

Draft Environmental Assessment

Catahoula Parish Police Jury

Means Lake Road Relocation

Project Worksheet 348 (MDP-008)

Catahoula Parish, Louisiana

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This document was prepared by

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CBRA	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
CBRS	Coastal Barrier Resources System
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CUP	Coastal Use Permit
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
GOHSEP	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
LAC	Louisiana Administrative Code
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDNR	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
LDWF	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAP	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants

NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Public Assistance
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
PNP	Private Nonprofit
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
RHA	Rivers and Harbors Act
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office/Officer
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SSA	Sole Source Aquifer
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Levels
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey

## **SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Authority**

On November 30, 2009, Governor Bobby Jindal requested a major disaster declaration due to severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding during the period of October 29 to November 3, 2009. On December 10, 2009, President Obama declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana due to damages from severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1863-DR-LA), authorizing the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. FEMA is administering this disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended (Stafford Act). As a direct result of the disaster, flooding on the Ouachita River damaged a portion of Means Lake Road in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. The Parish has submitted an application for FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Program funding under 1863-DR-LA, Project Worksheet 348 (MDP-008). FEMA is considering funding the proposed relocation of a portion of Means Lake Road, to maintain the use of the road and reduce the likelihood of future road damage in the same area.

This draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President’s Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA’s regulations implementing NEPA (44 CFR Part 10). FEMA is required to consider potential environmental impacts before funding or approving actions and projects. The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the relocation of a portion of Means Lake Road in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

### **1.2 Project Location**

Catahoula Parish is located in central Louisiana on the Ouachita River, which forms the eastern boundary of the Parish. In 2000, the population of the Parish was 10,920. The Parish has a total area of 739 square miles (1,914.0 km<sup>2</sup>) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000).

It is bordered to the west by LaSalle Parish, to the south by Avoyelles Parish, to the east by Concordia Parish, and to the north by Franklin Parish. The project is located at latitude 31.67679, longitude -91.79662, in a rural area along Means Lake Road on the east bank of the Ouachita River approximately 4 miles northeast of the City of Jonesville, Louisiana (Figure 1). The right-of-way of Means Lake Road is immediately adjacent to the Ouachita River. The road provides the only ingress/egress for the community and emergency responders.

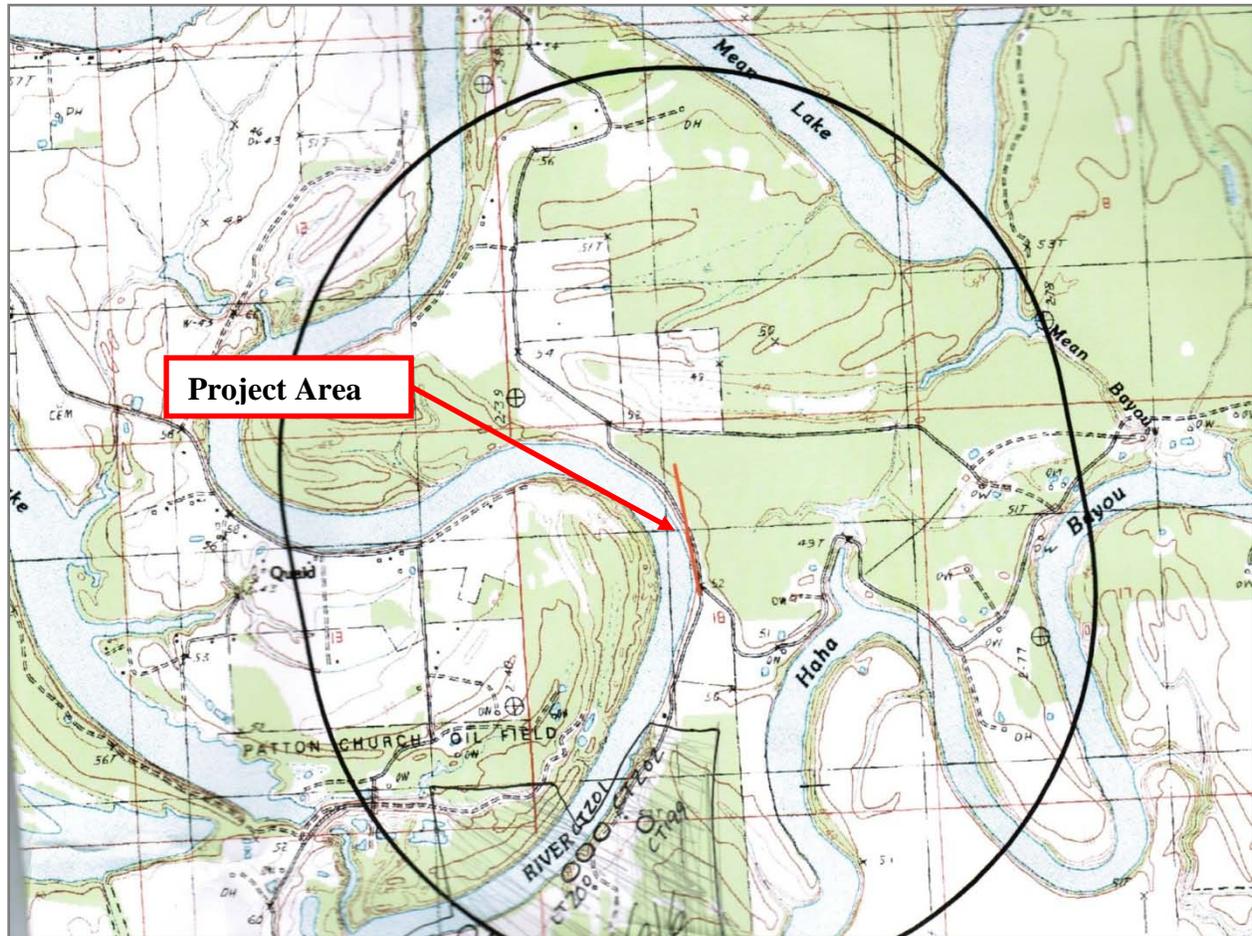


Figure 1: Project area in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana

## SECTION 2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The objective of the FEMA PA Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private Nonprofit (PNP) organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies declared by the President.

Through the PA Program, FEMA provides supplemental Federal disaster grant assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly owned facilities and the facilities of certain PNP organizations. The PA Program also encourages protection of these damaged facilities from future events by providing assistance for hazard mitigation measures during the recovery process.

Severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding during the period of October 29 to November 3, 2009 caused heavy rainfall, which produced high velocity flooding of the Ouachita River. Means Lake Road was inundated by the Ouachita River and high velocity flow washed away a 225 feet in length by 10 feet in width by 13 feet in depth section of the road embankment beginning at latitude 31.67679, longitude -91.79662, and ending at latitude 31.67622, longitude -91.79656. Photos of the damage to the road embankment are included in Appendix A. The damage created a safety hazard for vehicular traffic on the road and impacted safe access by the community and

emergency responders to the area serviced by the road. The road bed cannot be returned to the predisaster footprint due to existing and anticipated future bank erosion. Catahoula Parish needs to find a solution to provide safe vehicular access that will not be compromised by regular flooding damage.

### **SECTION 3 ALTERNATIVES**

#### **3.1 Alternative 1 – No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to relocate Means Lake Road further east of the Ouachita River. The Parish would continue current activities to protect the road using Parish funding, as available. The damaged road embankment would continue to create a safety hazard for vehicular traffic on the road and impact safe access by the community and emergency responders to the area serviced by the road. The Ouachita River would continue to damage Means Lake Road during heavy rains and flooding events, causing continued inundation and washing of the gravel surface of the road, and contributing to sedimentation and degradation of water quality and fish habitat. Further erosion of the road embankment would continue, eventually causing road failure and restricting access by the community and emergency responders to the area serviced by the road. This alternative would not meet the project needs nor the Parish's goals and objectives.

#### **3.2 Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

The Parish plans to realign the road to relocate the damaged portion of the road to adjacent land acquired from Means Lake Corporation. A basic plan drawing of the proposed road relocation is included in Appendix B. The proposed project would reconstruct Means Lake Road approximately 250 feet further east of the Ouachita River. The centerline of the proposed road begins at latitude 31.67713, longitude -91.79700 (+/-6 feet), and ends at latitude 31.67384, longitude -91.79612 (+/- 8 feet). The Parish proposes to construct a 1,270 feet in length by 18 feet in width aggregate surface road to bypass the existing road. The subgrade would be compacted and a 0.7 foot compacted depth crushed surfacing base course would be applied and compacted. A 0.3 foot compacted depth crushed surfacing top coarse would then be applied. The stormwater treatment for the new road would be through infiltration alongside slopes adjacent to the roadway. Although the road will remain in the FEMA floodplain, the road would move to slightly higher land, allowing residents and emergency vehicles safer access during 100-year floods. This alternative would also minimize impacts to regional prime farmland soils, by keeping the proposed roadway close and parallel to the existing road, it eliminates unnecessary intrusions from the alignment footprint.

The existing roadway would be removed and planted with native vegetation. This would return the abandoned roadway alignment to pre-construction conditions that would result in essentially no net less loss of prime farmland soils. The remainder of the gravel roadway would remain but would be maintained by Catahoula Parish.

## **SECTION 4     AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

A summary table of potential impacts is provided in Section 5.

### **4.1   Physical Resources**

#### **4.1.1   Climate**

According to the 1986 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) soil survey of Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, the climate in the Parish is characterized as humid and subtropical. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) information indicates the annual precipitation in the project area is between 50.1 to 60 inches, the annual minimum temperature is 50.1 to 55 degrees Fahrenheit, and the annual maximum temperature is between 75.1 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit (USGS, 2005, 2010a, 2010b).

#### **4.1.2   Geology and Soils**

The surface of Louisiana has a relatively young geologic history, consisting of sedimentary sequences deposited in or adjacent to rivers and deltas in a coastal plain setting. Quaternary sediment (approximately 20 percent Pleistocene and 55 percent Holocene) makes up most of the surface exposures in Louisiana. Strata of the Tertiary age make up most of the remaining 25 percent of the surface exposures (Louisiana State University, 2010).

The parent material that formed the soils of Catahoula Parish can be placed into the four general groups of recent alluvium, loess, sediment of late Pleistocene age or younger, and the sediment of early Pleistocene and Tertiary age. The approximate breakdown among the four groups is as follows: 69 percent recent alluvium, 5 percent loess, 4 percent late Pleistocene age or younger, and 22 percent early Pleistocene and Tertiary age. Alluvial plains, stream terraces, and uplands are the major physiographic areas in the Parish. Approximately 71 percent of the Parish is alluvial plains, ranging between 40 to 60 feet above mean sea level, and present as level to undulating soils on natural levees along river channels, and as low, level soils between natural levees. Approximately 9 percent of the Parish is stream terraces, ranging from 45 to 55 feet above mean sea level on a terrace known locally as the Wallace Ridge, and from 55 to 75 feet on a terrace known locally as the Macon Ridge. Lastly, approximately 20 percent of the Parish is uplands, ranging between 75 to 320 feet above mean sea level, and present as gently sloping to steep soil on ridgetops, side slopes, and in drainage ways (USDA, 1986).

