

Draft Environmental Assessment

City of Gulfport Department of Public Works Warehouse Consolidation

Harrison County, Mississippi

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FEMA

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
amsl	above mean sea level
APE	Area of Potential Effects
bgs	below ground surface
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
dB	decibel
DNL	Day-Night Average Sound Level
DoD	Department of Defense
DPW	Department of Public Works
EA	Environmental Assessment
EEO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
MDAH	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
MDEQ	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
MDMR	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NISTAC	Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants
NDPES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O ₃	ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration



ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

PA	Programmatic Agreement
Pb	lead
PM _{2.5}	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound



1.0 INTRODUCTION

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing extensive damage. A Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS, was subsequently signed for Katrina.

The City of Gulfport has submitted an application for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to FEMA-1604-DR-MS. In accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, PL 93-288, as amended, and implementing regulations at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 206, FEMA is required to review the environmental effects of the proposed action prior to making a funding decision. This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with FEMA's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations found in 44 CFR Part 10.

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

The Gulfport Department of Public Works (DPW) operates several buildings including the Former Allen Plumbing Building and the Former Equipment Storage Building. Prior to Katrina, these buildings were used for office space and warehouse space. The Former Allen Plumbing Building, located at 4008 Hewes Avenue, was a 4,488-square-foot wood-framed, metal siding building. The Former Equipment Storage Building, located adjacent to the DPW Main Buildings at 4050 Hewes Avenue, was a 2,322-square-foot, wood-framed, metal siding building (see Figure 1 in Appendix A). Both buildings were more than 50% damaged and have since been demolished. In accordance with FEMA's policy for FEMA-1604-DR-MS, the site will be returned to grade and revegetated. Consequently, there is a need for new facilities to replace the lost office and warehouse space and to enable the DPW to provide more efficient service from one consolidated warehouse.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES

This section describes the alternatives that were considered in addressing the purpose and need stated in Section 2 above. One alternative, replacing the damaged buildings within their original footprints, was dismissed. Two alternatives were evaluated further: the No Action Alternative, and the Proposed Action Alternative, in which the functions of the two buildings would be consolidated into one new DPW Warehouse.

3.1 Alternatives Considered and Dismissed

Replacement of Buildings within Original Footprints

FEMA considered an alternative to replace the damaged buildings within their original footprints. The buildings would retain their previous purposes of warehouse and office/warehouse spaces, incorporating all upgrades to current codes and standards. Under this alternative, the warehouse storage capability of the City of Gulfport would continue to be split between two locations, and the office space of officials involved with the management of the



staging area would continue to be located off-site. While this alternative would replace the lost warehouse and office space, it does not meet the purpose and need of the project to improve the DPW's operational efficiency and was therefore dismissed from further consideration.

3.2 Alternatives Evaluated

Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the buildings would not be reconstructed and the DPW's lost office and warehouse space would not be replaced. As the previous buildings were not salvageable and have been demolished, the DPW would not have sufficient warehouse space to support its current operations.

Alternative 2: Construction of a New DPW Warehouse (Proposed Action)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the City of Gulfport proposes to construct a new, consolidated DPW Warehouse on the southwest side of Hewes Avenue, opposite the location of the former DPW buildings (see Figure 2 in Appendix A). The new DPW Warehouse, with a footprint of 10,000 square feet, would be built on a portion of approximately 8.2 acres of cleared land less than 1/3 mile from the previous DPW building locations. The proposed project site is currently used as the DPW's staging area and is bounded to the northeast by Hewes Avenue, to the southwest by an unnamed tributary of Brickyard Bayou, to the east by industrial development, and to the southeast by cleared land. The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport is located north and west of the proposed project site. No clearing would be necessary for the Proposed Action.

The proposed site plan for the new DPW Warehouse is shown in Figure 3 in Appendix A. The proposed building will utilize the area immediately south of the existing driveway. The remainder of the property will continue to be used as the DPW's staging area. The new DPW Warehouse would utilize the existing staging area driveway on Hewes Avenue. A small parking lot would be constructed adjacent to the building to accommodate the offices located in the Warehouse. This access is consistent with existing traffic and loading patterns at the existing staging area. The new DPW Warehouse would tie into existing municipal utilities on Hewes Avenue.

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS

The following table summarizes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative and conditions or mitigation measures to offset those impacts. Following the summary table, any areas where potential impacts were identified will be treated in greater detail.

Affected Environment	Impacts	Mitigation
Geology and Soils	No impacts to geology would occur. Long-term minor impacts to topography and short-term minor impacts to soils would occur during the construction period.	Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as installing silt fences and revegetating bare soils immediately upon completion of construction to stabilize soils.
Surface Water	Temporary short-term impacts to downstream surface waters are possible during construction activities.	A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit must be obtained prior to construction; appropriate BMPs, such as installing silt fences and revegetating bare soils, would minimize runoff.
Groundwater	No impacts to groundwater are anticipated.	None
Floodplains	No impacts to the floodplain are anticipated.	None
Waters of the U.S. including Wetlands	No impacts to the waters of the U.S., including wetlands, are anticipated.	None
Transportation	There would be a minor temporary increase in the volume of construction traffic on roads in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site.	Construction vehicles and equipment would be stored on-site during project construction and appropriate signage would be posted on affected roadways.
Public Health and Safety	No impacts to public health and safety are anticipated. Because the proposed project site is near an airport, on March 6, 2007, a letter requesting project review was sent to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) (see Appendix B).	All construction activities would be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities.
Hazardous Materials	No hazardous materials or waste impacts are anticipated.	Excavation activities could expose or otherwise affect subsurface hazardous wastes or materials. Any hazardous



Affected Environment	Impacts	Mitigation
		materials discovered, generated, or used during construction would be disposed of and handled in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
Socioeconomic Resources	No impacts to socioeconomic resources would occur.	None
Environmental Justice	No disproportionately high or adverse effect on minority or low-income populations would occur.	None
Air Quality	Short-term minor impacts to air quality would occur during the construction period.	Construction contractors would be required to water down construction areas when necessary and fuel-burning equipment running times would be kept to a minimum and engines would be properly maintained.
Noise	Short-term noise impacts would occur at the proposed project site during the construction period.	Construction would take place during normal business hours and equipment and machinery installed at the proposed DPW Warehouse would meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations.
Biological Resources	No adverse impacts to biological resources.	None
Cultural Resources	No impacts to archeological or historic resources are anticipated.	None

4.1 Geology and Soils

The proposed project site is underlain by alluvium, an unconsolidated geologic formation consisting of loam, sand, gravel, and clay. The soils at the proposed project site are classified as the Atmore-Harleston-Plummer Series. The Atmore series consists of deep, poorly drained, moderately slowly permeable soils that formed in loamy marine sediments. The Harleston series consists of deep, moderately well drained, moderately permeable soils. They formed in marine or stream deposits consisting of thick beds of sandy loam. The Plummer series consists of very deep, poorly and very poorly drained, moderately permeable soils. They formed in marine sediments. All three of these soils are listed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as hydric. Additionally, the soils at the proposed project site are classified as sulfaquepts, clayey sand soils with a very slow infiltration rate. Typically, these soils have a



high water table (less than 1 foot below ground surface [bgs]) or there is an impervious layer near the ground surface. Although the soils do not have hydric properties as a whole, pockets of hydric soils can be found throughout the complex. The topography at the proposed project site is fairly level, at an elevation of approximately 15 feet above mean sea level (amsl). The area surrounding the proposed project site is relatively flat with a complex of low ridges to the south.

The New Madrid fault zone is located in the Mississippi River Valley, 400 miles northeast of the proposed project site. Although it is the most active fault zone east of the Rocky Mountains, the probability of an earthquake with a magnitude of 4.76 or higher occurring within 31 miles of Gulfport, Mississippi, in the next 50 years is approximately 1.5 percent (USGS 2007c).

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) states that federal agencies must “minimize the extent to which federal programs contribute to the unnecessary conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses...” Based on the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey, the proposed project site does not contain soils classified as prime or unique farmland (USGS, 2007a).

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to geology or soils would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to geology would occur. Minor, long-term impacts to soils would occur on the proposed project site due to grading required for construction. Impacts to native soils would be minimal because soils were previously disturbed when the proposed project site was developed as the DPW staging area. Additional short-term impacts to soils will occur when the foundation of the building is excavated. The applicant would be required to submit a SWPPP prior to construction. Implementation of appropriate BMPs would be required at the construction location. BMPs include, but are not limited to, the installation of silt fences and revegetating bare soils to minimize erosion.

4.2 Water Resources

4.2.1 Surface Water

The Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended in 1977, established the basic framework for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. The proposed project site is approximately 700 feet northwest of the Brickyard Bayou and approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the Bernard Bayou. Elevations on the proposed project site are approximately 15 feet amsl. The site drains downward slightly to the southwest toward a small, unnamed tributary of the Brickyard Bayou. A catch basin, connected to the Hewes Avenue Stormwater conveyance system and located on the proposed project site’s southwestern boundary, provides additional drainage for the site. The proposed project site is cleared and used as a DPW staging area. No known waters of the United States occur within the proposed project site.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, no adverse impacts to surface water would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, short-term impacts to downstream surface waters would occur during the construction period of the Proposed Action Alternative from erosion of soils during construction. The applicant would be required to submit



a SWPPP and NPDES permit application prior to construction. To reduce impacts to surface water, the applicant would implement appropriate BMPs, such as installing silt fences and revegetating bare soils.

