



# FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Louisiana Recovery Office  
1 Seine Court  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
CHALMETTE TERMINAL WAREHOUSE  
ST. BERNARD PARISH, LOUISIANA  
FEMA-1603-DR-LA (HURRICANE KATRINA)**

**Introduction**

Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005 near Buras-Triumph, Louisiana with sustained winds of more than 125 mph. President George W. Bush declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. This is pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program (PA) to assist in funding the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of public facilities damaged as a result of the declared disaster.

The St. Bernard Port Harbor and Terminal Districts' (applicant) facilities located at the Chalmette Terminal sustained major damage as a result of wind, rain, and flooding brought on by Hurricane Katrina. Included amongst the damaged facilities were Building #80 and Building #40, a 29,000 SF and 25,000 SF warehouse/office facility, respectively. Both warehouses were constructed of a steel frame with steel skin. Each of these facilities was deemed eligible for Federal disaster public assistance repair funds.

In order to restore the lost services, facilities, and resources that were lost as a result of Hurricane Katrina, St. Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District, seeks federal grant funds to replace the two warehouses as a single 86,000 SF facility. Replacement is proposed to include building relocation to 560 Bonita Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana.

Restoration of port storage services damaged as a result of Hurricane Katrina is necessary to serve the needs of the St. Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District. The consolidated warehouse is a cost effective and efficient means of restoring port storage operations that were damaged as a result of Katrina. Foundations supporting the two donor warehouses would not satisfy load bearing requirements needed for storage services and would therefore need replacement. The new warehouse will consolidate functions of the pre-existing warehouses in one location and its foundation will meet needed load bearing standards.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Chalmette Terminal Warehouse and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

### **Findings**

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to water resources (wetlands and floodplains), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials and environmental justice. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. The proposed alternative is not anticipated to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x). As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed action as described in the EA may proceed.

### **CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this EA, several conditions must be met and mitigation measures must be taken by the applicant prior to and during project implementation.

- Before initiating any work St. Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District must have an approved Coastal Use Permit from the State's Coastal Zone Management Department, if required. St. Bernard Port, Harbor & Terminal District must ensure that contractors follow permit requirements, conditions, and construction procedures and standards during construction work.
- The applicant must follow all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations and requirements and obtain and comply with all required permits and approvals prior to initiating work.
- FEMA Public Assistance grant funded projects carried out in the floodplain or affecting the floodplain must be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator for a floodplain development permit and the action must be undertaken in compliance with relevant, applicable and required local codes and standards and thereby, will reduce the risk of future flood loss, minimize the impacts of floods on safety, health, and welfare, and preserve and possibly restore beneficial floodplain values as required by Executive Order 11988.
- If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the

discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding.

- Fill or borrow material used must be sourced from sites that do not contain any buried cultural materials (*i.e.*, wells, cisterns, foundations, basements, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like). If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District and/or its contractors must immediately stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The Applicant and GOHSEP must inform the FEMA Public Assistance program, who would in turn contact the FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The Applicant must not proceed with work until FEMA completes consultation with the SHPO. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act is required. In that situation, the Applicant must notify the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of the discovery, and notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at (225) 342-8170 within 72 hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize FEMA funding of the project.
- Project construction would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (*e.g.*, petroleum products, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, treated timber) and may result in the generation of small volumes of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials must be taken and generated hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are required to be disposed in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous conditions.

**Public Review and Comment**

The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at [www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm). The EA will also be available for public review at the St. Bernard Parish Library at 2600 Palmisano Boulevard, Chalmette, LA. A legal notice will be posted in the local newspaper on April 20 through April 25, 2012. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

**Approvals:**

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Joseph Threat, Sr., Executive Director 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70114 FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA	Date
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