The project area is rolling hills, varying in elevation from 40 to 50 feet above mean sea level, and with a steep slope immediately next to the Ouachita River (USGS, 1983). The soil type present at the proposed project location is Hebert silt loam (Hb), a somewhat poorly drained soil that has a slope of 0 to 1 percent and a depth to water table of about 18 to 36 inches (USDA, 2006).

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 (7 U.S.C. §4201 et seq.) was enacted to minimize the unnecessary conversion of prime farmland soils to non-agricultural uses as a result of Federal actions. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for protecting significant agricultural lands from irreversible conversions that result in a loss of an essential food or environmental resource. The Hebert soils located in the project area are classified as prime farmland (USDA, 2006). Currently, the project area is in an undeveloped wooded area.

#### 4.1.3 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C §7401 et seq.), requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The EPA has set NAAQS for six principal pollutants, called "criteria pollutants," including particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxides, nitrogen dioxide and lead. Any area not meeting the standards is referred to as a nonattainment area and is required to implement specific air pollution control measures. These specific controls are specified in the State Implementation Plans (SIP), which are developed to establish specific limits and controls in an attempt to return the nonattainment areas to attainment. General conformity with the SIP is required for all Federal actions, other than projects funded by the Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration, to ensure that they do not interfere with the State's attainment methods.

Catahoula Parish is in attainment for the NAAQS (EPA, 2011a).

#### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not provide funding to relocate Means Lake Road. No impacts to climate or air quality are anticipated. Continued soil erosion would occur from flood events resulting in road failure and collapse into Ouachita River.

#### **Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

No impacts to climate are anticipated. In general, implementation of the proposed project would result in minor and localized short-term and long-term impacts to geology and soils. Some soils and vegetation may be removed during construction. Vegetation removal activities would not result in increased erosion of stream banks. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to soil productivity, fertility, stability, or infiltration capacity would be at or below the lower levels of detection, based on the small scale of the project and minor ground-disturbing activities. Soil erosion during construction would be minimized by the implementation of best management practices (BMPs), such as using silt fencing, covering stockpiled soils, mulching cleared areas, and regenerating with native species.

Pollutant emissions from construction equipment may result in minor, temporary impacts to air quality in the area immediately surrounding construction activities. Impacts would primarily be associated with fugitive dust generated during construction activities, including the use of construction equipment, movement of trucks containing construction materials, and commuting of construction workers. To ensure that the potential dust generation does not impact the surrounding area, BMPs such as using wetting agents, or cleaning equipment as it leaves the site, would be used in all construction phases of the project. Additionally, construction vehicle emissions can be mitigated through operational controls (equipment idle reduction and control, engine preventive maintenance, or equipment operator training); fuel usage strategies (ultra-low sulfur diesel or bio-diesel); or equipment strategies (retrofit technologies, engine re-power or upgrades, or electrification).

In accordance with the FPPA and implementing regulations in 7 CFR Part 658, the Proposed Action Alternative was reviewed for potential impacts on prime farmlands soils. USDA Form AD-1006, Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, was used to document the process of evaluating

the potential agricultural value of the project site. The agricultural value is given a score based on USDA criteria. This score assesses non-soil related criteria such as the potential for impact on the local agricultural economy if the land is converted to non-farm use. The score also evaluates the compatibility the non-soil related activities with existing agricultural use.

The score is used as an indicator to determine the potential impacts on farmland based on a 160 cumulative point threshold. The NRCS will identify measures or alternatives that would reduce or eliminate farmland impacts for projects that exceed the 160-point threshold. For projects that do not exceed this point threshold, the NRCS typically indicates that no further action is necessary.

The NRCS prime farmland conversion consultation resulted in a cumulative Farmland Conversion Impact Rating score of 167. This exceeded the threshold score of 160 for no further NRCS consultation. FEMA has determined that, although the proposed project received a combined Farmland Conversion Impact Rating score of 167, there is little opportunity to avoid prime farmland soil impacts. It was determined that the existing road is susceptible to frequent flood damage. As a result, it creates a safety hazard to vehicular traffic associated with local commuters and emergency responders who need to use the road. The roadbed cannot be returned to the predisaster footprint due to existing and anticipated future bank erosion from the adjacent Ouachita River. In addition, there is no alternative alignment because the proposed road must tie into the existing road. Impacts to prime farmland soils have been minimized by proposing a parallel alignment that is kept close to the existing road. The abandon roadway section would be returned to pre-construction grade and planted with native vegetation resulting in essentially no net loss of prime farmland soils. A copy of the NRCS correspondence is included in Appendix C.

## 4.2 **Water Resources**

### 4.2.1 Water Quality

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.), requires States to identify water bodies that fail to meet one or more applicable water quality standards regarding total maximum daily levels (TMDLs) for one or more regulated contaminants. The Section 303(d) listing requirement applies to water bodies impaired by point and nonpoint sources. Louisiana's Section 303(d) List of Water Bodies identifies impaired water bodies and establishes a priority ranking for such waters, taking into account the severity of the pollution and the uses to be made of the water bodies.

The closest surface water body to the site is Ouachita River, which is located approximately 100 to 300 feet west of the proposed road. The Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) Title 33 Part IX §1123 Table 3 indicates the designated uses for the Ouachita River to be Primary and Secondary Contact Recreation, and Fish and Wildlife Propagation (LAC, 2011). The 2010 Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) Water Quality Inventory Integrated Report Section 303(d) List includes the Ouachita River next to the project area as an impaired water body, due to turbidity from agricultural activities (Subsegment LA080201, Ouachita River-From Columbia Lock and Dam to Jonesville). Additionally, Catahoula Lake, which is located approximately 15 miles downgradient of the project area, is included as an impaired water body, due to turbidity from agricultural activities (Subsegment LA081603, Catahoula Lake) (LDEQ, 2010).

The Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) Protection Program, authorized by Section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 300 et seq.), requires that proposed projects within a designated SSA area be reviewed to ensure that they do not endanger the water source. There are no sole source aquifers located near the project area (EPA, 2008).

#### 4.2.2 Wetlands

Executive Order (EO) 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) requires Federal agencies to take actions to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, except when there are no practicable alternatives. This EO also mandates that any wetlands impacted by a Federally-funded project be mitigated if avoidance or minimization of impacts is not possible.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA. USACE also regulates the building of any structures in waters of the U.S. pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act (RHA) of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). A letter from the USACE Vicksburg Operations Division dated September 30, 2010, made a preliminary jurisdictional determination that there are no areas impacted by the proposed work on the property that are subject to regulation pursuant to Section 10 of the RHA or pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA. A copy of the letter is included in Appendix D. Based upon the information provided by the USACE, a Department of the Army permit will not be required for the proposed work.

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 (16 U.S.C. §1271 et seq.) to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Council coordinates the administration of wild and scenic river designations. There are no designated wild and scenic rivers in or near the project area (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Council, 2011). Additionally, the Louisiana Legislature created the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System in 1970 for the purpose of preserving, protecting, developing, reclaiming, and enhancing the wilderness qualities, scenic beauties, and ecological regimes of certain free-flowing Louisiana streams. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) does not list any natural and scenic rivers in or near the project area (LDWF, 2011).

#### 4.2.3 Floodplains

EO 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires Federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long and short term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. FEMA uses Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to identify the regulatory 100-year floodplain from the National Flood Insurance Program. A floodplain is defined as the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including, at a minimum, that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year, except where a critical action is involved, in which case floodplain is defined as an area subject to inundation from a flood having a 0.2 percent chance of occurring in any given year. FIRM Panel Number 2200470200E dated April, 19, 2005 depicts the site and surrounding area as Zone AE, a special flood hazard area (SFHA) subject to inundation by the 1 percent annual chance flood (100-year flood) (FEMA, 2005). The portion of the FIRM depicting the site is included in Appendix E.

### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to water resources within the project area would be expected to occur, except by flooding events of the Ouachita River. These impacts may include further erosion of the road and a loss of vegetation due to excessive river volume and flow velocities. The erosion may affect the water quality and wetlands in the project vicinity and along downstream portions of the Ouachita River. Additionally, future flooding events would continue to jeopardize the use of the road by the community and emergency responders. Eventually, the road would fail, restricting access by residents and first responders to the area serviced by the road.

The damaged portion of Means Lake Road is located in the 100-year floodplain.

### **Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action Alternative may cause a temporary increase in soil erosion during construction, which may impact the receiving water body during storm events. However, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) indicating appropriate BMPs will be implemented and maintained during construction activities, minimizing potential impacts. General BMPs include, but are not limited to: control measures are properly selected, installed and maintained; maintenance of control measures is performed prior to anticipated storm events; when sediment escapes the site, it is removed at a frequency necessary to minimize off-site impacts; litter, construction debris, and construction chemicals exposed to storm water are prevented from becoming a pollutant source; and sediment traps, silt fences, vegetative buffer strips, or equivalent sediment controls are implemented for all down slope boundaries.

Per USACE consultation, no wetlands were identified in the project area (Appendix D). The Proposed Action Alternative would have no impact on wetlands or other waters of the U.S. and would not require permits regulated under Section 404 of the CWA or Section 10 of the RHA. In the event that project plans are changed, or if any additional construction is anticipated, the Parish will contact USACE for reevaluation of permit requirements. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the relocated portion of the road would remain in the 100-year floodplain; however, it would be located on slightly higher land further away from the Ouachita River, increasing the likelihood of safe use of the road during flood events. Applicant must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator and obtain required permits prior to initiating work. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.

## **4.3 Coastal Resources**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers the Coastal Barrier Resource Act (CBRA) of 1982, as amended (16 U.S.C. §3501 et seq.). The Act designated various undeveloped coastal barrier islands, depicted by specific maps, for inclusion in the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS). Designated areas were made ineligible for direct or indirect Federal financial assistance that might support development, including flood insurance, except

for emergency life-saving activities. There are designated CBRS units in Louisiana, but not near the proposed project area (USFWS, 2011a).

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §1451 et seq.) encourages states to develop and implement management programs for coastal zones. The Act is administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Federally-funded activities that affect a coastal zone are subject to Federal consistency provisions of the CZMA. Before the Federal agency can grant financial assistance, the applicant must attach a consistency certification issued by the State coastal agency. The Louisiana State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978, as amended (Act 361, La. R.S. 49:214.21) assigns responsibility for implementing the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR). A system of Coastal Use Permits (CUPs) was established by LDNR to regulate uses and activities in Louisiana coastal zones. The proposed project area is not in a coastal zone (LDNR, 2010).

#### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

The No Action Alternative would have no effect on the coastal zone or any designated CBRS units.

#### **Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action Alternative would have no effect on the coastal zone or any designated CBRS units.

### **4.4 Biological Resources**

#### **4.4.1 Flora and Fauna**

The Hebert silt loam soil in the project area is well suited to the woodland currently present on the site, with eastern cottonwood, American sycamore, cherrybark oak, Nuttall oak, and sweetgum all having high production potential. Wild turkey, woodcock, thrushes, woodpeckers, squirrels, gray fox, raccoon, deer, and coyote are among the wildlife attracted to this type of woodland area (USDA, 1986).

#### **4.4.2 Threatened and Endangered Species, Critical Habitat, Wildlife, and Fish**

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.) establishes a Federal program to conserve, protect, and restore threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats. Section 7 of the ESA mandates that all Federal agencies must ensure that any action they authorize, fund, or carry out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction of critical habitat for these species. To accomplish this, Federal agencies must consult with the USFWS or the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) when taking action that has the potential to affect species listed as endangered or threatened or proposed for threatened or endangered listing.

Lists of Federally endangered and threatened species and designated critical habitats with the potential to occur in Catahoula Parish and Ouachita River were obtained from the USFWS. Two animal species are listed as endangered or threatened by the USFWS as follows (USFWS, 2011b):

- Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) – a bottom dwelling species known in the Mississippi, Red, and Black Rivers. They prefer sand-covered portions of the rivers with strong currents and high turbidity.
- Red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) – dwells in mature longleaf pine forests and mixed pine-upland hardwood forests with little or no hardwood mid-story.

A site visit was conducted on March 24, 2010 by Technical Assistance Contractor Cheryl Bommarito. A walkover survey of the proposed project area did not reveal any listed threatened or endangered species. The site investigation identified that no suitable habitat for the pallid sturgeon was near the proposed project location. FEMA has determined that the proposed activities would have no effect on the pallid sturgeon and red-cockaded woodpecker.

#### 4.4.3 The Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918, as amended (16 U.S.C. §703 et seq.), makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed in 50 CFR Part 10, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 CFR Part 21). Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort (e.g., killing or abandoning eggs or young) may be considered a take and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. If an action is determined to cause a potential take of migratory birds, as described above, then a consultation process with the USFWS needs to be initiated to determine measures to minimize or avoid these impacts. This consultation should start as an informal process. The USFWS maintains a list of the birds protected by the MBTA (USFWS, 2011c).

A site visit was conducted on March 24, 2010 by Technical Assistance Contractor Cheryl Bommarito. Although a walkover survey of the proposed project area did not reveal any migratory birds within a 1-mile radius of the project area, the proposed roadway corridor is a mixed habitat of forest and open areas that has the potential to provide resting, feeding, and breeding opportunities for migratory birds.

#### 4.4.4 The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1934, as amended (16 U.S.C. §661 et seq.), was enacted to protect fish and wildlife when Federal actions result in the control or modification of a natural stream or body of water. The statute requires Federal agencies to take into consideration the effect those water-related projects would have on fish and wildlife resources, take actions to prevent loss or damage to these resources, and provide for the development and improvement of these resources. For an action resulting in the control or modification of a body of water, the Federal agency must consult with the USFWS or NMFS (as appropriate) to develop measures to mitigate action-related losses of fish and wildlife resources. These measures need to be included in some kind of public documentation for the action, and where possible, the Federal lead agency must incorporate the measures in plans for the action.

No in-water work is proposed at the site, thus no modification of a natural stream or water body will occur that would require further review.

#### 4.4.5 The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976, as amended (16 U.S.C. §1801 et seq.), also known as the Sustainable Fisheries Act, requires all Federal agencies to consult with NMFS on activities or proposed activities authorized, funded, or undertaken by that agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The EFH provisions of the Sustainable Fisheries Act are designed to protect fisheries habitat from being lost due to disturbance and degradation.

The closest surface water body is Ouachita River. No essential fish habitats were identified during a visual inspection of the site conducted on March 24, 2010 by Technical Assistance Contractor Cheryl Bommarito.

#### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

The No Action Alternative would have no adverse effects on endangered and threatened terrestrial wildlife and plant species because no new land clearing or construction activities would occur. However, future flood events could erode Means Lake Road further, reducing water quality due to increased turbidity, increased sediments, and increased pollutants, which could adversely affect fish species temporarily. These impacts to fish species would dissipate after an erosive flood event subsides.

#### **Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

FEMA has determined that the Proposed Action Alternative would have no effect on endangered species. No listed species are actively using the project area or have been recently sighted in the project vicinity. However, if any of the listed species discussed are identified, the Parish is to notify FEMA and the USFWS immediately and stop all construction activities. FEMA has determined that the project construction would be limited to the width of the proposed roadway and therefore, would have minimal impacts to migratory birds.

#### 4.5 Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470 et seq.), and implemented by 36 CFR Part 800, requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on Federal projects that would have an effect on historic properties prior to implementation. Historic properties are defined as archeological sites, standing structures, or other historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

There are no known listings on the NHRP in the proposed project area. FEMA conducted a review of archaeological data at the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in March 2010 and no identified sites were located in the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Site number CT 202 is located approximately 0.75 km (0.47 miles) to the south of the project area. A site visit was conducted on March 24, 2010 by Technical Assistance Contractor Cheryl Bommarito. A walkover survey of the APE did not reveal any cultural material or evidence of cultural features. No subsurface testing was conducted during the site visit. FEMA initiated consultation with the Louisiana SHPO in a letter dated February 7, 2011 determining that no

historic properties will be affected by this undertaking, and that the APE will be limited to the new right-of-way acquired for the road. The Louisiana SHPO concurred with the findings in a response dated March 1, 2010. A copy of the consultation letter and SHPO response is included in Appendix F.

### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

Because no Federal activity would occur under the No Action Alternative, no requirement for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA exists. Archaeological sites and historic resources would continue to be at the same risk level for potential flood damages and erosion from the bank of Ouachita River.

### **Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

No significant (NRHP-eligible) cultural resources were found to be located within the project area. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would not affect any known resources. However, given the proximity to the Ouachita River, and the inability of a pedestrian survey to identify potential, buried cultural resources, it is possible that as-yet unidentified resources could be disturbed by the Proposed Action Alternative. In the event that archaeological deposits, including any Native America Pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project shall be halted and the applicant shall stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archaeological findings will be secured and access to the sensitive area restricted. The applicant will inform FEMA immediately and FEMA will consult with the SHPO or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) and Tribes and work in sensitive areas cannot resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the NHPA.

## **4.6 Socioeconomic Resources**

### **4.6.1 Environmental Justice**

EO 12898 (Environmental Justice) directs Federal agencies to identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations in the U.S. resulting from Federal programs, policies, and activities. Socioeconomic and demographic data for residents in the project vicinity was studied to determine if a disproportionate number (defined as greater than 50 percent) of minority or low-income persons have the potential to be affected by the alternatives.

Based on U.S. Census Bureau data from 2000, there were 10,920 people and 4,082 households in Catahoula Parish. The population density was 16 people per square mile (6/km<sup>2</sup>). The ethnic composition of the City of Jonesville (the closest town to the project site), Catahoula Parish, and the State of Louisiana is summarized in the following table:

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>City of Jonesville</b>	<b>Catahoula Parish</b>	<b>State of Louisiana</b>
White	39.8%	71.8%	63.9%
Black or African American	59.2%	27.1%	32.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%	0.2%	0.6%
Asian	0.1%	0.1%	1.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some other race/Two or more races	0.6%	0.8%	1.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000)

Information on median income and the percentage of people living below the poverty level for the City of Jonesville, Catahoula Parish, and the State of Louisiana is summarized in the following table:

<b>Economic Characteristic</b>	<b>City of Jonesville</b>	<b>Catahoula Parish</b>	<b>State of Louisiana</b>
Median household income in 1999	\$18,622	\$22,528	\$32,566
Individuals below poverty level	36.8%	28.1%	19.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2000)

### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

Because no Federal activity would occur under the No Action Alternative, no requirement for compliance with EO 12898 exists. A greater potential for flooding and economic loss would continue to exist.

### **Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

All populations within Catahoula Parish that use Means Lake Road would benefit from the Proposed Action Alternative; therefore, it would not cause any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations in the project area.

#### 4.6.2 Noise

Commonly defined as unwanted and/or unwelcome sound, noise is Federally regulated by the Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C. §4901 et seq.). Although this Act tasks the EPA to prepare guidelines for acceptable ambient noise levels, it only charges those Federal agencies that operate noise-producing facilities or equipment to implement noise standards. Therefore, by the nature of its mission, FEMA does not have statutes defining noise. However, Catahoula Parish Council’s Code of Ordinances has made it unlawful to operate loud machinery from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. The Ordinance places this restriction on any machinery, equipment or device which makes or causes a noise that exceeds 65 decibels as monitored from the exterior of the property where the sound producer is located. Repairs performed by public agencies or utility companies are exempted from this restriction. Noise-sensitive receptors are subject to stress or significant interference from noise. Examples include residential dwellings, mobile homes, hotels, motels, hospitals, nursing homes, educational facilities, libraries and places of worship. No residential

dwellings are within 1000 feet of the project area. A visit to the site did not reveal other noise-sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the proposed project site.

**Alternative 1 – No Action**

The No Action Alternative would have no impact on noise.

**Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action Alternative would result in a temporary increase in noise levels at and around the proposed project site because of the operation of construction equipment and increased vehicular activity. During the site visit on March 24, 2010, noise-sensitive receptors were not observed in or adjacent to the project area. No residential dwellings are located within 1000 feet from the proposed project site, so impact to occupants would be minimal as construction activities would not occur between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., per Catahoula Parish’s Ordinance.

4.6.3 Public Health and Safety

The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. §651 et seq.) seeks to prevent work-related injuries, illnesses and deaths by issuing and enforcing standards for workplace safety and health. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is responsible for administering the provisions of the Act.

The health, safety, and security of construction workers, area residents and the general public as related to the project alternatives are considered in this section. The proposed site is rural, undeveloped wooded land with a road infrastructure, utility easements, and some residential houses. Undeveloped land still lies throughout the project area and down Means Lake Road. The level of safety and security risk at the proposed site is minimal due to lack of population and development.

**Alternative 1 – No Action**

The damaged road embankment would continue to create a safety hazard for vehicular traffic on the road and impact safe access by the community and emergency responders to the area serviced by the road. Further erosion of the road embankment during future flood events would eventually cause road failure and restrict access by the community and emergency responders to the area serviced by the road.

**Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action Alternative could temporarily impact the safety of workers and others in the vicinity of the project site during construction as construction sites are inherently dangerous.

The safety of site workers would be dependent on the policies, knowledge, experience and diligence of the workers. The Parish should ensure all project activities are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with all local, State and Federal occupational safety requirements, to protect workers and the general public.