4.2.2 Floodplains

Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires federal agencies to avoid direct or indirect support of development within the 100-year floodplain whenever there is a practicable alternative. FEMA uses Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to identify the regulatory 100-year floodplain for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Consistent with EO 11988, FIRMs were examined during the preparation of this EA (FEMA, 2007; Community Panel Number 285253 0043 D). The proposed project site is located within Flood Zone X, a low to moderate flood risk area with a less than 1% chance of flooding each year. Zone X is not considered a floodplain.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to the floodplain would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to the floodplain would occur because the proposed project site is located outside of the floodplain.

4.2.3 Waters of the U.S. including Wetlands

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or filled material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA. Additionally, EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) requires federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, adverse impact of wetlands.

The proposed project site is approximately 700 feet northwest of the Brickyard Bayou and approximately 1.5 miles southwest of the Bernard Bayou. There is a small, unnamed tributary of the Brickyard Bayou to the southwest of the proposed project site.

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) enables coastal states, including Mississippi, to designate state coastal zone boundaries and develop coastal management programs to improve protection of sensitive shoreline resources and guide sustainable use of coastal areas. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the proposed project site is located within the Mississippi Coastal Zone (NOAA, 2006).

On February 14, 2007, a letter requesting project review was sent to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR), Bureau of Wetlands Permitting, regarding the proposed project and potential impacts on the coastal zone and wetlands (see Appendix B). A letter requesting project review was not sent to the USACE Mobile District, because the District has a moratorium on conducting jurisdictional wetland determinations and would not be able to review the proposed project (Zedryk, pers. comm.).

A review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map for the proposed project area indicates no wetlands are located on or immediately adjacent to the proposed project site (USFWS, 2006b). A site visit was conducted by Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants (NISTAC) biologists on January 31, 2007, and confirmed that no wetlands occur on



the proposed project site. The 1987 *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* requires the presence of all three parameters (greater than 50% dominance of hydrophytic vegetation, evidence of hydric soils, and hydrologic indicators) for an area to be considered a wetland (USACE, 1987). There were no hydric soils, hydrophytic plants, or hydrologic indicators identified on the proposed project site; therefore, the site does not contain wetlands.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative – No waters of the U.S., including wetlands, occur on the proposed project site. Therefore, under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, would occur.

In a letter dated February 27, 2007, MDMR stated that it had no objections to the proposed DPW consolidation as long as there are no direct or indirect impacts to coastal wetlands. In an electronic mail dated February 23, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) noted that coordination regarding wetland protection should be conducted with the USACE and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) (see Appendix B).

4.3 Transportation

The proposed DPW Warehouse will be located south and west of Hewes Avenue. Access to the proposed project site would be via Hewes Avenue.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, no construction would occur and there would be no impacts to transportation.

Proposed Action Alternative – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no significant adverse impacts to transportation or site access are anticipated. There would be a minor temporary increase in the volume of construction traffic on roads in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site that could potentially result in a slower traffic flow for the duration of the construction phase. To mitigate potential delays, construction vehicles and equipment would be stored on site during project construction and appropriate signage would be posted on affected roadways. No road closures are anticipated.

After construction is complete, there may be an increase in traffic utilizing the existing DPW operations staging area entrance. However, there will be no overall increase in traffic on Hewes Avenue in the vicinity of the proposed project site because the new DPW warehouse is in the immediate vicinity of the buildings it will replace.

4.4 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations) mandates that federal agencies identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. Socioeconomic and demographic data for the proposed project area were analyzed to determine if a disproportionate number of minority or low-income persons have the potential to be adversely affected by the proposed project.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations. All populations could potentially be adversely affected by reduced DPW service due to insufficient facilities.

Proposed Action Alternative – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be no disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations. Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would benefit all populations within the City of Gulfport by providing sufficient facilities for the DPW to conduct operations efficiently.

4.5 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that states adopt ambient air quality standards. The standards have been established in order to protect the public from potentially harmful amounts of pollutants. Under the CAA, EPA establishes primary and secondary air quality standards. Primary air quality standards protect the public health, including the health of “sensitive populations, such as people with asthma, children, and older adults.” Secondary air quality standards protect public welfare by promoting ecosystems health, and preventing decreased visibility and damage to crops and buildings. EPA has set national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for the following six criteria pollutants: ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and lead (Pb). According to MDEQ, the entire state of Mississippi is classified as in attainment, meaning that criteria air pollutants do not exceed the NAAQS (MDEQ, 2006).

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to air quality because no construction would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, short-term impacts to air quality would occur during construction of the new DPW Warehouse. To reduce temporary impacts to air quality, the construction contractors would be required to water down construction areas when necessary. Emissions from fuel-burning internal combustion engines (e.g., heavy equipment and earthmoving machinery) could temporarily increase the levels of some of the criteria pollutants, including CO, NO₂, O₃, PM₁₀, and non-criteria pollutants such as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). To reduce the emission of criteria pollutants, fuel-burning equipment running times would be kept to a minimum and engines would be properly maintained.

4.6 Noise

Noise is generally defined as unwanted sound. Sound is most commonly measured in decibels (dB) on the A-weighted scale, which is the scale most similar to the range of sounds that the human ear can hear. The Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) is an average measure of sound. The DNL descriptor is accepted by federal agencies as a standard for estimating sound impacts and establishing guidelines for compatible land uses. EPA guidelines, and those of many other federal agencies, state that outdoor sound levels in excess of 55 dB DNL are “normally unacceptable” for noise-sensitive land uses such as residences, schools, or hospitals.

The proposed project site is currently being used as a staging area for the Gulfport DPW, and is located south and east of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. There are noise-sensitive areas within a 4-mile radius of the proposed project site including several schools and hospitals.



A noise ordinance exists for the City of Gulfport. The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport Noise Compatibility Study depicts three noise districts near the airport (GBIA, 2007). The proposed project site is within the 70-75 DNL noise-exposure district.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to noise would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no long-term noise impacts would occur. Since the proposed project site is close to the former warehouse locations and is currently being used as a staging area for the DPW, permanent post-construction noise levels will remain similar to existing noise levels in the area and there would be no impacts to sensitive noise receptors.

During the construction period, temporary short-term increases in noise levels are anticipated. To reduce noise levels during the construction period and minimize disturbance to noise sensitive areas, construction activities would take place during normal business hours. Equipment and machinery installed at the proposed DPW facility would meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations.

4.7 Biological Resources

The proposed project site consists of a cleared and graded city parcel in the middle of the DPW staging area. NISTAC biologists conducted a site visit on January 31, 2007, and observed no vegetation on the site. Because the site is not vegetated, it provides no habitat for wildlife.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists the following federally endangered (E) and threatened (T) animal species for Harrison County (USFWS, 2006a):

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status
<i>Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotoi</i>	Gulf sturgeon	T
<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Piping plover	T
<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Loggerhead turtle	T
<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Green turtle	T
<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	Gopher tortoise	T
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	T
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown pelican	E
<i>Ursus americanus luteolus</i>	Louisiana black bear	T
<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Red-cockaded woodpecker	E
<i>Drymarchon corais</i>	Eastern indigo snake	T
<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Kemp's Ridley sea turtle	E
<i>Rana sevosa</i>	Mississippi gopher frog	E
<i>Isoetes louisianensis</i>	Louisiana quillwort	E

According to the USFWS, the Louisiana quillwort is the only federally listed species that potentially occurs in Harrison County. It is a rare aquatic plant that occurs on sand and gravel bars, overflow channels, and areas in or near shallow, blackwater streams in riparian woodland and bayhead forests of pine flatwoods and upland pine forests (CPC, 2006). Habitat for the Louisiana quillwort was not observed during the site visit on January 31, 2007.

The proposed project site does not contain habitat for any federally listed species; therefore, it is unlikely that any threatened and endangered species are present. On February 14, 2007, a letter requesting project review was sent to USFWS (see Appendix B); no response has been received to date.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to biological resources.

Proposed Action Alternative – Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to biological resources on the proposed project site, because the site does not contain vegetation or wildlife.

4.8 Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, and implemented by 36 CFR Part 800, requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on federal projects that will have an effect on historic properties prior to implementation. Historic properties are defined as archeological sites, standing structures, or other historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

A NISTAC archeologist and architectural historian, both qualified in their respective disciplines under *Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards* (36 CFR Part 61), conducted an assessment of the project's potential to affect historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE is the geographic area within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if such properties exist.

A literature search was conducted at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), in Jackson, Mississippi, to determine whether previously identified archeological sites exist within the project area. The APE for archeological resources consists of the limits of disturbance for the proposed warehouse (approximately 10,000 square feet). No previously identified archeological sites are located within the project's APE.

Because no known surveys have been conducted on the proposed project site, the literature search was expanded to include the project area's immediate vicinity, in order to characterize the type of archeological resources that might be encountered on the proposed project site. Three previously identified archeological sites are located within a 2-mile (3.22-kilometer) radius of the APE:

- 22HR 571, unnamed – unidentified prehistoric component. Identified in 1979 by Dale Greenwell during an archeological survey recorded in "Archeological Survey of

Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport Bridge” (MDAH Report No. 79-008). The site has been determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

- 22HR572, unnamed – unidentified prehistoric component. Identified in 1979 by Dale Greenwell during an archeological survey recorded in “Archeological Survey of Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport Bridge” (MDAH Report No. 79-008). The site has been determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.
- 22HR910 – Cuandet Road Homestead, a historic site dating to ca. 1930. Identified in 2003 by Jerame J. Cramer and David B. Kelley during an archeological survey recorded in “Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed Car Rental Service Center at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, Harrison County, Mississippi” (MDAH Report No. 03-171). The site has been determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

All three sites are situated across the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport from the APE, within the Turkey Creek watershed. The project area is within the Brickyard Bayou watershed. No archeological sites have been previously identified within the Brickyard Bayou watershed.

