



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

June 1, 2011

Regional Planning and  
Environmental Division, South  
New Orleans Environmental Branch

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, Regional Planning and Environmental Division South, Vicksburg District has prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the New Orleans to Venice (NOV), Louisiana, Hurricane Risk Reduction Project: Incorporation of Non-Federal Levees from Oakville to St. Jude, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

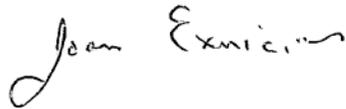
The existing non-Federal storm surge protection levees were severely damaged in 2005 by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The non-Federal levees that are proposed to be incorporated into the NOV hurricane protection project are located on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The project area lies in the delta of the Mississippi River commencing approximately 15 miles south of downtown New Orleans at the Oakville community and terminating at the St. Jude community. Because the grade elevation varies by as much as 5 feet within the project area and hurricanes that have struck the project area since 2005 have degraded certain reaches; the current level of protection is of low reliability. The goal of this project is to provide enhanced storm surge risk reduction and to provide increased risk reduction for evacuation routes in Plaquemines Parish.

The EIS recommends the least environmentally damaging alternative to accomplish the needed risk reduction system improvements. The recommended plan would call for the replacement or modification of 32 miles of existing non-Federal back-levees on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish into the NOV Federal levee system and construct from ground level 2 miles of earthen back-levees. The levees would be raised to an authorized 2 percent design elevation - approximately a 50-year level of risk reduction – using the recommended design criteria.

Attached for your review and comment are the abstract page and the summary section of the EIS. The EIS and its appendices can be viewed at [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov). If you are not able to access the EIS, a hard copy or electronic copy is available upon request. The public comment period for the EIS ends on July 11, 2011.

Please send all inquiries or comments to Mr. Christopher Koepfel either by mail, fax, or email. Mr. Koepfel's address is U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (PD-E), 4155 Clay Street, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180. Mr. Koepfel's phone number is (601) 631-5410, his fax number is (601) 631-5115, and his email address is christopher.d.koepfel@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Exnicios". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a flourish at the end.

Joan Exnicios  
Chief, New Orleans District Environmental Branch

Enclosure