Appropriate signage and fencing should be utilized to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns, including placing fencing around the site perimeter. Appropriate signage and barriers

should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes. Mitigation measures have been established in Section 7 to reduce any potential adverse effects from implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative. These measures and all appropriate BMPs are required as conditions of FEMA funding for the project.

#### 4.6.4 Traffic

Means Lake Road is an ingress/egress aggregate road for residents. Vehicular traffic is minimal. Access to the proposed site is directly off Means Lake Road. There is no other existing vehicular access to the site.

#### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, the damaged road embankment would continue to create a safety hazard for vehicular traffic on the road and impact safe access by the community and emergency responders to the area serviced by the road. Additionally, further erosion of the road embankment would continue, eventually causing road failure and restricting access by the community and emergency responders to the area serviced by the road.

#### **Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action Alternative would have a temporary influence on traffic by increasing the number of heavy vehicles on Means Lake Road during construction activities. Construction traffic should be monitored and controlled as appropriate.

### 4.7 Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials and wastes are regulated in the U.S. under a variety of Federal and State laws. Federal laws and subsequent regulations governing the assessment, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes include the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); the RCRA Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); the Solid Waste Act; the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); and the CAA.

RCRA is the Federal law that regulates hazardous waste. RCRA regulates hazardous waste from “cradle to grave,” that is, from the time the waste is generated through its management, storage, transport, treatment, and final disposal. The EPA is responsible for implementing this law and may delegate this responsibility to the States to implement. RCRA also sets forth a framework for the management of non-hazardous wastes. The 1986 amendments to RCRA enable the EPA to address the environmental problems that can result from underground tanks storing petroleum and hazardous substances. RCRA focuses only on active and proposed facilities and does not address abandoned or historical sites.

TSCA gives the EPA the ability to track the approximately 75,000 industrial chemicals currently produced or imported into the U.S. The EPA repeatedly screens these chemicals and can require reporting or testing of those that may pose an environmental or human-health hazard. The EPA may ban the manufacture and import of those chemicals that pose an unreasonable risk. The EPA may also control these chemicals as necessary to protect human health and the environment. TSCA supplements other Federal statutes, including CAA and the Toxic Release Inventory

under the Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act. TSCA includes regulations regarding asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

CERCLA and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act govern the process of identifying and prioritizing the cleanup of abandoned or other sites not regulated under RCRA contaminated by the release of hazardous materials. The EPA was given power to seek out those parties responsible for any release and ensure their cooperation in the cleanup. Superfund site identification, monitoring, and response activities in States are coordinated through the State environmental protection or waste management agencies.

Section 112 of the CAA requires the EPA to develop emission standards for hazardous air pollutants. In response to this section the EPA published a list of hazardous air pollutants and promulgated the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations. Because lead and asbestos present a substantial risk to human health as a result of air emissions from one or more source categories, they are considered hazardous air pollutants and, thus, hazardous materials. The Asbestos NESHAP (40 CFR Part 61, Subpart M) addresses milling, manufacturing, and fabricating operations; demolition and renovation activities; waste disposal issues; active and inactive waste disposal sites; and asbestos conversion processes.

A search of EPA databases revealed no Brownfields, hazardous waste, Superfund or TSCA sites proximate to the project area (EPA, 2011b, 2011c). Additionally, the Louisiana Brownfields and Voluntary Remediation Program does not list any sites in the project area (LDEQ, 2011).

#### **Alternative 1 – No Action**

The No Action Alternative would not disturb any hazardous materials or create any potential hazard to human health.

#### **Alternative 2 – Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action Alternative would not disturb any known hazardous materials or create any potential hazard to human health. If hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the proposed construction operations, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management, and disposal of the contamination would be initiated in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations.

Project construction would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (e.g., petroleum products, etc.) and may result in the generation of small volumes of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures (including BMPs) 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. The Parish would be required to take appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials in the construction area.

**SECTION 5 SUMMARY**

The following table summarizes the potential impacts of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives and conditions or mitigation to offset those impacts.

<b>Affected Environment</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Proposed Action Alternative</b>
Climate, Geology, and Soils	No impacts to climate or prime farmland are anticipated. Continued soil erosion would occur from rain and flood events and the remainder of the road would eventually erode and collapse into Ouachita River.	No impacts to climate are anticipated. Minor and localized short-term and long-term impacts to geology and soils may occur, as some soils and vegetation may be removed during construction. Direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to soil productivity, fertility, stability, or infiltration capacity would be at or below the lower levels of detection. Soil erosion during construction would be minimized by the implementation of BMPs, such as using silt fencing, covering stockpiled soils, mulching cleared areas, and regenerating with native species. Impacts to farmland soils have been minimized. The abandon roadway section would be returned to pre-construction grade and planted with native vegetation resulting in essentially no net loss of prime farmland soils.
Air Quality	No impacts to air quality are anticipated.	Pollutant emissions from construction equipment may result in minor, temporary and localized impacts to air quality, primarily due to fugitive dust generated during construction activities. BMPs would be followed, such as watering soils to reduce dust or cleaning equipment as it leaves the site. Construction vehicle emissions can be mitigated through operational controls, fuel usage strategies, or equipment strategies.

Affected Environment	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Water Quality	No impacts to water quality within the project area would be expected to occur except by future flooding events of the Ouachita River.	Minor, temporary impacts to surface water quality from erosion are possible during construction. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented, such as: control measures are properly selected, installed and maintained; maintenance of control measures is performed prior to storm events; when sediment escapes the site, it is removed to minimize impacts; litter, construction debris and construction chemicals are prevented from becoming a pollutant source; and sediment traps, silt fences, vegetative buffer strips, etc. are implemented for all down slope boundaries.
Wetlands	No wetlands were identified in the project area. No impacts to wetlands or other waters of the U.S. are anticipated.	Per USACE consultation, no wetlands were identified in the project area therefore; E.O. 11990 is not applicable. Based on the USACE consultation, a Department of the Army permit is not required; however, in the event that project plans are changed, or if any additional construction is anticipated, the Parish would need to contact USACE for reevaluation of permit requirements.
Floodplains	The damaged portion of the existing road is located in the 100-year floodplain.	The relocated portion of the road would remain in the 100-year floodplain; however, it would be located on slightly higher land further away from the Ouachita River, increasing the likelihood of safe use of the road during flood events. Applicant must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator and obtain required permits prior to initiating work. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
Coastal Resources	No impacts on coastal resources would occur.	No impacts on coastal resources would occur.

<b>Affected Environment</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Proposed Action Alternative</b>
Biological Resources	No major impacts would likely occur, although during a future flood event, Means Lake Road could erode further, causing increased turbidity and sediments in Ouachita River which could adversely affect fish species temporarily.	No major impacts would likely occur. However, if any of the listed species discussed are identified, the Parish is to notify FEMA and the USFWS immediately and stop all construction activities.
Cultural Resources	Because no Federal activity would occur, no requirement for compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA exists.	No significant (NRHP-eligible) cultural resources were found to be located within the project area. In the event that archaeological deposits, including any Native America Pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project shall be halted and the applicant shall stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archaeological findings will be secured and access to the sensitive area restricted. The applicant will inform FEMA immediately and FEMA will consult with the SHPO or THPO and Tribes and work in sensitive areas cannot resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken to ensure that the project is in compliance with the NHPA.
Environmental Justice	No impacts to low-income or minority populations are anticipated.	All populations within Catahoula Parish that use Means Lake Road would benefit from the project.
Noise	No impacts on noise are anticipated.	Short-term noise impacts are anticipated during construction; however, no noise-sensitive receptors were observed in the project area. Local ordinances regarding noise abatement would be followed.
Public Health and Safety	The damaged road embankment would continue to create a safety hazard for vehicular traffic on the road. Further erosion of the road embankment during future flood events would eventually cause road failure and restrict access to the area serviced by the road.	Minor, localized and temporary impacts to worker and general public health and safety may occur, due to the inherent risk of construction activities. Local, State, and Federal laws and regulations regarding worker and general public health and safety would be followed for construction activities and appropriate safety measures would be implemented, such as site fencing, signage, and barriers.

Affected Environment	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Traffic	The damaged road embankment would continue to create a safety hazard for vehicular traffic on the road. Further erosion of the road embankment during future flood events would eventually cause road failure and restrict access to the area serviced by the road.	There would be a temporary increase in heavy vehicle traffic on Means Lake Road during construction. Construction traffic should be monitored and controlled as appropriate.
Hazardous Materials	No impacts from hazardous materials are anticipated.	No impacts from hazardous materials are anticipated. If any hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered, they will be managed in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal requirements. Any hazardous materials handled at the site during construction activities should be properly managed.

**SECTION 6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS**

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA requires an assessment of cumulative effects during the decision-making process for Federal projects. Cumulative effects are defined as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions” (40 CFR §1508.7). Cumulative effects are considered for both the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives. Cumulative effects were determined by combining the effects of the alternatives with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

While the proposed roadway location would remain within the 100-year floodplain, no significant cumulative impacts would occur from the Proposed Action Alternative. While some terrestrial habitat would be eliminated, due to the limited scope of the work and the proposed mitigation no loss of any sensitive species is expected that would contribute a measurable amount to the cumulative effects. The road relocation would not result in increased capacity, nor are there any plans for future land use development in the area.

**SECTION 7 CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this environmental assessment, the Parish must comply with several conditions and mitigation measures prior to and during project implementation.

Catahoula Parish is required to obtain and comply with all required local, State, and Federal permits and approvals prior to implementing the Proposed Action Alternative. Development at the Proposed Action Alternative site shall comply with the approved site plan. Any expansion or alteration of this use beyond that initially approved would require reevaluation of permit requirements.

