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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

March 3, 2008

Planning, Programs, and
Project Management Division
Environmental Planning
and Compliance Branch
Attn: CEMVN-PM-RN

Beasley Denson, Chief
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6257
Choctaw, MS 39350

RE: Request to Continue Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Lake Ponchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project, Jefferson East Bank, Individual Environmental Report #3, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

Dear Chief Denson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN), is expanding the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the project area currently being studied under Individual Environmental Report #3, Lake Ponchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. This proposed expansion is located in Lake Pontchartrain and includes the addition of four floatation channels in the vicinity of the Bonnabel, Duncan, Elmwood and Surburban Canals. Excavation of these proposed floatation channels has the potential to impact submerged cultural resources.

In our letter to your office dated December 3, 2007, the District provided project documentation and found that proposed project activities in the original APE would have "no adverse effect" on cultural resources.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the District, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Indian Tribes, will determine if the expanded APE established for the proposed IER #3 project contains historic properties. The expanded APE, as proposed, includes four floatation channels measuring approximately 3000 feet long by 600 feet wide. Proposed construction activities in the expanded APE could include excavation of lake-bottom sediments, placement of dredged material adjacent to excavated channels, and backfilling of excavated channels with previously dredged material.

The District conducted an assessment of the expanded APE for IER #3 in February, 2008 (Nowak and Ryberg 2008). In this supplemental study, researchers reviewed background research and the remote sensing survey of the original APE (Heller et al. 2007), conducted supplemental remote sensing survey in the expanded APE, and presented the results of magnetometer, side-scan sonar, and sub-bottom profile data analysis.

No previously recorded historic properties are located in the expanded APE. One shipwreck is plotted on NOAA chart No. 11369-1 *Lake Pontchartrain and Maurepas* approximately 500 feet north of the Bonnabel Canal floatation channel and will not be impacted by proposed construction. No magnetic anomalies or side-scan sonar targets exhibiting cultural resources characteristics were identified in the expanded APE. No clearly defined shell middens or geomorphic features that can be associated with prehistoric activity areas or other significant submerged cultural resources were recorded by the sub-bottom profiler.

Based on a review of the information summarized above, it is our view that the proposed project activities in the expanded APE will not impact any significant cultural resources. No further cultural resources investigations are recommended. However, in the event that cultural resources are encountered during construction activities, work will be halted and your office will be contacted for further consultation. Any resources encountered will be recorded and documented, and state archaeological site forms will be provided.

Please review the enclosed project documentation and provide this office with your opinion regarding our "no historic properties affected" finding within 30 days of receipt of this letter. A copy of this letter, previously submitted project documentation, and the supplemental management summary (Nowak and Ryberg 2008) has been provided by email to Mr. Kenneth H. Carleton of your staff. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please contact Mr. Michael Swanda at (504) 862-2036.

Sincerely,

Joan M Exnicios for

Elizabeth Wiggins
Chief, Environmental Planning
and Compliance Branch

CF: Kenneth H. Carleton, THPO/Tribal Archaeologist

References Cited

Heller, Nathanael, Troy Nowack, Robert Lackowicz and Alice Ivas

2007 *Management Summary: Phase 1A Cultural Resources Records Review, Field Reconnaissance and Remote Sensing Program Performed for Lake Ponchartrain and Vicinity Project, Individual Environmental Report Area 3 (IER #3): Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.* R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., New Orleans. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District under Contract W91P8-07-D-0042, Delivery Orders 002/003.

Nowak, Troy J. and Kathryn Ryberg

2008 *Supplemental Management Summary: Submerged Cultural Resources Investigations of Four Access Channels in the Vicinity of the Bonnabel, Duncan, Elmwood and Suburban Canals for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project, IER #3, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.* . R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., New Orleans. Prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District under Contract W91P8-07-D-0042, Delivery Orders 0009.