

**PUBLIC NOTICE
FEMA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FORKED ISLAND/EAST BROUSSARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FLOOD
PROTECTION PROJECT
ABBEVILLE, VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the EA and FONSI is to assess the effects on the human and natural environment from the construction of a concrete flood wall and earthen berm for flood protection around the Forked Island/East Broussard Elementary School on Columbus Road, Abbeville, LA, a proposed action for which FEMA is considering providing funding assistance.

The purpose of the draft EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with construction of the flood protection concrete flood wall and earthen berm. The draft EA evaluates a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action, which is to construct the flood protection concrete flood wall and earthen berm around the Forked Island/East Broussard Elementary School building. The FONSI will be FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment, if no additional substantive information is discovered during the comment period.

The location of the site is 19635 Columbus Road, Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana. The proposed action involves constructing a ring concrete flood wall and earthen berm around the Forked Island/East Broussard Elementary School building to protect it from flooding during future storm events. The Forked Island/East Broussard Elementary School was constructed in 1979. The structure was constructed on grade, and is located in the floodplain. The Forked Island/East Broussard Elementary School flooded during Hurricane Rita.

A draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

The draft EA and draft FONSI are available for review at the Vermilion Parish Library (Kaplan Branch) – 815 North Cushing Avenue, Kaplan, Louisiana 70548, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday; 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesday; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday; and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturday. The documents can be downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. The comment period will begin December 7, 2011 and ends December 26, 2011 (20 days) at 4 pm. Comments may be mailed to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY--FEMA E/HP—Forked Island/East Broussard Elementary School Flood Protection Project, 1 Seine Court, 4th Floor New Orleans, LA 70114. Comments may be emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to: 504-762-2353. Verbal comments will be accepted or recorded at 504-762-2205. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice for work in the floodplain in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9.12.