Two cultural resource surveys have been conducted within 1 mile (1.61 kilometer) of the APE, to bring the sponsoring agencies into compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA:

- MDAH Report Number 04-078: A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of Proposed Airport Surveillance Radar, Model 11 (ASR-11) to Serve Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi, by Noel and Rebecca Stowe.
- MDAH Report Number 04-161: Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of a Proposed Perimeter Road for the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, Harrison County, Mississippi, by George Shorter, Jr.

Both surveys produced negative results. George Shorter’s survey also noted that the Brickyard Bayou drainage was low-lying and swampy prior to establishment of the Gulfport Army Air Field, later the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, in 1942. When the airfield was established, the area was subjected to grading and filling. In many areas a sand layer “several meters” deep materialized. For this reason, subsurface testing was not undertaken within the airport boundaries.

Further literature search in MDAH files confirmed that the APE was once part of Gulfport Army Air Field (MDAH 047-GLF-700), specifically within an industrial area that included fueling and coal storage functions. Four World War II temporary structures are known to have stood within the vicinity of the APE. World War II temporary structures were documented to Historic American Building Survey (HABS) standards as a result of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) signed between the ACHP and the Department of Defense (DoD) on July 7, 1986, and amended in 1991. Under the terms of this PA, examples of the entire series of temporary structures developed for World War II cantonments were documented, prior to the razing of all WWII temporary structures on DoD installations.

Based on the extent of disturbance and filling associated with the establishment of the Gulfport Army Air Field, FEMA has determined that the APE has a low probability to contain archeological resources.

The APE for standing structures consisted of a 0.5-mile (0.8-kilometer) radius around the proposed project site. Review of the MDAH standing structures resource files revealed that there are no National Register listed or eligible standing structures or Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory listed within the APE. The built environment within the viewshed of the APE is characterized by a heavy equipment staging area in the immediate vicinity of the APE, an airfield to the west and south, and modern two-story Butler buildings to the east and north. To the east of the industrial area is a residential neighborhood comprised of modest, single-story ranch homes built in the 1950s and 1960s. The Bayou View subdivision was established in 1950 on a surplus portion of Gulfport Army Air Field purchased by the City of Gulfport in 1946, when the military deactivated the installation. The relocation site is not visible from the subdivision, as a series of two-story metal buildings fill the viewshed. The Turkey Creek Community Historic District, recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places and located 1 mile from the proposed project site, is also outside of the 0.5-mile (0.8-kilometer) APE. The proposed project site is outside the viewshed of this historic district.

No Action Alternative – Under the No Action Alternative, no construction would occur and there would be no impacts to archeological or cultural resources.

Proposed Action Alternative – In a letter to MDAH dated March 9, 2007, FEMA determined that the Proposed Action will have no adverse effect on National Register-eligible archeological resources or standing structures (see Appendix B); no response has been received to date.

An archeologist will be present to monitor during foundation excavation, in case archeological artifacts or human remains are inadvertently discovered. If, during the course of work, archaeological artifacts or human remains are inadvertently discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize further harm to the finds. Work will not proceed until FEMA Historic Preservation staff have completed consultation with the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). When project excavation is complete, the archeologists will prepare appropriate reports following “Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations and Reports in Mississippi” defined by MDAH to detail the results of this field work. In an electronic mail dated April 4, 2007, the THPO concurred that archeological monitoring is sufficient to protect any cultural resources which may be present within the APE (see Appendix B).

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, cumulative impacts represent the “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).” In accordance with NEPA and to the extent reasonable and practical, this EA considered the combined effect of the Proposed Action Alternative and other actions occurring or proposed in the vicinity of the proposed project site.

There is a Greenhouse and Beautification Office proposed southeast of and adjacent to the proposed project site. No cumulative impacts are anticipated due to the proposed development.



6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

FEMA is the lead federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process for the construction of the City of Gulfport's new DPW Warehouse in Gulfport, Mississippi. It is the goal of the lead agency to expedite the preparation and review of NEPA documents and to be responsive to the needs of the community and the purpose and need of the proposed action while meeting the intent of NEPA and complying with all NEPA provisions.

The City of Gulfport will notify the public of the availability of the draft Environment Assessment through publication of a public notice in a local newspaper. FEMA will conduct an expedited public comment period commencing on the initial date of publication of the public notice.

7.0 AGENCY COORDINATION AND PERMITS

The following agencies and organizations were contacted by letter requesting project review during the preparation of this EA. If required for NEPA documentation, agencies (marked with *) were asked to submit a formal response. Responses received to date are included in Appendix B.

- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Water Management Division
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Field Office*
- Federal Aviation Administration, Southern Regional Office
- Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History*
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permits Division*
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting
- Mississippi Department of Transportation, Environmental Division
- Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the applicant would be responsible for acquiring any necessary permits prior to commencing construction at the proposed project site.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

No adverse impacts to geology, groundwater, floodplains, waters of the U.S. including wetlands, public health and safety, hazardous materials, socioeconomic resources, environmental justice, biological resources, or cultural resources are anticipated with the Proposed Action Alternative. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, surface water, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts will require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.



