

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS
SEWERAGE AND WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS
MICHLOUD PUMPING STATION IMPROVED PROJECT
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA**

The Department of Homeland Security and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) have established Alternative Arrangements (AA) to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA, for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants to reconstruct critical infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area (Federal Register, Vol. 71, No. 56, p. 14712, March 23, 2006).

Interested parties are hereby notified that FEMA has determined that the improved project for the Michoud Pumping Station qualifies for expedited NEPA review under the AA guidelines. The Sewerage and Water Board (S&WB) of New Orleans has prepared and submitted an application to FEMA for funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to FEMA-1603-DR-LA. The Presidential Disaster Declaration, for this event was signed on August 29, 2005.

On August 29, 2005, the Michoud Pumping Station, located at 4400 Michoud Boulevard, in New Orleans, Louisiana, was severely damaged by flood waters stemming from Hurricane Katrina. The damages were evaluated by FEMA, and the cost to repair the existing facility was determined to be greater than 50% of the replacement cost. As such, S&WB was eligible to receive funding for the demolition and complete replacement of the facility. In lieu of "in-kind" replacement, however, S&WB has determined that the public interest would be better served by clearing and grading the existing site, and constructing a new multi-level facility, with all components raised to elevations greater than the adjusted base flood elevation (ABFE), and housed in an above-ground, concrete structure. Project implementation would directly impact an area measuring approximately 136 ft. by 442 ft.

The public comment period will be from January 30, 2009 to February 14, 2009. Written comments on the proposal may be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Environmental/Historic Preservation, Attn: Nick Knowles
1250 Poydras St., Box 43
New Orleans, LA 70113

or emailed to nicholas.knowles@dhs.gov, or faxed to FEMA's Transitional Recovery Office in New Orleans at (504) 762-2871; and verbal comments will be accepted at (504) 762-2291 between 7:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.