1. The Parish would be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water and all equipment maintained in good working order. All construction vehicles would be limited to 15 mph to minimize pollution/fugitive dust.
2. In order to minimize impacts to waters of the U.S., the Parish is required to implement BMPs that meet the LDEQ permitting specifications for storm water discharge regulated under Section 402 of the CWA. This includes designing the site with specific construction measures to reduce or eliminate run-off impacts. Examples of BMPs include, but are not limited to: control measures are properly selected, installed and maintained; maintenance of control measures is performed prior to anticipated storm events; when sediment escapes the site, it is removed at a frequency necessary to minimize off-site impacts; litter, construction debris, and construction chemicals exposed to storm water are prevented from becoming a pollutant source; and sediment traps, silt fences, vegetative buffer strips, or equivalent sediment controls are implemented for all down slope boundaries.
3. If the project results in a discharge to waters of the State, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System application may be necessary. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that the LDEQ Water Permit Division be contacted at (225) 219-3181 to determine whether the proposed improvements require one of these permits. All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
4. The abandon section of roadway must be returned to pre-construction grade and planted with native vegetation to reduce any potential erosion.
5. Any changes or modifications to the proposed project would require a revised USACE determination. Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to the Department of the Army permit requirements.
6. If any threatened or endangered species are identified at the project site during construction activities, the Parish is to notify FEMA and the USFWS immediately and stop all construction activities.
7. Applicant must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator and obtain required permits prior to initiating work. All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
8. The Parish must comply with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) and the Inadvertent Discovery Clause, which can be found under the Environmental Review NHPA conditions. Any change to the approved scope of work would require reevaluation under Section 106. Furthermore, if archaeological artifacts or features (prehistoric or historic) are discovered during the course of FEMA funded work at the project site, the Parish must stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize harm to the discovery. The Parish shall

inform the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) and FEMA of the discovery, and FEMA would deploy an archaeologist to the location to conduct a site condition assessment. The Parish would not proceed with work until FEMA has completed consultation with the SHPO on the treatment of the discovery. In addition, if human remains are discovered during the course of FEMA funded work, the Parish is responsible for immediately halting work within the vicinity of the human remains finding. The Parish would immediately notify GOHSEP, FEMA, the local Police Department, and the local Coroner’s Office of the discovery. The local Coroner’s Office would assess the nature and age of the human skeletal remains. If the Coroner’s Office determines that the human skeletal remains are older than 50 years of age, the Louisiana Division of Archaeology would take jurisdiction over the remains. Within twenty-four (24) hours, FEMA would notify the Louisiana Division of Archaeology (225) 342-8170 of the finding. Within seventy-two (72) hours, FEMA would take the lead in working with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology and other interested parties, as necessary, to ensure compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act and other applicable laws. In addition, the Parish must afford FEMA the opportunity to comply with the “Human Remains Policy” set forth by the ACHP.

9. If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification of the LDEQ Single Point of Contact at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.
10. Due care must be taken to locate any unregistered water wells in the project area. For pipelines and other underground hazards, please contact Louisiana One Call at (800) 272-3020 prior to commencing operations.
11. Construction traffic should be closely monitored and controlled as appropriate. All construction activities should be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with local, State, and Federal health and safety requirements. To alert motorists and pedestrians of project activities, appropriate signage and barriers should be used during construction, and control of the construction area should be managed through the use of fencing or other appropriate methods.

Failure to comply with these conditions may make part or all of the proposed project ineligible for FEMA funding.

## **SECTION 8 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

FEMA is the lead Federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process for this PA Program project. It is the goal of the lead agency to expedite the preparation and review of NEPA documents and to be responsive to the needs of the community and the purpose and need of the proposed action while meeting the intent of NEPA and complying with all NEPA provisions.

The public was notified of the availability of the draft EA through a legal notice published on October 26, 2011 in the Catahoula News Booster. Additionally, the draft EA document was made available for public review at the Catahoula Parish Police Jury Office located at 301 Bushley Street, Room 104, Harrisonburg, LA 71340 and the Catahoula Parish Library located at 300 Bushley Street, Harrisonburg, LA 71340. FEMA conducted a 30-day public comment period commencing on the initial publication date of the public notice and ending on November 25, 2011.

## **SECTION 9 AGENCY COORDINATION**

As part of the development of the EA, Federal and State resource protection agencies were contacted. Correspondence occurred with the entities listed below. Copies of the formal correspondence are included in the appendices, and referenced in the relevant sections of the EA.

- Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation, Baton Rouge, LA
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, Vicksburg, MS

In accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal regulations, the Parish would be responsible for acquiring any necessary permits prior to commencing construction at the proposed project site.

## **SECTION 10 CONCLUSION**

This draft EA evaluated potentially significant resources that could be affected. The evaluation resulted in identification of no significant impacts associated with the resources of climate, geology and soils, and air quality; water quality, wetlands, and floodplains; biological resources; cultural resources; and socioeconomic resources. Obtaining and implementing permit requirements along with appropriate BMPs will avoid or minimize any effects associated with the action.

Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this EA, and given the precautionary and mitigating measures, there does not appear to be any significant environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Alternative Action involving the realignment of a portion of Means Lake Road in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. Therefore, the Proposed Alternative Action meets the requirements of a FONSI under NEPA and the preparation of an EIS will not be required.

## SECTION 11 REFERENCES

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**SECTION 12 LIST OF PREPARERS**

Cheryl Bommarito, Technical Assistance Contractor, Fluor

Darren Cormack, Technical Assistance Contractor, Fluor

*Government Contributors*

Kevin Jaynes, CHMM, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region 6

Cheryl Brown, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6

Alan Hermely, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region 6

**Appendix A**  
**Project Worksheet Photo Sheet**

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
**PROJECT WORKSHEET – Photo Sheet**

O.M.B. No. 3067-0151  
 Expires April 30, 2001

DECLARATION NO.		PROJECT NO.	FIPS NO.	DATE	CATEGORY
FFMA-	DR 1863 A	MDP-008	25-99025-00	1/27/10	C
APPLICANT			COUNTY		
CATAHOULA PARISH POLICE JURY			CATAHOULA		



**Photo 1 N31.67622 W-91.79656 Overview. Photo is taken from promontory mentioned in photo 4**

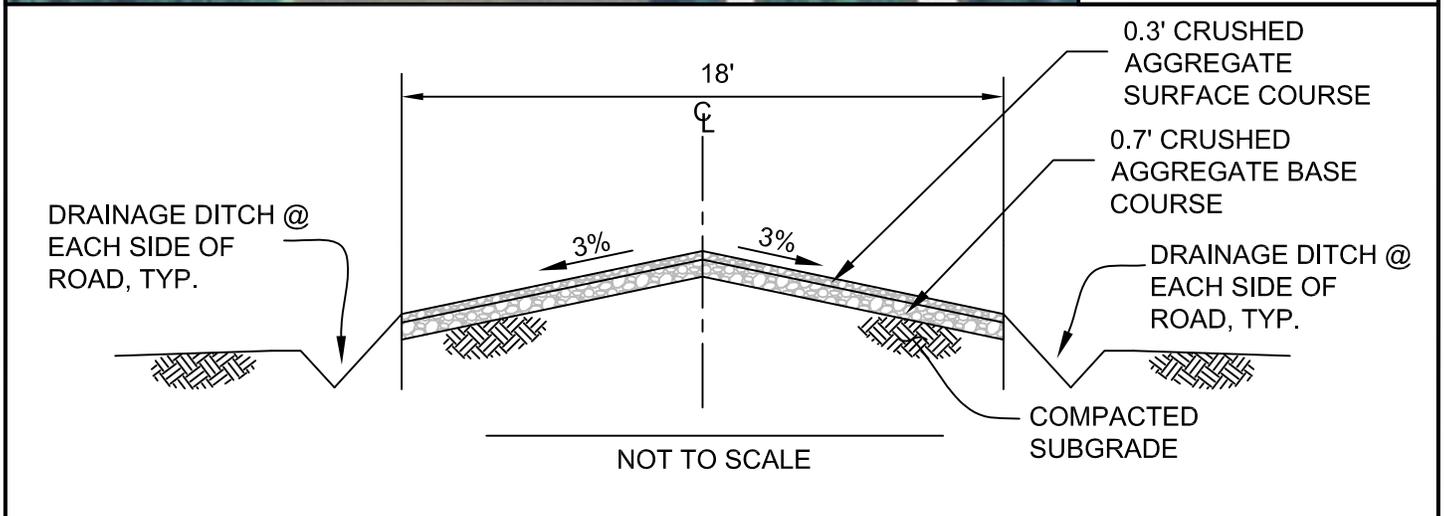
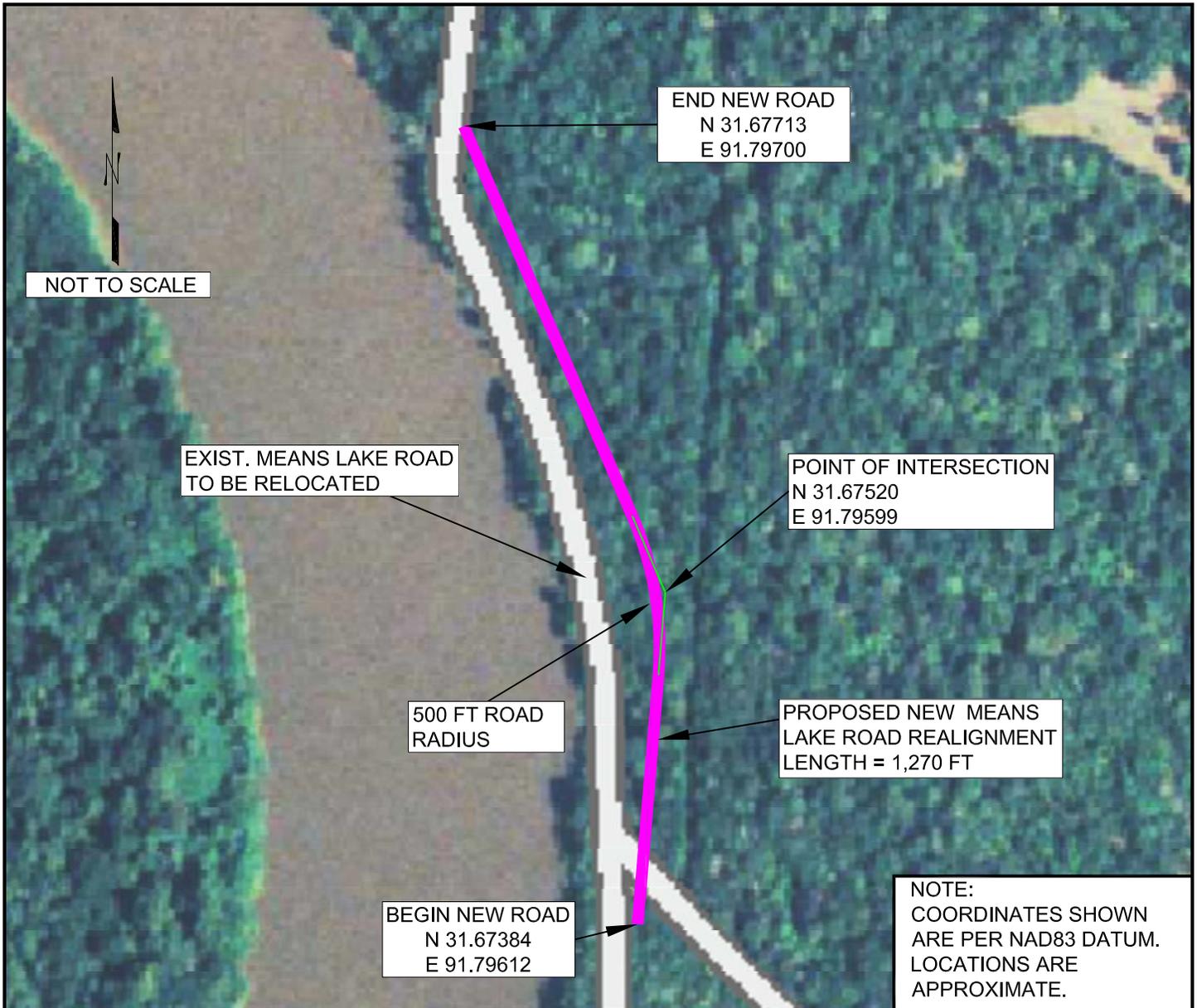
**Photo 2 N31.67622 W-91.79656 Note proximity of river to road.**



**Photo 3 N31.67622 W-91.79656 Note proximity of river to road.**

**Photo 4 N31.67679 W-91.79682 Promontory at far end denotes end of repairs.**

**Appendix B**  
**Drawing of Proposed Road Realignment**



PROPOSED ROAD  
REALIGNMENT

RELOCATE MEANS LAKE  
ROAD MDP-008 PROJECT

JUNE 22, 2011

**FLUOR**<sup>®</sup>

**Appendix C**  
**USDA Form AD-1006, Farmland Conversion Impact Rating**



**FEMA**

October 6, 2011

W. Britt Paul  
Acting State Conservationist  
3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302

RE: NRCS Farmland Conversation Rating for the Proposed Means Lake Road Relocation Project in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Paul:

In response to the NRCS letter dated September 7, 2011 for the above reference project, FEMA has determined that, although the proposed project received a combined Farmland Conversion Impact Rating score of 167, based on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that was prepared for this project, there is little opportunity to avoid prime farmland soil impacts.