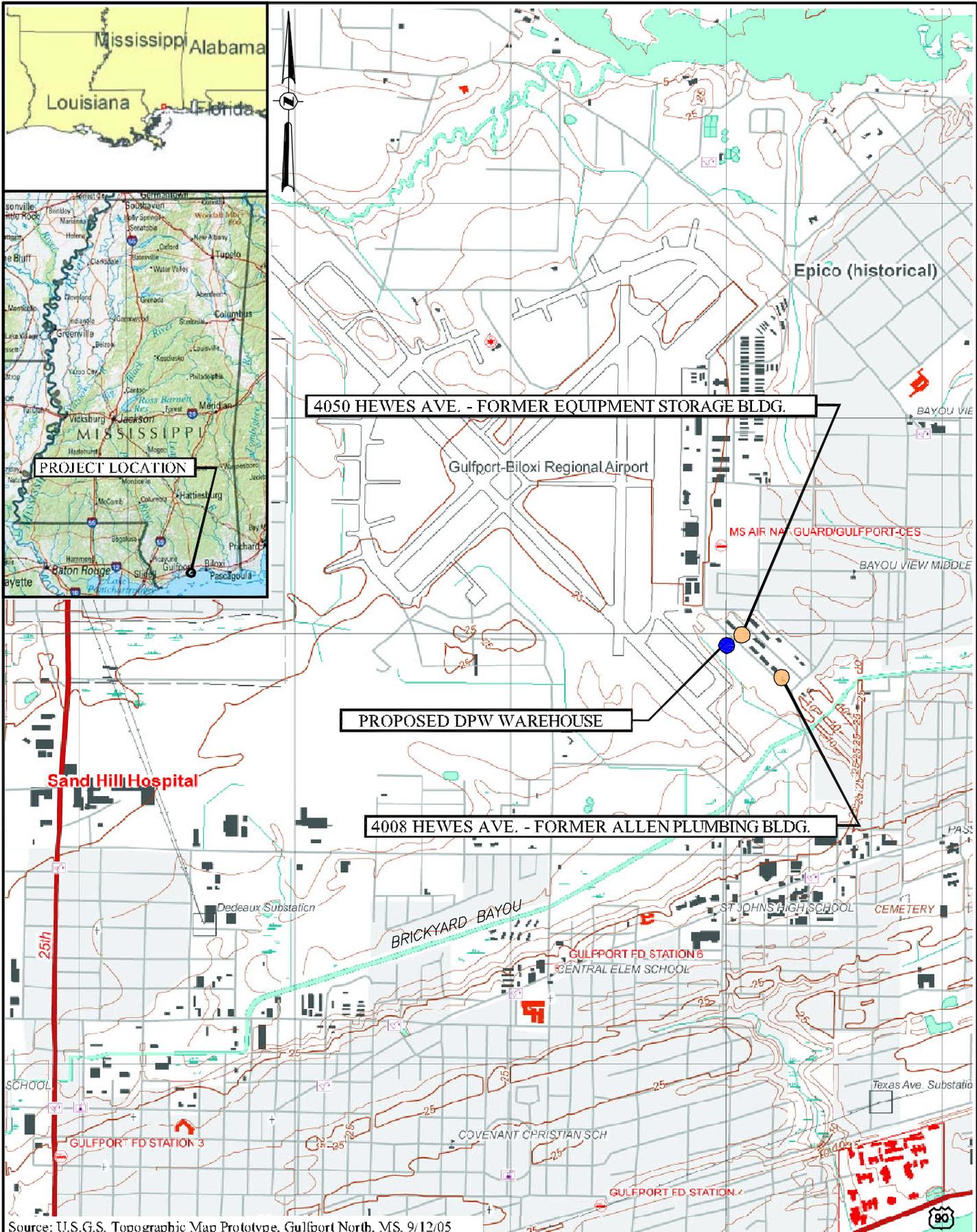
9.0 REFERENCES

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Appendix A

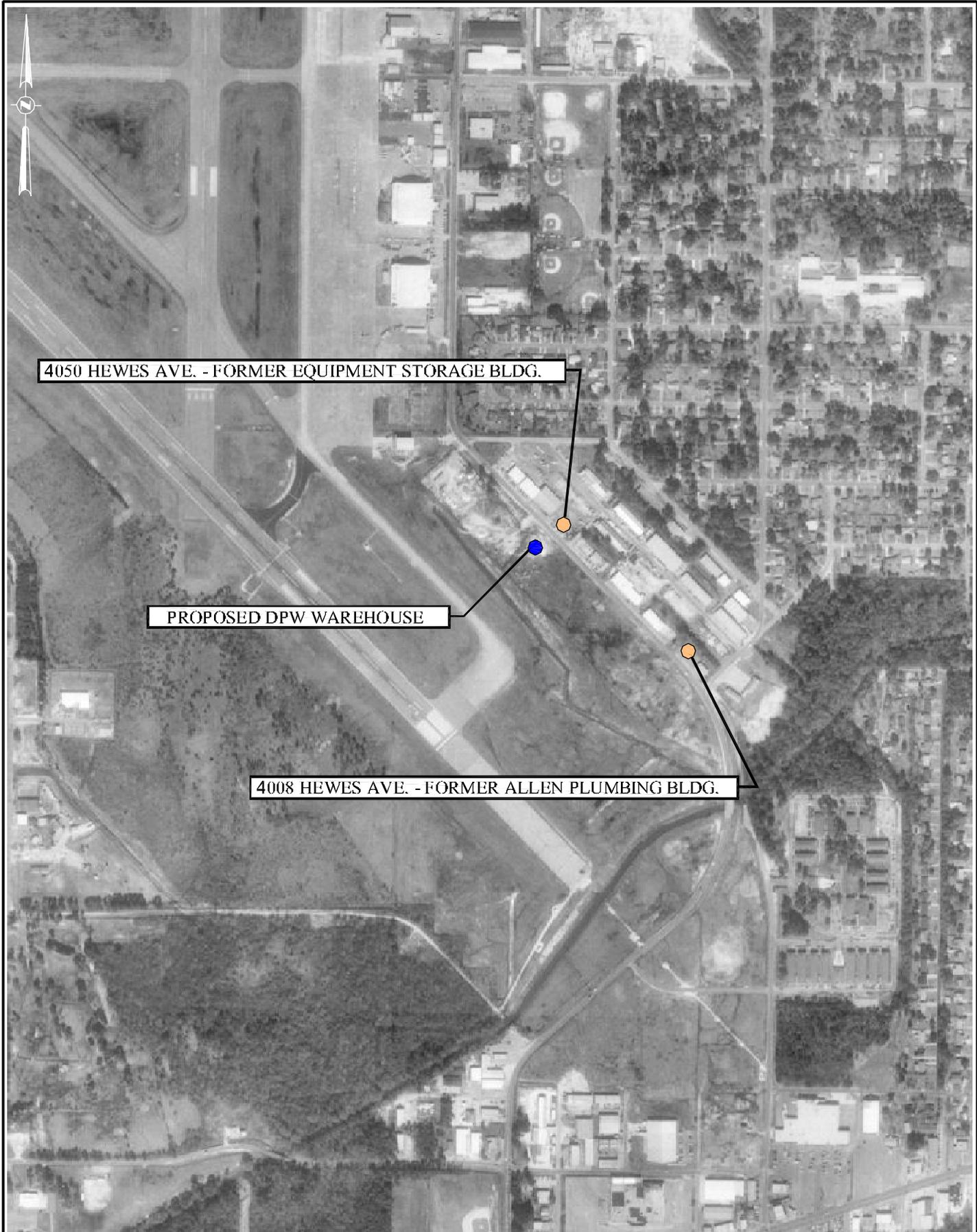
Figures



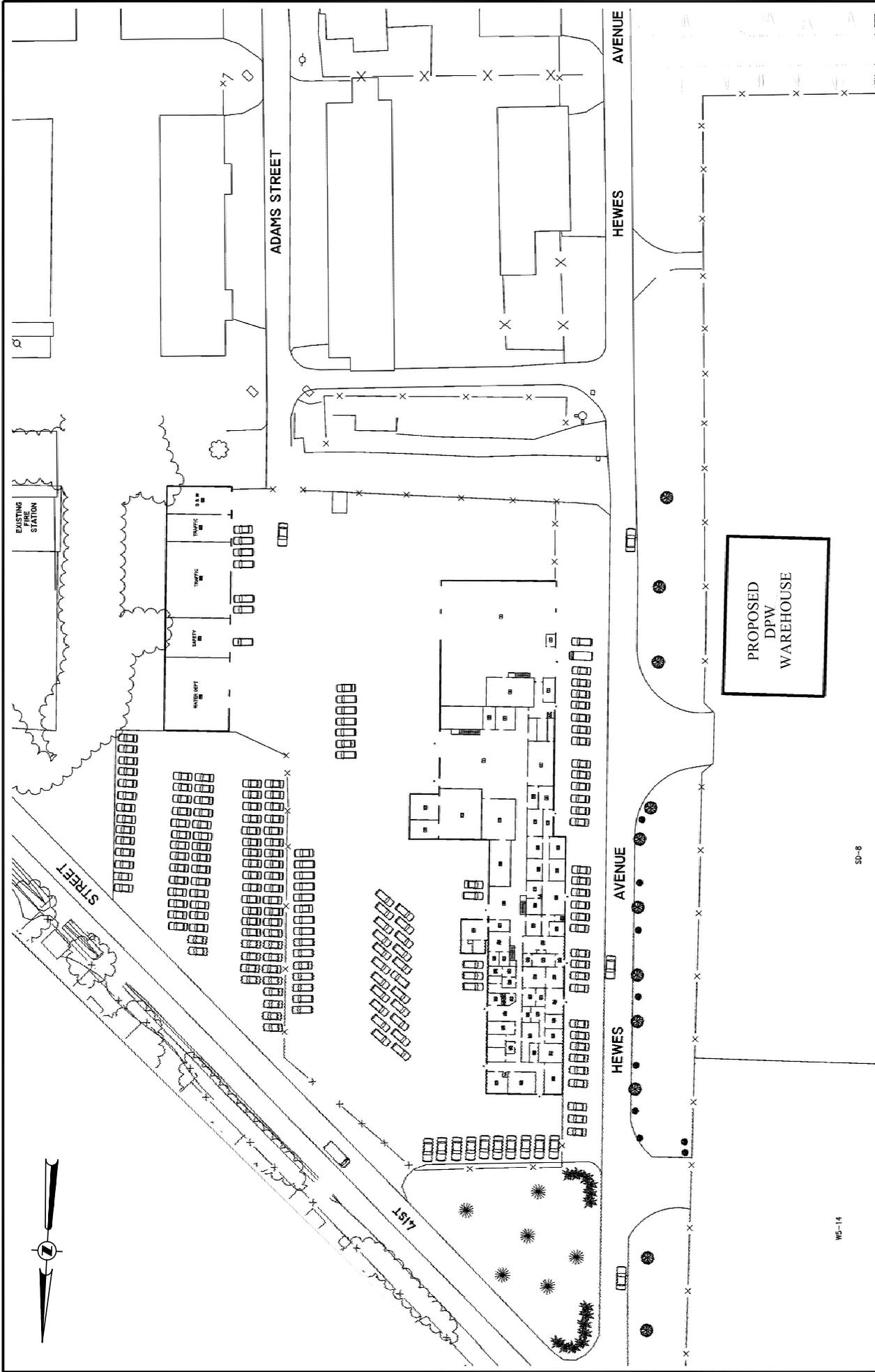
Source: U.S.G.S. Topographic Map Prototype, Gulfport North, MS. 9/12/05

CLIENT	City of Gulfport Department of Public Works		
PROJ	City of Gulfport DPW Warehouse Environmental Assessment Project		
REVISION NO	DES BY		
SCALE	DR BY	CEM	2/28/07
FILE	CHK BY	SD	2/28/07

TITLE	PROJECT AREA	
		
	PROJ NO. 43002003	FIGURE
		1



CLIENT City of Gulfport Department of Public Works				TITLE PROJECT LOCATION	
PROJ City of Gulfport DPW Warehouse Environmental Assessment Project					
REVISION NO	DES BY			 PROJ NO. 43002003 FIGURE 2	
SCALE Not To Scale	DR BY	CEM	2/28/07		
FILE	CHK BY	SD	2/28/07		

