effluent will be pumped to the wetlands south of Spanish Lake in Iberia Parish. The maximum effluent flow will be approximately 0.8 MGD.

The proposed design criteria for the effluent are as follows: BOD – 30 mg/L; Fecal coli form - <200 mpm/100 ml; pH – 6-9; TSS limits to expect are 30 mg/l monthly average and 45 mg/l weekly average (or daily maximum). However the LDEQ can consider TSS limitations of 90 mg/L monthly average if a pond system is being used as in the case of this project.

The Spanish Lake wetland is hydrologically controlled by rainfall, upland runoff and the impounded nature of the area. Rainfall is the major source of freshwater. There is a limited upland runoff since the Old Spanish Trail Highway (LA Hwy 182) and the levees associated with Spanish Lake, urban development, and the abandoned landfill, block most runoff from the surrounding region. Water currently drains from the wetlands to a drainage canal leading to Bayou Tortue. Water flow in the site is as follows. There is localized runoff from the terrace uplands and part of the old landfill. Water flows from the southern and western parts of the wetland in a north and easterly direction. Water depths increase from well drained to a few centimeters in the southwest and 5 to 10 centimeters in the southeast to over one-half meter in the section between the landfill and the southeast corner of Spanish Lake. The wetlands are well drained in the outlet channel and past the levee connecting Spanish Lake and the crawfish ponds.

To construct and operate the new treatment system would require:

1. Extensive modification of an existing pumping station (Pump Station #1) on 4th Street,
2. Construction of the new treatment facility on an approximately 12-acre site off Landry Drive,
3. Construction of a new pumping station (Pump Station # 2) at the site of the new treatment facility(off Landry Drive),
4. Construction of a new force main (piping) between Pumping Station #1 and the wastewater treatment system, and Pumping Station #2 and the Spanish Lake wetlands, and
5. Construction of the discharge system into the wetlands along the southern and western borders of the Spanish Lake wetlands

The equipment used to complete the proposed project may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Excavators

2. Bulldozers (Cat D6-D9)
3. Jack and bore equipment
4. Flatbed and pickup trucks
5. Concrete mixer trucks
6. Small hydraulic crane
7. Utility trucks for supporting contractors on site
8. Off Road Haul Trucks – CAT D300 series – articulated 6x6 dump trucks

The proposed action will take approximately nine months to complete and will impact approximately .3 (three tenths) acres of wetlands. These impacts would occur by filling with approximately 454 cy of sand and 227 cy of crushed aggregate to construct an approximate four foot wide by 3,064 foot long pathway. This pathway will provide access for future maintenance to the forcemain and discharge outlets. The proposed action will benefit approximately 335 acres of wetlands by providing nutrients to stimulate productivity and by introducing flow.

Discharges by Others. There are no known discharges by others.

Other Information. On 19 June 2003, the CEMVN signed a Letter Report, entitled “Iberia Parish, Louisiana, Environmental Infrastructure, CWIS 076310.” The document authorized CEMVN to enter into a Design Agreement with Iberia Parish, Louisiana to provide Federal technical, planning, and design assistance for Iberia Parish’s wastewater and to conduct a preliminary assessment of land costs and development of appropriate analyses to address the Parish’s need for a 1.5 MGD wastewater treatment facility.

There are no prior Environmental Assessments (EAs) or Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) prepared in association with the proposed action.

Properties Adjacent to Disposal Sites. The disposal site is adjacent to Spanish Lake, an abandoned landfill, a commercial crawfish farm and privately and commercially owned properties.

Status of Environmental Assessment (EA) and Other Environmental Documents. Environmental compliance for the proposed action would be achieved upon: coordination of this EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) 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 EA; and receipt and acceptance or resolution of all NMFS Essential Fish Habitat recommendations. The draft FONSI would not be signed until the proposed action achieves environmental compliance with applicable laws and regulations, as described above.

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. Tammy Gilmore at (504) 862- 1002. Ms. Gilmore 's FAX number is (504) 862-2572, and her E-mail address is tammy.h.gilmore@usace.army.mil.

Joan Exnicios
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COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PUBLIC NOTICE EXPIRES: January 10, 2009