



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Louisiana Recovery Office
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CHANGE OF LOCATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF
JOHNSON BAYOU FIRE STATION #10 AND WATERWORKS #10 BUILDING
CAMERON PARISH LOUISIANA
FEMA-1607-DR-LA (HURRICANE RITA)**

Introduction

Hurricane Rita, a strong hurricane with high wind and a destructive storm surge, made landfall on September 23, 2005, causing catastrophic damage to the coastal parishes of Louisiana. As a result of damages from Hurricane Rita, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under Presidential disaster declaration FEMA-1607-DR-LA to provide federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93288) Section 406 authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters.

Cameron Parish has submitted an application for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding under FEMA's Public Assistance Program being administered in response to FEMA-1607-DR-LA. The Johnson Bayou Fire Station #10 and Waterworks District #10 Building at 155 Berwick Road, Johnson Bayou, LA was substantially damaged by Hurricane Rita's winds and flooding and was deemed eligible for grant funding to replace the Fire Station and Waterworks building to pre-disaster condition. The applicant proposes to demolish and construct a new building incorporating the functions and capacity of the previous facility at a new location in Cameron Parish Louisiana at 6246 Gulf Beach Highway, Johnson Bayou, LA, approximately one mile southeast of the original location.

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 this EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation and construction of the Johnson Bayou Fire Station and Waterworks Building and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Findings

The above described action would not result in any significant adverse impacts related to geology, soils, hydrology, floodplains, wetlands, water quality, air quality, vegetation, wildlife, state and federally listed threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations), safety, security, noise, hazardous materials, toxic wastes, traffic, or transportation. 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. The proposed alternative is not anticipated to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x). As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed action as described in the EA may proceed.

CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this EA, several conditions must be met and mitigation measures must be taken by the applicant prior to and during project implementation.

- Before initiating any work Cameron Parish will have an approved Coastal Use Permit from the State's Coastal Zone Management Department, if required. Cameron Parish must ensure that contractors follow permit requirements, conditions, and construction procedures and standards during construction work.
- 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. FEMA Public Assistance grant funded projects carried out in the floodplain or affecting the floodplain must be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator for a floodplain development permit and the action must be undertaken in compliance with relevant, applicable and required local codes and standards and thereby, will reduce the risk of future flood loss, minimize the impacts of floods on safety, health, and welfare, and preserve and possibly restore beneficial floodplain values as required by Executive Order 11988.
- 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 minimize soil and wetlands impacts, Cameron Parish shall ensure contractors implement BMPs such as using silt fencing, covering stockpiled soils, mulching cleared areas and re-vegetating.
- A Storm Water Management Plan shall be prepared and BMP's for storm water management shall be implemented to minimize any detrimental effects to water quality during project implementation.
- Cameron Parish is required to coordinate construction activities with the local floodplain administrator and comply with the local floodplain ordinance. All permits and certificates, and all the associated coordination, must be documented and provided to the GOHSEP and to FEMA as part of the permanent project file. The lowest floor of the new structure must be elevated or flood proofed to or above the base flood elevation. Future losses shall be eliminated, reduced or minimized by relocating building contents, materials and equipment to or above the BFE.
- Specific requirements of the design that will mitigate and minimize potential harm in the floodplain shall include the elevation of the lowest horizontal structural supports of the lowest floor above the Design Flood Elevation (DFE) with free board (free board is required as a function of the nature and occupancy of the building), the use of an open works foundation building on piles, columns, or shear walls, a foundation free-of-obstructions, the use of flood resistant materials, and limiting activities below the DFE to parking storage and access. Additionally, in Coastal A Zones, incorporating the ASCE 24-05 Standard requires that foundations be designed to take into account scour and erosion, that the mechanical, heating and ventilation elements be elevated above the DFE, and that breakaway walls shall not produce debris capable of damaging the structure or nearby structures in the event of a flood.
- Fill or borrow material used 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, Cameron Parish and/or its contractors must immediately stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to

the finds. The Applicant and GOHSEP must inform the FEMA Public Assistance program, who would in turn contact the FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The Applicant must not proceed with work until FEMA completes consultation with the SHPO. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act is required. In that situation, the Applicant must notify the local law enforcement agency within 24 hours of the discovery, and notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at (225) 342-8170 within 72 hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize FEMA funding of the project.

- To minimize air quality impacts, Cameron Parish and its contractors must implement BMPs to limit air emissions, fugitive dust and exhaust. BMPs would include maintaining and covering spoil piles, covering the loads of haul vehicles and keeping construction equipment properly tuned.
- Construction traffic must be monitored for potential traffic safety incidents and suitable traffic control measures shall be taken by Cameron Parish and their contractors as needed.
- Cameron Parish and its contractors must ensure all project activities are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with all state and federal occupational safety regulations, including OSHA, to protect workers and the general public.
- Project construction would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (*e.g.*, petroleum products, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, treated timber) and may result in the generation of small volumes of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials must be taken and generated hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are required to be disposed in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous conditions.

Approvals:

Jomar Maldonado, Environmental Officer
Washington, DC
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Date

Joseph Threat, Interim Director
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Date

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