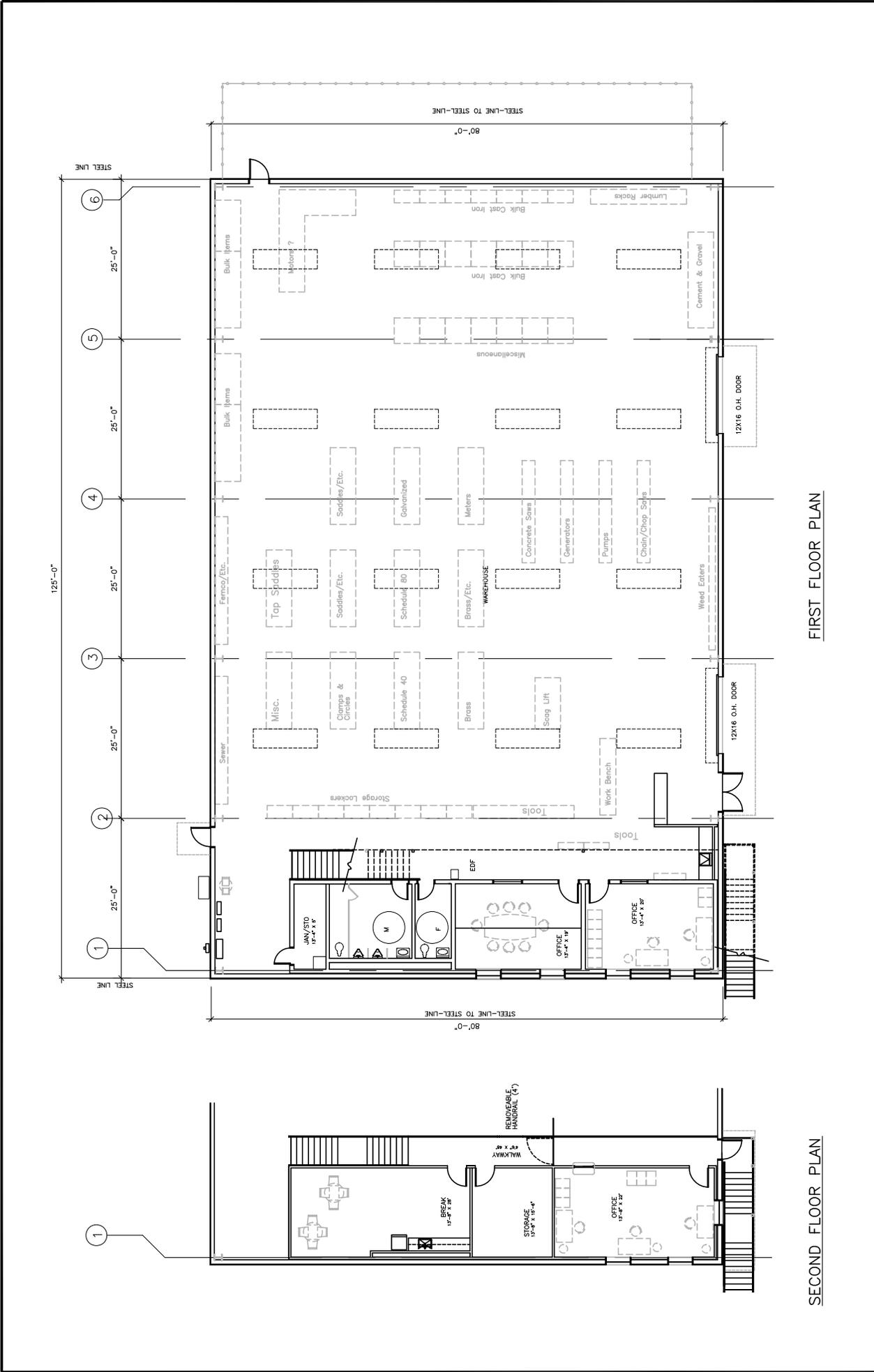


WS-14

SP-8

CLIENT		City of Gulfport Department of Public Works	
PROJ		City of Gulfport DPW Warehouse Environmental Assessment Project	
REVISION NO	DES BY	DR BY	CEM
SCALE	Not To Scale	CHK BY	SD
FILE			
TITLE			
SITE LAYOUT			
PROJ. NO. 43002003			FIGURE
			3





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

CLIENT		City of Gulfport Department of Public Works	
PROJ		City of Gulfport DPW Warehouse Environmental Assessment Project	
REVISION NO	DES BY	2/28/07	CEM
SCALE	DR BY	2/28/07	SD
FILE	CHK BY		
TITLE		PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN	
PROJ NO.		43002003	
FIGURE		4	



Appendix B

Agency Coordination



Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

February 14, 2007

Mr. Ray Aycock
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jackson Field Office
6578 Dogwood Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, MS 39213

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Aycock :

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Mississippi, severely damaging several buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex. The former Allen Plumbing Building, constructed in 1965 and located at 4008 Hewes Avenue, was a 4,488-square-foot wood-framed, metal siding building used by the DPW for office and warehouse space. The former Equipment Storage Building, located adjacent to the DPW Main Buildings at 4050 Hewes Avenue, was a 2,322-square-foot wood-framed, metal siding building used by the DPW solely for warehouse space. Both buildings were more than 50% damaged, meeting FEMA’s criteria for replacement, and have been demolished.

In lieu of replacement, the City of Gulfport proposes to consolidate the functions of both former buildings into a new DPW Warehouse to provide services more efficiently. The new DPW Warehouse, a 10,000-square-foot building, would be located across Hewes Avenue from the existing DPW Main Buildings on a site currently used for the DPW’s staging area (see Figures 1 and 2). Utilities would be provided to the new facility by tapping into the existing utility lines running along Hewes Avenue. Access to the proposed site would be from the existing staging area entrance onto Hewes Avenue. The proposed site is bounded to the southwest by an unnamed tributary of Brickyard Bayou with the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport to the northwest. East of the site is the DPW Hewes Avenue Complex with a residential area further east. The preliminary design for the proposed structure is shown in Figure 3.

NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, NISTAC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information or resources under your agency’s jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 973-739-9400 x3211, electronic mail at sdougherty@dewberry.com, or by mail at 600 Parsippany Road, Third Floor, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Sincerely,

NISTAC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara N. Dougherty', written in a cursive style.

For/ Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
TEL 301-670-3376
FAX 301-869-8728



Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

February 14, 2007

Mr. James D. Giattina
Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
Water Management Division
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Mr. Giattina:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

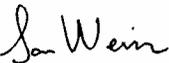
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Sincerely,

NISTAC


for/ Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

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Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

February 14, 2007

Mr. Homer L. Wilkes
State Conservationist
U.S Department of Agriculture,
Natural Resources Conservation Service
100 W. Capitol Street, Suite 1321 Federal
Jackson, MS 39269

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Mr. Wilkes:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

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Sincerely,

NISTAC

For / Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

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Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

February 14, 2007

Mr. Claiborne Barnwell
Chief
Mississippi Department of Transportation
Environmental Division
Administration Building
P.O. Box 1850
Jackson, MS 39215-1850

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Barnwell:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

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Sincerely,

NISTAC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara N. Dougherty".

For/ Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
TEL 301-670-3376
FAX 301-869-8728



Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

February 14, 2007

Ms. Robin Zantow
Administrative Assistant
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
Bureau of Wetland Permitting
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Zantow:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

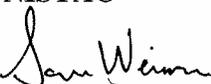
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Sincerely,

NISTAC


For/ Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

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Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

February 14, 2007

Ms. Michelle Vinson
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Pollution Control, Environmental Permits Division
P.O. Box 10385
Biloxi, MS 39289-0385

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Vinson:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

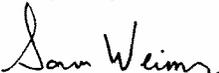
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Sincerely,

NISTAC


for/ Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

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Gaithersburg, MD 20878
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FAX 301-869-8728



Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

February 14, 2007

Mr. Andy Prosser
Director of Market Development
Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
P.O. Box 1609
Jackson, MS 39215

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Prosser:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

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In lieu of replacement, the City of Gulfport proposes to consolidate the functions of both former buildings into a new DPW Warehouse to provide services more efficiently. The new DPW Warehouse, a 10,000-square-foot building, would be located across Hewes Avenue from the existing DPW Main Buildings on a site currently used for the DPW’s staging area (see Figures 1 and 2). Utilities would be provided to the new facility by tapping into the existing utility lines running along Hewes Avenue. Access to the proposed site would be from the existing staging area entrance onto Hewes Avenue. The proposed site is bounded to the southwest by an unnamed tributary of Brickyard Bayou with the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport to the northwest. East of the site is the DPW Hewes Avenue Complex with a residential area further east. The preliminary design for the proposed structure is shown in Figure 3.

NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, NISTAC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information or resources under your agency’s jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 973-739-9400 x3211, electronic mail at sdougherty@dewberry.com, or by mail at 600 Parsippany Road, Third Floor, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Sincerely,

NISTAC

Sara N. Dougherty
For / Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
TEL 301-670-3376
FAX 301-869-8728



Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

February 14, 2007

Mr. Don Underwood
Executive Director
Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 23005
Jackson, MS 39225-3005

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Underwood:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Mississippi, severely damaging several buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex. The former Allen Plumbing Building, constructed in 1965 and located at 4008 Hewes Avenue, was a 4,488-square-foot wood-framed, metal siding building used by the DPW for office and warehouse space. The former Equipment Storage Building, located adjacent to the DPW Main Buildings at 4050 Hewes Avenue, was a 2,322-square-foot wood-framed, metal siding building used by the DPW solely for warehouse space. Both buildings were more than 50% damaged, meeting FEMA’s criteria for replacement, and have been demolished.

In lieu of replacement, the City of Gulfport proposes to consolidate the functions of both former buildings into a new DPW Warehouse to provide services more efficiently. The new DPW Warehouse, a 10,000-square-foot building, would be located across Hewes Avenue from the existing DPW Main Buildings on a site currently used for the DPW’s staging area (see Figures 1 and 2). Utilities would be provided to the new facility by tapping into the existing utility lines running along Hewes Avenue. Access to the proposed site would be from the existing staging area entrance onto Hewes Avenue. The proposed site is bounded to the southwest by an unnamed tributary of Brickyard Bayou with the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport to the northwest. East of the site is the DPW Hewes Avenue Complex with a residential area further east. The preliminary design for the proposed structure is shown in Figure 3.

NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, NISTAC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information or resources under your agency’s jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 973-739-9400 x3211, electronic mail at sdougherty@dewberry.com, or by mail at 600 Parsippany Road, Third Floor, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

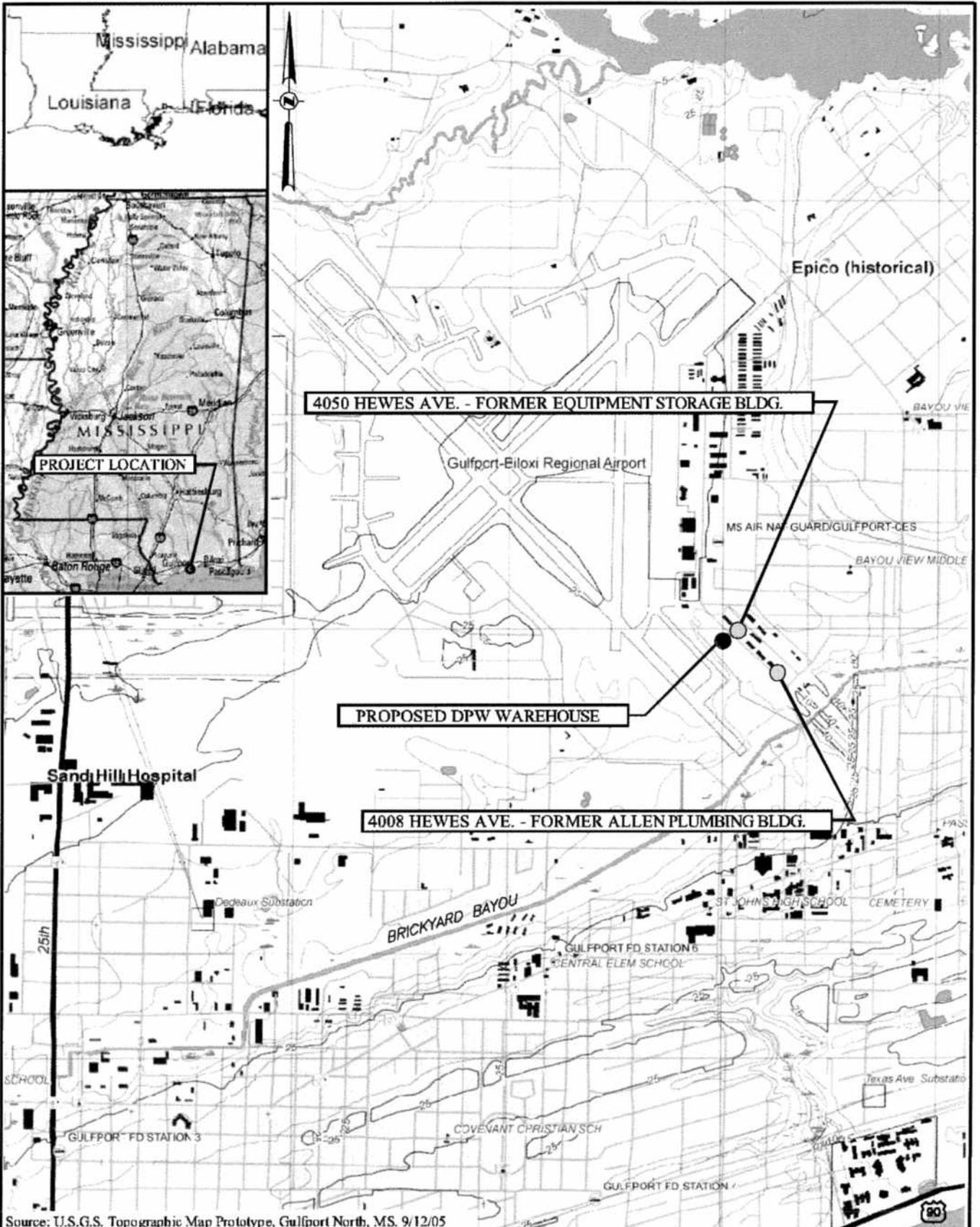
Sincerely,

NISTAC

Sara N. Dougherty
For/ Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

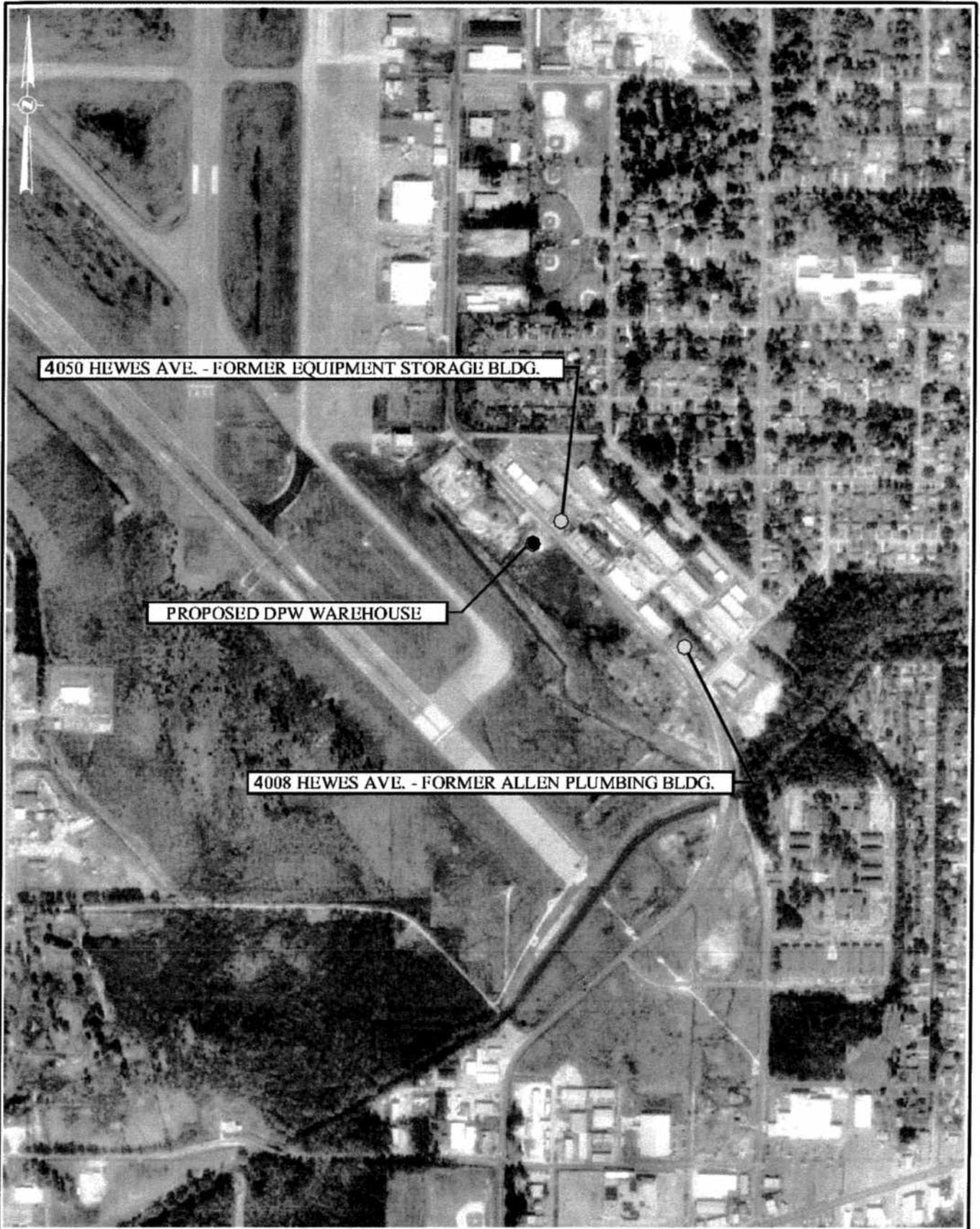
200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
TEL 301-670-3376
FAX 301-869-8728



Source: U.S.G.S. Topographic Map Prototype, Gulfport North, MS. 9/12/05

CLIENT	City of Gulfport Department of Public Works		
PROJ	City of Gulfport DPW Warehouse Environmental Assessment Project		
REVISION NO	DES BY		
SCALE	DR BY	CEM	2/28/07
FILE	CHK BY	SD	2/28/07

TITLE	PROJECT AREA	
		
	PROJ NO.	43002003
	FIGURE	1



CLIENT City of Gulfport Department of Public Works			
PRQJ City of Gulfport DPW Warehouse Environmental Assessment Project			
REVISION NO	DES BY		
SCALE Not To Scale	DR BY	CEM	2/28/07
FILE	CHK BY	SD	2/28/07

TITLE	PROJECT LOCATION
	PRQJ NO. 43002003
	FIGURE 2

Dougherty, Sara

From: Hamilton.John@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2007 3:58 PM
To: Dougherty, Sara
Cc: Mikulak.Ronald@epamail.epa.gov; Hamilton.John@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: City Gulfport Dept Public Works FEMA Construction Review

Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist
NISTAC
600 Parsippany Road
Third Floor
Parsippany, NJ 07054

SUBJ: NISTAC Request for Project Review for Department Public Works Warehouse, City of Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Thank you for your February 14, 2007, letter to James D, Giattina, Region 4 EPA Water Division, regarding the subject project. Three high quality figures showing project locale, an aerial photograph and a building sketch were also provided. EPA appreciates receiving these materials.

The City of Gulfport's Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from FEMA for proposed construction of a warehouse within the City of Gulfport's Hewes Avenue Complex. The proposed 10,000-square-foot building would be situated on a site bounded by the southwest by an unnamed tributary of Brickyard Bayou and by the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport to the northwest. Utilities would be provided to the new warehouse by tapping into existing utility lines running along Hewes Avenue.

Our principal interest would be for wetland protection, should wetlands be present on the site. If filling or disturbance of the unnamed tributary or any adjacent wetlands (if present) is anticipated, EPA advises that DPW consult with the US Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District to determine if any wetlands/waters of the US would be impacted by this project, as provided under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Consultation also should be held with the State of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality wetland protection programs to determine if they have regulatory concerns in this regard.

This concludes this review. If more information is needed, please contact me at (404) 562-9617 or at hamilton.john@epa.com.

John B. Hamilton
Project Officer
US Environmental Protection Agency
NEPA Program Office EAD/13
Office of Policy and Management
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-562-9617
Fax 404-562-9598



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

February 27, 2007

Sara N. Dougherty
Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants
600 Parsippany Road
Third Floor
Parsippany, NJ 07054

RE: DMR-070386; City of Gulfport's Department of Public Works Warehouse

Dear Ms. Dougherty:

The Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with other state agencies is responsible under the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) for managing the coastal resources of Mississippi. Proposed activities in the coastal area are reviewed to insure that the activities are in compliance with the MCP.

