

Draft Environmental Assessment

Northeast Research Station Greenhouse

**LSU AgCenter
Louisiana Facility Planning and Control**

Tensas Parish, Louisiana
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**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VI
Louisiana Recovery Office
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New Orleans, Louisiana 70114**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

APE	Area of Potential Effects
BFE	Base Flood Elevation
CAA	Clean Air Act
CBRA	Coastal Barrier Resources Act
CBRS	Coastal Barrier Resources System
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cm	Centimeter
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DFIRM	Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map
EA	Environmental Assessment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
GOHSEP	Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
HP	Historic Preservation
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDNR	Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
LDWF	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LGS	Louisiana Geological Survey
LSU	Louisiana State University
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWS	National Weather Service
PA	Programmatic Agreement
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
SF	Square Foot
SFHA	Special Flood Hazard Area
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office/Officer
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Authority

Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005, in southeast Louisiana near Buras-Triumph, Plaquemines Parish as a Category 3 storm. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 120 miles per hour and were accompanied by strong and damaging storm surge well above normal high tide. President George W. Bush declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana.

The State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) requested through the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) that FEMA provide disaster assistance through the provision of federal grant funding pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to fund projects to repair, restore, and replace facilities damaged as a result of the declared event.

FP&C was deemed eligible by FEMA for federal disaster public assistance as an eligible applicant serving the needs of the general public. Before Hurricane Katrina, the LSU AgCenter Citrus Research Station in Port Sulphur, Louisiana in Plaquemines Parish provided facilities for research on citrus, fruits, and termites. The facility and its contents were damaged as a result of the declared event and FEMA deemed them eligible for repair and/or replacement. The station has now been renamed the Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) to better reflect the post-storm expanded research emphasis planned.

The damaged CARS is located at 22193 Highway 23, Port Sulphur, Louisiana. The station's initial focus was citrus research; however, it is now investigating coastal plants and the role these plants have in the state's fight against coastal erosion. Station researchers are investigating plant varieties such as smooth cordgrass etc. and are trying to select and breed those plants that have the most beneficial characteristics and traits that will help protect or restore areas of the state that have experienced land loss. Facilities at the CARS included residential buildings, greenhouses, pump houses, a chemical storage building, a shop/storage building, an office, sheds, ponds, and other appurtenant facilities (LSU AgCenter, 2011).

FP&C determined that reconstruction of the facility to its predisaster configuration in its existing location would not best meet the needs of the community. FP&C requested approval and federal grant funds for an alternate project to replace the eligible facilities with facilities providing similar functions at the LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish, approximately two miles north of St. Joseph, Louisiana (See Inset at Left and Figure 1 Below). The proposed action includes construction of a new 2,400 square foot greenhouse (See Section 3 for Specific Site Location).

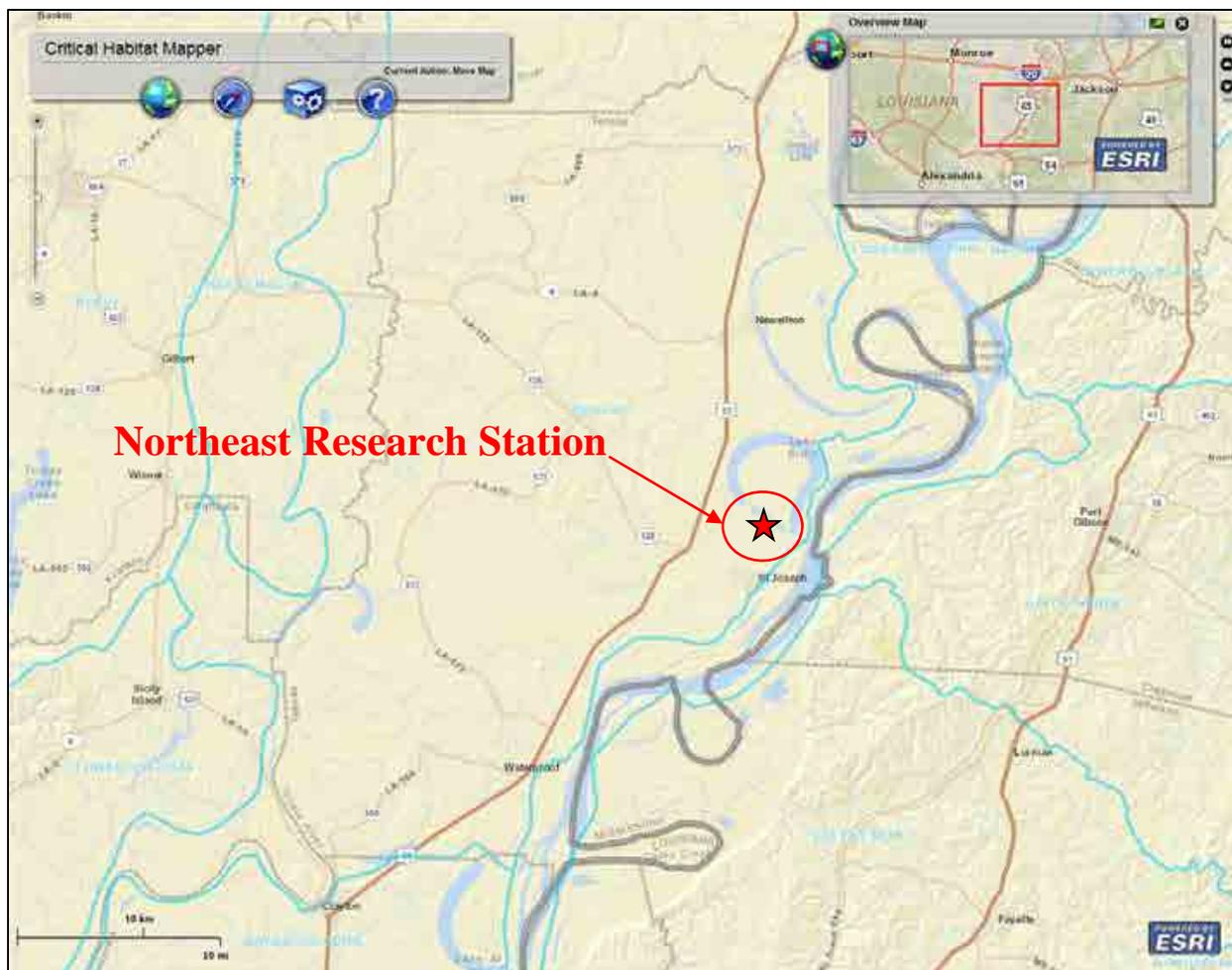


Figure 1 – Northeast Research Station - Tensas Parish, Louisiana

The Northeast Research Station is located along the west bank of the Mississippi River in central Tensas Parish in northeast Louisiana about 3 miles north of St. Joseph, Louisiana, 100 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and 65 miles southeast of Monroe, Louisiana. The station is one of 20 LSU AgCenter facilities across the state, which is part of the Louisiana Agriculture Experiment Station. The Northeast Research Station was established as a hub of agricultural knowledge for the region, which is agriculture-based. Farmers seek advice on how to grow cotton, corn, soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum and rice. Scientists conduct research on plant variety development, conservation tillage, integrated pest management, weed control, irrigation, disease prevention and precision agriculture. Their research helps keep the land productive while protecting and preserving the environment (Northeast Research Station, 2012).





Situated on the interior coastal plain of central Louisiana, the 160-acre Northeast Research Station is generally considered to serve the LSU AgCenter Northeast Region parishes of Union, Morehouse, East and West Carrollton, Ouachita, Richland, Madison, Caldwell, Franklin, Catahoula, Concordia, and Tensas. Northeast Louisiana’s economy depends on the LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station as a hub of agricultural knowledge for the region. Current work at the Station includes research on cotton, corn, soybeans, wheat, grain sorghum, and rice cultivation technologies. Current research emphasis focuses on variety development, conservation tillage, integrated pest

management, weed control, irrigation, disease prevention, and precision agriculture, which will be especially beneficial to the stakeholders in the area served (Northeast Research Station, 2012). The addition of the new greenhouse is intended to support planned programs (Figure 2, Aerial Overview Showing Planned Location).

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B – Agency Implementing Procedures, Section 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) is being 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 (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). This EA will determine if the proposed alternate project for the CARS facilities will have the potential for significant adverse effects on the quality of the human and natural environment at or near the proposed project. The results of this EA are being used to make a decision whether to initiate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

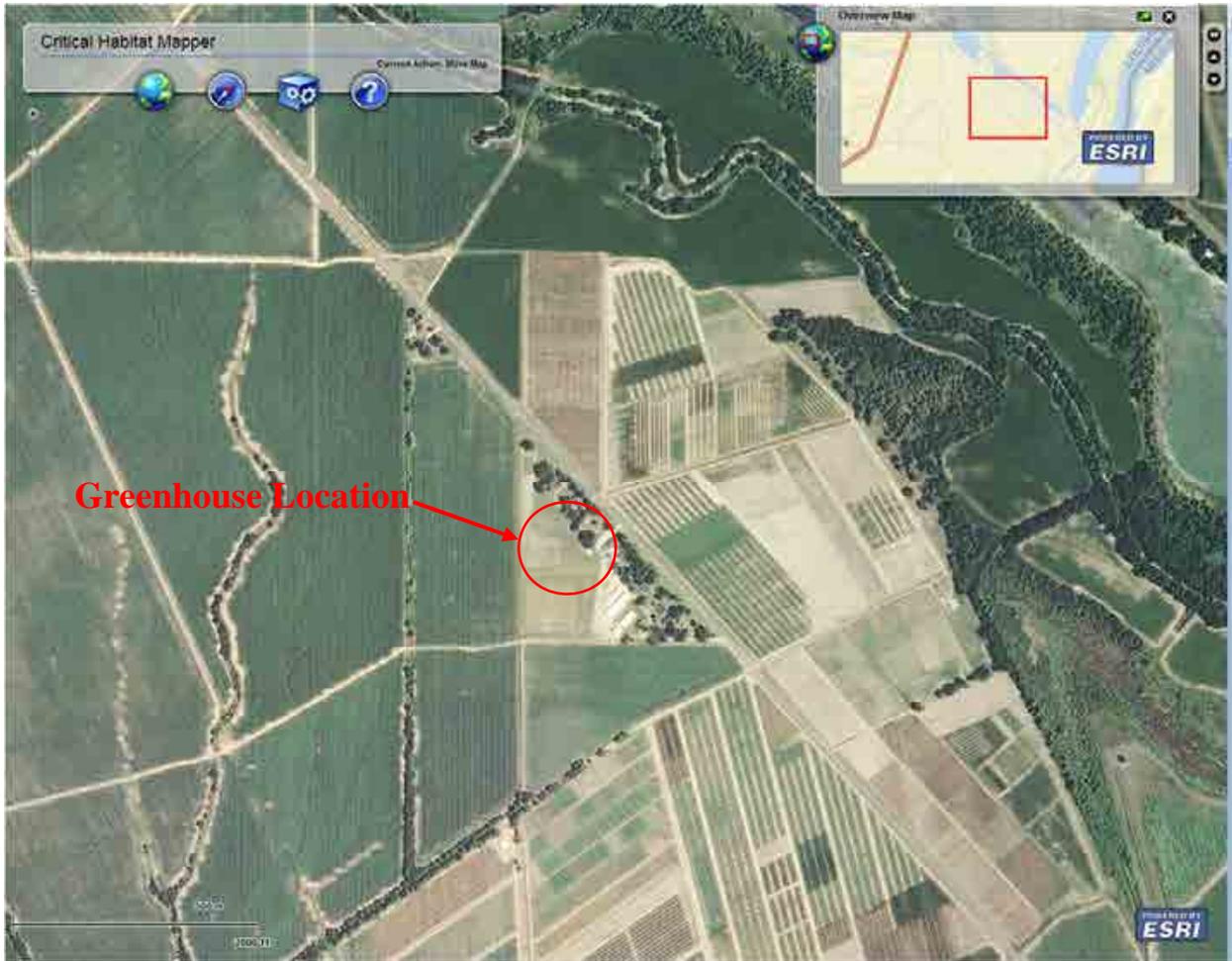


Figure 2 - Aerial Overview Showing Planned Location of New Greenhouse

1.2 Area Description

Tensas Parish is in northeast Louisiana, about 3 miles north of St. Joseph, Louisiana, 100 miles north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and 65 miles southeast of Monroe, Louisiana (Figure 1). The total area is 641 square miles, of which 602 square miles is land and the remainder is water in the form of lakes and major rivers (USDA, 2002). Tensas Parish is bordered on the north by Madison Parish, on the east by the Mississippi River and the Mississippi Counties of Claiborne, Adams, Warren, and Jefferson, on the south by Concordia Parish, and on the southwest and west by the Tensas River and Catahoula and Franklin Parishes (USGS, 2012).



In 2010, the population of Tensas Parish was 5,252 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012). The town of St. Joseph, with a population of 1,176, is located approximately two miles to the south. It is the parish seat and the largest and nearest incorporated place; St. Joseph has a land area of 0.9 sq. miles; a water area of 0.00 sq. miles; and a population density of 1,306 people per square mile according to the U.S. Census Bureau population reported in 2010 (U.S. Census, 2012). Other parish towns and communities include Newellton and Waterproof.

The entire parish is located within the Mississippi River floodplain. Elevation ranges from about 90 feet above sea level on the higher natural levees along the Mississippi River to about 35 feet above sea level near Fletchers Lake, approximately 20 miles southwest of the Northeast Research Station. The soils in the area of the proposed site are level to undulating, excessively drained to poorly drained, and sandy to clayey. Relief among the landforms ranges from 0 to 8 feet in the level to undulating areas and from 15 to 20 feet in the more dissected areas. Areas unprotected by the Mississippi River Protection Levee are subject to over-bank flooding from the Mississippi River on a yearly basis (USDA, 2002).

The major land use in the parish is high intensity row crop production. A minor portion of the parish supports bottomland hardwoods. Two state-owned wildlife management areas and one federally owned wildlife refuge are in the parish. A small acreage is devoted to grassland and hayland for cattle. Several large lakes, once part of the Mississippi River, provide a source of water for boating, fishing, other recreation activities, and aesthetic beauty (USDA, 2002).

Louisiana has a relatively constant semitropical climate. Rainfall and humidity decrease, and daily temperature variations increase, with distance from the Gulf of Mexico. Prevailing winds are from the south and southeast. During summer and fall, tropical storms and hurricanes frequently batter the state especially along the coast. In Tensas Parish, the average temperature in winter is 48.7 degrees F and the average daily minimum temperature is 38.5 degrees F. In summer the average temperature is 81.4 degrees F and the average daily maximum is 91.7 degrees F. The total average annual precipitation is 56.45 inches (USDA, 2002).

1.3 Project Location

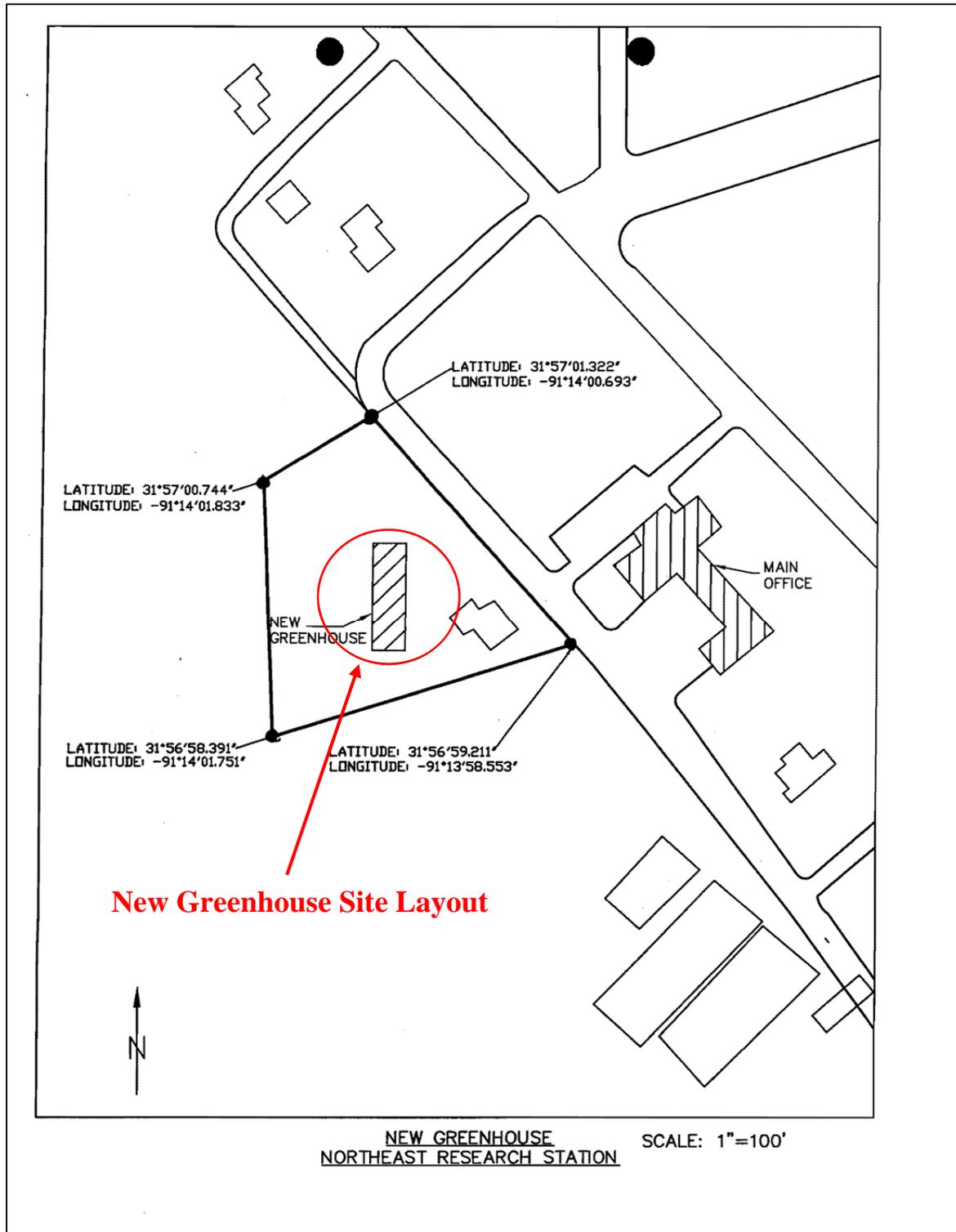


Figure 3 – Greenhouse Site Layout (Northeast Research Station, 2012)

GREENHOUSE

The new greenhouse project is proposed to be built adjacent to the Main Office at the Northeast Research Station (Figure 3, Site Layout, Northeast Research Station 2012). Topography in the area is composed of low flat floodplains and gently sloped undulations of the adjacent uplands. The site vicinity includes cultivated agricultural areas interspersed with small patches of woodland and ponds (Figure 3, Site Layout).

A detailed site layout plan has been provided by the Northeast Research Station that shows the coordinates for the corners of the proposed disturbed area for construction of the new greenhouse (Figure 3). The area is currently maintained grassland accessed by developed transportation infrastructure leading to the Main Office and its appurtenant structures.

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

The objective of the FEMA Public Assistance grant program is to provide assistance to state, tribal, and local governments, and certain types of private nonprofit organizations so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. In order to restore the lost services, facilities and resources that were destroyed as a result of Hurricane Katrina, FP&C seeks federal grant funds to replace the eligible CARS buildings and facilities including their former contents (all appurtenant equipment, materials, and supplies) with new alternate facilities outside the coastal high hazard area of Plaquemines Parish.

The devastation to the CARS and surrounding area caused by Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent need to rebuild forced a change in the focus of research and therefore, the Master Plan for the Research Station programs. In response to this change, a committee was formed and a Master Plan for the station was developed that involves rebuilding in the existing CARS location only those facilities necessary in this coastal area and rebuilding other facilities at other LSU AgCenter facilities throughout Louisiana, including the Northeast Research Station greenhouse. It was decided that in order to mitigate future flood and storm losses, some of the CARS facilities would be reconstructed in less hurricane and storm prone areas.

An alternate project has been requested to construct a new greenhouse at the Northeast Research Station location at 4589 Highway 605, St. Joseph, Louisiana (Latitude 31.94994, Longitude - 91.23353). The proposed action seeks to restore similar functions of the CARS in Port Sulphur, Louisiana and to utilize available grant funding for augmented and new functions including constructing the greenhouse that will support activities for agricultural research programs. The action seeks to develop the Northeast Research Station site in accordance with a Master Plan, which meets the goals of FP&C and the LSU AgCenter.

This project is needed to support implementation of the long-term community recovery plans, ensure community viability, and eliminate gaps in the resources available. The proposed alternate project for the Northeast Research Station greenhouse supports efforts to meet the needs of the community served.

As a national leader in plant sciences, the LSU AgCenter, partly through its Northeast Research Station, is committed to developing a long-term, cohesive, multi-disciplinary program of plant and animal research. Its mission is to develop innovative plant genetics and applied restoration techniques that provide resource managers and cultivators with the latest science and best available technology, and to provide education and training for future scientists.

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

3.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would entail no repair or replacement of the CARS facilities damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Consequently, the applicant would have diminished capabilities and resources due to the loss of the facility functions. Facilities could remain in a damaged condition, which would represent a risk to the community.

3.2 Alternative 2 – Reconstruct New Facilities at an Alternate Location – Proposed Action

FP&C seeks FEMA Public Assistance federal grant funds for a proposed project to replace eligible facilities lost at the Port Sulphur CARS with alternate facilities at the Northeast Research Station, i.e., the new greenhouse. FP&C determined that reconstruction of the original eligible facilities in their current location is undesirable due to the altered research focus of the CARS. Additionally, practicable alternatives outside the floodplain having lower flood risk were identified that meet goals of the LSU AgCenter and Northeast Research Station.

3.3 Alternative 3 – Reconstruct at Original Site

This alternative would rebuild the damaged CARS facility at the original site to pre-disaster configuration, function, and capacity. The facilities would be constructed within the respective original footprint and would include stringent and costly floodplain construction requirements.

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

4.1 Physical Resources

This section provides a description of the physical setting and information on the existing environment, or baseline conditions, for those resources/areas of concern that may be affected by the proposed action or alternatives. The following environmentally-related resources/areas of concern are discussed: geology and soils, surface water, wetlands, floodplains, threatened and endangered species and critical habitat, cultural resources, and environmental justice. Other related resources/areas of concern are addressed where the proposed action and/or alternatives have the potential to affect that resource/area of concern including air quality, noise, traffic, public services and utilities, and hazardous materials and wastes.

4.1.1 Geology and Soil

The surface of Louisiana is underlain by geologically young sedimentary sequences that were deposited in or adjacent to rivers and deltas in a coastal-plain setting. These deposits indicate that a major river system corresponding to the Mississippi River has persisted at least since the Gulf of Mexico began to form and, in general, the entire suite of fluvial, deltaic, and coastal deposits has advanced farther into the Gulf through time, and continues now to fill it with sediment. The processes that created the fluvial and deltaic sedimentary sequences that comprise the majority of the surface strata in Louisiana persist to the present time.

Most surface exposures in Louisiana consist of Quaternary (Pleistocene and Holocene) sediment. Holocene deposits, including alluvium of the Mississippi, Red, and Ouachita, and other rivers and smaller tributaries, and coastal marsh deposits, occupy about 55% of the surface, including the area of the proposed action. The alluvium consists of sandy and gravelly channel deposits mantled by sandy to muddy channel deposits, with organic-rich muddy backswamp deposits in between.

The Soil Survey of Tensas Parish indicates the Commerce-Bruin general soil map units present in the vicinity of the site of the proposed action, which consist of somewhat poorly-drained, and moderately well drained soils that are loamy throughout or that have a loamy surface layer and either a loamy subsoil or a clayey and loamy subsoil (United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, 2006). The landscape consists mainly of long, smooth areas that have slopes of 0 to 1 percent. In some undulating areas, low parallel ridges and swales have slopes of 0 to 3 percent. The surface layer is dark grayish brown, slightly alkaline or moderately alkaline silty loam, silty clay loam, and clay. All areas of this soil are prime farmland. This soil is poorly suited to building site development. Structures may need special design to avoid damage from wetness (NRCS, 2006).

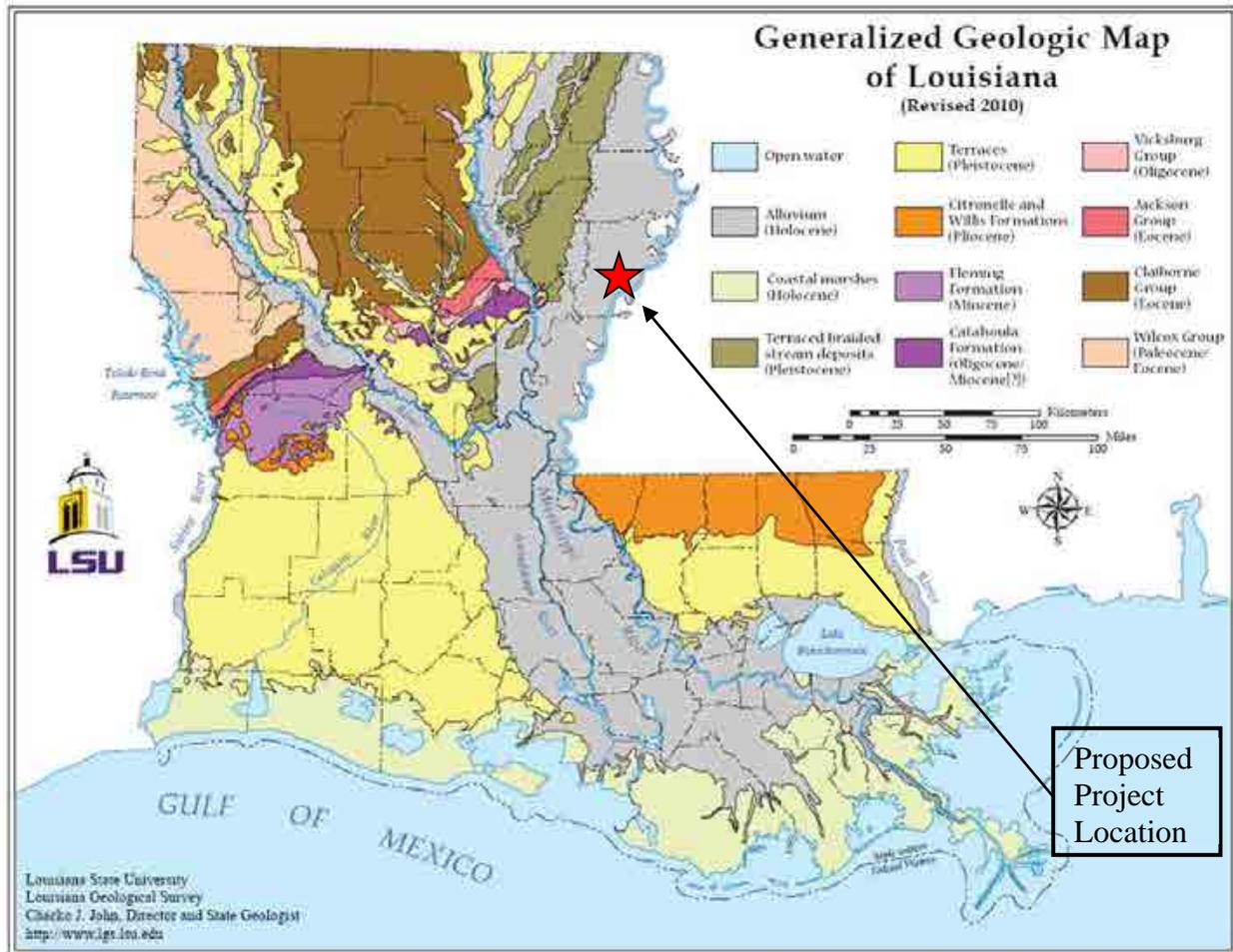


Figure 4 - Generalized Geology Map of Louisiana (LSU, 2010)

The proposed project is located within the Mississippi Alluvial Plains ecoregion of Louisiana, which is composed of a broad, mostly flat alluvial plain with river terraces, swales, and levees providing the main elements of relief (Figure 11, Ecoregions of Louisiana, EPA 2006). Winters are mild and summers are hot, with temperatures and precipitation increasing from north to south. Bottomland deciduous forest covered the region before much of it was cleared for cultivation. The ecoregion contained one of the largest continuous wetland systems in North America. The widespread loss of forest and wetland habitat, however, has impacted wildlife and reduced bird populations (Ecoregions of Louisiana, 2006). Today, constructed levees restrict the river from overflowing, opening large areas for extensive agricultural use. Almost the entire region is in cropland including the area of the proposed action. In this part of Louisiana, cotton, corn, soybeans, pasture, and rice are major crops. In the vicinity of the proposed action, the Northern Holocene Meander Belts ecoregion subarea is a flat to nearly flat floodplain containing the meander belts of the present and past courses of the Mississippi River. Point bars, natural levees, swales, and abandoned channels marked by meander scars and oxbow lakes are common. The subarea is underlain by Holocene alluvium. Natural vegetation varies with site characteristics, mainly soil texture and hydroperiod.

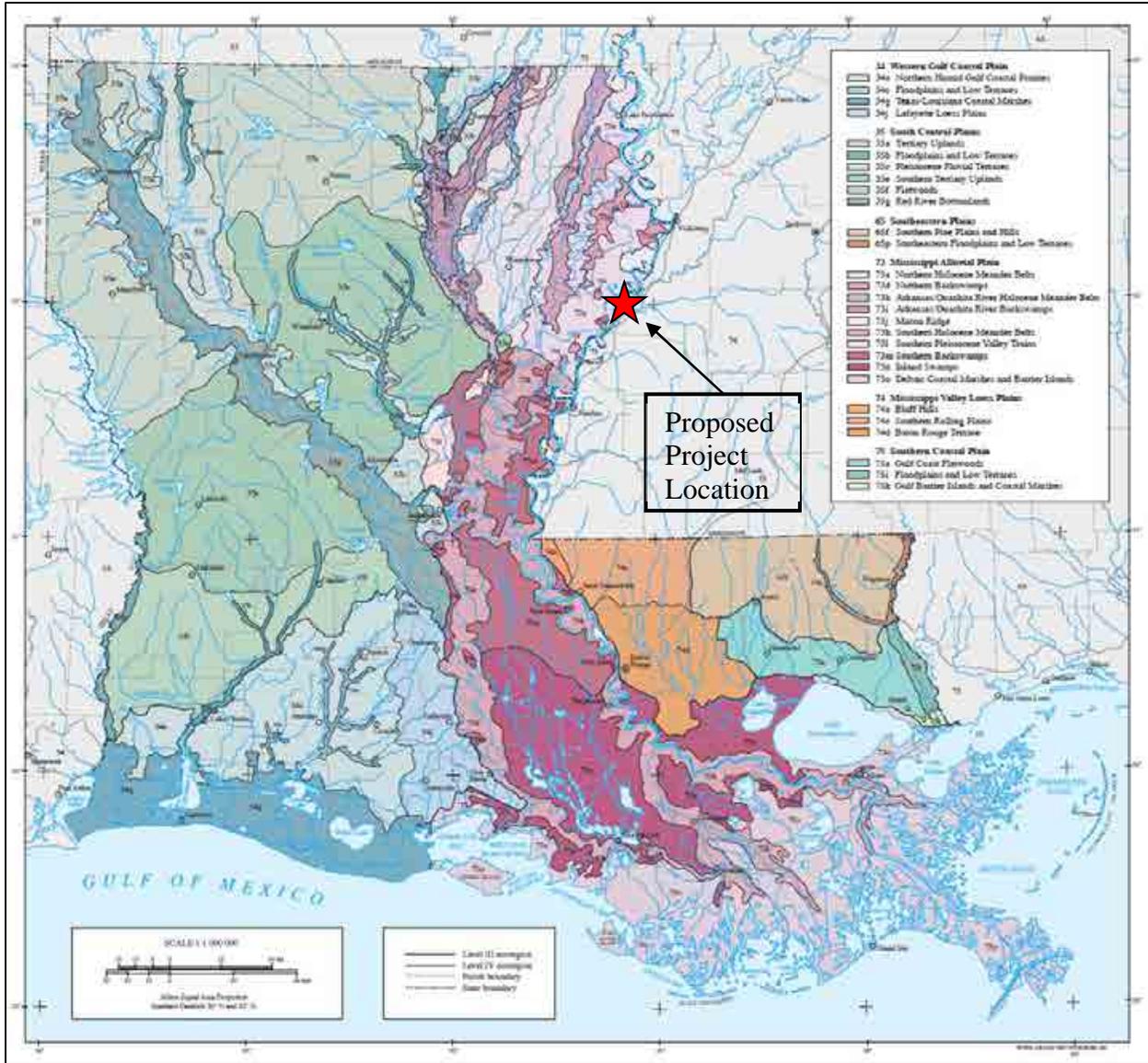


Figure 5 - Ecoregions of Louisiana, Mississippi Alluvial Plains of Tensas Parish (EPA, 2006)

The Clean Water Act and associated federal regulations (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations 123.25 (a)(9), 122.26(a), 122.26(b)(14)(x), and 122.26(b)(15)) require nearly all construction site operators engaged in clearing, grading, and excavating activities that disturb one acre or more, including smaller sites in a larger common plan of development or sale, to obtain coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for their stormwater discharges (EPA, 2007). Louisiana has been authorized by the EPA to implement the federal requirements and have issued their own permits for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities (LDEQ, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, 2012). It is anticipated that the proposed project including the construction of the new greenhouse will require a permit from the LDEQ. The provision of the federal grant to complete

this proposed project will be conditioned to obtain necessary permits and remain in compliance with the permit requirements.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA: P.L. 97-98, Sec. 1539-1549; 7 U.S.C. 4201, *et. seq.*) was enacted in 1981 to minimize the unnecessary conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses as a result of federal actions. Programs administered by federal agencies must be compatible with state and local farmland protection policies and programs. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for protecting significant agricultural lands from irreversible conversions that result in the loss of an essential food or environmental resource. Prime farmland is characterized as land with the best physical and chemical characteristics for the production of food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops (USDA, 1989). For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land, but not water or urban built-up land.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the no action alternative would not impact the soils or geologic processes known for the area. The no action alternative would not result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

Construction of the new greenhouse would not adversely impact or cause significant adverse disturbance of geology or soil. The project will not result in conversion to non-agricultural uses of any prime, or state-wide and locally important farmlands. Project activities will be required by the LDEQ to observe precautions to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities and further will be required to develop the required Clean Water Act Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and implement the required conditions.

Alternative 3 – Reconstruct at Original Site

Construction of a new greenhouse at the original location would not adversely impact or cause significant adverse disturbance of geology or soil. The project will not result in conversion to non-agricultural uses of any prime, or state-wide and locally important farmlands. Project activities would also be required by the LDEQ to observe precautions to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities and further will be required to obtain develop the required Clean Water Act Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and implement the required conditions.

4.1.2 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires the state of Louisiana to adopt ambient air quality standards to protect the public from potentially harmful amounts of pollutants. Six common air pollutants (also known as "criteria pollutants") are regulated by EPA and the states under the CAA. They are particle pollution (often referred to as particulate matter), ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and lead. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has designated areas meeting the state's ambient air quality standards by their monitoring and modeling program efforts, (i.e., attainment areas). Louisiana has no carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, particulate or lead nonattainment areas. According to results from the state's air quality monitoring, Tensas Parish has been identified as an attainment area for criteria pollutants (LDEQ, 2012).

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the no action alternative would not adversely impact ambient air quality for the area.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

Negligible impacts would be anticipated from vehicle exhaust emissions and increased dust during construction of the greenhouse. Best management practices are required to lessen the impact of the emissions from operations, maintenance, and waste management. The proposed action would not significantly affect the ambient air quality by following these best management practices for reducing the amount of particulate matter (dust & vehicle emissions) from construction work occurring on the site and by obtaining permits for operations and waste management activities and complying with the permit conditions.

Alternative 3 – Reconstruct at Original Site

Negligible impacts would be anticipated from vehicle exhaust emissions and increased dust during construction of the greenhouse. Best management practices would be required to lessen the impact of the emissions from operations, maintenance, and waste management. The proposed action would not significantly affect the ambient air quality by following these best management practices for reducing the amount of particulate matter (dust & vehicle emissions) from construction work occurring on the site and by obtaining permits for operations and waste management activities and complying with the permit conditions.

4.2 Water Resources and Water Quality

4.2.1 Surface Water

Tensas Parish is located in the Tensas River Basin, which encompasses approximately 930,000 acres of Mississippi River alluvial floodplain in Northeast Louisiana (USEPA, 1999). The Northeast Research Station is located entirely within this watershed. That part of the basin located in Louisiana is bounded on the east by the Mississippi River main-line levee, by the

Arkansas-Louisiana state line on the north, and by the upper limits of the Atchafalaya River on the South. The lower section of the basin in the area of the proposed action is subject to flooding from backwaters of the Mississippi and Red Rivers. The Tensas River Basin is unique in that natural levees along the riparian vegetation lie on the highest ground in the Basin. This causes water to run parallel to streams for many miles before actually entering the adjacent stream and river water channels. Wetlands and backwater swamps form, which then become important vegetation filtering areas for pollutants and nutrients.

Surface water at the site of the proposed action is affected by the characteristics of cropland cultivation on the site and includes well-defined drainage swales located along adjacent fields and roadways. Site drainage flows east and north toward Bayou Bruin and Brushy Lake.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the no action alternative would not adversely impact the surface resources of the region.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

To minimize spills and leaks of hazardous materials from the maintenance of construction equipment, safe handling procedures per local, state, and federal regulations will be required to reduce impacts to surface and groundwater resources. Sound building techniques and the use of best management practices would mitigate minor potential effects that might otherwise result from runoff and infiltration during construction. Construction of the new greenhouse at the proposed alternate location would not adversely affect surface water resources or quality.

Alternative 3 –Reconstruct at Original Site

To minimize spills and leaks of hazardous materials from the maintenance of construction equipment, safe handling procedures per local, state, and federal regulations would be required to reduce impacts to surface and groundwater resources. Sound building techniques and the use of best management practices would mitigate minor potential effects that might otherwise result from runoff and infiltration during construction. Construction of the new greenhouse at the original site would not adversely affect surface water resources or quality.

4.2.2 Wetlands and Waters of the United States

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the U.S. including wetlands, pursuant to Section 401/404 of the CWA. Jurisdictional wetlands are defined as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Jurisdictional wetland determinations are regulated by the USACE pursuant to the CWA. Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, also directs federal agencies to take actions to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands.

Review of United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI, Figure 14) identified that the area of the proposed site has not been classified as wetlands (USFWS, 2012). A request for a Jurisdictional Determination for the proposed construction of a new greenhouse to be located at the Northeast Research Station was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District. Based upon the information provided, the Army has determined that a Department of Army Section 401/404 Permit will not be required for any work on the subject properties associated with the greenhouse construction, since there are no jurisdictional wetlands or other waters of the United States located on the affected area of the site (USACE, 2012). A copy of the basis of this determination has been included in Appendix E, Agency Correspondence.

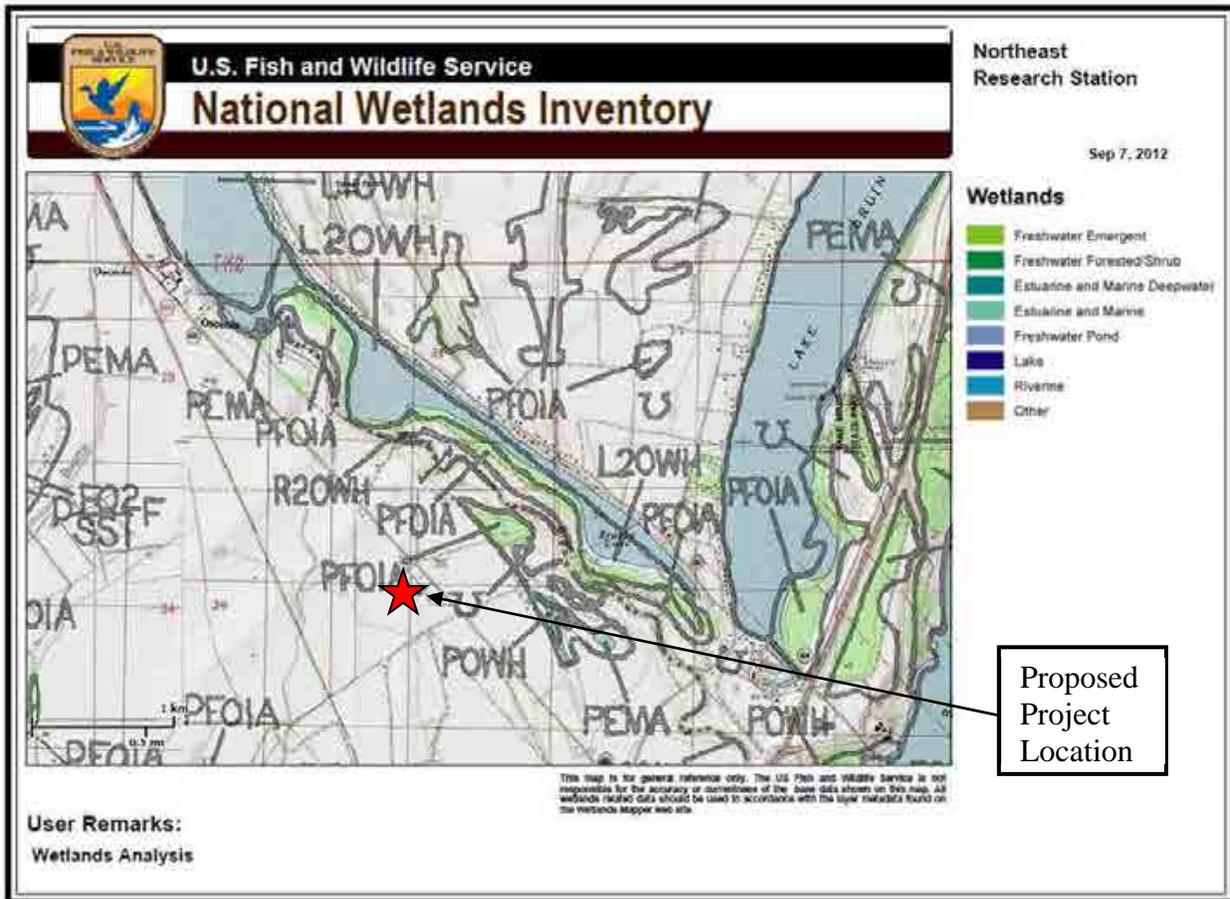


Figure 2 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory Map

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the no action alternative would not impact wetlands or other waters of the U.S. and would not require a CWA Section 401/404 permit.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

Construction of the greenhouse as proposed would not adversely impact waters of the U.S. through dredge/fill activities. The project would not adversely modify wetlands per review of the USFWS NWI (USFWS NWI Mapper, 2012), aerial photographs, and the USACE jurisdictional determination.

Alternative 3 – Reconstruct at Original Site

Construction of the greenhouse at the original site would not adversely impact waters of the U.S. through dredge/fill activities. The project would not adversely modify wetlands per review of the USFWS NWI (USFWS NWI Mapper, 2012), aerial photographs, and the USACE jurisdictional determination.

4.2.3 Floodplains

Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management, requires federal agencies to avoid direct or indirect support or development within or affecting the 1% annual chance special flood hazard area (SFHA) (i.e., 100-year floodplain) whenever there is a practicable alternative (for “*Critical Actions*”, within the 0.2% annual chance SFHA, i.e., the 500-year floodplain). FEMA’s regulations for complying with EO 11988 are found in 44 CFR Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. FEMA used the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) effective Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to determine the flood hazard zone for the proposed project location.

In compliance with FEMA policy implementing EO 11988, the proposed project was reviewed for possible impacts associated with occupancy or modification of a floodplain. Tensas Parish enrolled in the NFIP on September 6, 1974. According to the NFIP Flood Insurance Rate Map panel number 22 0215 0035 A, dated April 3, 1978, the proposed project site lies outside special flood hazard areas (1% annual chance flood area, i.e., the 100-year floodplain).

Alternative 1 – No Action

The no action alternative would not result in adverse impacts to the 100-year floodplain.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

The Proposed Action alternative involves the relocation and reconstruction of the functions of the damaged CARS facilities to the proposed site outside a special flood hazard area. This results in relocation of facilities from a base floodplain area within the coastal high hazard area and rebuilds similar facilities outside the base floodplain resulting in a reduction of investment at risk in the floodplain. No adverse impacts from the floodplain or reduction in beneficial values of floodplains will result from this action.

Alternative 3 –Reconstruct at Original Sites

The alternative to reconstruct at the original site would involve the reconstruction of the functions of the damaged CARS facilities at the damaged facility within a special flood hazard area. This would result in reconstruction of facilities in a base floodplain area within the coastal high hazard area and resulting in investment at risk in the floodplain subject to the need for future disaster assistance in the next flood. Adverse impacts from the floodplain or reduction in beneficial values of floodplains would result from this alternative action.

4.3 Coastal Resources

The Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (CZMA) requires federal agency actions to be consistent with the policies of the state Coastal Zone Management Program when conducting or supporting activities that affect a designated coastal zone. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) regulates development in Louisiana’s coastal zone through the Coastal Use Permit Program. The LDNR Office of Coastal Management was consulted and it found the Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish to be outside the regulated Louisiana Coastal Zone and therefore, pursuant to provisions of LA R.S. 49:214.25.E, a coastal use permit will not be required (LDNR, 2012).

The USFWS regulates federal funding in Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS) units under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA, the Act). This Act protects undeveloped coastal barriers and related areas (i.e., Otherwise Protected Areas) by prohibiting direct or indirect federal funding of projects that support development in these areas. This promotes the appropriate use and conservation of coastal barriers along the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed project site is not located within a regulated CBRS unit (CBRS Unit Map, 2012).

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the no action alternative would not impact a Coastal Barrier Resources System unit or Otherwise Protected Area or the Louisiana Coastal Zone.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

Review of Louisiana’s Coastal Zone Boundary Map identified that the construction of the proposed action is outside the coastal zone jurisdiction; therefore, the project will not require a Coastal Use Permit. In addition, the proposed action is not located in a regulated CBRS unit and will have no adverse effects on any CBRS unit.

Alternative 3 –Reconstruct at Original Sites

Review of Louisiana’s Coastal Zone Boundary Map identified that the reconstruction of greenhouse at the original location would be within the coastal zone jurisdiction; therefore, the project would require a Coastal Use Permit. In addition, the alternative to reconstruct at the original site would not be located in a regulated CBRS unit and will have no adverse effects on any CBRS unit.

4.4 Biological Resources

4.4.1 Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

Under provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), federal agencies shall use their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of listed species, and shall ensure any action authorized, funded or implemented by the agency is not likely to: (1) adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitats; (2) jeopardize the continued existence of proposed species; or (3) adversely modify proposed critical habitat (16 USC 1536).

The USFWS has indicated that the project has been reviewed for effects to federal trust resources under their jurisdiction and currently protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The project, as proposed on the current plans, is not likely to adversely affect those resources. This finding fulfills the requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA (USFWS, 2012).

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (as amended), also known as the Sustainable Fisheries Act, requires federal agencies to consult with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on activities or proposed activities authorized, funded, or undertaken by that agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The EFH provisions of the Sustainable Fisheries Act are designed to protect fisheries habitat from being lost due to disturbance and degradation. NOAA reviewed the proposed scope of work for impacts to regulated marine fisheries resources and essential habitat. The project has been found to be outside areas supportive of marine fisheries resources and areas categorized as EFH (NMFS, 2012).

4.4.2 Migratory Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird listed in 50 CFR 10, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations (50 CFR 21). Disturbance that causes nest abandonment and/or loss of reproductive effort (e.g., killing or abandoning eggs or young) may be considered a take and is potentially punishable by fines and/or imprisonment. If an action is determined to cause a potential take of migratory birds, as described above, then a consultation process with the USFWS needs to be initiated to determine measures to minimize or avoid these impacts. This consultation, when required, starts as an informal process.

4.4.3 Wildlife and Fish

The Louisiana Natural Heritage Program 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 a request regarding a location in question. Personnel of the Habitat Section of the Coastal & Nongame Resources Division have reviewed the preliminary data for the proposed project. After careful review of the 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 or in the vicinity of the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries (LDWF, 2012).

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the no action alternative would not adversely affect endangered, threatened, or proposed listed species as well as listed critical habitats since there are no reports identifying the presence of these resources.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

Careful review of the proposed project by the LDNR and USFWS indicates the proposed plan has little potential for adverse effects and that the project is unlikely to impact protected resources. Based upon the NMFS review of the proposed project and their knowledge of protected resources, the proposed action is not located in an area with a potential for adverse impacts.

Alternative 3 –Reconstruct at Original Sites

Careful review of the alternative to reconstruct the greenhouse at the original location indicates the alternative would have little potential for adverse effects and that it would be unlikely to impact protected resources. Based upon the review of the alternative and knowledge of protected resources, the alternative action is not located in an area with a potential for adverse impacts.

4.5 Cultural Resources

Regulatory Setting

The consideration of impacts to cultural resources is mandated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as implemented by 36 CFR Part 800. Requirements include the identification of significant historic properties that may be impacted by the proposed action or alternatives within the project's area of potential effect. Historic properties are defined as archaeological sites, standing structures or other historic resources listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). If adverse effects on historic, archaeological, or cultural properties are identified, agencies must consider effects of their activities and attempt to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts to these resources.

FEMA has reviewed this project in accordance with the Statewide Programmatic Agreement dated August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 between the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Louisiana 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 (2009 Statewide PA as amended). The 2009 Statewide PA as amended was created to streamline the Section 106 review process.

Existing Conditions

On November 28, 2011, FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the NRHP Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map and determined that Northeast Research Station is not within a listed or eligible National Register Historic District or archaeological site, nor was it located within view-shed of an individually listed National Register Property. United States Geological Service (USGS) maps indicated that structures aged fifty years or older exist on the station grounds. The current undertaking is located predominantly on Commerce silt loam, a somewhat poorly drained soil found on natural levees in the Mississippi River flood plain.

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative

This alternative does not include any FEMA undertaking; therefore FEMA has no further responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action Alternative

In order to fulfill obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA, and in accordance with the 2009 Statewide PA as amended, a cultural resources review was conducted at the Northeast Research Station in order to identify and evaluate potential historic properties if present within the Area of Potential Effects (APE) that could be affected by the proposed construction activities. The archaeological APE consists of the area immediately surrounding the footprint of the proposed greenhouse and includes all required staging and construction activities, measuring approximately .25 acres. The standing structures APE includes three (3) agricultural structures within the viewshed of the proposed undertaking. The standing structures evaluation and archaeological review were conducted by FEMA Historic Preservation Specialists and Archaeologists on February 13, 2012. None of the structures were found to be eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.

Archaeological field investigations consisted of surface inspection and shovel probes. No cultural features, intact soils, intact cultural deposits, or discrete cultural components were identified during the field investigations. In accordance with Stipulation VIII.E of the 2009 Statewide PA as amended, FEMA determined that there are No Historic Properties Affected as a result of the proposed undertaking and provided the SHPO and Tribes (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Muscogee Creek Nation, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Texas) the opportunity to review and comment. SHPO concurrence with FEMA's determination was received in a letter dated August 9, 2012. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma responded on August 13, 2012, indicating that they were unaware any cultural or sacred sites located within the immediate project area. The remaining Tribes did not object within the regulatory timeframes.

Alternative 3 –Reconstruct at Original Site

The Historic Preservation Specialists evaluated the buildings and found them to be less than 50 years of age. Furthermore, they found that the proposed demolition and reconstruction met criteria in FEMA’s Programmatic Agreement (PA), dated December 3, 2004, Appendix A: Programmatic Allowances, Item I, Section A.

4.6 Socioeconomic Concerns

As of the census of 2010, there were 5,252 people, 2,165 households, and 1,635 families residing in the parish. The population density was 8.7 people per square mile. There were 3,357 housing units at an average density of 6 per square mile. The racial makeup of the parish was 42.8% White, 56.1% Black or African American, 0.1% Native American, 0.2% Asian, 0.8% from other races, and 0.7% from two or more races. Census data indicates 1.25% of the population was Hispanic or Latino of any race. The median income for a household in the parish was \$27,157. The per capita income for the parish was \$15,218. About 32.4% of persons were below the poverty line.

4.6.1 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, mandates that federal agencies identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of programs on minority and low-income populations.

Review of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) Environmental Justice Assessment Mapper identifies that the population of Claiborne Parish is diverse in its ethnic composition (USEPA Environmental Justice Geographic Mapper, 2012). Hence, there were no identified areas showing a high concentration of a specific ethnic background or affluence within and surrounding the affected community.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the no action alternative would eliminate the function, benefit, and remuneration of the lost facilities.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

The proposed action will not pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. The reconstruction project would equally restore and enhance lost functions to serve all citizens.

Alternative 3 –Reconstruct at Original Site

The alternative action to reconstruct at the original site will not pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations. The reconstruction project would equally restore and enhance lost functions to serve all citizens.

4.6.2 Noise

The greenhouse reconstruction project is anticipated to have ephemeral noise increases during construction that include operation of construction heavy equipment and increased traffic flow of site workers and delivery of materials.

An aerial photography survey to identify sensitive receptors and possible receptors was evaluated to satisfy the typical NEPA EA requirements for addressing noise impacts due to the proposed project. The proposed location for construction and operation of the greenhouse is surrounded by a buffer of Northeast Research Station lands. Most adjacent land in the vicinity of the proposed project is agricultural or undeveloped. No sensitive receptors, nearby residents, or businesses have been identified within areas anticipated to be adversely affected by noise from site activities. It was concluded that while there are anticipated to be temporary increases in noise during construction, no receptors would experience a permanent discernable increase in noise as a result of this project.

4.6.3 Traffic

The Northeast Research Station proposed greenhouse area is accessed via an entrance from State Route LA-605 on the east. While there will be short term increases of traffic and onsite workers during construction, no significant permanent changes to onsite personnel are anticipated from the proposed project. The action is not anticipated to significantly affect existing traffic flow or volume. The proposed project does not require changes to the existing road network and this infrastructure has been determined adequate to provide for the greenhouse reconstruction and operation.

4.7 Hazardous Materials and Wastes

Hazardous wastes, as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), are defined as “a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may:

- 1) Cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness, or
- 2) Pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of or otherwise managed.”

A review of data sources (e.g., USEPA EnviroMapper, NEPAassist, and the Louisiana Electronic Document Management System™) revealed that the proposed project site is not on federal and/or state agency’s lists concerning Voluntary Remediation Program, Brownfield Program,

underground storage tank decommission, waste/debris disposal facilities, and oil/gas wells sites. According to historical aerial photographs from 1989 to 2010 and the topographic maps dated December 1939 and March 9, 2012, there were no obvious structures on the proposed site and no obvious sites of concern detected in the vicinity of proposed project area.

The Northeast Research Station has no record or indication of past or present hazardous waste activities including notification as a hazardous waste generator or other regulated activity. The Environmental Protection Agency reviewed the site and proposed action and performed a database search for records associated with the site and provided comment on the proposed action (Appendix E). No adverse records were identified and comments were incorporated into the EA analysis and documentation (EPA, 2012).

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the no action alternative would not disturb any hazardous materials or create potential hazards to human health.

Alternative 2 – Proposed Action: Reconstruct at Alternate Location

Construction of the greenhouse at the proposed site would not disturb any hazardous materials or create increased potential hazards to human health. The proposed site is not adjacent to hazardous or solid waste facilities. If hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the construction activities, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination must be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor is required to take appropriate actions to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials at the proposed site.

Alternative 3 –Reconstruct at Original Sites

Construction of the greenhouse at the original site would not disturb any hazardous materials or create increased potential hazards to human health. The proposed site is not adjacent to hazardous or solid waste facilities. If hazardous materials are unexpectedly encountered in the project area during the construction activities, appropriate measures for the proper assessment, remediation, management and disposal of the contamination must be initiated in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. The contractor is required to take appropriate actions to prevent, minimize, and control the spill of hazardous materials at the proposed site.

4.8 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are those effects on the environment that result from the incremental effect of the action when added to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

The impact of Hurricane Katrina's storm surge devastated the southeastern coastal region of Louisiana. There are numerous other projects to repair buildings, roads, recreational facilities, and public utilities to pre-disaster conditions that include upgrades to codes and standards surrounding the contributing projects site. The area is also undergoing restorations and/or repairs using non-FEMA funding. Nonetheless, the cumulative impacts to the natural resources and socio-economics from the proposed action are minimal and would not have significant cumulative effects to the environment.

5.0 CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Based upon the studies, reviews and consultations undertaken in this environmental assessment, several conditions and mitigation measures must be taken by the applicant prior to and during proposed project implementation.

- The applicant must follow all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and requirements and obtain and comply with all required permits and approvals prior to initiating work.
- If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains 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. In addition, if unmarked graves are present, 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 (24) of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at (225) 342-8170 within seventy-two (72) hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding.
- To minimize air quality impacts, FP&C and its contractors must implement BMPs to limit air emissions, fugitive dust and exhaust. BMPs would include maintaining and covering spoil piles, covering the loads of haul vehicles and keeping construction equipment properly tuned.
- FP&C and its contractors must ensure project activities are conducted in a safe manner and in compliance with all state and federal occupational safety regulations, including OSHA, to protect workers and the general public.
- Project construction would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (e.g., petroleum products, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, treated timber) and may result in the generation of small volumes of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials must be taken and generated hazardous and non-hazardous

wastes are required to be disposed in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.

- If required by LDEQ, the applicant shall require its contractor to prepare, certify, and implement a construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to prevent sediment and construction material transport from the sites (regulated under NPDES program, section 402). A Louisiana Pollution Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit will be required in accordance with the CWA and the Louisiana Clean Water Code. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.
- 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 at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous conditions.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY CONSULTATIONS

FEMA is the lead federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process for this Environmental Assessment and FEMA Public Assistance grant funded project. It is the responsibility of the lead agency to conduct the preparation and review of NEPA documents in a way that is responsive to the needs of the parish communities while meeting the spirit and intent of NEPA and complying with mandated provisions. As part of the development of early interagency coordination related to the proposed action, state and federal resource protection agencies were contacted and FEMA distributed an informal scoping notification through a Solicitation of Views.

These agencies include the State Historical Preservation Officer, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service. FEMA has received no objections to the project as proposed subsequent to these notifications and comments and conditions received have been incorporated into this NEPA document.

In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the applicant would be responsible for acquiring any necessary permits prior to commencing construction at the proposed project site. FEMA is inviting the public to comment on the proposed action during a fifteen (15) day comment period. A public notice will be published for five (5) days in the state newspaper, The Advocate, announcing the availability of this EA for review at the Main Library, Homer, Louisiana, and at the FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office in New Orleans, LA. A copy of the Public Notice is attached in Appendix C.

7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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Appendix A
Site Photographs



Photograph Plate 1 - Northeast Research Station



Photograph Plate 2 – Northeast Research Station

Appendix B
Floodplain and Wetland
8-Step Planning Documentation

**LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station
Change of Location/Alternate Project
FEMA Disaster 1603-DR-LA
AI Database # 1598**

Executive Order 11988 - FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
Executive Order 11990 - WETLAND PROTECTION

8-STEP DECISION MAKING PROCESS

Date: 6/25/2012

Prepared By: John D. Renne' (CTR), CFM, Floodplain Specialist

Project: Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005, in southeast Louisiana as a Category 3 storm. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 120 miles per hour and were accompanied by strong and damaging storm surge well above normal high tide. President Bush declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) on August 29, 2005, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. The State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) requested through the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) that FEMA provide disaster assistance through the provision of federal grant funding pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to fund projects to repair, restore and replace facilities damaged as a result of the declared event.

FP&C was deemed eligible by FEMA for federal disaster public assistance as an eligible applicant serving the needs of the general public. Before Hurricane Katrina, the Citrus Research Station in Port Sulphur Louisiana in Plaquemines Parish provided facilities for research on citrus, mainly Satsuma and mandarin oranges, with some limited work on commercial vegetables, other fruits, and termites. The facility and its contents were damaged as a result of the declared event and FEMA has deemed them eligible for repair and/or replacement. The station has now been renamed the Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) to better reflect the post-storm expanded research emphasis planned.

The damaged CARS is located at 22193 Highway 23 in the town of Port Sulphur in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The Station's initial focus was citrus research; however, it is now investigating coastal plants and the role these plants have in the state's fight against coastal erosion. Station researchers are investigating plant varieties such as smooth cordgrass and are trying to select and breed those plants

that have the most beneficial characteristics and traits that will help protect or restore areas of the state that have experienced land loss. Facilities at the CARS included residential buildings, greenhouses, pump houses, a chemical storage building, a shop/storage building, an office, sheds, ponds, and other appurtenant facilities (LSU AgCenter, 2011).

FP&C determined that reconstruction of the facility to its predisaster configuration in its existing location would not best meet the needs of the community. Therefore, FP&C requested approval and federal grant funds for a change of location alternate project to replace the eligible facilities with new facilities providing similar and new functions at a new location at the existing Louisiana State University (LSU) Northeast Research Station (LSU ARS) in Claiborne Parish approximately 325 miles to the northwest of the damaged facility.

The proposed action and its effects were reviewed in relation to the floodplain and have been determined to be outside the Special Flood Hazard Area, i.e., the 1 % annual chance flood zone. Therefore, only step one of the 8-step planning and public participation process is required.

STEP 1 Determine whether the proposed actions are located in a wetland and/or the 100-year floodplain (500-year floodplain for critical actions [44 CFR 9.4]), or whether they have the potential to affect or be affected by a floodplain or a wetland (see 44 CFR 9.7).

The project is located in relation to floodplains as mapped by:

Latitude: 31.94994 **Longitude:** -91.23353
Effective FIRM Panel: 22 0215 0035 A, April 3, 1978
Flood Zone: Zone C, Areas of Minimal Flood
Base Flood Elevation: NA

The project is located in a wetland as identified by:

A request for a Jurisdictional Determination for the proposed demolition sites and for construction of a new poultry litter barn and fence located at the Hill Farm Research Station was submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District. Based upon the information provide, the Army has determined that a Department of Army Section 404 Permit will not be required for any work on the subject properties, since there are no jurisdictional wetlands or other waters of the United States located on the sites. A copy of the basis of this determination has been included in Appendix E, Agency Correspondence.

Appendix C
Public Notice

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AT AN ALTERNATE LOCATION OF THE
LSU AGCENTER COASTAL AREA RESEARCH STATION
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed relocation and reconstruction of the Hurricane Katrina damaged Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) facilities formerly located at 22193 Highway 23, Port Sulphur, LA 70083 (Plaquemines Parish - latitude 29.57991/longitude - 89.82103). The LSU AgCenter will replace the functions and capacity of the eligible facility at the existing LSU Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish approximately 40 miles northeast of Shreveport, Louisiana - latitude 32.75153/longitude -93.05320). The proposed action includes construction of a new greenhouse.

The LSU AgCenter seeks federal grant funds for this action eligible under a Presidential Disaster Declaration, signed on August 29, 2005 (FEMA-1603-DR-LA). Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA has been prepared to evaluate the action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. This Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

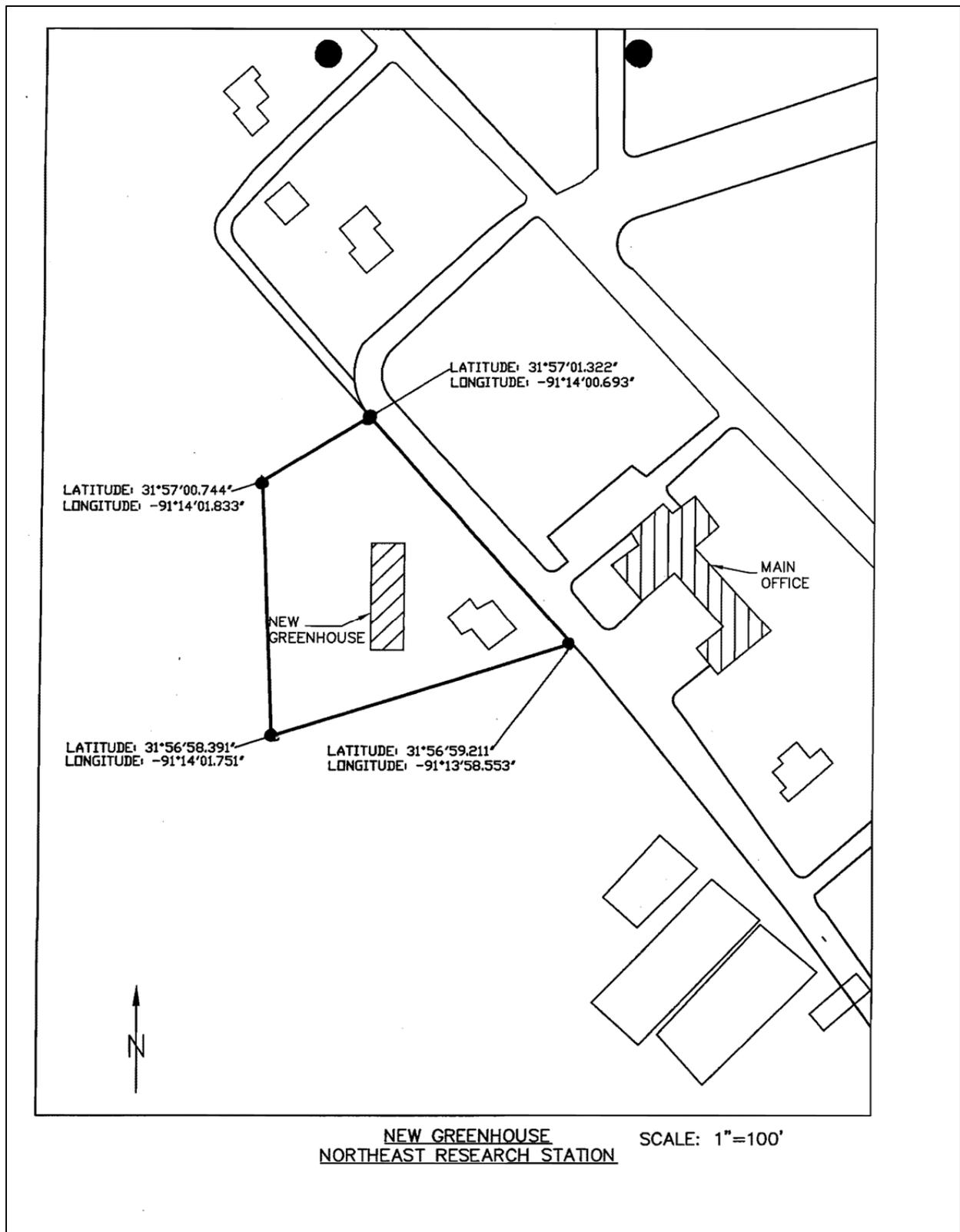
The Draft EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are available for review at the Tensas Parish Public Library located at 135 Plank Road, St. Joseph, LA 71366-0228, from February 28, 2013, through March 14, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday; 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday; and 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday. Additionally, a public notice regarding the proposed action will be published in the Advocate newspaper for one (1) day: February 28, 2013. The comment period will be fifteen (15) days, beginning on February 28, 2013, and concluding March 14, 2013. Written comments on the Draft EA or related matters can be faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office at (504) 762-2323; mailed to FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office, EHP - LSU CARS EA, 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114; or e-mailed to FEMA-NOMA@fema.dhs.gov. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm>.

Based on FEMA's findings to date, no significant adverse environmental effects are anticipated. However, if FEMA receives new information that results in a change from no adverse effects then FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice allowing time for additional comments. However, if there are no changes, this Draft EA will become the Final EA.

If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

Appendix D

Site Construction Plan



Plan Plate 1 - Site Layout Plan

Appendix E
Agency Correspondence

September 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: See Distribution

SUBJECT: National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment
Scoping Notification/Solicitation of Views
Louisiana Facility Planning and Control
FEMA Public Assistance Grant Request – Project Worksheets 7797 and 7545
LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station - Tensas Parish
4589 Highway 605, St. Joseph, Louisiana
(Latitude 31.94994, Longitude -91.23353)
New Greenhouse – Alternate Project No. 1813

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. The Stafford Act describes the declaration process, the types and extent of assistance that may be provided, and fundamental eligibility requirements. FEMA seeks cooperation with special consideration issues including floodplain and wetland management and compliance with other Federal laws and regulations, such as those pertaining to protection of the environment and historic preservation.

The State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) requested through the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) that FEMA provide disaster assistance through the provision of federal grant funding pursuant to the Stafford Act. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to fund projects to repair, restore, and replace facilities damaged as a result of the declared event.

FP&C was deemed eligible by FEMA for federal disaster public assistance as an eligible applicant serving the needs of the general public. Before Hurricane Katrina, the LSU AgCenter Citrus Research Station located at 22193 Highway 23 in Port Sulphur, Louisiana in Plaquemines Parish provided facilities for research on citrus, fruits, and termites. The facility and its contents were damaged as a result of the declared event and FEMA deemed them eligible for repair and/or replacement. The station has now been renamed the Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) to better reflect the post-storm expanded research emphasis planned.

Facilities at the CARS included residential buildings, greenhouses, pump houses, a chemical storage building, a shop/storage building, an office, sheds, ponds, and other appurtenant facilities (LSU AgCenter, 2011). FP&C determined that reconstruction of the facility to its predisaster configuration in its existing location would not best meet the needs of the community. FP&C requested approval and FEMA federal grant funds for an alternate project to replace the eligible facilities with facilities providing similar functions at the LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish, approximately 2 miles north of St. Joseph, Louisiana. The proposed

action includes construction of an approximately 2,400 square foot new greenhouse. Maps and aerial photographs have been attached showing the proposed project location to assist with your reviews.

To ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable Federal laws and regulations, FEMA will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) document. The NEPA provides a specific planning process that Federal agencies must follow before funding a project. To assist preparation of the EA, FEMA requests that your office review the attachment for an assessment regarding interagency requirements for formal consultation, regulatory permits, or authorizations.

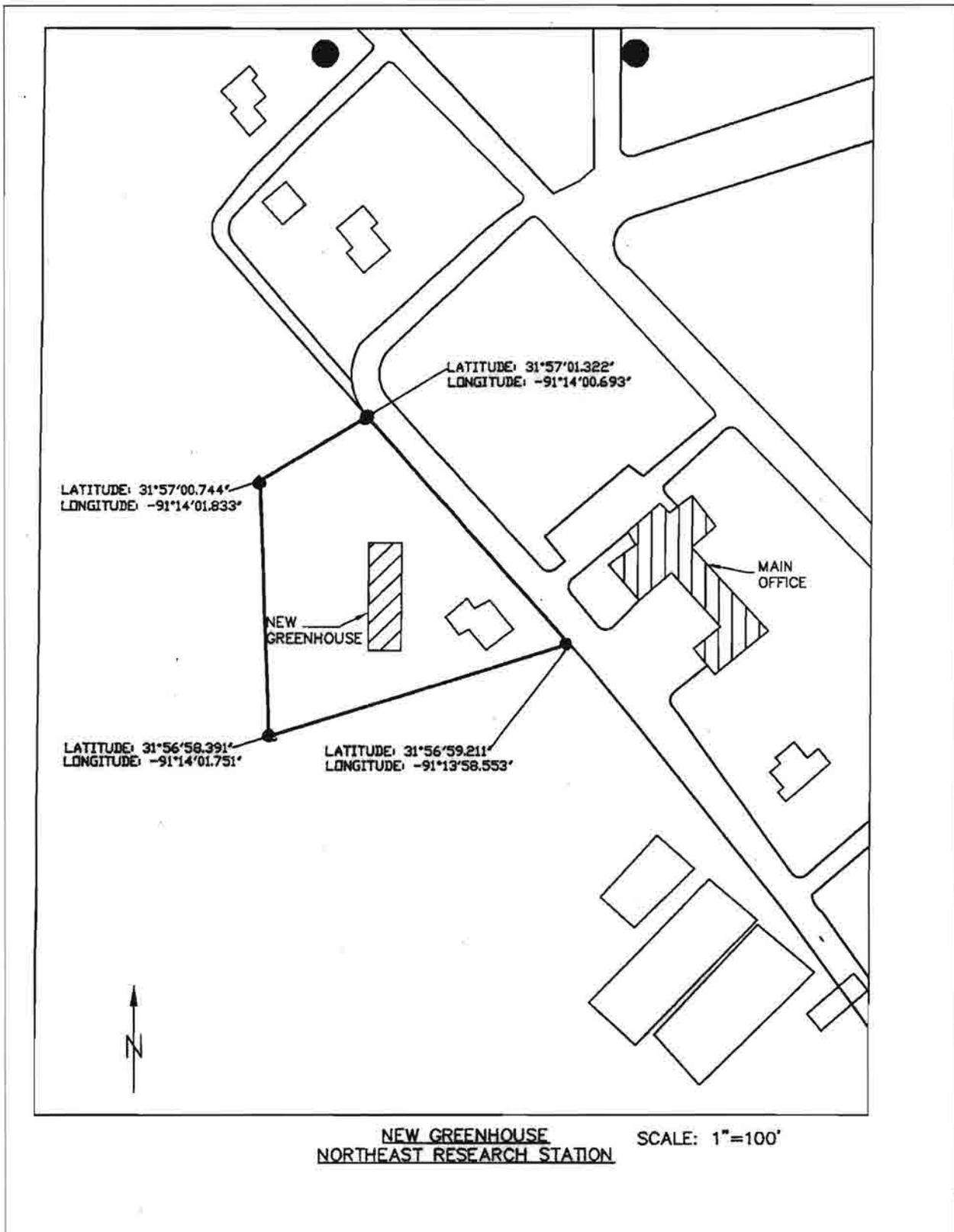
Please respond within 30 calendar days of the date of this scoping notification. If our office receives no comments at the close of this period, FEMA will assume that your agency will not provide comment and will not express objections to the proposed project.

Comments may be faxed to (504) 762 – 2323 or emailed to John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov. Additionally, responses, comments, or concerns may be mailed to the attention of the Environmental Section Lead, at the following address:

Tiffany Spann, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer
Environmental Section, 4th Floor
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

For questions regarding this matter, please contact John Renne' at (504) 762 – 2191.

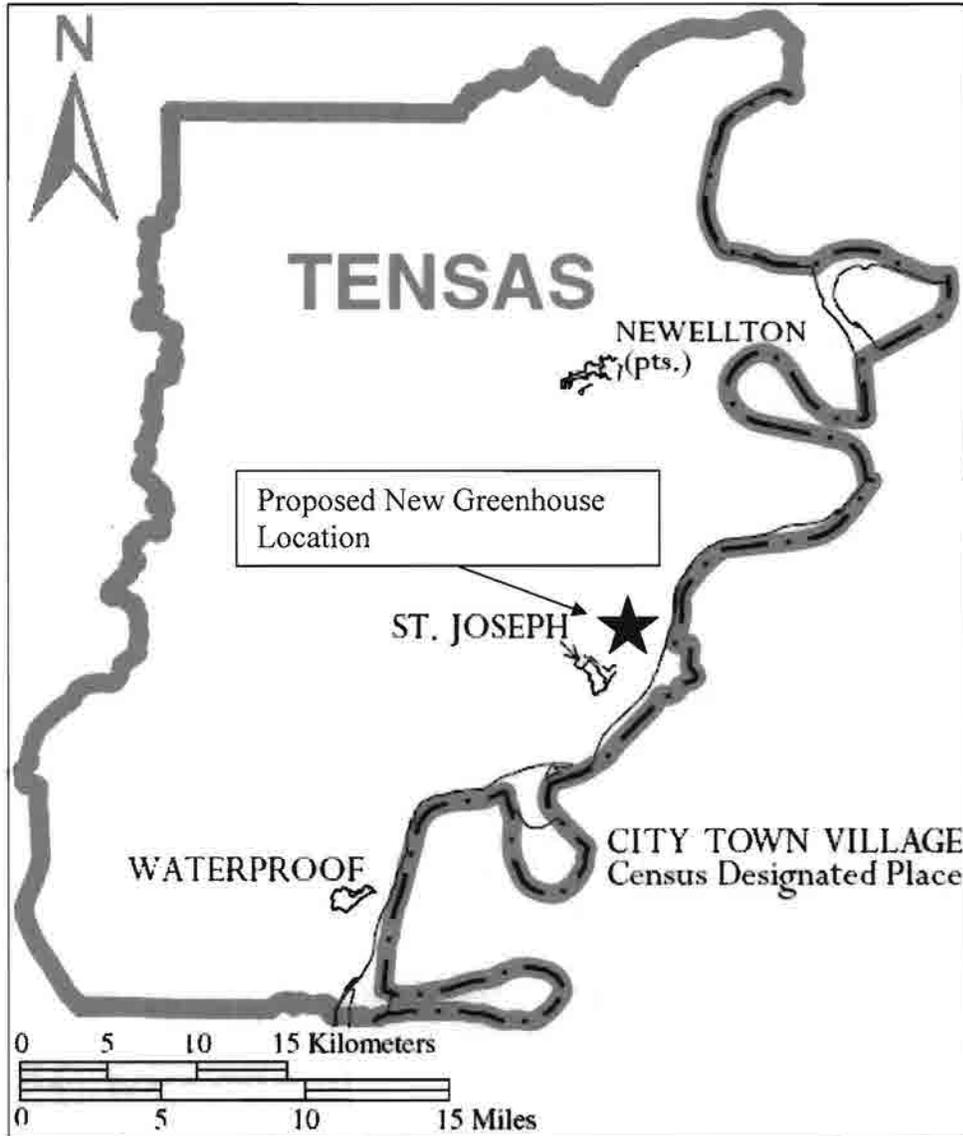
Distribution: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



