



**FEMA**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
PORT FOURCHON – MULTI-AGENCY EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONS  
CENTER  
LAFOURCHE PARISH, LOUISIANA  
PSGP PROJECT # 2009-PU-T9-K023 (01)**

**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969; FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10; and the President's Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508; FEMA prepared a Tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) to assess the environmental impacts that might result from the construction of the proposed Port Fourchon – Multi-Agency Emergency Response Operations Center. The project has been proposed by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission under application number 2009-PU-T9-K023 (01) of the Port Security Grant Program. FEMA provides funds under this program for activities which help to enhance the security and safety of ports in the United States.

This SEA was tiered from, and incorporates by reference, the findings of the Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Grant Programs Directorate Programs dated July 2010, including the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the PEA, which was issued on July 7, 2010. The SEA focused on the area of concern that required additional analysis and was beyond the scope of the PEA. FEMA found that all environmental areas of concern are accounted for in the PEA with the exception of floodplain impacts.

The Port Fourchon – Multi-Agency Emergency Response Operations Center is located in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. FEMA determined that the site of the proposed Port Fourchon – Multi-Agency Emergency Response Operations Center is located within a Zone A13, an area of 100-year flood; base flood elevations and flood hazards factors determined, as depicted on FIRM Community Panel 2252020825D, with the effective date May 4, 1992.

Two project alternatives were considered in the SEA: 1) No Action and 2) Preferred Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, no changes would be made to the existing site. As a result of this alternative, the region would continue to lack adequate response times from the fire and emergency medical services.

The Proposed Action Alternative is the construction of an Emergency Operations Center that would be available during times when an incident command structure is required for long term Emergency Management operations. This Emergency Operations Center would provide command and control situational awareness monitoring capability, house fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel, and shelter the emergency response vehicles necessary to provide adequate response

times to the port community. During non-emergency operational periods, the portion of the structure designated as the Emergency Operations Center area can serve as a class room training area for security, fire and emergency medical responders.

It is planned that the structure will be two stories with the first floor designed to house the two emergency response vehicles (fire truck & Emergency Medical Service transport) and the second floor having an Emergency Operations Center with a command and control consol, and living quarters for the response personnel staffing the vehicles based at the port. To minimize damage from flooding, the entire structure, other than the vertical conveyance systems (stairs and elevator) has been engineered to be elevated on piles above the 100-year Base Flood Elevation. Likewise, the emergency generator and its associated equipment, as well as the HVAC (air conditioning) systems are also located on the elevated equipment platform directly adjacent and connected to the main structure. The proposed Emergency Operations Center is located at 108 A. O. Rappelet Road, Port Fourchon, Lafourche Parish, LA 70357 (Latitude: 29.15307, Longitude -90.18045).

In compliance with FEMA regulations implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, FEMA is required to carry out the Eight-step decision-making process for actions that are proposed in the floodplain per 44 CFR 9.6. FEMA completed the Eight-step decision-making process and determined that the Preferred Action Alternative meets the requirements of 44 CFR 9.9 to avoid floodplains and wetlands unless there is no practicable alternative. The proposed Port Fourchon – Multi-Agency Emergency Response Operations Center must be located in the floodplain because almost the entire Lafourche Parish is located in the floodplain. Therefore no practicable alternative outside of the floodplain exists that would provide the port community adequate response times from fire and emergency medical personnel.

A public notice was posted in *Daily Comet*, *Lafourche Gazette*, and *Houma Courier* newspapers and on FEMA's website (<http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm>) on May 9, 2012. Additionally, the draft SEA was available for review for a period of 15 days at the Greater Lafourche Administrative Office, Greater Lafourche Port Operations Center, and at the FEMA website. The public was invited to comment on the Preferred Action and the draft SEA. No comments were received from the public during the 15-day comment period.

## FINDINGS

The Proposed Action as described in the SEA will not impact land use, geology, groundwater, wetlands, threatened and endangered species or critical habitat, cultural resources, minority or low-income populations, or hazardous materials. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, surface water, traffic, air quality, noise, and public safety are anticipated. Long-term adverse impacts from flooding risk exist, but the Greater Lafourche Port Commission will incorporate into the design necessary mitigation efforts for building within a 100-year flood plain.

## CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. Significant change, addition, and/or supplement to the approved scope of work which alters the existing use and function of the structure, including additional work not funded by FEMA but performed substantially at the same time, will require re-submission of the application prior to construction to FEMA for re-evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act.
2. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission is required to comply with the conditions that are stated in the PEA FONSI, dated July 7, 2011, for the Preferred Action Alternative
3. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission must conclude the consultation 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. In accordance with 44 CFR §9.12, The Greater Lafourche Port Commission must publish a public notice 15 days prior to the start of construction activities. Documentation of the public notice is to be forwarded to FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
5. This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.
6. Excavated soil and waste materials will be managed and disposed in accordance with applicable local, state and federal regulations. If contaminated materials are discovered during the construction activities, the work could cease until appropriate procedures and permits can be implemented. Hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction must be handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
7. If required by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared by The Greater Lafourche Port Commission, which will include implementation of appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) at the construction location.
8. During construction, appropriate erosion control methods will be implemented to prevent erosion and sediment deposits into surface waters. Following construction, areas that were disturbed will be seeded, replanted, or receive an equivalent erosion control protection.

9. Construction contractors will be required to water down construction areas to control dust when necessary. Fuel-burning equipment running times will be kept to a minimum and engines will be properly maintained.
10. In the event that archeological deposits, including Native American pottery, stone tools, bones, or human remains, are uncovered, the project shall be halted and the Applicant shall stop work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archeological findings will be secured by The Greater Lafourche Port Commission and access to the sensitive area will be restricted by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission. The Applicant will inform the State Administrative Agency and FEMA immediately, and FEMA will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Work in sensitive areas shall not resume until consultation is completed and until FEMA determines that the appropriate measures have been taken to ensure the complete project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations.
11. All work will be done in accordance with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Coastal Management Permit number P20120208.
12. All work will be done in accordance with the U.S. Army of Engineers, New Orleans District, Operation Division Letter dated January 5, 2012.
13. Construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of the appropriate equipment, including appropriate safety precautions. Additionally, activities will be conducted in a safe manner and in accordance with the standards specified in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. The appropriate signage and barriers will be in place prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities.

CONCLUSIONS

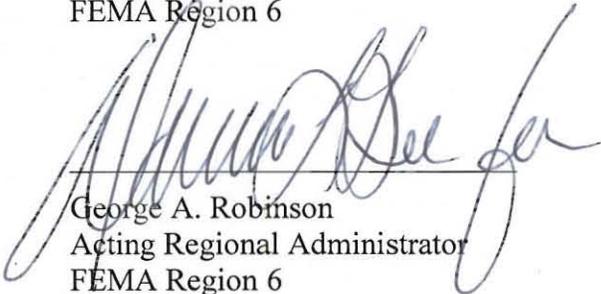
Based on the findings of the SEA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.9) and the proposed project as described in the attached SEA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Kevin Jaynes, CHMM  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region 6

Date 5/24/12



George A. Robinson  
Acting Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region 6

Date 5/25/12