

PW 4/01

ABBREVIATED RECORD OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATION

See 44 Code of Federal Regulation Part 10.

Project Name/Number: Desire Fire Safety Equipment – Administration Building 071-UXQ34-00

Project Location: 3901 Desire Parkway, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Latitude: 30.0316N, Longitude: 89.9797W

Project Description:

As a result of Hurricane Katrina on 8/29/2005 flooding caused extensive damage to Desire Administration Building at the RTA Desire Parkway Complex. A majority of the fire safety equipment on the ground floor was inundated with brackish water up to 54 inches. This flooding damaged a surface-mounted 8-zone fire alarm panel, 6 “break glass” fire alarm pull boxes, 6 junction boxes, 6 alarm strobes and horns, and 2000 linear feet of #14 AWG wire. The wiring was damaged by inundation in brackish water.

The scope of work for this project will return the Administration building fire safety equipment to its pre-disaster design, function, and capacity. The 406 hazard mitigation opportunity was identified in the form of raising the location of the fire alarm system and installing a separate interface panel in the present location. Raising the main Fire Safety Control Panel to the second floor and installing a Remote Annunciator in its place will reduce future damage to the panel caused by flooding.

Documentation Requirements

- (Short version) All consultation and agreements implemented to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, and Executive Orders 11988, 11990 and 12898 are completed and no other laws apply. **(Review Concluded)**
- (Long version) All applicable laws and executive orders were reviewed. Additional information for compliance is attached to this REC and/or included in project files, as applicable.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination

- Statutorily excluded from NEPA review. **(Review Concluded)**
- Programmatic Categorical Exclusion - **(Review Concluded)**
- Categorical Exclusion - Category _____
 - No Extraordinary Circumstances exist.
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Extraordinary Circumstances exist (See Section IV).
 Extraordinary Circumstances mitigated. (See Section IV comments)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
- Environmental Assessment
- Supplemental Environmental Assessment (Reference EA or PEA in comments)
- Environmental Impact Statement

Comments: This project has been determined to be categorically excluded in accordance with 44 CFR Parts 10.8(d)(2)(xv) and (xvi), Region VI Programmatic Categorical Exclusion dated September 22, 2005-Restoration and/or Improvement of Internal Facility Systems or Components, from the need to prepare either an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- No historic properties that are listed or 45/50 years or older in project area. **(Review Concluded)**
- Building or structure listed or 45/50 years or older in project area and activity not exempt from review.
 - Determination of No Historic Properties Affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Determination of Historic Properties Affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
 - Property a National Historic Landmark and National Park Service was provided early notification during the consultation process. If not, explain in comments
 - No Adverse Effect Determination (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file).
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Adverse Effect Determination (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
 - Resolution of Adverse Effect completed. (MOA on file)
Are project conditions required Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: This scope of work has been reviewed and meets the criteria in Appendix A, Programmatic Allowances, Items II-B-2, (Replacement or Installation of Interior Fire Detection and Fire Suppression Systems), of FEMA's Programmatic Agreement (PA) dated December 3, 2004. In accordance with the PA, FEMA is not required to determine the National Register eligibility of properties where work performed meets the Appendix A criteria. In keeping with the stipulations of the PA, all proposed repair activities should be done in-kind to match existing materials and form. Any change to the approved scope of work will require resubmission for re-evaluation under Section 106.

Correspondence: NHPA effect determinations made by Wayne L Wiggins , FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Project affects only previously disturbed ground. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project affects undisturbed ground.
 - Project area has no potential for presence of archeological resources
 - Determination of no historic properties affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence or consultation on file). **(Review Concluded)**
 - Project area has potential for presence of archeological resources
 - Determination of no historic properties affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
Are project conditions required Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Determination of historic properties affected
 - NR eligible resources not present (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file).
Are project conditions required Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - NR eligible resources present in project area. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
 - No Adverse Effect Determination. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Adverse Effect Determination. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
 - Resolution of Adverse Effect completed. (MOA on file)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**

Correspondence: NHPA effect determinations made by Wayne L Wiggins , FEMA Historic Preservation Specialist.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

- No listed species and/or designated critical habitat present in areas affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action. **(Review Concluded)**

- Listed species and/or designated critical habitat present in the areas affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action.
 - No effect to species or designated critical habitat. (See comments for justification)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - May affect, but not likely to adversely affect species or designated critical habitat (FEMA determination/USFWS/NMFS concurrence on file) **(Review Concluded)**
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Likely to adversely affect species or designated critical habitat
 - Formal consultation concluded. (Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion on file)
Are project conditions required? YES (see section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: Project is located in an urban or previously developed area. Neither listed species nor their habitat occur in or near this site, thus FEMA finds there will be no effect to threatened or endangered species.
Consultations: USFWS emergency consultation provisions determined in letters dated September 15, 2005.