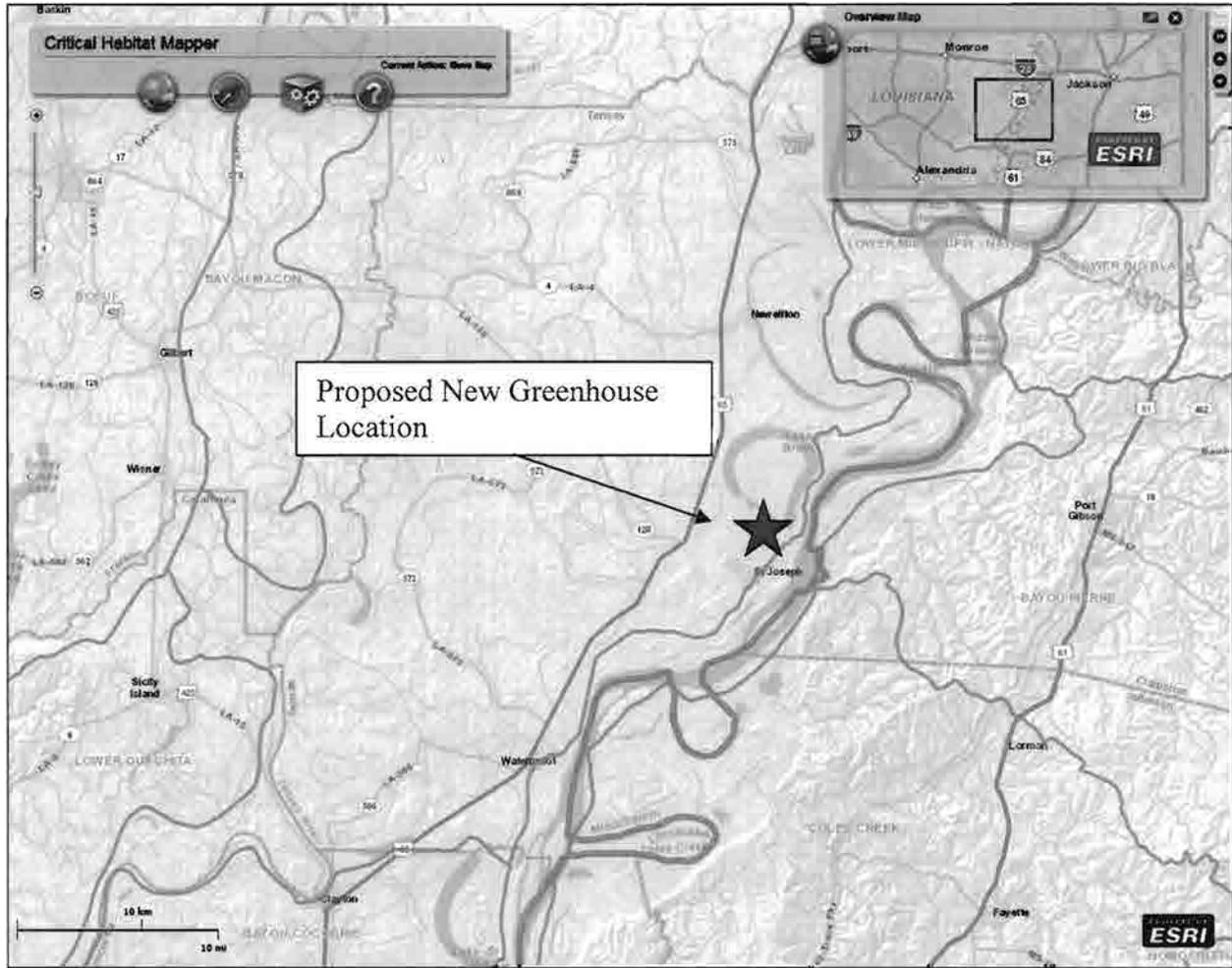
Plan Plate 1 - Site Plan Provided by FP&C and LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station



Plan Plate 2 - Tensas Parish Site Location



Plan Plate 3 - Project Location



Plan Plate 4 - Project Location and Site Topography



Plan Plate 5 - Aerial Photographic Overview



Plan Plate 6 - Aerial Site Overview Showing Area Proposed Action



Plan Plate 7 - Site Plan Aerial Photograph Overlay

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Phillips, Chad MVK <Chad.Phillips@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, December 13, 2012 08:41
To: Renne, John (CTR)
Subject: Construction of Greenhouse - LSU AgCenter NE Research Station
Attachments: ORM Project.pdf; NAO-NAP-RFA Form.docx

Mr. Renne',

I refer to the September 11, 2012, correspondence concerning the proposed plans for the construction of an approximately 2,400 square foot new greenhouse at the LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish, Louisiana.

Based upon the information provided (see attachment), it appears that a Department of the Army permit, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, will not be required for the proposed work. In the event that project plans are changed, or if you anticipate any additional construction, please contact this office for a reevaluation of permit requirements, and refer to identification no. MVK-2012-1138 when submitting the information.

This verification of Department of the Army regulatory requirements was based upon a preliminary jurisdictional determination that there are no jurisdictional areas being impacted by the proposed work on the property subject to regulation pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and/or to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. An appeals form for this preliminary jurisdictional determination has been attached for your review (see attachment).

This verification of Department of the Army regulatory requirements does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material or any exclusive privileges, and does not authorize any injury to property or invasion of rights or local laws or regulations, or obviate the requirement to obtain State or local assent required by law for the activity discussed herein.

If we may be of any further assistance in this matter, please contact me, telephone (601) 631-5146, fax (601) 631-5459 or email address: regulatory@usace.army.mil.

Thank you,

Chad Phillips
Environmental Specialist
Regulatory Branch
USACE Vicksburg District
Office: (601) 631-5146
Fax: (601) 631-5459

NOTIFICATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL OPTIONS AND PROCESS AND REQUEST FOR APPEAL

Applicant: LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station	File Number: MVK-2012-1138	Date: 12/13/2012
Attached is:		See Section below
<input type="checkbox"/>	INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	A
<input type="checkbox"/>	PROFFERED PERMIT (Standard Permit or Letter of permission)	B
<input type="checkbox"/>	PERMIT DENIAL	C
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION	E

SECTION I - The following identifies your rights and options regarding an administrative appeal of the above decision. Additional information may be found at http://www.usace.army.mil/cecw/pages/reg_materials.aspx or Corps regulations at 33 CFR Part 331.

A: INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or object to the permit.

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **OBJECT:** If you object to the permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may request that the permit be modified accordingly. You must complete Section II of this form and return the form to the district engineer. Your objections must be received by the district engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice, or you will forfeit your right to appeal the permit in the future. Upon receipt of your letter, the district engineer will evaluate your objections and may: (a) modify the permit to address all of your concerns, (b) modify the permit to address some of your objections, or (c) not modify the permit having determined that the permit should be issued as previously written. After evaluating your objections, the district engineer will send you a proffered permit for your reconsideration, as indicated in Section B below.

B: PROFFERED PERMIT: You may accept or appeal the permit

- **ACCEPT:** If you received a Standard Permit, you may sign the permit document and return it to the district engineer for final authorization. If you received a Letter of Permission (LOP), you may accept the LOP and your work is authorized. Your signature on the Standard Permit or acceptance of the LOP means that you accept the permit in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the permit, including its terms and conditions, and approved jurisdictional determinations associated with the permit.
- **APPEAL:** If you choose to decline the proffered permit (Standard or LOP) because of certain terms and conditions therein, you may appeal the declined permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

C: PERMIT DENIAL: You may appeal the denial of a permit under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

D: APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You may accept or appeal the approved JD or provide new information.

- **ACCEPT:** You do not need to notify the Corps to accept an approved JD. Failure to notify the Corps within 60 days of the date of this notice, means that you accept the approved JD in its entirety, and waive all rights to appeal the approved JD.
- **APPEAL:** If you disagree with the approved JD, you may appeal the approved JD under the Corps of Engineers Administrative Appeal Process by completing Section II of this form and sending the form to the division engineer. This form must be received by the division engineer within 60 days of the date of this notice.

E: PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION: You do not need to respond to the Corps regarding the preliminary JD. The Preliminary JD is not appealable. If you wish, you may request an approved JD (which may be appealed), by contacting the Corps district for further instruction. Also you may provide new information for further consideration by the Corps to reevaluate the JD.

SECTION II - REQUEST FOR APPEAL or OBJECTIONS TO AN INITIAL PROFFERED PERMIT

REASONS FOR APPEAL OR OBJECTIONS: (Describe your reasons for appealing the decision or your objections to an initial proffered permit in clear concise statements. You may attach additional information to this form to clarify where your reasons or objections are addressed in the administrative record.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The appeal is limited to a review of the administrative record, the Corps memorandum for the record of the appeal conference or meeting, and any supplemental information that the review officer has determined is needed to clarify the administrative record. Neither the appellant nor the Corps may add new information or analyses to the record. However, you may provide additional information to clarify the location of information that is already in the administrative record.

POINT OF CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION:

If you have questions regarding this decision and/or the appeal process you may contact:

Chad Phillips
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Branch
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
(601) 631-5146

If you only have questions regarding the appeal process you may also contact:

Ms. Tonya Acuff
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division
P.O. Box 80
Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080
(601) 634-5820

RIGHT OF ENTRY: Your signature below grants the right of entry to Corps of Engineers personnel, and any government consultants, to conduct investigations of the project site during the course of the appeal process. You will be provided a 15 day notice of any site investigation, and will have the opportunity to participate in all site investigations.

Signature of appellant or agent.

Date:

Telephone number:



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

4155 CLAY STREET

VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

November 5, 2012

Operations Division

FEMA, Request for Environmental Review, FEMA Public Assistance Grant Request, LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station, Tensas Parish, Louisiana

Mr. John Renne
U.S. Department of
Homeland Security FEMA
1 Sienne Court, 4th Floor
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Mr. Renne:

We received your correspondence, subject as above, on November 5, 2012. For ease of reference, we have assigned your correspondence identification number MVK-2012-1138. Please refer to this number should you write or call us about your request.

If you have any questions about the status of your request, please call this office at (601) 631-5264 or (601) 631-7529.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. McNair".

Michael F. McNair, R.F.
Chief, Regulatory Branch



"Renne, John (CTR)"
<John.Renne@associates.fema.dhs.gov>

09/11/2012 12:57 PM

To Beth Altazan-Dixon <Beth.Dixon@LA.GOV>, "amy.e.powell@usace.army.mil" <amy.e.powell@usace.army.mil>, "cmichon@wlf.la.gov" <amy.e.powell@usace.army.mil>, "Mannie, Kevin" <Kevin.Mannie@fema.dhs.gov>, "Holmes, Leschina" <Leschina.Holmes@fema.dhs.gov>, "Renne, John (CTR)" <John.Renne@associates.fema.dhs.gov>,
cc
bcc

Subject NEPA Environmental Assessment for FP&C LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station Proposed New Greenhouse - Agency Consultations

September 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: See Distribution

SUBJECT: National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment
Scoping Notification/Solicitation of Views
Louisiana Facility Planning and Control
FEMA Public Assistance Grant Request – Project Worksheets 7797 and 7545
LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station - Tensas Parish
4589 Highway 605, St. Joseph, Louisiana
(Latitude 31.94994, Longitude -91.23353)
New Greenhouse – Alternate Project No. 1813

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. The Stafford Act describes the declaration process, the types and extent of assistance that may be provided, and fundamental eligibility requirements. FEMA seeks cooperation with special consideration issues including floodplain and wetland management and compliance with other Federal laws and regulations, such as those pertaining to protection of the environment and historic preservation.

The State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control (FP&C) requested through the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) that FEMA provide disaster assistance through the provision of federal grant funding pursuant to the Stafford Act. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to fund projects to repair, restore, and replace facilities damaged as a result of the declared event.

FP&C was deemed eligible by FEMA for federal disaster public assistance as an eligible applicant serving the needs of the general public. Before Hurricane Katrina, the LSU AgCenter Citrus Research Station located at 22193 Highway 23 in Port Sulphur, Louisiana in Plaquemines Parish provided facilities for research on citrus, fruits, and termites. The facility and its contents were damaged as a result of the declared event and FEMA deemed them eligible for repair and/or replacement. The station has now been renamed the Coastal Area Research Station (CARS) to better reflect the post-storm expanded research emphasis planned.

