

<p><b>Step 1:</b> Determine whether the Proposed Action is located in a wetland and/or the 100-year floodplain, or whether it has the potential to affect or be affected by a floodplain or wetland.</p>	<p><b>Project Analysis:</b> The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi is a participant in good standing with the NFIP. According to FEMA mapping, the proposed project is located within the 100-year floodplain.</p> <p>According to National Wetlands Inventory Maps and a site visit conducted by FEMA and NISTAC biologists on June 1, 2007, there are no wetlands on or immediately adjacent to the proposed project site.</p>
<p><b>Step 2:</b> Notify public at earliest possible time of the intent to carry out an action in a floodplain or wetland, and involve the affected and interested public in the decision-making process.</p>	<p><b>Project Analysis:</b> The applicant will notify the Pascagoula City Council, which meets each month on the first and third Tuesday at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the Joe D. Cole, Jr. Municipal Building. Minutes from meetings are available on the City of Pascagoula website.</p> <p>A notice will be published by the applicant in a newspaper of general circulation when the EA is made available for public review.</p>
<p><b>Step 3:</b> Identify and evaluate practicable alternatives to locating the Proposed Action in a floodplain or wetland.</p>	<p><b>Project Analysis:</b> The Proposed Action includes no wetland impact. The Proposed Action is located within the 100-year floodplain.</p> <p>Other than the No Action Alternative, there are no practicable alternatives for rebuilding SPAS that would not involve impacts to the 100-year floodplain. The majority of the City of Pascagoula is located within the 100-year floodplain.</p> <p>The following alternatives were evaluated in the EA:</p> <p><i>Alternative 1:</i> No Action</p> <p><i>Alternative 2:</i> Relocation of SPAS to the RCES Campus (Proposed Action)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New building would utilize existing municipal water, electric, sewer, and telephone utilities tie-ins at the existing RCES campus facilities.</li> <li>• The new facility would be a 15,131-square-foot building containing 5 new classrooms with a combined student capacity of 150 students, as well as a multi-use gymnasium/cafeteria/stage, office space, and restroom facilities.</li> <li>• Office space in RCES Building A would be converted to a single, large classroom with a 30-student capacity.</li> <li>• The student capacity of RCES would be</li> </ul>

	<p>increased by 180 students, which was the former capacity of SPAS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new facility would be constructed on an elevated concrete slab supported by a system of concrete piers, footings, and grade beams to an elevation of 14 + 1 feet based on the BFE.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 4:</b> Identify the full range of potential direct or indirect impacts associated with the occupancy or modification of floodplains and wetlands, and the potential direct and indirect support of floodplain and wetland development that could result from the Proposed Action.</p>	<p><b>Project Analysis:</b> The project would result in permanent impacts to the floodplain. Impervious coverage would increase.</p>
<p><b>Step 5:</b> Minimize the potential adverse impacts from work within floodplains and wetlands (identified under Step 4), restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by wetlands.</p>	<p><b>Project Analysis:</b> There are no impacts to wetlands, so no replacement or mitigation would be required.</p> <p>The project is located within the 100-year floodplain and there would be an increase in impervious cover.</p> <p>Projects adjoining this stormwater system would be reviewed as necessary to ensure that cumulative impacts to the floodplain are addressed.</p> <p>The new facility would be constructed on an elevated concrete slab supported by a system of concrete piers, footings, and grade beams to an elevation of 14 + 1 feet based on the BFE.</p> <p>Any disturbed vegetation would be replaced.</p> <p>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 on this project. No staging of equipment or project activities shall begin until all permits are obtained. The Applicant must apply BMPs for soil erosion prevention and containment during staging of equipment and project activities. Should project activities be delayed for 1 year or more after the date of this EA, coordination and project review by the appropriate regulating agencies must be reinitiated.</p>
<p><b>Step 6:</b> Re-evaluate the Proposed Action to determine: 1) if it is still practicable in light of its exposure to flood hazards; 2) the extent to which it will aggravate the hazards to others; 3) its potential to disrupt floodplain and wetland values.</p>	<p><b>Project Analysis:</b> The Proposed Action remains practicable based on the building standards and consolidation efficiencies.</p>

<p><b>Step 7:</b> If the agency decides to take an action in a floodplain or wetland, prepare and provide the public with a finding and explanation of any final decision that the floodplain or wetland is the only practicable alternative. The explanation should include any relevant factors considered in the decision-making process.</p>	<p><b>Project Analysis:</b> A public notice will be published informing the public of FEMA’s decision to proceed with the project. This notice will include rationale for floodplain impacts; a description of all significant facts considered in making the determination; a list of the alternatives considered; a statement indicating whether the action conforms to State and local floodplain protection standards; a statement indicating how the action affects the floodplain; and a statement of how mitigation will be achieved.</p>
<p><b>Step 8:</b> Review the implementation and post-implementation phases of the Proposed Action to ensure that the requirements of the EOs are fully implemented. Oversight responsibility shall be integrated into existing processes.</p>	<p><b>Project Analysis:</b> This step is integrated into the NEPA process and FEMA project management and oversight functions.</p>