The Department has received a request to review a request by the City of Gulfport to consolidate two former buildings within the Department of Public Works Hewes Avenue Complex in Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi. The Department has no objections provided there are no direct or indirect impacts to coastal wetlands and no coastal program agency objects to the proposal. If coastal wetland impacts are anticipated, an application should be submitted to this office for review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your project.

For more information or questions concerning this correspondence, contact Jennifer Clark with the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at (228) 523-4111 or jennifer.clark@dmr.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willa Henriksen".

Willa Henriksen
Bureau Director, Wetlands Permitting

WH/jlc



Nationwide Infrastructure Support Technical Assistance Consultants

A Joint Venture of URS Group, Inc. and Dewberry & Davis, LLC

March 6, 2007

Federal Aviation Administration
Southern Regional Office
Air Traffic Division, ASO-520
1701 Columbia Avenue
College Park, GA 30337

Re: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Rans Black:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed construction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two former buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Mississippi, severely damaging several buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex. The former Allen Plumbing Building, constructed in 1965 and located at 4008 Hewes Avenue, was a 4,488-square-foot wood-framed, metal siding building used by the DPW for office and warehouse space. The former Equipment Storage Building, located adjacent to the DPW Main Buildings at 4050 Hewes Avenue, was a 2,322-square-foot wood-framed, metal siding building used by the DPW solely for warehouse space. Both buildings were more than 50% damaged, meeting FEMA’s criteria for replacement, and have been demolished.

In lieu of replacement, the City of Gulfport proposes to consolidate the functions of both former buildings into a new DPW Warehouse to provide services more efficiently. The new DPW Warehouse, a 10,000-square-foot building, would be located across Hewes Avenue from the existing DPW Main Buildings on a site currently used for the DPW’s staging area (see Figures 1 and 2). Utilities would be provided to the new facility by tapping into the existing utility lines running along Hewes Avenue. Access to the proposed site would be from the existing staging area entrance onto Hewes Avenue. The proposed site is bounded to the southwest by an unnamed tributary of Brickyard Bayou with the Gulfport-Biloxi Airport to the northwest. East of the site is the DPW Hewes Avenue Complex with a residential area further east. The preliminary design for the proposed structure is shown in Figure 3.

NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. Attached please find FAA Form 7460-1. In compliance with the Federal Aviation Administration Title 14, Part 77.13, NISTAC requests that your agency review the enclosed form and this letter regarding the proposed project and provide comments and guidance under your agency’s jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by telephone at 973-739-9400 x3211, electronic mail at sdougherty@dewberry.com, or by mail at 600 Parsippany Road, Third Floor, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Sincerely,

NISTAC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. N. Dougherty", is written over the typed name.

Sara N. Dougherty
Geologist

Cc: Brian Mehok, FEMA Transitional Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS

200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
TEL 301-670-3376
FAX 301-869-8728



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Transitional Recovery Office

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 4517
Biloxi, MS 39540

Physical Address
220 Popps Ferry Rd.
Biloxi, MS 39531

March 9, 2007

Mr. H.T. Holmes
Director
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205-0571

**RE: Request for Project Review – Construction of the City of Gulfport’s
Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County,
Mississippi**

Dear Mr. Holmes:

The City of Gulfport’s Department of Public Works (DPW) has applied for federal funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the proposed reconstruction of a DPW Warehouse which would consolidate two previously standing structures within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall in Mississippi, severely damaging several buildings within the City of Gulfport’s DPW Hewes Avenue Complex. The former Allen Plumbing Building, constructed in 1965 and located at 4008 Hewes Avenue, was a 4,488-square-foot, wood-framed, pressed metal clad building used by the DPW for office and warehouse space. The former Equipment Storage Building, located adjacent to the DPW Main Buildings at 4050 Hewes Avenue, was a 2,322-square-foot, wood-framed, pressed metal clad building used by the DPW solely for warehouse space. Both buildings were more than 50% damaged, meeting FEMA’s criteria for replacement, and have been demolished.

In lieu of replacement in kind, the City of Gulfport proposes to consolidate the functions of both former buildings into a new DPW Warehouse to increase service efficiency. The new DPW Warehouse, a 10,000-square-foot building, would be located across Hewes Avenue from the existing DPW Main Buildings on a portion of the site currently used as the DPW’s heavy equipment staging area (see Figures 1 and 2). Utilities would be provided to the new facility by tapping into existing utility lines that run beneath the Hewes Avenue corridor. Street access to the proposed site would be through the existing staging area entrance onto Hewes Avenue. The proposed site is bounded to the southwest by an unnamed tributary of Brickyard Bayou, to the northwest by Gulfport-Biloxi Airport, and to the east by the DPW Hewes Avenue Complex and a residential area behind that. The preliminary design for the proposed structure is shown in Figure 3.

A literature search was conducted at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), in Jackson, Mississippi to determine whether previously identified

archaeological sites exist within the project area. No previously identified archaeological sites are located within the project's area of potential effect (APE).

The literature search was expanded to include the project area's immediate vicinity, to characterize the type of archaeological resources that might be encountered. Three previously identified archaeological sites are located within a two mile radius (3.22 km) of the APE.

22HR 571, unnamed – unidentified prehistoric component. Identified in 1979 by Dale Greenwell during an archaeological survey recorded in "Archaeological Survey of Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport Bridge" (MDAH Report No. 79-008). The site has been determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

22HR572, unnamed - unidentified prehistoric component. Identified in 1979 by Dale Greenwell during an archaeological survey recorded in "Archaeological Survey of Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport Bridge" (MDAH Report No. 79-008). The site has been determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

22HR910 – Cuandet Road Homestead, a historic site dating to ca. 1930. Identified in 2003 by Jerame J. Cramer and David B. Kelley during an archaeological survey recorded in "Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed Car Rental Service Center at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, Harrison County, Mississippi" (MDAH Report No. 03-171). The site has been determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

All three sites are situated across the Gulfport/Biloxi International from the APE, within the Turkey Creek water shed. The project area is within the Brickyard Bayou watershed. No archaeological sites have been previously identified within the Brickyard Bayou watershed.

Two cultural resource surveys have been conducted within one mile (1.61 km) of the APE, to bring the sponsoring agencies in compliance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act. These surveys are:

- 1) MDAH Report Number 04-078: A Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of Proposed Airport Surveillance Radar, Model 11 (ASR-11) to Serve Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, Gulfport, Harrison County, Mississippi, by Noel and Rebecca Stowe.

- 2) MDAH Report Number 04-161: Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment of a Proposed Perimeter Road for the Gulfport/Biloxi Regional Airport, Harrison County, Mississippi, by George Shorter, Jr.

Mar. 9, 2007

Both surveys produced negative results. George Shorter's survey also noted that the Brickyard Bayou drainage was low-lying and swampy prior to establishment of Gulfport Army Air Field, later Gulfport/Biloxi International Airport, in 1942. When the airfield was established, the area was subjected to grading and filling. In many areas a sand layer "several meters" deep was emplaced. For this reason, subsurface testing was not undertaken within the airport boundaries.

Further literature search in MDAH files confirmed that the APE was once part of Gulfport Army Air Field (MDAH 047-GLF-700), specifically within an industrial area that included fueling and coal storage functions (See attached map). Four World War II temporary structures are known to have stood within the vicinity of the APE. World War II temporary structures are documented in the Historic American Building Survey per a Programmatic Agreement (PA) signed between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Department of Defense on July 7, 1986 and amended in 1991. Under the terms of this PA, examples of the entire series of temporary structures developed for World War II cantonments were documented, prior to the razing of all WWII Temporary structures on DoD installations.

The extent of disturbance and filling associated with the establishment of the Gulfport Army Air Field leads NISTAC to determine that the APE is a low probability area for archaeological resources and that construction of the proposed facility will have no adverse effect on National Register eligible archaeological resources. NISTAC recommends that an archaeologist be present to monitor during foundation excavation, in case archaeological remains are inadvertently discovered. If, during the course of work, archaeological artifacts or human remains are inadvertently discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize further harm to the finds. Work will not proceed until FEMA Historic Preservation staff has completed consultation with the Mississippi SHPO. When project excavation is complete, the archeologists will prepare appropriate reports following "Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations and Reports in Mississippi" defined by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to detail the results of this fieldwork. Artifacts collected as a result of this fieldwork will be washed, analyzed, cataloged, and prepared for curation.

Review of MDAH standing structure resource files revealed that there are no National Register eligible or Mississippi Historic Resources Inventory listed standing structures within a half mile (0.80 km) of the APE view shed. The built environment within the viewshed of the APE is characterized by heavy equipment staging in the immediate vicinity of the APE, airport airfield to the west and south, and modern two-story Butler buildings to the east and north. Beyond the industrial area, to the east, is a residential neighborhood, Bayou View, comprised of single story ranch homes. Bayou View was established in 1950 on a surplus portion of Gulfport Army Air Field purchased by the city of Gulfport in 1946, when the military deactivated the installation. NISTAC has determined that construction of the Gulfport DPW Warehouse will have no adverse effect upon National Register eligible standing structures.

