



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SEWER LINE AND OUTFALL STRUCTURE FOR THE DIAMONDHEAD WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FEMA-1604-DR-MS

The Diamondhead Water and Sewer District (District) in Hancock County, Mississippi has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with construction of a 30-inch-diameter underground sewer line that would connect the District's proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), north of Interstate 10 (I-10) to the outflow structure located on the Jourdan River, south of I-10. This project is part of an overall plan to relocate the District's existing WWTP and improve the District's services.

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast, causing a storm surge that reached nearly 25 ft and devastated large portions of the District's service area, which includes approximately 4,300 customers. District facilities, including the Diamondhead WWTP, were severely damaged by the storm's wind and floodwaters. The WWTP will be relocated to higher elevations, outside of the floodplain, to increase reliability and minimize future damages and service disruptions.

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, this SEA has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the SEA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the 30-inch sewer line that would connect to the WWTP, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A Final SEA and FONSI were prepared for the Diamondhead WWTP Relocation Project in January 2013.

The proposed sewer line would be a component of the District's wastewater distribution system which services approximately 4,300 residents and commercial customers within Diamondhead, Mississippi.

In the SEA process, FEMA considered two alternatives, the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, a 30-inch diameter underground pipeline and outfall structure would be constructed to connect the District's proposed WWTP, north of I-10. The proposed pipeline would be approximately 7,700 linear feet in length. The proposed pipeline would commence at the proposed WWTP site, located south of Park Ten Drive, and extend south along the existing 12-inch waterline corridor on the north side of I-10, that was previously evaluated in an SEA dated October 2008. The proposed pipeline would then extend an additional 300 linear feet west from the terminus of the waterline corridor along an existing unnamed logging road and parallel to I-10, then south under I-10 to Akoko Street. The proposed outfall line would then extend west along Akoko Street to its terminus, 96 ft into the Jourdan River. Preliminary plans have illustrated that construction would occur within the existing 30 ft wide unpaved road corridors of the logging road and Akoko Street and not

require the removal of any vegetation. The trench for the sewer line would be dug approximately 7 ft deep within the existing road.

To avoid disturbance, the sewer line would be installed underneath the interstate and a marsh area using horizontal directional drilling (HDD). HDD is a technique that uses underground boring to install a pipeline with ground disturbance occurring only at entrance and exit holes. The entrance and exit holes will be located north and south of the interstate right-of-way at the east end of the construction area. The areas immediately south of I-10 would require two, temporary construction corridors to store pipe only. The temporary construction corridors are 75 ft by 150 ft and 75 ft by 550 ft. Some vegetation removal and no ground disturbance would occur in both areas. The areas adjacent to the marsh will use the existing road bed and a barge in the Jourdan River to alleviate construction corridors and ground disturbance at the west end of the construction area. The final outfall segment will be installed beneath the marsh area by boring through stable subsoils below the marsh to avoid disturbance of sensitive areas.

The outfall structure will consist of a 30-inch pipe. The pipe will extend 56 ft into the Jourdan River. A six-nozzle diffuser design will add 40 ft to the length. The outfall will extend a total length of 96 ft, from the shore, into the Jourdan River.

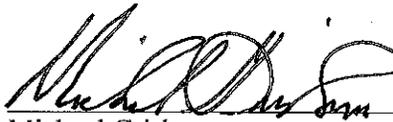
This proposed project as described in the SEA was evaluated for any potential significant adverse impacts to existing land use, water resources (surface water, groundwater, waters of the United States, and floodplains), air quality, noise, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, State and Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitat), and cultural resources. It was also evaluated for safety and hazardous materials issues as well as for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low income populations.

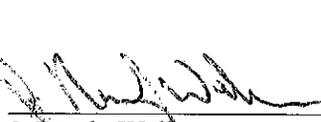
FINDINGS

Based on input and consultations with Federal and State resource agencies, and other identified sources documented in the attached SEA and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act FEMA regulations (44 CFR Part 10) for environmental considerations, and executive orders on floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990) and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA has found that the proposed project with the prescribed mitigation measures as defined in the SEA will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment. As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact, an EIS will not be prepared and the proposed project with prescribed conditions may proceed. If a change in the scope of work occurs, the State and FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment.

Recommended:

Approved:


Michael Grisham
Date 01.23.13


J. Randy Walker
Date 1/23/13

FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer

FEMA Infrastructure Branch Chief
FEMA-1604-DR-MS