



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office
Environmental and Historic Preservation Division
One Seine Ct
New Orleans, LA 70114

DATE: December 2, 2010

SUBJECT: Scoping Notification / Solicitation of Views in Compliance with NEPA

To Whom It May Concern:

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is mandated by the U.S. Congress to administer federal disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. On August 29th, 2005 high winds and heavy rains from Hurricane Katrina caused damage to Louisiana State University (LSU) Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) in Plaquemines Parish. LSU applied for FEMA disaster assistance funding through FEMA's Public Assistance Program. Instead of using available FEMA funds to replace the damaged CARS facility in-kind, LSU proposes to apply FEMA funds toward an alternate project at the LSU Aquaculture Research Facility (ARS) near the main LSU campus in Baton Rouge. FEMA is currently reviewing the proposed scope of work for compliance with federal regulations, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on the proposed scope of work (below) FEMA will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proposed project.

Background

The ARS is one of 20 LSU AgCenter facilities across the state of Louisiana. Located approximately 3 miles south of the LSU A&M campus in Baton Rouge, the facility is situated on 178 acres. The ARS has a 22,000-square-foot laboratory and office facility used by aquaculture faculty, research associates and graduate students. The facility also hosts a fish hatchery and a greenhouse. Scientists at the ARS conduct research on catfish, oysters, alligators, baitfish, turtles, a variety of freshwater game fish and crawfish. The purpose of the ARS is to make the aquaculture industry more competitive in the global economy.

In 2009, the LSU AgCenter prepared a Coastal Plants Facilities Master Plan to guide future development at the ARS. The master plan identifies several new facilities that LSU proposes to fund using FEMA disaster assistance funds. These facilities are discussed below.

Scope of Work

The proposed action would occur south of the main LSU campus, west of Ben Hur Road in Baton Rouge, LA. The latitude / longitude for the approximate center of the project site is: 30.368022 / -91.183472.

- An **Equipment Storage Building** would be constructed in the northeastern portion of the project area. The structure would consist of an open-sided, galvanized, pre-engineered metal building on concrete piers. The building would be approximately 40 feet wide, 150 feet long, and 25 feet tall.
- The existing **Fish Machine Shop** will be demolished upon completion of the new Equipment Storage Building.



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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency

- A **Work/Storage Building** would be constructed on the site of a Citrus Packing Shed which will be demolished (the slab would remain in place). The **Work/Storage Building** will consist of an insulated pre-engineered metal building with roll-up doors and personnel doors. The building will be approximately 180 feet long.
- Several **Media Pad/Dividers** would be constructed near the Work/Storage Building. The Media Pads/Dividers would consist of a concrete slab and concrete dividers to contain soils and other media used for aquaculture research.
- Two **Greenhouses (A and B)** would be constructed. They would have a concrete slab and a trench drain system.
- **Site Development:** entrance drives, water storage pond, utilities, general dirt work, and excavation for construction of the new Work/Storage Building, Greenhouses A and B, and research plot layout areas.

Environmental Review

FEMA is conducting, in coordination with federal and state resource agencies, review of the proposed project for compliance with NEPA, Executive Orders, and other applicable Federal regulations. To document this review, FEMA is preparing an EA. To assist us in preparation of the EA, **we request that your office review the attached documents for a determination of requirements for any formal consultations, regulatory permits, or authorizations.**

State and local (e.g., flood plain)

Please respond within **30 calendar days** of the date of this notification. If our office receives no comments at the close of this period, we will assume that your agency has no comments or objections to the scope of work as discussed above.

Comments should be directed to the attention of Adam Stephenson, and may be faxed to (504) 762-2323, emailed to Adam.Stephenson@fema.gov, or mailed to the address below.

FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA Mail Center 1st Floor
Attn: Adam Stephenson/EHP Room 4013
One Seine Court
New Orleans, LA 70114

For immediate questions regarding this project, please contact Adam Stephenson at (504) 762-2963.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Spann
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer

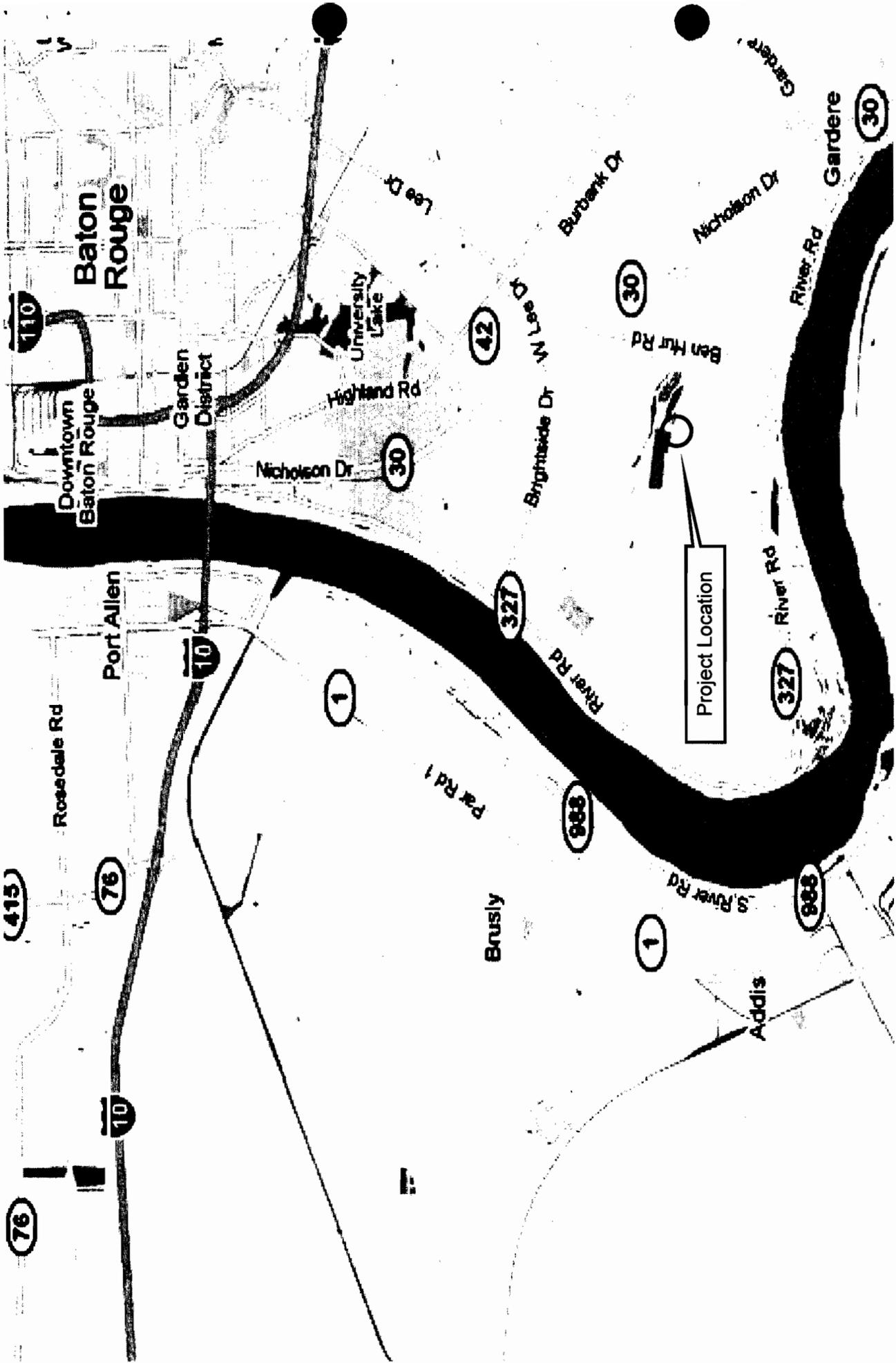


FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Distribution: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location
Figure 2: Aerial View of Project Site
Figure 3: Master Plan Site Layout