The Draft EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA's regulations implementing NEPA (44 CFR Part 10).

The Draft EA considered possible alternatives to reduce or eliminate environmental impacts. It was determined in the Draft EA that the existing road is susceptible to frequent flood damage. As a result, it creates a safety hazard to vehicular traffic associated with local commuters and emergency responders who need to use the road. The roadbed cannot be returned to the predisaster footprint due to existing and anticipated future bank erosion from the adjacent Ouachita River. Catahoula Parish needs to find a solution to provide safe vehicular access that will not be compromised by regular flooding damage. In addition, there is no alternative alignment because the proposed road must tie into the existing road. Impacts to prime farmland soils have been minimized by proposing a parallel alignment that is kept close to the existing road. The existing roadway would be removed and planted with native vegetation resulting in essentially no net loss of prime farmland soils.

W. Britt Paul  
Means Lake Draft EA  
October 6, 2011  
Page 2

Therefore, the Draft EA concluded that, given the precautionary and mitigating measures, there does not appear to be any significant environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Alternative Action involving the realignment of a portion of Means Lake Road in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. Therefore, the Proposed Alternative Action will meet the requirements of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under NEPA.

Should you have any questions, please contact FEMA Region VI Environmental Specialist, Alan Hermely at [Alan.Hermely@dhs.gov](mailto:Alan.Hermely@dhs.gov). Copies of the Draft EA and FONSI documents can be made available upon request.

Sincerely,

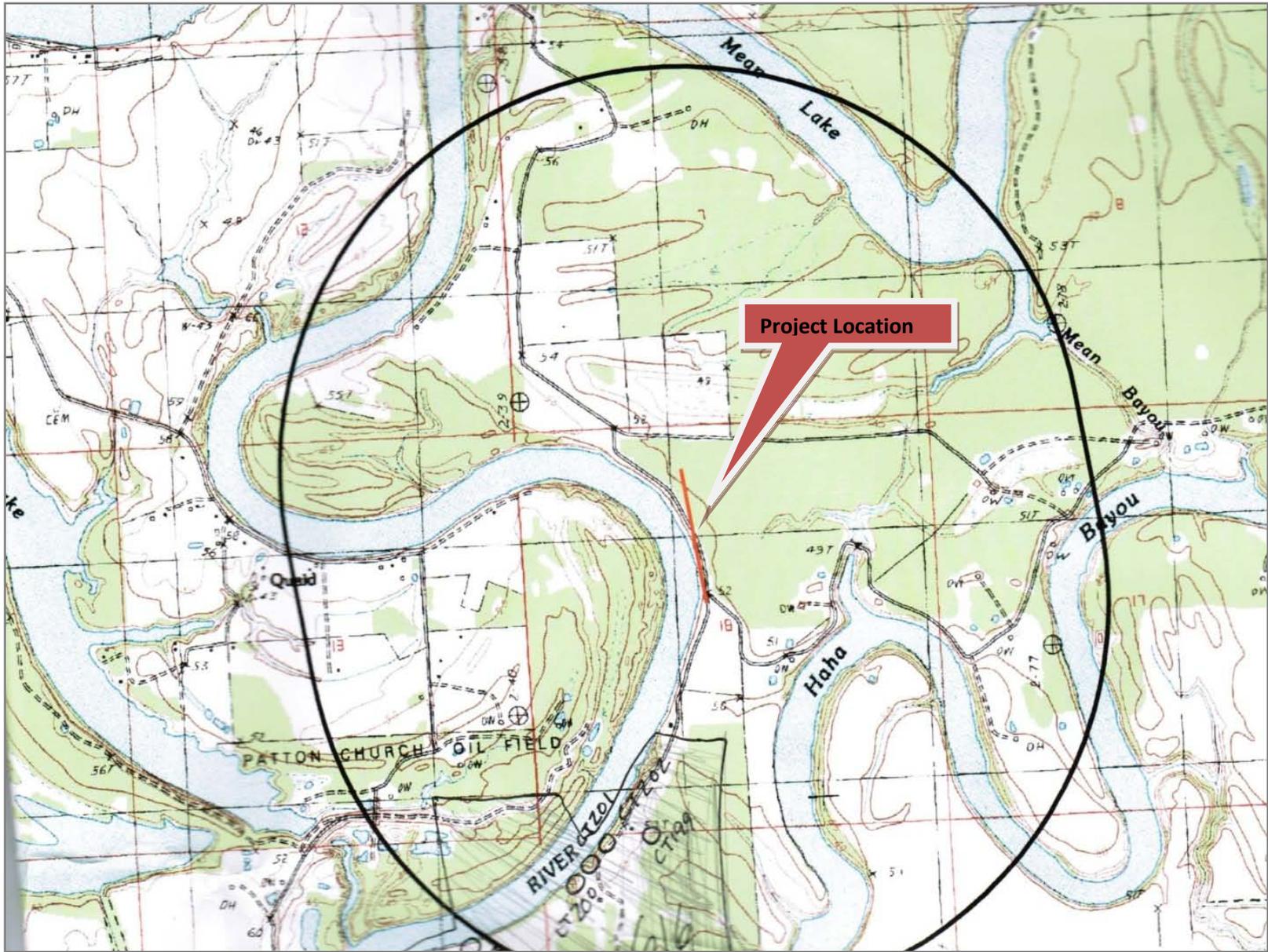


Kevin Jaynes, CHMM  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region VI

Enclosures:  
Farmland Conversion Impact Rating AD-1006 Form  
Site Location Map

**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING**

<b>PART I</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request <b>June 4, 2011</b>				
Name of Project <b>Means Lake Road Relocation (PW 348/MDP-008)</b>		Federal Agency Involved <b>FEMA</b>				
Proposed Land Use <b>Realignment of road</b>		County and State <b>Catahoula Parish, Louisiana</b>				
<b>PART II</b> (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS		Person Completing Form:		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)</i>		YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size	
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres:            %	Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres:            %				
Name of Land Evaluation System Used	Name of State or Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS				
<b>PART III</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		1				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		1				
C. Total Acres In Site		1				
<b>PART IV</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland						
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland						
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted						
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value						
<b>PART V</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)						
<b>PART VI</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria <i>(Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)</i>		<b>Maximum Points</b>	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)	15			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)	10			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)	0			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)	0			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)	10			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)	15			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)	10			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)	10			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)	5			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)	0			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)	0			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)	0			
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	75			
<b>PART VII</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100				
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	75			
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260				
Site Selected: <b>Site A</b>		Date Of Selection <b>June 4, 2011</b>		Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Reason For Selection: <b>Only one site option available.</b>						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: Cheryl Bommarito, Technical Assistance Contractor					Date: June 4, 2011	



Project Location Map – Means Lake Road Relocation in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
3737 Government Street  
Alexandria, LA 71302

RECEIVED PRO MAIL ROOM  
FEMA, REGION VI

2011 SEP 13 A 11:44

(318) 473-7751  
Fax: (318) 473-7626

September 7, 2011

Kevin Jaynes, CHMM  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region 6  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, Texas 76209-3698

RE: NRCS Farmland Conversation Rating for the Proposed Mean Lake Road Relocation Project in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Jaynes:

I have reviewed the above referenced project for potential requirements of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) and potential impact to Natural Resource Conservation Service projects in the immediate vicinity.

Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

The project map submitted with your request indicates that the proposed construction area will potentially impact the following prime or unique farmland soils:

Hb-Hebert silt loam

Please find enclosed an AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form with our agencies information completed and a Prime Farmland Assessment map indicating the location of the prime farmland areas in green. For specific information about the soils found in the project area, please visit our Web Soil Survey at the following location:

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>

For more information on FPPA requirements or the process to receive a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006 or CPA-106), please visit the following location:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fppa/>

Please direct all future correspondence to me at the address shown above.

