



FEMA

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
HUEY P. LONG FISH HATCHERY BUILDING
LACOMBE, ST. TAMMANY, LOUISIANA
*FEMA-1603-DR-LA***

Introduction

As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93288) Section 406 authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the consolidation and relocation of the Louisiana's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) office buildings and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). LDWF operated facilities at two locations in Louisiana; one in Slidell and one in Point a La Hache. The buildings at both facilities were completely destroyed. LDWF is proposing to relocate the functions of the facilities at both locations to a newly constructed office and research building in Lacombe, LA. Alternatives considered were 1) no action, 2) reconstructing the buildings in the same location, and 3) relocation of the facilities.

Proposed Action

The proposed action includes the relocation and construction of a new facility at the Huey P. Long Fish Hatchery in Lacombe, Louisiana.

Findings

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources (groundwater, wetlands and floodplains), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, noise, traffic, safety, hazardous materials and environmental justice. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, water quality, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term

impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

Conditions

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

- New construction must be built to the preliminary DFIRM Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or local floodplain ordinances, whichever is more stringent and built to current codes and standards. The applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. 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. As per 44 CFR 9.11 (d) (9), mitigation or minimization standards must be applied, where possible. The replacement of building contents, materials and equipment should be, where possible, wet or dry-proofed, elevated, or relocated to or above the Preliminary DFIRM, BFE, or local floodplain ordinances, whichever is more stringent.
- Applicant must complete a Coastal Use Permit Application packet (Joint Application Form, locality maps, project illustration plats with plan and cross section views, etc.) along with the appropriate application fee to LDNR. A free application packet can be obtained by calling LDNR at (225) 342-7591 or (800) 267-4019, or by visiting LDNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.la.us/crm/coastmgt/cup/cup.asp>.
- 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.
- Changes or modifications to the proposed project will require a revised 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 (DA) regulatory requirements and may have an impact to a DA project.
- A DA Section 404 permit will be required prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into this wetland. This wetland, along with Bayou Lacombe, is subject to the Corps of Engineers jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. A DA Section 10 permit will be required prior to any work in the waterway or the wetland.

- If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), USACE should be contacted directly to inquire about the possible necessity for permits. If a USACE permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
- LDWF and its contractors should ensure all project activities are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with all state and federal occupational safety regulations, including OSHA, to protect workers and the general public.
- Any fill or borrow material used must be sourced from areas that do not contain any buried cultural materials (e.g. brick foundations, prehistoric Indian artifacts, human burials, and the like).
- If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present with the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.
- If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO.

Conclusion

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. The Section 106 review process will be completed, including public notice participation, upon finalization of this EA and FONSI. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (per 44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed once finalized.

Public Review and Comment

The EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. The EA was also available for public review at the St. Tammany Parish Lacombe Branch Library at 28027 Hwy 190, Lacombe, LA. A legal notice was posted in the local newspaper on February 17-22, 2012. No substantive comments were received; therefore the Draft EA will become final and the initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.

Approval:

Katherine Zeringue, Environmental Liaison Officer Date
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Joe Threat, Director Date
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA