



FEMA

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FIFI ISLAND RESTORATION ROCK BREAKWATER EXTENSION
IMPROVED PROJECT
JEFFERSON PARISH, LOUISIANA
*FEMA-1603-DR-LA***

Introduction

Hurricane Katrina, a Category 3 hurricane with a strong storm surge, made landfall on August 29, 2005, causing catastrophic damage to the western parishes of Louisiana. As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under Presidential disaster declaration FEMA-1607-DR-LA to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93288), Section 406, authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance 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.

Jefferson Parish has submitted an application for FEMA Public Assistance funding being administered in response to FEMA-1603-DR-LA, Hurricane Katrina, which was signed as a Presidential Disaster Declaration on August 19, 2005. The applicant proposes an Improved Project to construct the Fifi Island Restoration Breakwater Extension. The proposed project involves the construction of a rock breakwater structure 900 feet long, 80 feet wide, and four (4) to six (6) feet wide at the crown. The structure would extend northeastward from the northeast end of Fifi Island to provide further restoration of the island and to provide abatement of waves causing adverse impacts on the Bayou Rigaud navigation channel and the economically valuable commercial, residential, and industrial development along the northeast shoreline of Grand Isle. The applicant requested funding from FEMA to replace of a 200-foot long, floating wave abatement facility known as the Whisper Wave Breakwaters, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The damaged facility was located within the footprint of the proposed project. The request for funding was initially approved, but subsequent to the approval, the applicant requested to have those funds to be used toward the construction of the proposed project in lieu of replacement of the facility. The proposed project primarily involves funding from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement through its Coastal Impact Assistance Program and secondarily from FEMA related to the cost of replacing the Whisper Wave Breakwaters facility.

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 proposed project and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Findings

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

CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- Based upon the studies and consultations undertaken in this EA, several conditions must be met and mitigation measures must be taken by the applicant prior to and during project implementation. 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 (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO.
- Applicant must take appropriate measures to minimize potential short-term effects to air quality from construction related activities, such as increased dust and equipment exhaust emissions.
- Applicant must install and maintain any safety lights, signs, and signals prescribed by the US Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, during construction and on the completed project.

- Applicant must notify the US Coast Guard, approximately one (1) month before project commencement or future maintenance work involving the use of floating construction equipment (barge mounted cranes, floating dredge equipment, dredge discharge lines, etc.) in the waterway, to allow a Notice to Mariners, if required, to be prepared.
- If hazardous materials are encountered in the project area during the proposed construction, applicant must initiate appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, and management of the contamination in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations.
- Applicant must initiate appropriate measures during construction to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials and any hazardous and non-hazardous wastes generated must be disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local requirements.
- Applicant must ensure that construction activities will not disrupt submerged or buried utility lines.
- Applicant must install turbidity curtains around the construction area to reduce adverse impacts to water quality and habitat within the surrounding aquatic environment.
- Applicant must coordinate with the Jefferson Parish Planning Department to ensure that the proposed project is in compliance with local zoning requirements.
- Applicant must coordinate with the Office of State Lands, Division of Administration, to determine if the proposed project constructed on a state-owned water bottom requires approval.
- Applicant must coordinate all construction-related activities with the local floodplain administrator and comply with the floodplain ordinance.
- Applicant is responsible for obtaining any required permits and/or clearances in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations prior to the commencement of any construction-related activities.
- The proposed project must not interfere with the public's right to free navigation on all navigable waters of the United States.

Approval:

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

Date

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

Date