Respectfully,

W. Britt Pau

Acting State Conservationist

ACTING FOR

Enclosure

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



**FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING**

<b>PART I</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Date Of Land Evaluation Request <b>June 4, 2011</b>				
Name of Project <b>Means Lake Road Relocation (PW 348/MDP-008)</b>		Federal Agency Involved <b>FEMA</b>				
Proposed Land Use <b>Realignment of road</b>		County and State <b>Catahoula Parish, Louisiana</b>				
<b>PART II</b> (To be completed by NRCS)		Date Request Received By NRCS <b>8/25/11</b>		Person Completing Form: <b>Charles Guillory</b>		
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)		YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		Acres Irrigated <b>-</b> Average Farm Size <b>445</b>		
Major Crop(s) <b>Cotton, Soybeans, Corn</b>		Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: <b>317,426 % 72</b>		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: <b>212,959% 52</b>		
Name of Land Evaluation System Used <b>Catahoula LESA</b>		Name of State or Local Site Assessment System <b>N/A</b>		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS <b>9/8/11</b>		
<b>PART III</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)		Alternative Site Rating				
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D	
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		1				
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		1				
C. Total Acres In Site		1				
<b>PART IV</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland		1				
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland						
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted		.0003				
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value		26				
<b>PART V</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)		92				
<b>PART VI</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)		Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
1. Area In Non-urban Use		(15)	15			
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use		(10)	10			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed		(20)	0			
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government		(20)	0			
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area		(15)	10			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services		(15)	15			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average		(10)	10			
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland		(10)	10			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services		(5)	5			
10. On-Farm Investments		(20)	0			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services		(10)	0			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use		(10)	0			
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS		160	75			
<b>PART VII</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100				
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)		160	75			
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260				
Site Selected: <b>Site A</b>		Date Of Selection <b>June 4, 2011</b>		Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Reason For Selection: <b>Only one site option available.</b>						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: <b>Cheryl Bommarito, Technical Assistance Contractor</b>				Date: <b>June 4, 2011</b>		

## Farmland Classification

Farmland Classification— Summary by Map Unit — Catahoula Parish, Louisiana (LA025)				
Map unit symbol	Map unit name	Rating	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
Ag	Alligator clay, occasionally flooded	Not prime farmland	10.1	27.5%
Hb	Hebert silt loam	All areas are prime farmland	15.9	43.4%
He	Hebert silty clay loam	All areas are prime farmland	0.4	1.1%
W	Water	Not prime farmland	10.2	28.0%
<b>Totals for Area of Interest</b>			<b>36.6</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

### Description

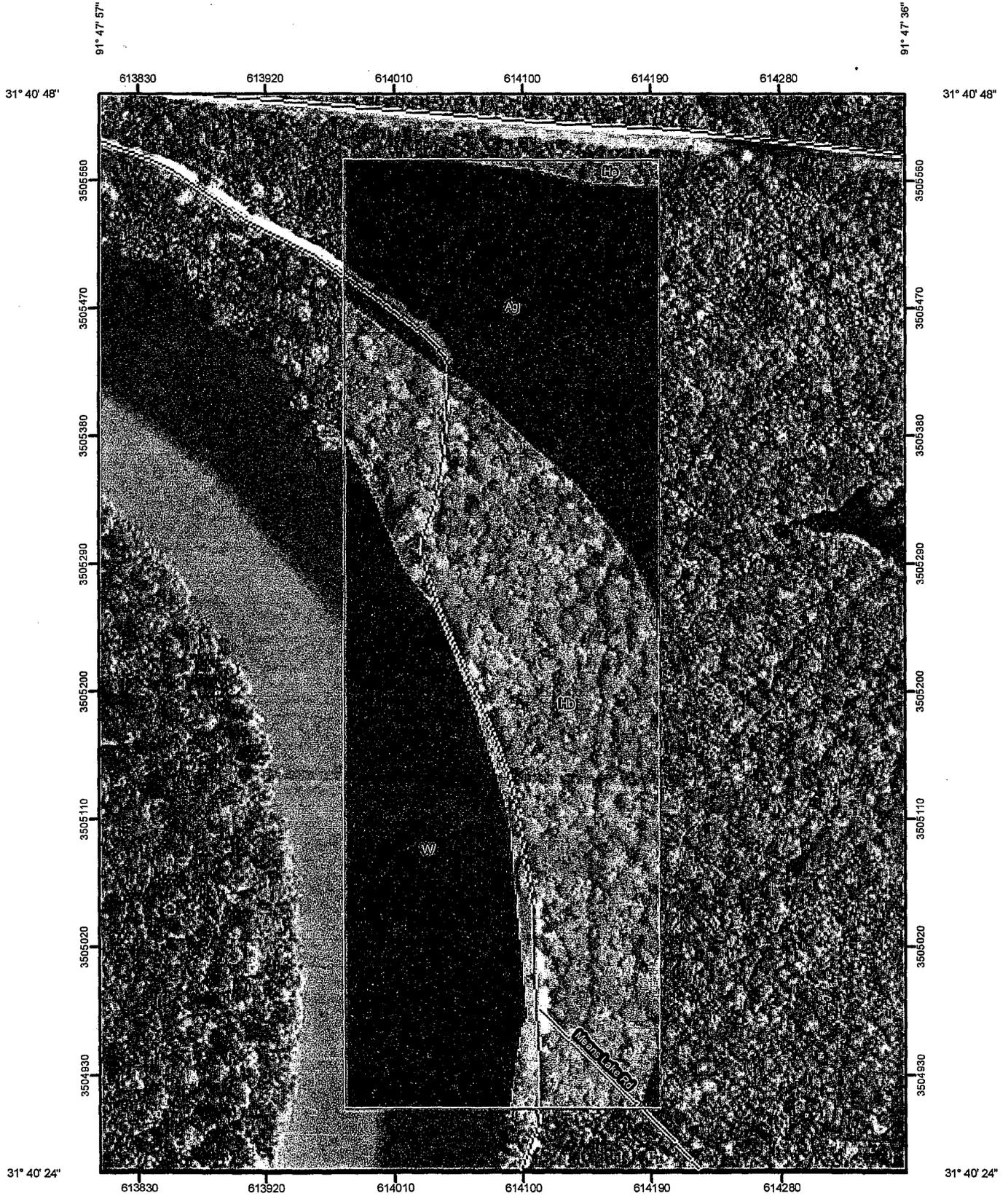
Farmland classification identifies map units as prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, or unique farmland. It identifies the location and extent of the soils that are best suited to food, feed, fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. NRCS policy and procedures on prime and unique farmlands are published in the "Federal Register," Vol. 43, No. 21, January 31, 1978.

### Rating Options

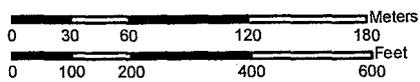
*Aggregation Method:* No Aggregation Necessary

*Tie-break Rule:* Lower

Farmland Classification—Catahoula Parish, Louisiana  
(Proposed Mean Lake Road Relocation)



Map Scale: 1:3,630 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.



Farmland Classification—Catahoula Parish, Louisiana  
(Proposed Mean Lake Road Relocation)

**MAP LEGEND**

**Area of Interest (AOI)**

 Area of Interest (AOI)

**Soils**

 Soil Map Units

**Soil Ratings**

-  Not prime farmland
-  All areas are prime farmland
-  Prime farmland if drained
-  Prime farmland if protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated
-  Prime farmland if drained and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and drained
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and either protected from flooding or not frequently flooded during the growing season

-  Prime farmland if subsoiled, completely removing the root inhibiting soil layer
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and the product of I (soil erodibility) x C (climate factor) does not exceed 60
-  Prime farmland if irrigated and reclaimed of excess salts and sodium
-  Farmland of statewide importance
-  Farmland of local importance
-  Farmland of unique importance
-  Not rated or not available

**Political Features**

 Cities

**Water Features**

 Streams and Canals

**Transportation**

 Rails

 Interstate Highways

 US Routes

 Major Roads

 Local Roads

**MAP INFORMATION**

Map Scale: 1:3,630 if printed on A size (8.5" x 11") sheet.

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:24,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for accurate map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Web Soil Survey URL: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>  
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 15N NAD83

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Catahoula Parish, Louisiana  
Survey Area Data: Version 7, Apr 12, 2007

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Data not available.

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

**Appendix D**  
**USACE Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Letter**



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

4155 CLAY STREET

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

September 30, 2010

Operations Division

SUBJECT: Catahoula Parish Police Jury - Means Lake Road Site 2,  
Catahoula Parish, Louisiana

Ms. Libby Ford  
Catahoula Parish Police Jury  
Post Office Box 258  
Harrisonburg, Louisiana 71340

Dear Ms. Ford:

I refer to your application concerning your proposed plans to relocate a portion Means Lake Road (Site 2), Catahoula Parish, Louisiana. The location of the activity is depicted on the enclosed map (enclosure 1).

Based upon the information provided, it appears that a Department of the Army permit, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required for the proposed work. In the event that project plans are changed, or if you anticipate any additional construction, please contact this office for a reevaluation of permit requirements and refer to identification no. MVK-2010-563 when submitting the information.

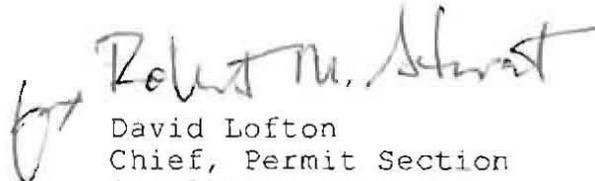
This determination of Department of the Army regulatory requirements was based upon a preliminary jurisdictional determination that there are no jurisdictional areas being impacted by the proposed work on the property subject to regulation pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. An appeals form for this preliminary jurisdictional determination has been enclosed for your review (enclosure 2).

This determination of Department of the Army regulatory requirements does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material or any exclusive privileges, and does not authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or local laws or regulations, or obviate the requirement to obtain State or local assent required by law for the activity discussed herein.

The Vicksburg District Regulatory Branch is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please take a moment to complete the Customer Service Survey found on our web site at <http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>. If it is more convenient for you, please complete and return the enclosed postage-paid post card (enclosure 3).

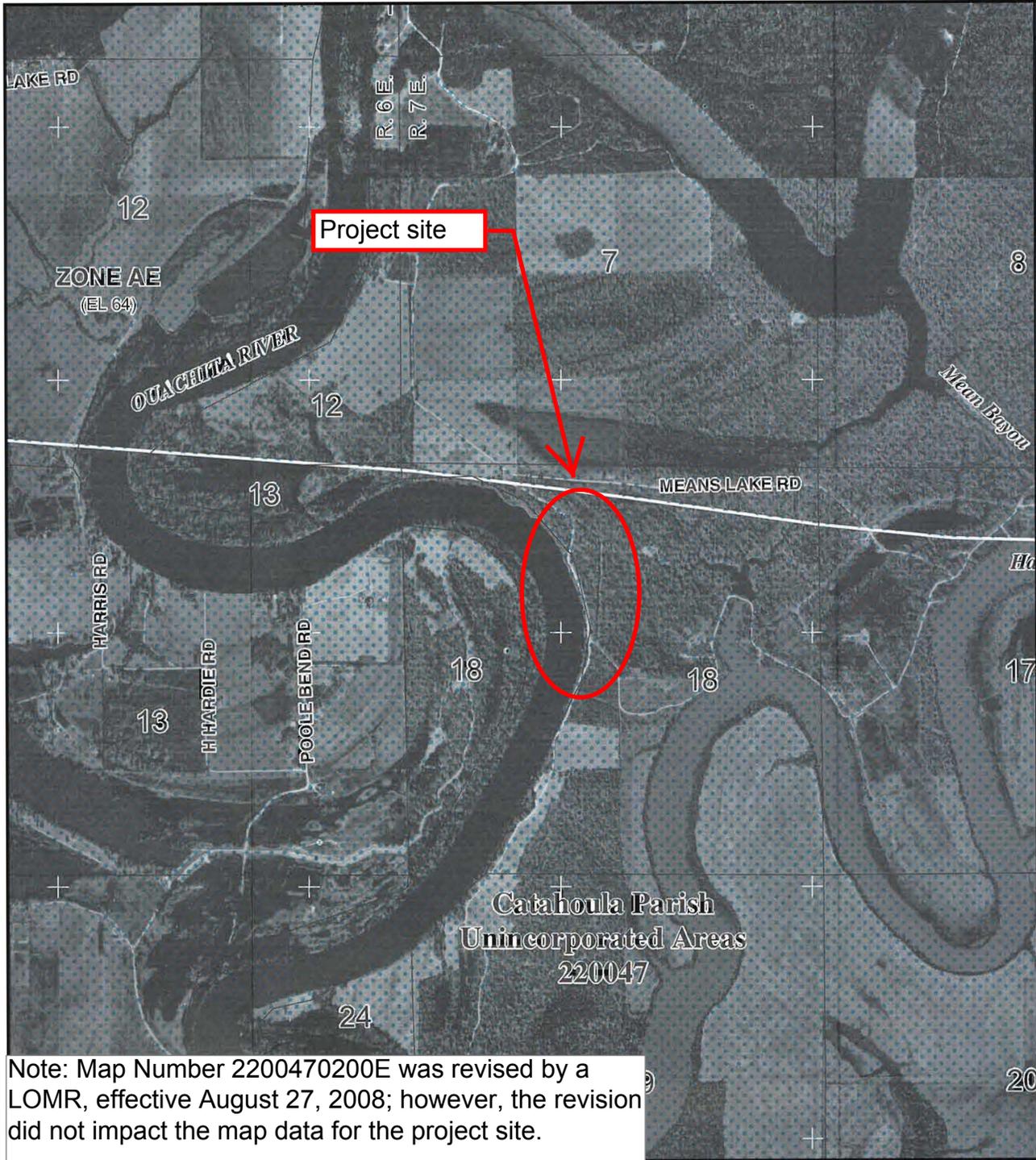
If we may be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact Mr. Chad Phillips of this office, telephone (601) 631-5146, fax (601) 631-5459, or e-mail address: [regulatory@usace.army.mil](mailto:regulatory@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