LSU Aquaculture Research Center
 Alternate Project #1203
 FEMA LA DR 1603

FEMA
 Environmental and Historic
 Preservation Division

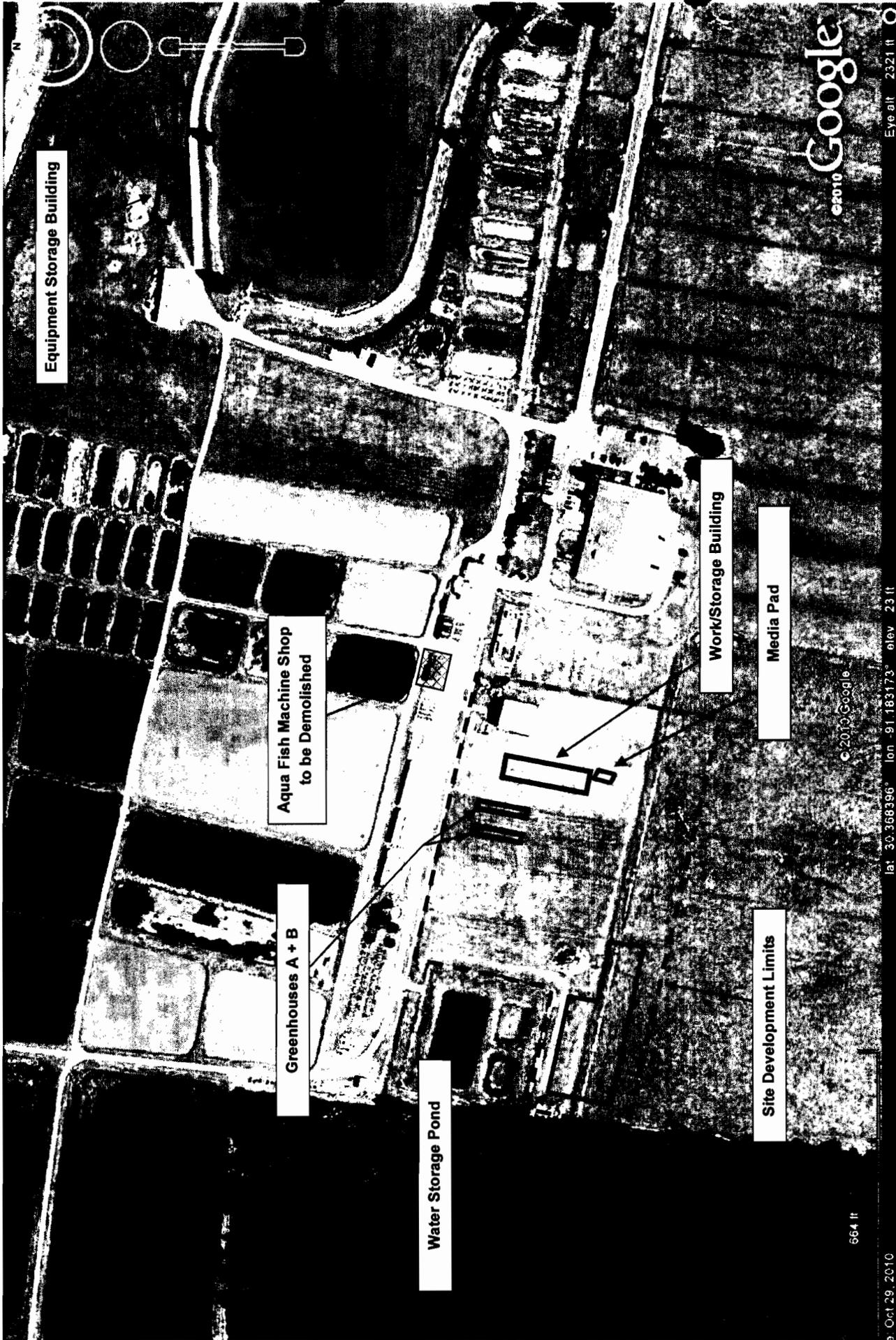
FEMA



1. Regional Map



Not To Scale



664 ft Eye alt 2321 ft
 ©2010 Google
 ©2010 Google
 lat: 30.368396° lon: -91.183173° elev: 23 ft

 <p>FEMA Environmental and Historic Preservation Division</p>	<p>LSU Aquaculture Research Center Alternate Project #1203 FEMA LA DR 1603</p>	<p>2. Aerial View of Project Site</p> <p>NORTH ↑ Not To Scale</p>
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December 3, 2010

FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA Mail Center 1st Floor
ATTN: Adam Stephenson/EHP Room 4013
One Seine Court
New Orleans, LA 70114

RE: Proposed Construction of Several New Facilities
LSU Aquaculture Research Facility
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Stephenson:

The Assessment Division of the Office of Environmental Compliance has reviewed the information provided in your letter dated December 2, 2010, regarding the referenced project in East Baton Rouge Parish. Effective June 15, 2004, East Baton Rouge Parish was designated by EPA as an ozone nonattainment parish under the 8-hour standard. As part of the Baton Rouge ozone nonattainment area, federal activities proposed in East Baton Rouge Parish may be subject to the State's general conformity regulations as promulgated under LAC 33:III.Chapter 14, Subchapter A, *Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans*.

In order to determine if the proposed project in East Baton Rouge Parish is subject to the full requirements of the general conformity regulations, the project sponsor must first make a general conformity applicability determination. This determination can be made by summing the total of direct and indirect volatile organic compound (VOC) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions caused by the project. If the net total of VOC and NOx emissions is determined to be less than the prescribed *de minimis* level of 100 tons per year per pollutant, then this action will comply with the conformity provisions of Louisiana's State Implementation Plan (SIP) and the Assessment Division will not object to implementation of the project.

Please email your general conformity applicability determination to beth.dixon@la.gov. Should you have any questions regarding state rules and regulations pertaining to general conformity, please contact me at (225) 219-3719. Thank you for affording us the opportunity to comment on the proposed action.

Sincerely,

Yasoob Zia
Environmental Scientist Manager
Assessment Division

lhw
101202/2495



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY
JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Date December 20, 2010

Name Adam Stephenson

Company FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office

Street Address 1 Seine Court, Room 4013

City, State, Zip New Orleans, LA 70114

Project Louisiana State University Aquaculture Research Station
Baton Rouge, LA

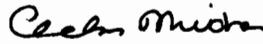
Project ID 3502010

Invoice Number 10122011

Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project. After careful review of our database, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the LNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. Heritage reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. LNHP requires that this office be acknowledged in all reports as the source of all data provided here. If at any time Heritage tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,

for 
Amity Bass, Coordinator
Natural Heritage Program



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

JAN 18 2011

Operations Division
Operations Manager,
Completed Works

Mr. Adam Stephenson
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1 Seine Court
EHP Room 4013
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Mr. Stephenson:

This is in response to your Solicitation of Views request dated December 3, 2010, concerning the construction of green houses, storage sheds and other site development for the LSU Aquaculture Research Center, in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

We have reviewed your request for potential Department of the Army regulatory requirements and impacts on any Department of the Army projects.

We do not anticipate any adverse impacts to any Corps of Engineers projects.

Based on review of recent maps, aerial photography, soils data, and the information provided, we have determined that the specific site of your project is not in a wetland subject to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction. A Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required for the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material on this site. However, wetlands that may be subject to Corps' jurisdiction have been identified in the immediate vicinity of this property. Any expansion will require a revised determination.

This delineation/determination has been conducted to identify the limits of the Corps Clean Water Act jurisdiction for the particular site identified in your request. This delineation/determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. If the property owner or tenant is a USDA farm participant, or anticipates participation in USDA programs, a certified wetland determination should be requested from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

You are advised that this jurisdictional determination is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision prior to the expiration date or the District Commander has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.

Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to Department of the Army regulatory requirements and may have an impact on a Department of the Army project.

Please contact Mr. Robert Heffner, of our Regulatory Branch by telephone at (504) 862-1288, or by e-mail at Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil for questions concerning wetlands determinations or need for on-site evaluations. Questions concerning regulatory permit requirements may be addressed to Mr. Martin Mayer by telephone at (504) 862-2276 or by e-mail at Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil.

Future correspondence concerning this matter should reference our account number MVN-2010-02970-SG. This will allow us to more easily locate records of previous correspondence, and thus provide a quicker response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen L. Oberlies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Karen L. Oberlies
Solicitation of Views Manager

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Renne, John (CTR)
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 15:39
To: 'beth.dixon@la.gov'; 'Amy.E.Powell@usace.army.mil'; 'mick.tamara@epamail.epa.gov'; 'cmichon@wlf.la.gov'; 'Richard.Hartman@noaa.gov'; 'Deborah_Fuller@fws.gov'; 'Karl.Morgan@la.gov'
Cc: Spann, Tiffany; Borden, Adam
Subject: FEMA Federal Grant-Funded Indirect Action - LSU Aquaculture Research Station - NEPA Environmental Assessment Solicitation of Views
Revised Action

Attachments: Solicitation of Views and Project Scoping Notification for FEMA Project.msg

Stakeholders:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) previously submitted a Solicitation of Views (SOV) for a proposed FEMA federal grant-funded project that is currently under review to restore Hurricane Katrina damaged infrastructure (Initial SOV attached for your review). As required by the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA is preparing an Environmental Assessment to determine if the action has the potential for adverse effects to the environment. Since submission of the original SOV, the grant applicant, the Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control, has revised the scope of work to include additional ground disturbing activities in an area not previously identified.

In order to fully incorporate your agency views, FEMA requests that your agency review the revised plan drawing and aerial photograph showing the expanded footprint of the proposed action and the revised site plan and provide an updated response and comment. The revised action differs from before by expanding into a new area of approximately 150 ft by 900 ft along the southern edge of the formerly identified area as shown on the attached aerial Google Earth photograph (the attached PDF plan of the proposed action has been overlaid on the aerial photo, lat/long shown). The proposed activity in this area increases the amount of space to be developed for the growth and research of aquatic marsh plants. The expanded area that is being added is highlighted in the purplish-blue rectangle.

FEMA is assessing the impacts to wetlands, conversion of farmland, and is furthermore, seeking to identify site conditions that could warrant preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement such as historical waste practices, possible unpermitted Clean Water Act discharges from the onsite wastewater treatment plant, or other conditions known to the agencies that should be considered in our analysis.

Should additional information be required, feel free to contact me at your earliest opportunity and I will ensure the information is forthcoming.

In order to assist the Louisiana recovery with this important action, FEMA is striving to complete the EA in the shortest possible time and prompt responses will be greatly appreciated.

Revised SOV

04/13/2011



Figure 1 - Aerial Photo with Overlay of Revised Plan - Expansion Highlighted Blue

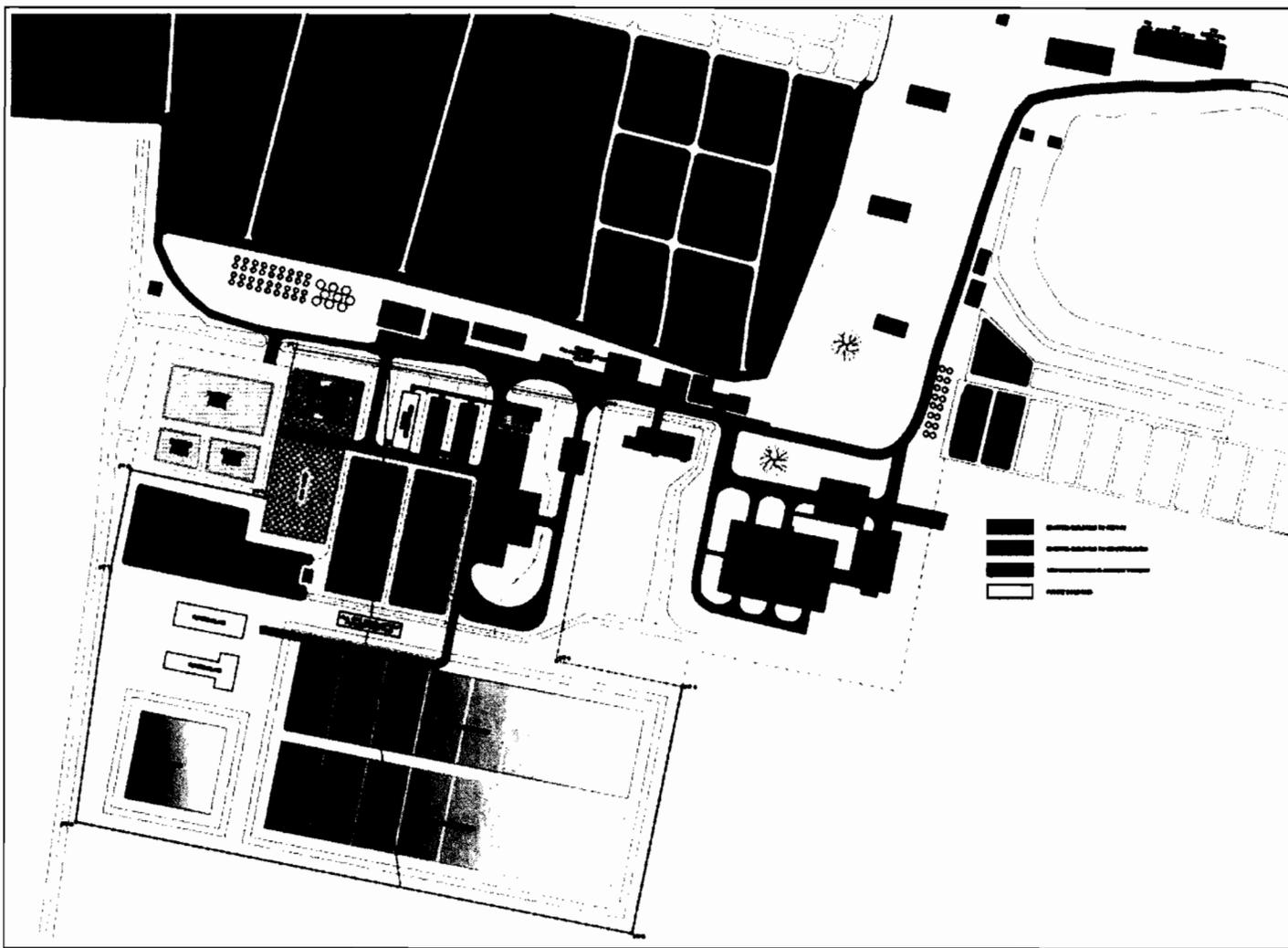


Figure 2 - LSU Aquaculture Research Station Proposed Action Site Plan - Revised

Environmentally,

John Renne

John D. Renne', CFM, CHMM (CTR)
Technical Specialist (Environmental/Floodplain)

NISTAC/URS Corporation, Contractor
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Louisiana Recovery Office
1 Seine Court, 4th Floor Room 4010
New Orleans, LA 70114
(804) 405-8671 (Personal Cell)
(504) 762-2323 (Fax Line)

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Lisa Abernathy [Lisa.Abernathy@noaa.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 14:22
To: Renne, John
Subject: Re: [Fwd: FEMA Federal Grant-Funded Indirect Action - LSU Aquaculture Research Station - NEPA Environmental Assessment Solicitation of Views ***Revised Action***]

Mr. Renne,

I have reviewed revised action for the LSU Aquaculture Research Station proposed project. This project is not located in an area supportive of marine fishery species, or categorized as essential fish habitat. As such, further coordination with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is not necessary.

Thank you,

Lisa Abernathy
 NMFS - Baton Rouge
 225-389-0508 x209

Subject: FEMA Federal Grant-Funded Indirect Action - LSU Aquaculture Research Station
 NEPA Environmental Assessment Solicitation of Views ***Revised Action***
 From: "Renne, John (CTR)" <John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov>
 Date: Wed, 13 Apr 2011 15:38:38 -0500
 To: beth.dixon@la.gov, Amy.E.Powell@usace.army.mil, mick.tamara@epamail.epa.gov,
cmichon@wlf.la.gov, Richard.Hartman@noaa.gov, Deborah_Fuller@fws.gov,
Karl.Morgan@la.gov
 To: beth.dixon@la.gov, Amy.E.Powell@usace.army.mil, mick.tamara@epamail.epa.gov,
cmichon@wlf.la.gov, Richard.Hartman@noaa.gov, Deborah_Fuller@fws.gov,
Karl.Morgan@la.gov
 CC: "Spann, Tiffany" <Tiffany.Spann@dhs.gov>, "Borden, Adam" <adam.borden@dhs.gov>

Stakeholders:

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overlaid on the aerial photo, lat/long shown). The proposed activity in this area increases the amount of space to be developed for the growth and research of aquatic marsh plants. The expanded area that is being added is highlighted in the purplish-blue rectangle.

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Should additional information be required, feel free to contact me at your earliest opportunity and I will ensure the information is forthcoming.

In order to assist the Louisiana recovery with this important action, FEMA is striving to complete the EA in the shortest possible time and prompt responses will be greatly appreciated.

Figure 1 - Aerial Photo with Overlay of Revised Plan - Expansion Highlighted Blue

Figure 2 - LSU Aquaculture Research Station Proposed Action Site Plan - Revised

Environmentally,

John Renne

John D. Renne', CFM, CHMM (CTR)
Technical Specialist (Environmental/Floodplain)

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BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY
JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Date April 15, 2011
Name John Renne
Company FEMA
Street Address 1 Seine Court, 4th floor Rm 4010
City, State, Zip New Orleans, LA 70114
Project LSU Aquaculture Research Station
Project ID 1832011
Invoice Number 11041522

Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Non-Game Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the captioned project. After careful review of our database, no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project. No state or federal parks, wildlife refuges, scenic streams, or wildlife management areas are known at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) has compiled data on rare, endangered, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, plant communities, and other natural features throughout the state of Louisiana. Heritage reports summarize the existing information known at the time of the request regarding the location in question. The quantity and quality of data collected by the LNHP are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals. In most cases, this information is not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys; many natural areas in Louisiana have not been surveyed. This report does not address the occurrence of wetlands at the site in question. Heritage reports should not be considered final statements on the biological elements or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. LNHP requires that this office be acknowledged in all reports as the source of all data provided here. If at any time Heritage tracked species are encountered within the project area, please contact the LNHP Data Manager at 225-765-2643. If you have any questions, or need additional information, please call 225-765-2357.

Sincerely,

Amity Bass
So Amity Bass, Coordinator
Natural Heritage Program



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY
JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

INVOICE

RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

Date April 15, 2011
Invoice Number 11041522
Project LSU Aquaculture Research Station

Name John Renne
Company FEMA
Street Address 1 Seine Court, 4th floor Rm 4010
City, State, Zip New Orleans, LA 70114
Number of Quads Reviewed 1
Total Due \$0.00

Payment should be made to "Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries" within 30 days of the date of this invoice. Please include the invoice number on your check and return a copy of this invoice with your remittance to the following address:

Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
Attn: Jennifer Riddle
P.O. Box 80399
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-0399

Should you have any questions regarding this invoice, for review of the Louisiana Natural Heritage database for information on known sensitive elements at a charge of \$25.00 per quad reviewed, please contact LNHP at (225) 765-2357.



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY
JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

INVOICE

RETURN THIS COPY OF INVOICE WITH PAYMENT

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Company FEMA
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Renne, John (CTR)

From: Mick.Tamara@epamail.epa.gov
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 10:00
To: Renne, John (CTR)
Subject: Re: FEMA Federal Grant-Funded Indirect Action - LSU Aquaculture Research Station - NEPA Environmental Assessment Solicitation of Views ***Revised Action***

John - There may be wetland impacts with the proposed project, however, it appears the applicant is taking the appropriate procedures for the proposed project. Relevant to the Clean Water Act 404(b)(1) Guidelines, EPA recommends the appropriate permit application from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be obtained along with appropriate mitigation for any wetlands that may be affected due to implementation of the proposed project. Thanks for the opportunity to review and comment.

Tamara Mick
 US EPA Region
 Marine & Wetlands Section
 Dallas, TX 75202-2733
 214-665-7134

From: "Renne, John (CTR)" <John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov>
 To: <beth.dixon@la.gov>, <Amy.E.Powell@usace.army.mil>, Tamara Mick/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, <cmichon@wff.la.gov>, <Richard.Hartman@noaa.gov>, <Deborah_Fuller@fws.gov>, <Karl.Morgan@la.gov>
 Cc: "Spann, Tiffany" <Tiffany.Spann@dhs.gov>, "Borden, Adam" <adam.borden@dhs.gov>
 Date: 04/13/2011 03:38 PM
 Subject: FEMA Federal Grant-Funded Indirect Action - LSU Aquaculture Research Station - NEPA Environmental Assessment Solicitation of Views ***Revised Action***

Stakeholders:

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Figure 1 - Aerial Photo with Overlay of Revised Plan - Expansion Highlighted Blue

04/19/2011



Figure 2 - LSU Aquaculture Research Station Proposed Action Site Plan - Revised

Environmentally,

John Renne

John D. Renne', CFM, CHMM (CTR)
Technical Specialist (Environmental/Floodplain)

NISTAC/URS Corporation, Contractor
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Louisiana Recovery Office

1 Seine Court, 4th Floor Room 4010
New Orleans, LA 70114

(804) 405-8671 (Personal Cell)
(504) 762-2323 (Fax Line)

[attachment "Solicitation of Views and Project Scoping Notification for FEMA Project.msg" deleted by Tamara Mick/R6/USEPA/US]



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792 -DR-LA
Louisiana Recovery Office
Environmental/Historic Preservation
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, LA 70114

April 27, 2011

Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge LA 70804

RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina

Applicant: Facility Planning & Control
**Undertaking: Site Development; Construction of Equipment Storage Shed,
Work/Storage Building, Greenhouses A & B, and Media Pad/Dividers;
and Demolition of Aqua Fish Machine Shop at the LSU Aquaculture
Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
70820 (30.367937/-91.183791) (A/I 1168 and 1203)**
Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declaration:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated August 29, 2005, as amended.

FEMA, through its Public Assistance Program, proposes to expand the LSU Aquaculture Research Station (ARS) at 2410 Ben Hur Road in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana on land already owned by LSU. The Undertaking includes the following work as requested by Facility Planning & Control (Applicant): site development including construction/installation of entrance drives and utilities, site preparation, and excavation for construction of new ponds, research plot layout areas (sand beds and can yard), and new buildings; construction of an Equipment Storage Building, Work/Storage Building, Greenhouses A & B, and a Media Pad/Dividers; and demolition of the Aqua Fish Machine Shop. FEMA is initiating Section 106 review for the above referenced properties in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation dated August 17, 2009 and providing the State Historic Preservation Office with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking.

The Undertaking

The ARS is situated on 178 acres located approximately three miles south of the LSU Main Campus, and is used for research related to catfish, oysters, alligators, baitfish, turtles, a variety of freshwater game fish, and crawfish (Figures 1-2). The proposed Undertaking involves Alternate Project and Improved Project components, as described below.

Alternate Project (AI 1203)

The Applicant proposes to use funds previously allocated by FEMA for demolition and replacement of several facilities at the Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) in southern Plaquemines Parish (described below under *Donor Facilities at CARS*) toward completion of site development and new construction at the ARS (described below under *Alternate Project Scope at ARS*).

Donor Facilities at CARS

- FEMA previously approved funding for demolition and replacement of the following donor facilities at the CARS site: Greenhouse #5 (PW 7426); Irrigation Pump House (PW 6615); and Residence #2 (PW 7700). FEMA Historic Preservation reviewed and cleared the demolition and replacement of the aforementioned facilities in May 2006, June 2006, and March 2008, respectively. Greenhouse #5 and the Irrigation Pump House were cleared programmatically. Residence #2 was reviewed in consultation with SHPO, resulting in a determination of No Historic Properties Affected (SHPO concurrence received March 31, 2008). There will be no reconstruction at the CARS site as part of the current Undertaking.

Alternate Project Scope at ARS (see Figure 2 for diagram)

- Site Development at ARS – Work will include construction/installation of entrance drives and utilities, site preparation, and excavation for construction of a new water storage pond, additional research ponds, research plot layout areas (sand beds and can yard), Work/Storage Building, and Greenhouses A and B.
- Construction of Equipment Storage Building at ARS – A new open-sided, galvanized, pre-engineered metal Equipment Storage Building will be constructed. The proposed building will house functions of the Aqua Fish Machine Shop (to be demolished, and described under Improved Project below) in one of its bays.
- Construction of Media Pad/Dividers at ARS – A Media Pad with a concrete slab and concrete dividers will be constructed near the rear of the proposed Work Storage Building (described under Improved Project below).

Improved Project (AI 1168)

The Applicant proposes the following Improved Project activities.

- Construction of Work Storage Building at ARS – Citrus Packing Shed #2 (ca. 1995) at the CARS site will be demolished, and it will be replaced with a new Work/Storage Building at the ARS site (Figure 2). FEMA previously approved funding for demolition of Citrus Packing Shed #2 (PW 7359). FEMA Historic Preservation reviewed and cleared the demolition in October 2008. There will be no reconstruction at the CARS site as part of the

current Undertaking. The new Work/Storage Building at the ARS site will be a pre-engineered metal building.

- Construction of Greenhouses A and B at ARS – Greenhouse #2 (ca. 1995) at the CARS site has been demolished, and it will be replaced with Greenhouses A and B at the ARS site (Figure 2). FEMA previously approved funding for demolition of Greenhouse #2 (PW 7799). FEMA Historic Preservation reviewed and cleared the demolition in May 2006. There will be no reconstruction at the CARS site as part of the current Undertaking. The new Greenhouses A and B at the ARS site will be CMU/metal structures resting on concrete slabs.
- Demolition of Aqua Fish Machine Shop and construction of Equipment Storage Building at ARS – The existing Aqua Fish Machine Shop (ca. 1970) at ARS will be completely demolished, including the pier foundation, and its functions will be replaced in one bay of the proposed Equipment Storage Building (Figure 2). The new Equipment Storage Building will be a pre-engineered metal building.

Area of Potential Effects

In accordance with Stipulation VII.A of the *2009 Statewide PA*, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) was developed in coordination with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and includes the portions of the ARS property that could be directly or indirectly affected by the Undertaking (Figures 2-3). The APE includes approximately 20 acres (8 hectare), encompassing all areas of proposed ground disturbance associated with the Undertaking. The standing structures and archaeological APE are the same. It should be noted that while the APE for this Undertaking encompasses the 20 acre area in which ground disturbance will take place, it does not mean that ground disturbance will take place across the entire APE. Figure 2 provides a more exact indication of the actual area of ground disturbance within the APE; approximately 9.5 acres.

Description of the Steps to Identify Historic Properties in the APE

Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties within the Standing Structures APE

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map and have determined that the standing structures APE is not located within a listed or eligible NRHP Historic District. The buildings within the standing structures APE are not 50 years of age or older and do not exhibit exceptional significance to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion Consideration G. The ARS site began developing in the 1960s, and all extant buildings appear to have been constructed in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Site plans and photographs are attached to this letter.

Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties within the Archaeological APE

Upon review of data provided by the SHPO, there are no known archaeological sites within 0.5 miles of the project APE (Figure 4). Additionally, the 1883 Mississippi River Commission Map shows the project area to be undeveloped backswamp (Figure 5). The natural soils consist of Shriever-Thibaut clay, a poorly drained soil found on meander scars of the Mississippi River. Based

4/27/2011

Site Development; Construction of Equipment Storage Shed, Work/Storage Building, Greenhouses A & B, and Media Pad/Dividers; and Demolition of Aqua Fish Machine Shop at the LSU Aquaculture Research Station (ARS) (A/I 1168 and 1203)

on careful examination of the topographic contours, as well as consultation with Roger T. Saucier's *Geomorphology and Quaternary Geologic History of the Lower Mississippi Valley, Volume 1* (1994), it appears that the project area lies in a low trough created during a "neck cutoff" event. This occurs when the river path is diverted rather quickly (in geological terms), leaving a lake, which later becomes a swamp after many years of alluviation and lack of a constant water supply. This explains the representation of the APE as backswamp on the 1883 Mississippi River Commission Map, and indicates a low probability for historic or prehistoric settlement. However, due to the lack of any previous surveys within or adjacent to the project area and the proposed new ground disturbance, a site visit to the project area was conducted on December 7, 2010 by FEMA Archaeologist Hanan Browning and FEMA Environmental Specialist Adam Stephenson. No cultural resources were noted at that time and soil cores, in addition to a soil profile evident in a recently excavated borrow pit, revealed that soils within the APE are deflated due to erosion and intensive agriculture (Photograph 14).

Description of Effects to Historic Properties

Given the lack of historic development, the location of the APE in former backswamp, and the deflated/disturbed nature of soils within the APE (as noted in the site visit), intact archaeological deposits will not likely be encountered in the APE during the project activities. In addition, no historic architectural resources are located within the APE. Therefore, FEMA has determined that the Undertaking will result in **No Historic Properties Affected** and is submitting this determination to you for your review and comment. FEMA requests your comments within 15 days.

We look forward to your concurrence with this determination. Should you have any questions or need additional information regarding this Undertaking, please contact Hanan Browning, FEMA Archaeologist at (504) 762-2920 or hanan.browning@dhs.gov, or Elizabeth Amisson, Historic Preservation Specialist at (504) 762-2086 or elizabeth.amisson@associates.dhs.gov.

Sincerely



Katherine S. Zeringue
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-DR-1603-LA, FEMA-DR-1607-LA,
FEMA-DR-1786-LA, FEMA-DR-1792-LA

CC: File
Jason Emery, Division of Archaeology Reviewer
David Livingstone, Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosures

4/27/2011

Site Development; Construction of Equipment Storage Shed, Work/Storage Building, Greenhouses A & B, and Media Pad/Dividers; and Demolition of Aqua Fish Machine Shop at the LSU Aquaculture Research Station (ARS) (A/I 1168 and 1203)

The Division of Archaeology Reviewer concurs with the finding that there will be No Historic Properties Affected as a result of this Undertaking.

Division of Archaeology Reviewer

Date

The Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer concurs with the finding that there will be No Historic Properties Affected as a result of this Undertaking.

Division of Historic Preservation Reviewer

Date

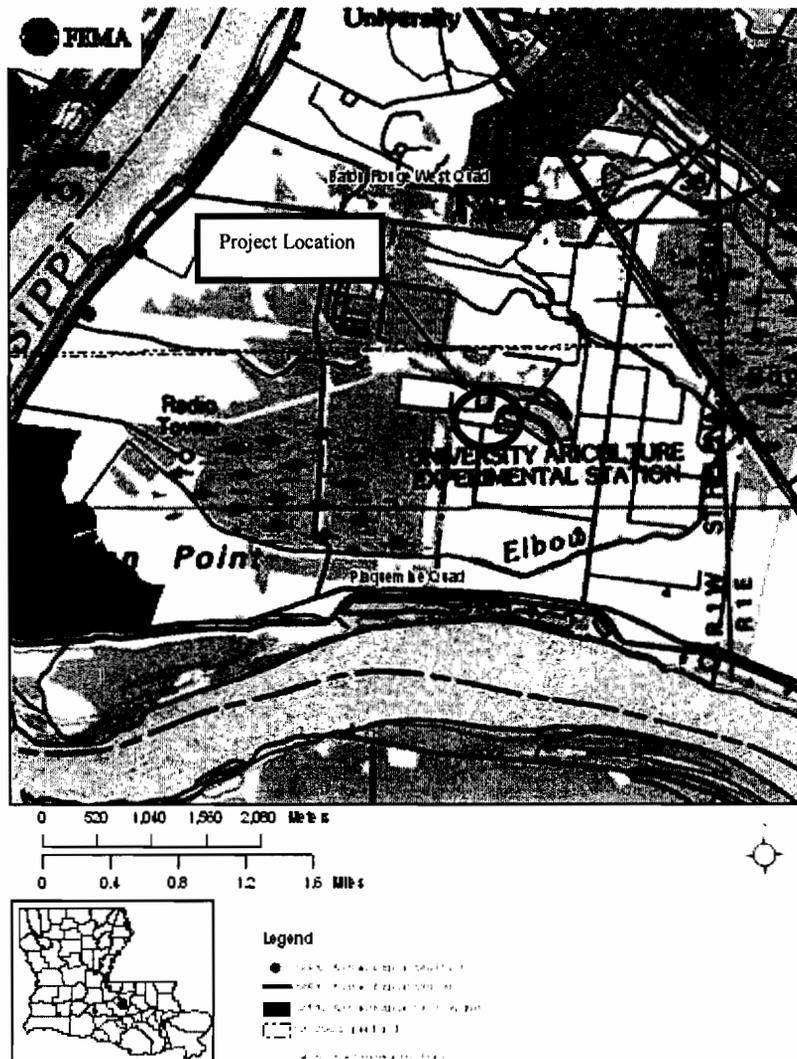


Figure 1. Portion of Baton Rouge West and Plaquemines 7.5 minute USGS topographic quads showing the project location and nearest known archaeological sites.

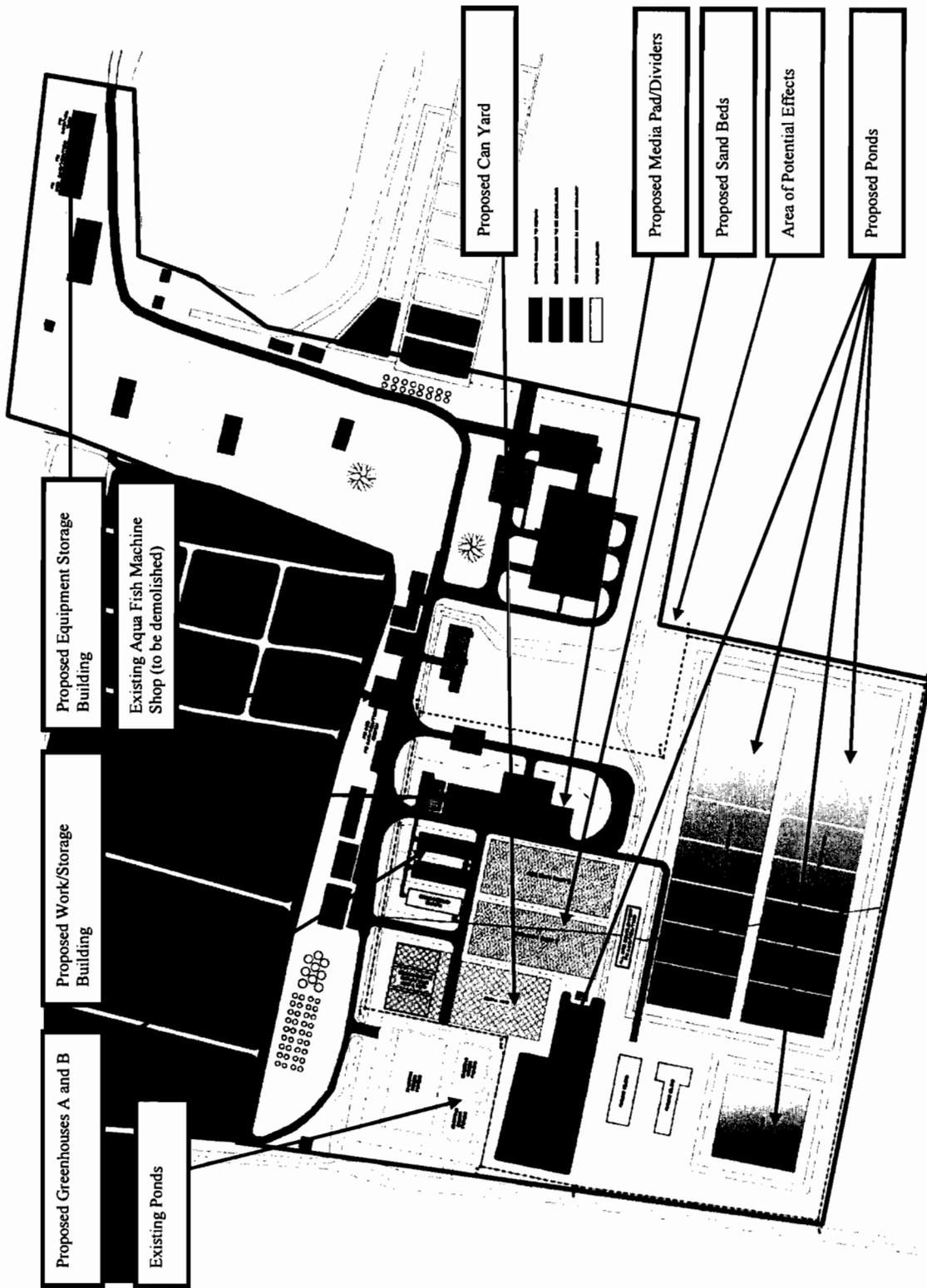


Figure 2. LSU Master Plan and APE. The standing structures and archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) is outlined in red. Note that buildings shaded in yellow are not part of the currently proposed scope of work (Undertaking). Buildings shaded in brown will remain, buildings shaded in pink will be demolished, and facilities shaded in green are proposed.



Figure 3. Site Plan and APE. The standing structures and archaeological Area of Potential Effects (APE) is outlined in red.

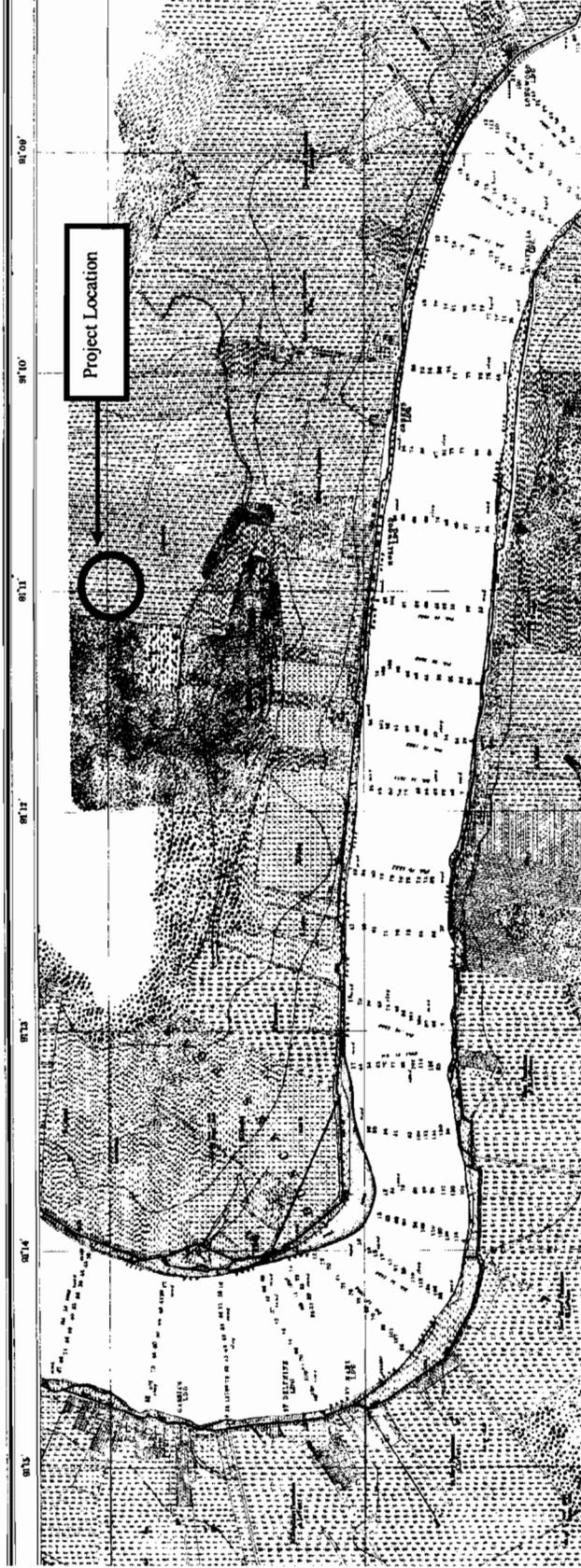
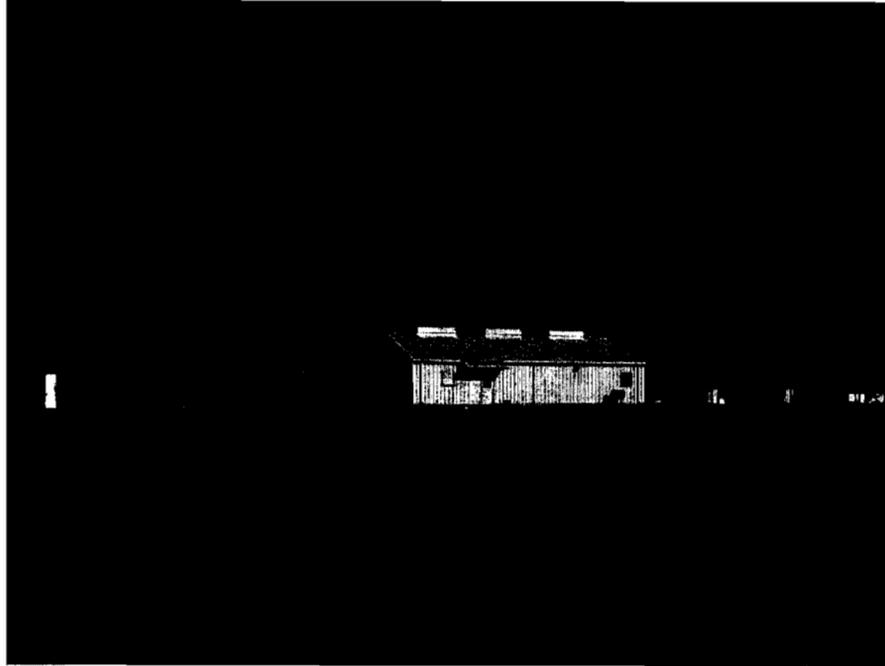


Figure 4. Project location shown on the 1883 Mississippi River Commission map.

Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana

Photograph 1:
Overview of
greenhouses and
hatchery. View
looking northeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



Photograph 2:
Overview of
metal building
(right) and
hatchery, storage,
lab, and office
buildings
(background).
The proposed
Greenhouses A
and B and
Work/Storage
Building will be
located in the
field depicted in
the foreground.
View looking
northeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



**Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge,
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana**

Photograph 3:
Overview
showing the
Aquaculture
Center Building
(left background).
The proposed
Work/Storage
Building will be
located in the
field depicted in
the foreground.
View looking
southeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



Photograph 4:
Aqua Fish
Machine Shop,
proposed for
demolition. View
looking northeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



**Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge,
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana**

Photograph 5:
Overview of
storage, lab, and
office buildings,
located to the east
of the Aqua Fish
Machine Shop.
View looking
east. (FEMA,
December 2010)



Photograph 6:
Lab and office
buildings, located
to the east of the
Aqua Fish
Machine Shop.
View looking
northeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



**Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge,
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana**

Photograph 7:
Aquaculture
Center Building.
View looking
southeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



Photograph 8:
Overview
showing the
metal building
(right mid-
ground). The
proposed
Work/Storage
Building will be
located beyond
the metal building
to the southwest.
View looking
southwest.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



**Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge,
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana**

Photograph 9:
Overview
showing tanks
and storage
buildings. View
looking northeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



Photograph 10:
Overview
showing storage
buildings. View
looking northeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



**Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge,
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana**

Photograph 11:
Overview
showing tanks
and a storage
building. The
proposed
Equipment
Storage Building
will be located to
the east of this
building (right
background).
View looking
northeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



Photograph 12:
Overview
showing the
proposed location
of the Equipment
Storage Building.
View looking
northeast.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



**Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge,
East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana**

Photograph 13:
Overview of the
ARS property
from the
proposed site of
the Equipment
Storage Building.
View looking
southwest.
(FEMA,
December 2010)



Photograph 14:
Soil profile as
seen in a small
borrow pit
located where
the holding
pond will be
excavated. View
looking north
from the
southwest
corner of the
project APE.





FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA-1603/1607/1786/1792 -DR-LA
Louisiana Recovery Office
Environmental/Historic Preservation
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, LA 70114

April 27, 2011

Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
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.

Pam Breaux 5-24-11

Pam Breaux Date
State Historic Preservation Officer

RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina

Applicant: Facility Planning & Control
Undertaking: Site Development; Construction of Equipment Storage Shed, Work/Storage Building, Greenhouses A & B, and Media Pad/Dividers; and Demolition of Aqua Fish Machine Shop at the LSU Aquaculture Research Station (ARS), 2410 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70820 (30.367937/-91.183791) (A/I 1168 and 1203)
Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Ms. Breaux:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be providing funds authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major Disaster Declaration:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated August 29, 2005, as amended.

FEMA, through its Public Assistance Program, proposes to expand the LSU Aquaculture Research Station (ARS) at 2410 Ben Hur Road in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana on land already owned by LSU. The Undertaking includes the following work as requested by Facility Planning & Control (Applicant): site development including construction/installation of entrance drives and utilities, site preparation, and excavation for construction of new ponds, research plot layout areas (sand beds and can yard), and new buildings; construction of an Equipment Storage Building, Work/Storage Building, Greenhouses A & B, and a Media Pad/Dividers; and demolition of the Aqua Fish Machine Shop. FEMA is initiating Section 106 review for the above referenced properties in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation dated August 17, 2009 and providing the State Historic Preservation Office with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking.

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Beth Altazan-Dixon [Beth.Dixon@LA.GOV]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 09:21
To: John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov
Subject: 110414/1025 LSU Aquaculture Research Facility (ARS)
Attachments: sov19_10 EBR 2495.doc

April 29, 2011

John D. Renne', Technical Specialist
FEMA LA Recovery Office-FEMA Mail Center 1st Floor
One Seine Court
New Orleans, LA 70114
John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov

RE: 110414/1025
refers to SOV 101202/2495

LSU Aquaculture Research Facility (ARS)
FEMA Funding
East Baton Rouge Parish

Dear Mr. Renne':

The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Business and Community Outreach Division has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

After reviewing your request, the department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please be advised that if you should encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, you should immediately notify LDEQ's Single-Point-of-contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640.

- Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit application or Notice of Intent must be submitted no later than June 1, 2011. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx> or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 3181.
- 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, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.

04/29/2011

- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.
- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

Currently, East Baton Rouge Parish is classified as nonattainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Therefore, this project may be subject to the state's general conformity regulations as stated in our original response letter dated December 3, 2010 which is attached.

Please send all future requests to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (225) 219-3958 or by email at beth.dixon@la.gov.

Sincerely,



Beth Altazan-Dixon
Performance Management
LDEQ/Business and Community Outreach Division
Office of the Secretary
P.O. Box 4301 (602 N. 5th Street)
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301
Phone: 225-219-3958
Fx: 225-325-8148
Email: beth.dixon@la.gov



Jena Band of Choctaw Indians

P. O. Box 14 • Jena, Louisiana 71342-0014 • Phone: 318-992-2717 • Fax: 318-992-8244

DATE: May 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Section 106, NHPA Review and Commentary

TO: FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
LOUISIANA RECOVERY OFFICE
ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC PRESERVATION
1 SEINE COURT
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

REFERENCE: SITE DEVELOPMENT; CONSTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT STORAGE SHED, WORK/STORAGE BUILDING, GREENHOUSES A&B AND MEDIA PAD/DIVIDERS; AND DEMOLITION OF AQUA FISH MACHINE SHOP AT THE LSU AQUACULTURE RESEARCH STATION(ARS), 2410 BEN HUR ROAD, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 708/20 (30.367937/-91.183791) A/I 1168 AND 1203

COMMENTS: WE ARE IN CONCURRENCE WITH THIS DETERMINATION OF NO ADVERSE EFFECT TO HISTORIC PROPERTIES.


Michael Tarpley
THPO

Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
318-992-1205



Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering
149 E.B. Doran Bldg. – LSU
Baton Rouge, LA 70803-4505
(225) 205-4533
Fax: (225) 578-3492
Web site: www.lsuagcenter.com

May 25, 2011

Barb Schweda (CTR),
Federal Emergency Management Agency
LARO - Algiers Office
1 Seine Court, 2nd Floor Rm 2021
New Orleans, LA 70114

Dear Ms Schweda,

I was asked by Dr. John Russin, Interim Director of the Louisiana Experiment Station and Mr. Roger Husser, Director of Facilities Planning for the LSU AgCenter, to review the construction plans for the of coastal plants research facilities to be located at the LSU AgCenter Central Research Station's Aquaculture Facility in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, LA. Before joining the LSU AgCenter, I was an Extension Specialist with the University of Idaho Extension where I assisted livestock producers and food processing companies in Idaho and other western states in researching emission rates and submitting CERCLA/EPCRA notices, air quality permit applications and letters of exemption for emissions of PM₁₀, NH₃, H₂S, CH₃OH, VOCs, and NO_x.

Mr. Husser provided me the plans and outlined the understood management of the research facility once it is constructed. The planned facilities will include the following structures/activities:

- 2 Greenhouses: (3,000 ft² each), 6,000 ft²
- 1 Work/Storage Building: 5,000 ft²
- Equipment Storage Building: 4,000 ft²
- Coastal Plants Research Pond: (2 acres) 87,120 ft²
- Water Storage Pond: (¾ acre), 32,670 ft²
- Irrigated plant nursery: (1 acre), 43,560 ft²

After reviewing the proposed construction plans, and discussing the anticipated management for the Coastal Plants research facilities, it appears to be very similar in operation to a small plants nursery farm with greenhouses, storage buildings, ponds and small machinery for the cutting of grass and planting/harvest of plant. Based on my experience, I can ensure that the project will emit significantly less than 100 tons per year of total or indirect volatile organic compound (VOC) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions. In my professional opinion this construction plan and subsequent operational emissions will be in compliance with Louisiana's State Implementation Plan (SIP).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 225.205.4533 or rsheffield@agcenter.lsu.edu.