E.O. 11988 – FLOODPLAINS

- No Effect on Floodplains/Flood levels and project outside Floodplain - **(Review Concluded)**
- Located in Floodplain or Effects on Floodplains/Flood levels
 - No adverse effect on floodplain and not adversely affected by the floodplain. **(Review Concluded)**
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Beneficial Effect on Floodplain Occupancy/Values **(Review Concluded)**.
 - Possible adverse effects associated with investment in floodplain, occupancy or modification of floodplain environment
 - 8 Step Process Complete - documentation on file
Are project conditions required? YES (see section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: The site is located in Zone B.
References: FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Panel No. 2252030115 E, revised 3/1/1984.

E.O. 11990 – WETLANDS

- No Effects on Wetland(s) and project located outside Wetland(s) - **(Review Concluded)**
- Located in Wetland or effects Wetland(s)
 - Beneficial Effect on Wetland - **(Review Concluded)**
 - Possible adverse effect associated with constructing in or near wetland
 - Review completed as part of floodplain review
 - 8 Step Process Complete - documentation on file
Are project conditions required? YES (see section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: No wetlands were observed during site visit or determined to be present by checking the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps.
References: USFWS NWI map accessed on-line (<http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/wtlnds/launch.html>) 7/31/2006.

E.O. 12898 - Environmental Justice For Low Income and Minority Populations

- No Low income or minority population in, near or affected by the project - **(Review Concluded)**
- Low income or minority population in or near project area
 - No disproportionately high and adverse impact on low income or minority population- **(Review Concluded)**
 - Disproportionately high or adverse effects on low income or minority population
Are project conditions required? YES (see section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: The percent populations of 70126 are: 87.1% African American, 10.3% White and 1.6% Hispanic. The median household income in 1999 was \$ 30,627 and 18.8 % of families are below poverty level.
References: U.S. Census bureau 2000 data at <http://factfinder.census.gov>, referenced 7/31/2006.

OTHER RELEVANT LAWS AND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

- No impacts to other substantive laws/Executive Orders identified. Review concluded.
- Other applicable substantive laws/Executive Orders. (Identify law/E.O. and conditions if any below).

Comments: None

V. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROJECT CONDITIONS

Project Conditions:

This project must comply with all conditions of the attached Programmatic Categorical Exclusion. In addition, the following conditions apply as a condition of FEMA funding reimbursement:

This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LA DNR) has determined that receipt of federal assistance is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resource Program. Projects within the coastal zone may still require a coastal use permit or other authorization from DNR. Projects may be coordinated by contacting the LA DNR at 1-800-276-4019.

Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.

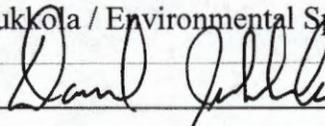
The City of New Orleans/Orleans Parish enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) on 8/31/1970. Per Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel Number 2252030115 E, dated 3/1/1984, project is located in Zone "B", area between limits of 100-yr flood and 500-yr flood or in certain areas subject to flooding with average depths less than one foot or where the contributing drainage area is less than one square mile; or in area protected from the 100-yr flood by levee, dike or other structure subject to failure or overtopping during larger floods. Project is replacement of electrical components, which per Flood Recovery Guidance, dated 4/12/2006, where possible, all equipment and contents should be elevated at least 3 ft. above the highest adjacent grade elevation.

No extraordinary circumstances as described in 44 CFR 10.8(d)(3) were identified during project review.

REVIEWER AND APPROVALS

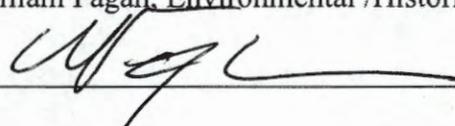
FEMA Environmental Reviewer.

Name: David Jukkola / Environmental Specialist

Signature  Date 8/3/2006

FEMA Regional Environmental Officer or delegated approving official.

Name: William Fagan, Environmental /Historic Specialist Chief of Staff

Signature  Date 8/3/2006