

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact for St. Martinville Wastewater Treatment Plant St. Martin Parish, Louisiana

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed construction of a Wetlands Enhancement Project at the City of St. Martinville Sewerage Treatment Plant Pond. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in April 2005, and issued a FONSI on April 20, 2005. Any federal agency may adopt another federal or state agency's EA, and is encouraged to do so when such adoption would save time and money (40 CFR §1500.4(n), §1500.5(h), and §1506.3), providing the original document satisfies the agency's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements. FEMA has adopted EPA's EA.

The City of St. Martinville has submitted an application for FEMA Public Assistance funding being administered in response to FEMA-1786-DR-LA, Hurricane Gustav, which was signed as a Presidential Disaster Declaration on September 2, 2008. The City of St. Martinville proposes to distribute secondarily treated wastewater into a nearby wetlands area for final tertiary treatment of the flow. The wetlands area discharges into the same stream (Cypress Island Coulee) that currently receives discharge directly from the treatment facility. Under the proposed plan, wastewater would receive primary treatment and disinfection at the existing treatment facility, after which it would be routed to the designated wetlands for further removal of nutrients and suspended solids by means of an overland flow regime. It is anticipated that the tertiary treatment provided by the wetlands will be much more effective than the current system and any difference in water quality is expected to be positive and beneficial.

In accordance with NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft FONSI was prepared to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The Draft FONSI is FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment.

The thirty (30) day comment period will end on May 23, 2011. Written comments on the proposal may be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Environmental/Historic Preservation
St. Martinville Wastewater Project
1 Seine Ct.
New Orleans, LA 70114

Or emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to FEMA's Transitional Recovery Office in New Orleans at 504-762-2323; and verbal comments will be accepted at 504-762-2361 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. This Public Notice and FEMA's Draft FONSI can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm . EPA's EA and FEMA's Draft FONSI will also available for public review at the St. Martinville Public Library, 201 Porter Street, St. Martinville, LA 70582 and at the Main Branch of the Lafayette Public Library, 538 Jefferson Street, Lafayette, LA 70501. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft FONSI will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.