Yours in service,

Dr. Ron Sheffield
Associate Professor & Water Resources Engineer

A State Partner in the Cooperative Extension System

The LSU Agricultural Center is a statewide campus of the LSU System and provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. Louisiana State University and A. & M. College, Louisiana parish governing bodies, Southern University, and United States Department of Agriculture cooperating.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

JUN 10 2011

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Operations Division
Operations Manager,
Completed Works

Mr. Adam Stephenson, AICP
FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office, EHP Division
1 Seine Court
Room 4013
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Mr. Stephenson:

This is in response to your revised Solicitation of Views request dated April 13, 2011, concerning the expansion of the footprint for the proposed LSU Aquaculture Research Center in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana.

We have reviewed your request for potential Department of the Army regulatory requirements and impacts on any Department of the Army projects.

We do not anticipate any adverse impacts to any Corps of Engineers projects.

Based on review of recent maps, aerial photography, and soils data, we have determined that this property is not in a wetland subject to Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. A Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will not be required for the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material on this site.

This delineation/determination has been conducted to identify the limits of the Corps Clean Water Act jurisdiction for the particular site identified in your request. This delineation/determination may not be valid for the wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. If the property owner or tenant is a USDA farm participant, or anticipates participation in USDA programs, a certified wetland determination should be requested from the local office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service prior to starting work.

You are advised that this jurisdictional determination is valid for a period of 5 years from the date of this letter unless new information warrants revision prior to the expiration date or the District Commander has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.

Off-site locations of activities such as borrow, disposals, haul-and detour-roads and work mobilization site developments may be subject to Department of the Army regulatory requirements and may have an impact on a Department of the Army project.

Please contact Mr. Robert Heffner, of our Regulatory Branch by telephone at (504) 862-1288, or by e-mail at Robert.A.Heffner@usace.army.mil for questions concerning wetlands determinations or need for on-site evaluations. Questions concerning regulatory permit requirements may be addressed to Mr. Martin Mayer by telephone at (504) 862-2276 or by e-mail at Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil.

Future correspondence concerning this matter should reference our account number MVN-2011-001125-SE. This will allow us to more easily locate records of previous correspondence, and thus provide a quicker response.

Sincerely,



Karen L. Oberlies
Solicitation of Views Manager

received 8/25/11 AT



"Renne, John (CTR)"
<John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov>
08/25/2011 04:03 PM

To "Amy_Trahan@fws.gov" <Amy_Trahan@fws.gov>
cc "deborah_fuller@fws.gov" <deborah_fuller@fws.gov>
bcc
Subject Solicitation of Views - FEMA Environmental Assessment for
LSU Coastal Area Research Station

Amy,

FEMA submitted a Solicitation of Views on an EA that is being prepared for a Public Assistance Grant for the LSU Coastal Area Research Station late last year with a revision provided in April.

I'm forwarding the email regarding the revision to you for your review.

Either we've lost the USFWS response or no response was received.

We are ready to move forward with this draft EA for HQ review but need a response from FWS.

Please take a look at the email and let me know what you can re: this EA SOV.

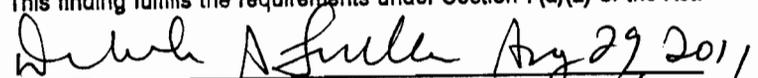
I'd be much obliged.

Thanks,

John

John Renne (CTR)
NISTAC, Contractor
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, LA 70114
(504) 762-2356 (Desk)
(504) 762-2323 (fax) – optional
E-mail: John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov

This project has been reviewed for effects to Federal trust resources under our jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act). The project, as proposed,
 Will have no effect on those resources
 Is not likely to adversely affect those resources.
This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the Act.



Acting Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Date Aug 29, 2011

March 6, 2012

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Yasoob Zia
Environmental Scientist Manager
602 North 5th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

Re: Conformity Analysis

Dear Yasoob:

As per our recent conversation, C-K Associates is submitting an Clean Air Act Conformity Analysis for Hurricane Katrina Repairs/ Reconstruction Aquaculture Research Station, Baton Rouge, LA (FP&C Project No. 01-107-05B-13, Part No. NB) on behalf of LSU AgCenter.

LSU AgCenter is planning on constructing their Costal Plants Research Facility to be located at the LSU AgCenter Central Research Station's Aquaculture facility in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The construction emissions and the operating emissions associated with this project are negligible and/or de minimus, additionally C-K believes that the construction and operations conform to the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP).

If you have any questions or need any additional information please contact me at (225) 755-1000, thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
C-K Associates, LLC



Mark Ezell
Air Quality Manager

Enclosure: As stated

REGIONAL OFFICES

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PH (281) 397-9016
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**LSU AgCenter
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
Aquaculture Research Station**

Clean Air Act Conformity Analysis

**Hurricane Katrina Repairs/Reconstruction
Aquaculture Research Station
FP&C Project No. 01-107-05B-13, Part No. NB**

March 2012

**Prepared By:
C-K Associates, LLC
17170 Perkins Rd
Baton Rouge, LA**

C-K Associates' Project No. 8030



Project Description

LSU AgCenter is planning on constructing their Coastal Plants Research Facility to be located at the LSU AgCenter Central Research Station's Aquaculture facility in Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The plans for the new facility will include the following:

- 2 Greenhouses: (3,000 ft² each), 6,000 ft²
- 1 Work/Storage Building: 5,000 ft²
- Equipment Storage Building: 4,000 ft²
- Coastal Plants Research Pond: (2 acres) 87,120 ft²
- Water Storage Pond: (¾ acre), 32,670 ft²
- Irrigated plant nursery: (1 acre), 43,560 ft²

Attached as Figure 1 is the construction drawing for the facility; this is an image of the master plan for Aquaculture showing the existing and to be constructed features. Below is the general scope of work/description of the project and well as a statement of how it will be operated.

Site Development - Entrance drives, water storage pond, additional research ponds, utilities, general dirt work and excavation for construction of the Work/Storage Building, Greenhouse A&B, and research plot layout areas.

Equipment Storage Building - The Equipment Storage Building will be an open-sided, galvanized, pre-engineered metal building on concrete piers. The building will be a minimum of 40' x 100' with 25' bays, a 12' eave height, and 5'-0" overhangs. Its final size is to be determined by the budget with 150' long as optimal. The existing Fish Machine Shop will be demolished upon completion of the new Equipment Storage Building.

Media Pad/Dividers - A Media Pad, similar to the one at Burden with a concrete slab and concrete dividers, is to be provided near the rear of the Work/Storage Building.

Work/Storage Building - The new building will be an insulated pre-engineered metal building with roll-up doors and personnel doors and include two offices and two labs, which will be conditioned spaces. All other spaces will not be conditioned and a portion of the building will be open sided. The building will be a minimum of 150' long. Its' final size is to be determined by the budget with 180' long as optimal.

Greenhouses A and B: - The new greenhouses will have a concrete slab, trench drain system, CMU knee walls, overall 8' high sidewalls, aluminum or galvanized structure, double wall polycarbonate skin, evaporative cooling, and natural gas or diesel heat.

The general operations at this facility will include operating the electric irrigation pump, utilizing the four buildings for their intended purposes, utilizing the research plots and can yard areas, and the

research ponds. Occasional grass mowing, use of small tractors and trailers, and weed eating will also occur on the site.

Conformity Analysis

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six principal pollutants, called "criteria" pollutants. They are carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, lead, particulates of 10 microns or less in size (PM-10 and PM-2.5), and sulfur dioxide. Ozone is the only parameter not directly emitted into the air but forms in the atmosphere when three atoms of oxygen (O₃) are combined by a chemical reaction between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight. Motor vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are some of the major sources of NO_x and VOC, also known as ozone precursors. Strong sunlight and hot weather can cause ground-level ozone to form in harmful concentrations in the air.

The Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule (58 FR 63214, November 30, 1993, Final Rule, Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans) dictates that a conformity review be performed when a Federal action generates air pollutants in a region that has been designated a non-attainment or maintenance area for one or more NAAQS. A conformity assessment would require quantifying the direct and indirect emissions of criteria pollutants caused by the Federal action to determine whether the proposed action conforms to Clean Air Act requirements and any State Implementation Plan (SIP). The general conformity rule was designed to ensure that Federal actions do not impede local efforts to control air pollution. It is called a conformity rule because Federal agencies are required to demonstrate that their actions "conform with" (i.e., do not undermine) the approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) for their geographic area. The purpose of conformity is to (1) ensure Federal activities do not interfere with the air quality budgets in the SIPs; (2) ensure actions do not cause or contribute to new violations, and (3) ensure attainment and maintenance of the NAAQS. Federal agencies make this demonstration by performing a conformity review when the actions they are planning to carry out will be conducted in an area designated as a nonattainment or maintenance area for one of the criteria pollutants. If one or more of the priority pollutants were not in attainment, then the proposed action would be subject to detailed conformity determinations unless these actions are clearly *de minimus* emissions. Use of the *de minimus* levels assures that the conformity rule covers only major Federal actions (USEPA, 1993). A conformity review requires consideration of both direct and indirect air emissions associated with the proposed action. Sources that would contribute to direct emissions from this project would include construction activities associated with the proposed action and equipment used to facilitate the action (e.g., construction vehicles). To be counted as an indirect emission, the Federal proponent for the action must have continuing control over the source of the indirect emissions. Sources of indirect emissions include commuter activity to and from the construction site (e.g., employee vehicle emissions). Both stationary and mobile sources must be included when calculating the total of direct and indirect emissions. Because this project area is designated as a nonattainment area, for ozone, a conformity review has been required by Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for the proposed action.

Construction Emissions

The construction of the facility is scheduled to last approximately 12 months and a table summarizing the construction equipment, required hours of operation and the specified horsepower for each piece of equipment is presented in Table 1.1.

Estimates of equipment emissions were based on the estimated hours of usage and emission factors for each motorized source for the project. Emission factors related to heavy-duty diesel equipment were predicted by EPA NONROAD emission factor model (EPA December 2008). Emission factors in grams of pollutant per hour per horsepower were multiplied by the estimated running time and equipment associated average default horsepower established in NONROAD model. Finally, the total grams of pollutant were converted to tons of pollutant.