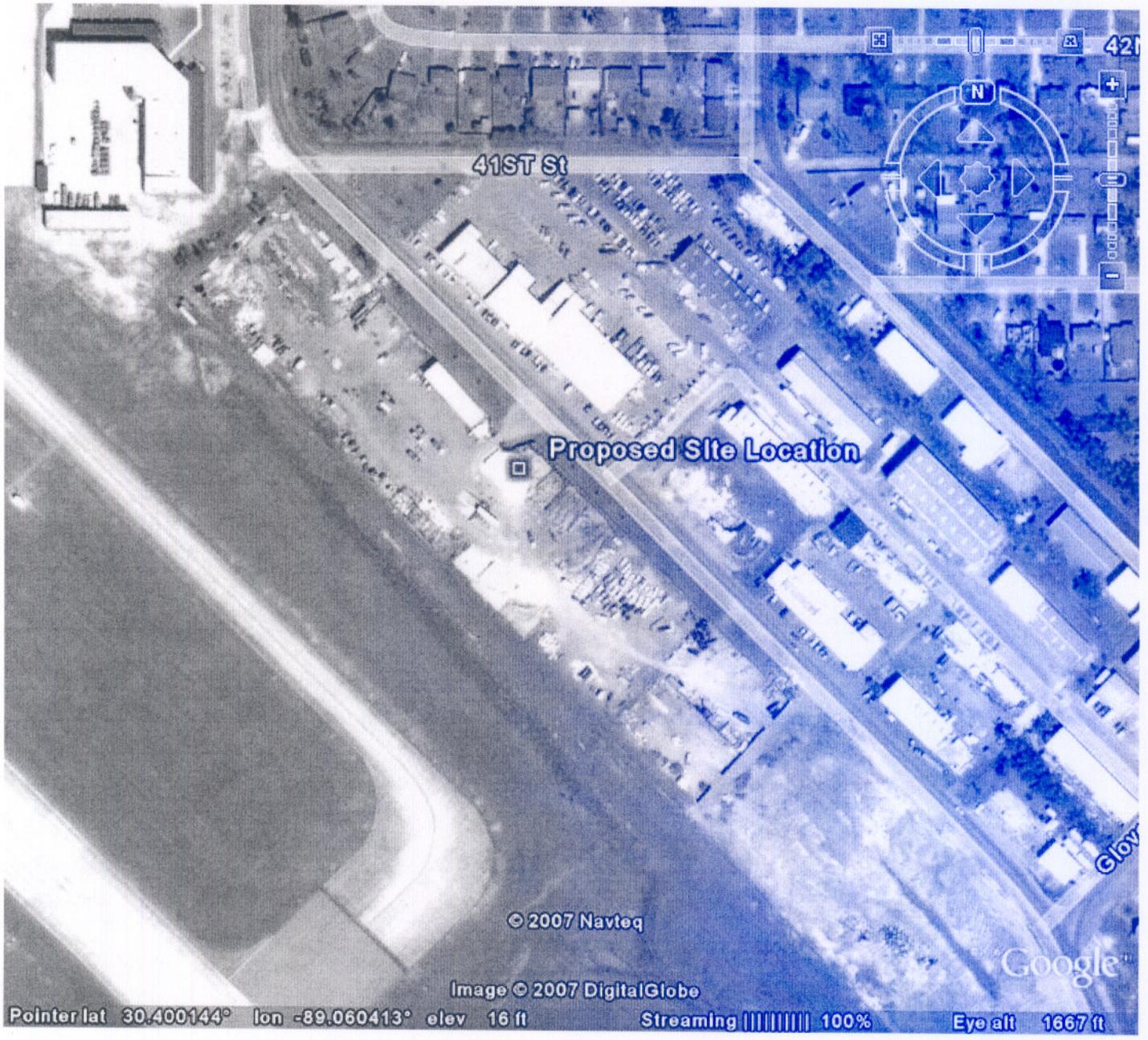
Mar. 9, 2007

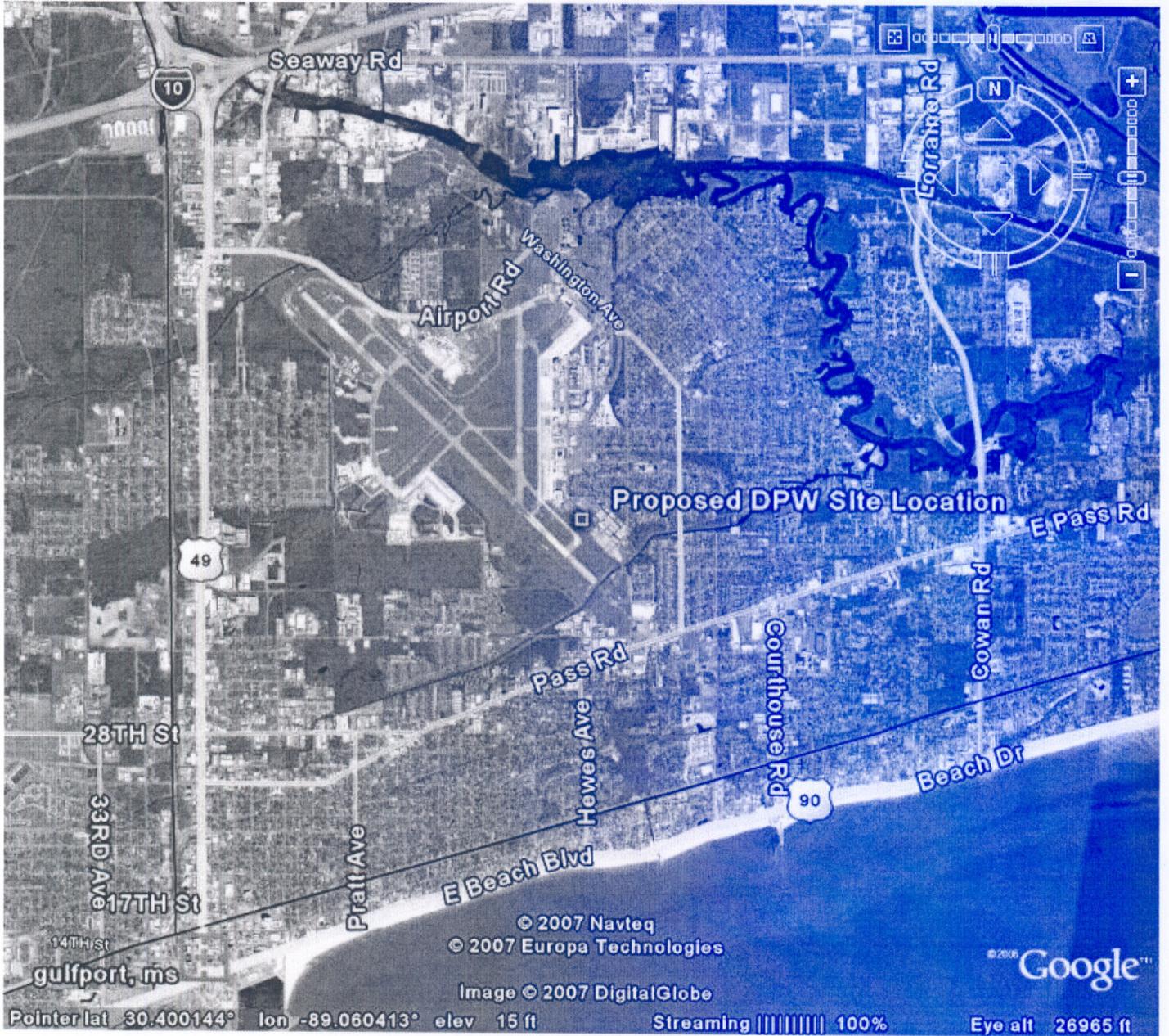
NISTAC has been retained by FEMA to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, NISTAC requests that your agency review the proposed project and provide comments and any available information or resources under your agency's jurisdiction within the project area. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Paul Drummond by telephone at (228) 594-2960, electronic mail at Paul_Drummond@dhs.gov, or by mail at 220 Popps Ferry Road, Environmental/Historic Preservation Section, Biloxi, MS 39531.

Sincerely,



Michael Grisham
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-1604-DR-MS







April 2, 2007

Mr. Michael Grisham
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-DR-1604-MS
220 Popp's Ferry Road, Bldg. A South
Biloxi, Mississippi 39531

RE: Proposed construction of the City of Gulfport's Department of Public Works
Warehouse in Gulfport, MDAH Project Log #03-094-07, Harrison County

Dear Mike:

We have reviewed your request for a cultural resources assessment, received on March 16, 2007, for the above referenced project in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After reviewing the information provided, it is our determination that no known cultural resources will be affected. We concur with FEMA's recommendation that an archaeologist be present to monitor the foundation excavation. With that recommendation, we have no reservations with the proposed project.

Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at (601) 576-6940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Woodrick".

Jim Woodrick
Review and Compliance Officer

FOR: H.T. Holmes
State Historic Preservation Officer

c: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs

Drummond, Paul

From: Carleton, Ken [KCarleton@choctaw.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2007 15:27
To: Drummond, Paul A
Cc: Baxter Mann; Jim Woodrick
Subject: Project Review - Construction of the City of Gulfport's Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, MS

Michael Grisham

Environmental Liaison Officer

FEMA-1604-DR-MS

Mr. Grisham:

I am in receipt of your letter dated March 9, 2007, regarding the Construction of the City of Gulfport's Department of Public Works Warehouse, Gulfport, Harrison County, MS. Since it appears that this project will largely take place on disturbed areas or filled areas associated with the original construction of the Gulfport Army Air Field, I concur that archaeological monitoring of this project is sufficient to protect any cultural resources which may be present within the APE. However, in the text of the document it states that in the case of an inadvertent discovery the SHPO will be contacted for further consultation about the inadvertent discovery. It does not say anything about the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians being contacted for consultation. I am assuming that is an oversight. In monitoring cases if an inadvertent discovery is made, work must stop immediately and my office must be contacted as soon as possible.. The area of the discovery must be secured from further disturbance, including looting and a plan for identification, evaluation and determination of eligibility for the National Register must be worked out *in consultation* with the Tribe, the SHPO and other interested parties.

Kenneth H. Carleton

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer/Archaeologist

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

P.O. Box 6257 or 101 Industrial Road

Choctaw, MS 39350

601.650.7316

04/04/2007