  
for Robert M. Schrat  
David Lofton  
Chief, Permit Section  
Regulatory Branch

Enclosures

**Appendix E**  
**FIRMette for the Project Site**



Project site

determine if flood insurance is available in this community, contact your insurance agent or call the National Flood Insurance Program at (800) 638-66



MAP SCALE 1" = 2000'

1000 0 2000 4000

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0200E

**FIRM**  
**FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP**  
**CATAHOULA PARISH,**  
**LOUISIANA**  
**(UNINCORPORATED AREAS)**

PANEL 200 OF 325

(SEE MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL	SUFFIX
CATAHOULA PARISH	220047	0200	E

Notice to User: The **Map Number** shown below should be used when placing map orders; the **Community Number** shown above should be used on insurance applications for the subject community.



**MAP NUMBER**  
**2200470200E**  
**MAP REVISED**  
**APRIL 19, 2005**

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Note: Map Number 2200470200E was revised by a LOMR, effective August 27, 2008; however, the revision did not impact the map data for the project site.

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov)

**Appendix F**  
**SHPO Consultation Letter and Response**



FEMA

February 7, 2011

Ms. Pam Breaux  
Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office  
Office of Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 44247  
Baton Rouge LA 70804

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.

*Phil Roggan* 3-1-11  
Phil Roggan Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

**RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, FEMA 1863-DR-LA  
Proposed Road Construction to Relocate Means Lake Road, MDP-008,  
Catahoula Parish, Louisiana**

Dear Ms. Breaux:

As part of the response and recovery efforts associated with the flood event that occurred in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana from October 29 through November 3, 2009 designated as FEMA-1863-DR-LA, it is proposed that federal funding through FEMA's Public Assistance Program be provided to the Catahoula Parish for the relocation of Means Lake Road, Catahoula Parish, Louisiana.

Heavy rains resulted in overland flooding; this flooding caused heavy flows along creeks, ditches, and river banks resulting in erosion of the river bank line. This flooding washed away a 225 feet in length x 10 feet in width x 13 feet in diameter section of the road embankment beginning at GPS coordinates 31.67679, -91.79662 and ending at 31.67622, -91.79656. Means Lake Road is immediately adjacent to east of the Ouachita River. As a result of the collapsed embankment, the road bed is now removed from the pre-disaster footprint and FEMA is not able to return this road to pre-disaster condition.

The Parish plans to acquire land from Means Lake Corporation. The centerline of the proposed road begins at GPS coordinates 31.67873, -91.79690 (+/-6 feet) and ending at centerline of proposed road at GPS coordinates 31.67384, -91.79612 (+/- 8 feet). The applicant proposes to construct a 2,923 feet in length by 18 feet in width, aggregate surface road to bypass the existing road, which is located less than 200 feet to the west.

FEMA has determined that the Area of Potential Affect (APE) will be limited to the new right-of-way acquired for the road. There are no known listings on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) in the proposed project area. A review of archaeological data

was conducted at the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in March 2010 and no identified sites were located in the APE. Site number CT 202 is located approximately 0.75 km to the south of the project area. A site visit was conducted on March 24, 2010 by EHP Specialist Cheryl Bommarito. A walkover survey of the APE did not reveal any cultural material or evidence of cultural features. No subsurface testing was conducted during the site visit. It is likely the area was previously disturbed during the construction of the existing road.

Based on the information gathered through this review process, FEMA has determined that there will be **No Historic Properties Affected** as a result of the relocation of Means Lake Road. We request concurrence with this determination of effect. Aerial Photograph, Site Photographs, and a USGS Topographic map showing known archaeological sites near the project location are attached.

Should you need additional information, please contact Leah Anderson, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer, at (940) 383-7288.

Sincerely,



Kevin Jaynes, CHMM  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region VI

Attachments: (3)  
Aerial photograph of site  
Topographic Map  
Photographs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Section 106 Review: Aerial View Location Map

**Resource Name:** Means Lake Road MDP-008

**Resource Address:** East of Ouachita River , Catahoula Parish, LA

**Resource Coordinates:** Lat: 31.67679 Long: -91.79682

Means Lake Road MDP-008  
Catahoula Parish, LA

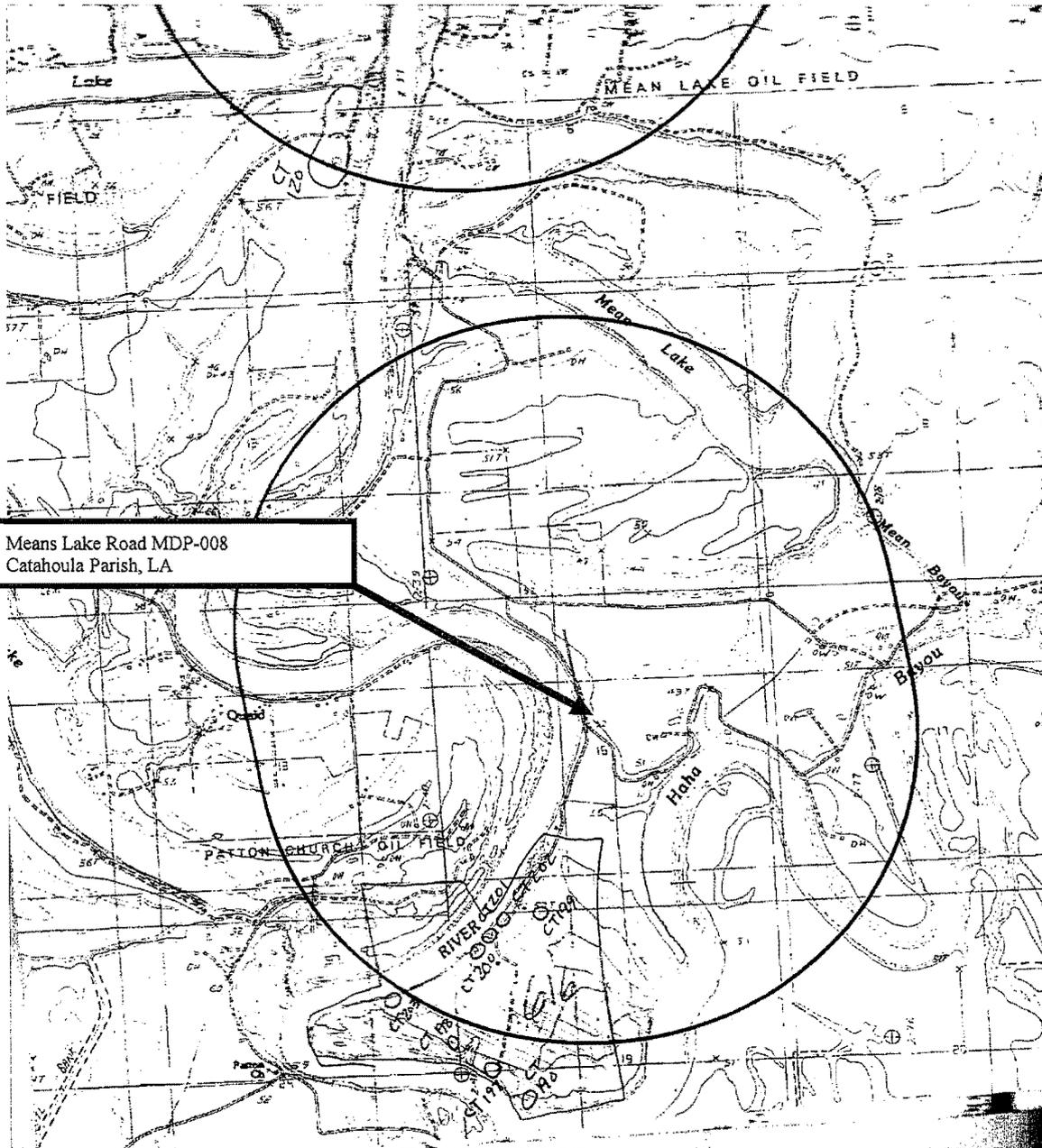


U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**Section 106 Review: USGS Topographic Map**

**Resource Name:** Means Lake Road MDP-008

**Resource Address:** East of Ouachita River , Catahoula Parish, LA

**Resource Coordinates:** Lat: 31.67679 Long: -91.79682



		
State:	Louisiana	
Topo Map Source:	Jonesville North	
Source Scale:	1:24000	
Map Source Year:	1978	
PLSS Township:10	T7E, R8N	
PLSS Section:	18	

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
PROJECT WORKSHEET - Photo Sheet

O.M.B. No. 3067-0151  
Expires April 30, 2001

DECLARATION NO. FFMA- DR 1863 A	PROJECT NO MDP-008	FIPS NO. 25-99025-00	DATE 1/27/10	CATEGORY C
APPLICANT CATAHOULA PARISH POLICE JURY		COUNTY CATAHOULA		



Photo 1 N31.67622 W-91.79656 Overview. Photo is taken from promontory mentioned in photo 4

Photo 2 N31.67622 W-91.79656 Note proximity of river to road.



Photo 3 N31.67622 W-91.79656 Note proximity of river to road.

Photo 4 N31.67679 W-91.79682 Promontory at far end denotes end of repairs.