



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for
PORT OF NEW ORLEANS – MORRISON YARD
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
FEMA-1603-DR-LA

BACKGROUND

The Port of New Orleans (PONO) Morrison Yard facilities located at 7300 Jourdan Road, New Orleans, Louisiana (Latitude 30.02532, Longitude -90.0307) was substantially damaged as a result of the tidal surge and high velocity winds from Hurricane Katrina. As a result, PONO (applicant) has requested federal funding to consolidate/change the location of the facility.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the Port of New Orleans – Morrison Yard project and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The need for the proposed action is to reduce the risk of future damage from flooding by relocating to an area associated with a lesser frequency for flooding. The alternatives considered include 1) No Action, 2) Restore at original site; 7300 Jourdan Road, New Orleans, and 3) Reconstruct at Alternate Site; 5353 Coffee Drive, New Orleans with Improvements (Proposed Action).

The purpose is to relocate Morrison Yard's (Latitude 30.02532, Longitude -90.0307) fuel storage and dispensing system to PONO's existing West Riverside facilities (Latitude 29.91472, Longitude -90.11447), Coffee Drive, which includes improvements from the pre-disaster system. This includes installing dual tanks (4,000 GAL capacity) for the storage of diesel fuel, a propane tank (1000 GAL), and bollards (16 QTY) around the dual fuel tank per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 30 requirements.

The applicant proposes to consolidate the Morrison Yard (7300 Jourdan Road) operations into facility operations located at West Riverside Yard (Coffee Drive), which includes improvements from the pre-disaster system. This includes installing dual tanks (4,000 GAL capacity) for the storage of diesel fuel, a propane tank (1000 GAL), and bollards (16 QTY) around the dual fuel tank per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 30 requirements. Proposal also includes strapping tanks into saddles that have been placed on top of existing pavement, installing electrical/mechanical/distribution/wiring/

plumbing hardware above ground via existing infrastructure, and post-digging for placement of the bollards.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

A legal notice was posted in the following newspapers: The Times Picayune from September 00, 2010 through September 00, 2010. The EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm and was available for public review at the Orleans Public Library – Main Library. No substantive comments were received, the Draft EA is has become Final and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the Final Public Notice.

FINDINGS

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources floodplains, coastal resources, air quality, biological resources cultural resources, socioeconomics safety, noise, and hazardous materials. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, water quality, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. Also during the construction period, cultural resources impacts could occur during ground disturbing activities; however, Section 106 consultation would be on-going to limit any potential impacts which could occur. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds.

- Any fill or borrow material used in the repair activities must be sourced from sites that do not contain any buried cultural materials (i.e. wells, cisterns, foundations, basements, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like). If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-

8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding.

- To reduce air quality from construction related activities, PONO should be responsible for having approvals/permits on file stating that air emissions.....
- All construction activities should be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with OSHA requirements.
- If hazardous constituents are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation and management of the contamination should be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials should be taken, and any hazardous and non-hazardous wastes generated should be disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local requirements.
- All construction should be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator and comply with floodplain ordinance. All permits and certificates, and all coordination pertaining to these permit(s), should be documented and provided to the local floodplain administrator, to Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LA GOHSEP) and to FEMA as part of the permanent project file. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d) (9), the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment, where possible, disaster proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses by relocation of those building contents, materials and equipment to or above the Advisory Base Floodplain Elevation (ABFE).

CONCLUSION

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (per 44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed.

APPROVAL

Mark Karl
Interim Director,
Louisiana Recovery Office (LRO)

Date

JoMar Maldando
Environmental Officer,
Headquarters

Date