Emission factors for motor vehicles were determined for commuter vehicles (modeled as light duty gasoline vehicles) and trucks (modeled as heavy duty diesel trucks) using the USEPA Mobile6 mobile source emission factor model associated with the national default model input parameters. These emission factors were then multiplied by the vehicle operational hours to determine motor vehicle annual emissions presented in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1 Construction Emissions

Equipment	# of Units	Hours	Hp	Emission Factor (grams/hp-hour)										Total Emission Rate					
				VOC	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	CO ₂	VOC	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	CO ₂		
4wd Tractor	1	80	175	1.59	4.47	5.52	1.17	1.15	0.15	0.15	557.3	0.02	0.07	0.09	0.02	0.02	0.002	8.59	
Track hoe Excavator	1	40	200	1.19	4.54	6.88	0.74	0.72	0.13	0.13	623.6	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.01	0.01	0.001	5.49	
Dozer	1	20	115	0.32	1.29	4.16	0.26	0.25	0.12	0.12	536.4	0.0008	0.003	0.01	0.001	0.001	0.0003	1.36	
				Emission Factor (lb/hr)															
Tractor Trailer Truck	1	10	300	0.03	0.11	0.32	0.01	0.01	0.002	0.002	78.14	0.0001	0.0004	0.001	0.00003	0.00003	0.00001	0.26	
Dump Truck 6 yard	1	80	300	0.03	0.11	0.32	0.01	0.01	0.002	0.002	78.14	0.0008	0.003	0.01	0.0003	0.0003	0.0001	2.07	
Total Construction Emissions												0.0317	0.1164	0.171	0.03133	0.03133	0.00341	17.77	

Table 1.2 Construction Vehicle Emissions

Stage	# of days	Cars/ Trucks/ Day	Stage			Emission Factor (pounds per hour (lb/hr))										Emissions (TYP)					
			Minute/Day	Hours	Days	SO ₂	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	NOx	VOC	CO ₂	SO ₂	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	NOx	VOC	CO ₂		
Trucks (HDDV)	365	10	20	1217		0.001	0.11	0.01	0.01	0.32	0.03	78.14	0.0006	0.07	0.0061	0.0061	0.19	0.02	47.54		
Cars (LDGV)	365	4	20	487		0.001	0.47	0.001	0.001	0.04	0.04	24.31	0.0002	0.11	0.0002	0.0002	0.01	0.01	5.92		
Total Emissions													0.0008	0.18	0.0063	0.0063	0.20	0.03	53.45		

Table 1.3 Total Construction Emissions

Emission Source	Pollutant (tons/year)						
	SO2	CO	PM10	PM2.5	NOx	VOC	CO2
Construction Equipment	0.04	0.12	0.17	0.03	0.03	0.04	17.77
Construction Vehicles	0	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.2	0.03	53.45
Total Annual Emissions	0.04	0.3	0.17	0.03	0.23	0.07	71.22

Operating Emissions

Due to the nature of the types of facilities that are part of the project, there are very limited emission sources. In fact the only emission sources that will result in any emissions at all are 4 greenhouse natural gas heaters with an input rating of 75,000 BTU/hr. These heaters will only be used during the cool months to keep the greenhouses at 72 degrees Fahrenheit. The emissions are presented in Table 1.4, and are based on AP-42 emission factors.

Table 1.3 Total Operating Emissions

Equipment	# of Unit	Hour	scf/hr gas usage	Emission Factor (lb/10 ⁶ scf)							Total Emission Rate (TPY)						
				VOC	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	CO ₂	VOC	CO	NO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	SO ₂	CO ₂
Greenhouse Natural Gas Heater	4	1500	73.53	5.5	40	94	1.9	1.9	0.6	120,000	0.0012	0.01	0.02	0.0004	0.0004	0.0001	26
Total Operating Emissions											0.0012	0.01	0.02	0.0004	0.0004	0.0001	26

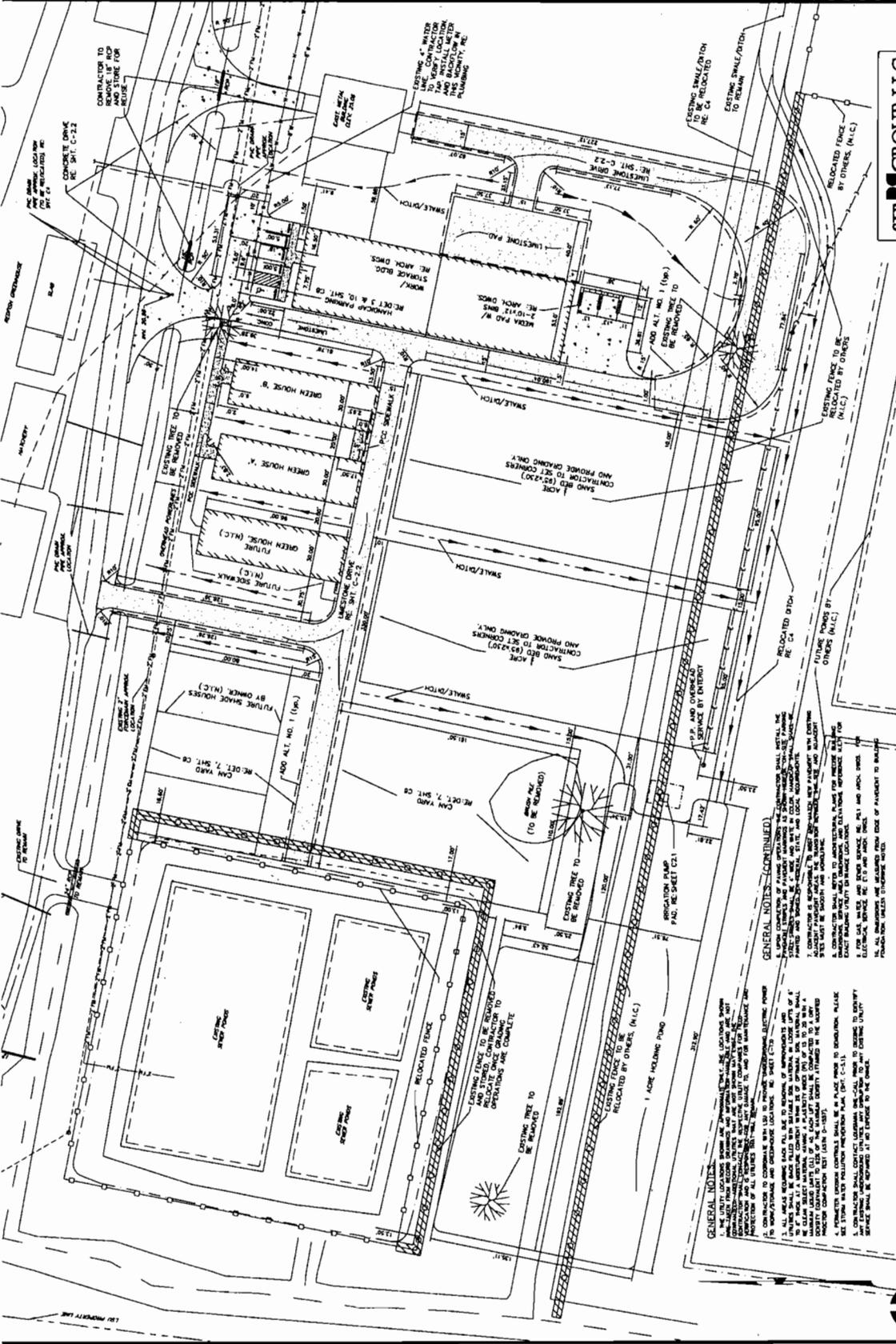
Conclusions

The construction emissions and the operating emissions associated with this project are negligible and/or de minimus, additionally C-K believes that the construction and operations conform to the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Figure 1

Hurricane Katrina Repairs/Reconstruction
Aquaculture Research Station

Construction Drawing



GENERAL NOTES - (CONTINUED)

- ALL CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LATEST EDITIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODES AND ALL APPLICABLE LOCAL ORDINANCES. ALL PERMITS SHALL BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.
- CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES. ALL PERMITS SHALL BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK.
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Renne, John (CTR)

From: Beth Altazan-Dixon [Beth.Dixon@LA.GOV]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 10:37
To: John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov
Subject: DEQ SOV 110414/1025 LSU Aquaculture Research Facility (ARS)
Attachments: image001.png

March 22, 2012

John D. Renne', Technical Specialist
FEMA LA Recovery Office-FEMA Mail Center 1st Floor
One Seine Court
New Orleans, LA 70114
John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov

RE: 110414/1025 LSU Aquaculture Research Facility (ARS)
refers to SOV 101202/2495 FEMA Funding
 East Baton Rouge Parish

Dear Mr. Renne:

The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Business and Community Outreach Division has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

After reviewing your request, the Department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please be advised that if you should encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, you should immediately notify LDEQ's Single-Point-of-contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640.

- Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
- If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
- If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.
- All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-3181 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit application or Notice of Intent must be submitted no later than June 1, 2011. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website at <http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx> or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 3181.
- 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, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
- All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.
- Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.

- If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

Currently, East Baton Rouge Parish is classified as an ozone-attainment parish with a maintenance plan as required by the Clean Air Act. However, since your general conformity determination shows that the proposed VOC and NOx emissions will be less than the *de minimis* levels, the Department has no objections to implementation of this project.

Please send all future requests to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (225) 219-3958 or by email at beth.dixon@la.gov.

Sincerely,



Beth Altazan-Dixon, EPS III
Performance Management
LDEQ/Office of the Secretary
Business and Community Outreach and Incentives Division
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