Facilities at the CARS included residential buildings, greenhouses, pump houses, a chemical storage building, a shop/storage building, an office, sheds, ponds, and other appurtenant facilities (LSU AgCenter, 2011). FP&C determined that reconstruction of the facility to its predisaster configuration in its existing location would not best meet the needs of the community. FP&C requested approval and FEMA federal grant funds for an alternate project to replace the eligible facilities with facilities providing similar functions at the LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish, approximately 2

miles north of St. Joseph, Louisiana. The proposed action includes construction of an approximately 2,400 square foot new greenhouse. Maps and aerial photographs have been attached showing the proposed project location to assist with your reviews.

To ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable Federal laws and regulations, FEMA will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) document. The NEPA provides a specific planning process that Federal agencies must follow before funding a project. To assist preparation of the EA, FEMA requests that your office review the attachment for an assessment regarding interagency requirements for formal consultation, regulatory permits, or authorizations.

Please respond within 30 calendar days of the date of this scoping notification. If our office receives no comments at the close of this period, FEMA will assume that your agency will not provide comment and will not express objections to the proposed project.

Comments may be faxed to (504) 762 – 2323 or emailed to John.Renne@associates.dhs.gov. Additionally, responses, comments, or concerns may be mailed to the attention of the Environmental Section Lead, at the following address:

Tiffany Spann, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer
Environmental Section, 4th Floor
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

For questions regarding this matter, please contact John Renne' at (504) 762 – 2191.

Distribution: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Attachment PDF: SOV with Site Plans and Location Maps

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



Scoping Notification Sept 2012.pdf

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.

John A. Smith
Acting Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

01/12/2012
Date



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY
JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Date September 26, 2012

Name John Renne

Company FEMA

Street Address 1 Siene Court

City, State, Zip New Orleans, La 70114

Project FP&C LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station
New Greenhouse

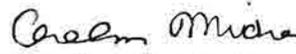
Project ID 3462012

Invoice Number 12092607

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,

for 
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 September 26, 2012
Invoice Number 12092607
Project FP&C LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station
New Greenhouse
Name John Renne
Company FEMA
Street Address 1 Siene Court
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 \$30.00 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

Date September 26, 2012
Invoice Number 12092607
Project FP&C LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station
New Greenhouse

Name John Renne
Company FEMA
Street Address 1 Siene Court
City, State, Zip New Orleans, La 70114
Number of Quads Reviewed 1
Total Due \$0.00

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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 \$30.00 per quad reviewed, please contact LNHP at (225) 765-2357.



- 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, Tensas Parish is classified as attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has no general conformity determination obligations.

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
P.O. Box 4301 (602 N. 5th Street)
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301
Phone: 225-219-3958
Fax: 225-325-8148
Email: beth.dixon@la.gov

Dluzak, Catherine

From: Loomis, Annette (CTR)
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 15:55
To: Dluzak, Catherine
Subject: Blessed Trinity Community Center-AI 1053

Cat,

Additional information is needed to review the proposed renovations to Blessed Trinity Community (former St. Matthias Elementary School) St. Matthias ES appears to have the potential to be eligible under Criterion C as an example of a Tudor Revival style school. It appears to have been constructed ca. 1930. Details include crenelated parapets, terracotta strapwork panels, flat-arch doorways with cast-stone surrounds, a cast stone belt course, and buttress-like wall details.

The information I would like to ask for includes the following:

- 1) Please provide background information on the St. Matthias Elementary School, if known.
- 2) What are the approximate date(s) of construction/renovation of the school.
- 3) Please provide a more detailed scope of work outlining the proposed renovation work. What is the nature of the renovation work? With walls be moved, removed, or newly constructed? Will windows be replaced? Will the work be in-kind repair of current finishes and materials?
- 4) Please provide construction documents. In addition to the proposed renovations, please include existing floor plans and proposed demolition.
- 5) Will staging areas outside of the building be needed?

Annette Carroll (CTR)
Historic Preservation Specialist
FLUOR, Contractor
Environmental/Historic Preservation Department
FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office
One Seine Court, New Orleans 70114



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

September 21, 2012

Tiffany Spann
Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer
Environmental Section, 4th Floor
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1 Seine Court
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Dear Ms. Spann:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed your request of a review of the scoping notification and solicitation of views concerning the LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish, Louisiana. The scope of the work for the project includes the construction of a 2,400 square foot greenhouse. The comments that follow are being provided relative to the EPA's 404(b)(1) *Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material (40 CFR Part 230)*.

Our preliminary review revealed that jurisdictional waters of the U.S. do not occur on the proposed site. At this time, the EPA does not object to the project as proposed. Thanks for the opportunity to review the proposed project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me at Gutierrez.raul@epa.gov or 214-665-6697.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raul Gutierrez".

Raul Gutierrez, Ph.D.
Wetlands Section
Water Quality Protection Division

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



STEPHEN CHUSTZ
INTERIM SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

09/14/2012

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA
1 SEINE COURT
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

RE: P20121247, Solicitation of Views
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA
Description: Proposed construction of the LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station.
Location: 4589 Highway 605 near St. Joseph at Lat 31° 57' 00.74"N / Long -91° 14' 01.83"W.
Tensas Parish, LA

Dear John Renne:

We have received your Solicitation of Views for the above referenced project, which has been found to be outside the Louisiana Coastal Zone. Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of LA R.S. 49:214.25.E, a Coastal Use Permit will not be required.

This determination is valid for two (2) years from the date of this letter. If the proposed activity is not initiated within this 2-year period, this determination will expire and the applicant will be required to submit a new application. Please note that your solicitation packet has not been forwarded to the USACE, or any other agency outside of OCM and the Parish local coastal program. If you would like a determination from other regulatory and/or resource agency(ies) regarding this project, please submit your request directly to that/those agency(ies) from which you would like a determination.

This determination has been made on the basis of information provided by your application. If it is later established that you furnished erroneous data, you may be directed to alter or modify your plans, to remove structures you have installed, and/or to restore the work area to pre-project conditions at your own expense. If it is established that you knowingly furnished erroneous data, you could also be subject to legal action.

The drawings submitted with your referenced application are attached hereto and made a part of the record. If you have any questions regarding this authorization, please contact our office at (225) 342-7591 or (800) 267-4019.

Sincerely,



Karl L. Morgan
Administrator

Karl L. Morgan/jd

Attachments

P20121247, Solicitation of Views
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA
09/14/2012
Page 3

Final Plats:

1) P20121247 Final Plats 09/12/2012

cc: Jessica Diez, OCM w/plats

BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR



STEPHEN CHUSTZ
INTERIM SECRETARY

State of Louisiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF COASTAL MANAGEMENT

09/13/2012

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA
1 SEINE COURT
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114

RE: P20121247, Solicitation of Views

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA

Description: Construct the LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station at 4589 Hwy 605 near St. Joseph

Location: Lat 31° 57' 00.74"N / Long -91° 14' 01.83"W; 4589 Highway 605 near St. Joseph, Tensas Parish, LA

Dear John Renne:

You are hereby advised that your application for a Coastal Use Permit (CUP) has been determined to be complete and review by the State for compliance with the Louisiana Coastal Resource Program (LCRP) and consistency with the federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) has begun. Additionally, it has been determined that your proposed activity is a use of state concern in accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 49:214.5.

All correspondence and calls regarding this application should reference the Coastal Use Permit Number (P#) indicated above. Please note that all information concerning your application is in our database and is updated throughout the day as changes to the status of the application occur. Your application can be found on our Webpage.

Should you have any questions, please check the online database or contact the assigned permit analyst: Jesse Deroche at (225) 342-7943 or jesse.deroche@la.gov. Be sure to reference the above Coastal Use Permit Number.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Melton".

Permit Coordinator

CM

P20121247, Solicitation of Views
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA
09/13/2012
Page 2

cc: Pete Serio, COE

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - FEMA

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Office of Coastal Management [bpel.mail@la.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 13, 2012 10:23
To: Renne, John (CTR)
Subject: P20121247 - ORIGINAL - Acknowledgement Letter



PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. THIS ACCOUNT IS NOT MONITORED FOR INCOMING MAIL. If you would like to talk to someone about this application please call 225-342-7591 or 1-800-267-4019.

Coastal Use Permit Application Information

Applicant: Department of Homeland Security - FEMA
Project: LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station - Tensas Parish
Project Parish(es): TENSAS

OCM Analyst: Jesse Deroche
Preliminary Determination: OCZ, Solicitation of View
Application Modification: N/A

The Office of Coastal Management has determined that the application assigned (P20121247) is complete. You can view the acknowledgement letter online at:

[Acknowledgment Letter](#)
[Make Comments](#)

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Office of Coastal Management [bpel.mail@la.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 11:21
To: Renne, John (CTR)
Subject: P20121247 - Joint Permit Application Received

x

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. THIS ACCOUNT IS NOT MONITORED FOR INCOMING MAIL. If you would like to talk to someone about this application please call 225-342-7591 or 1-800-267-4019.

Coastal Use Permit Application Information

Applicant: Department of Homeland Security - FEMA
Project: LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station - Tensas Parish
Project Parish(es): TENSAS

OCM Analyst:
Preliminary Determination:
Application Modification: N/A

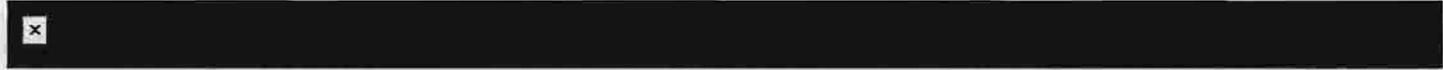
Thank you for using Office of Coastal Management's on-line application process. Your application has been received and has been assigned the following number:P20121247

You will be contacted within 5 business days regarding the status of your application. You may also follow the progress of your application on-line at:

[Item Tracking \(text\)](#)
[Application](#)
[Make Comments](#)
[Application Invoice](#)

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Office of Coastal Management [bpel.mail@la.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2012 16:49
To: LEAANN.BAKER@LA.GOV; JESSE.DEROCHE@LA.GOV; Renne, John (CTR);
DBUTLER@WLF.LA.GOV; UCM_MAIL@LA.GOV
Subject: P20121247 - Processing Complete



PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL. THIS ACCOUNT IS NOT MONITORED FOR INCOMING MAIL. If you would like to talk to someone about this application please call 225-342-7591 or 1-800-267-4019.

Coastal Use Permit Application Information

Applicant: Department of Homeland Security - FEMA
Project: LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station - Tensas Parish
Project Parish(es): TENSAS

OCM Analyst: Jesse Deroche
Final Determination: OCZ, Solicitation of View
Application Modification: N/A

Processing of the above application has been completed. Click the link below to view the final determination:

[Authorization](#)

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Lisa Abernathy [lisa.abernathy@noaa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 13:33
To: Renne, John (CTR)
Cc: Richard Hartman
Subject: Re: NEPA Environmental Assessment for FP&C LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station Proposed New Greenhouse - Agency Consultations

Mr. Renne,

I have reviewed the Solicitation of View for the "NEPA Environmental Assessment for FP&C LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station Proposed New Greenhouse" 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

From: "Renne, John (CTR)" <John.Renne@associates.fema.dhs.gov>
To: Beth Altazan-Dixon <Beth.Dixon@la.gov>, "amy.e.powell@usace.army.mil" <amy.e.powell@usace.army.mil>, "cmichon@wlf.la.gov" <cmichon@wlf.la.gov>, Richard Hartman <richard.hartman@noaa.gov>, "Amy Trahan@fws.gov" <Amy_Trahan@fws.gov>, "karl.morgan@la.gov" <karl.morgan@la.gov>, "gutierrez.raul@epa.gov" <gutierrez.raul@epa.gov>
Cc: "Mannie, Kevin" <Kevin.Mannie@fema.dhs.gov>, "Holmes, Leschina" <Leschina.Holmes@fema.dhs.gov>, "Renne, John (CTR)" <John.Renne@associates.fema.dhs.gov>, "Anchors, Rusty (CTR)" <Rusty.Anchors@associates.fema.dhs.gov>
Subject: NEPA Environmental Assessment for FP&C LSU AgCenter Northeast Research Station Proposed New Greenhouse - Agency Consultations

September 11, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: See Distribution

SUBJECT: National Environmental Policy Act Environmental Assessment
Scoping Notification/Solicitation of Views
Louisiana Facility Planning and Control

Renne, John (CTR)

From: Johnnie L. Jacobs <jjacobs@choctawnation.com>
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 11:43
To: Seward, Adrian (CTR)
Subject: FW: FEMA Section 106 Consultation: LSU Northeast Research Station (Tensas)
Attachments: CNO_Tensas_New Greenhouse LSU Northeast Research Station.pdf

Dear Adrian,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the above referenced project. Tensas Parish is within the historic area of interest to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma is unaware of any Choctaw cultural or sacred sites located within the immediate project area. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, concurs that work should proceed as planned. However, as the project is located in an area that is of general historic interest to the Tribe, we request that work be stopped and our office contacted immediately if any Native American cultural materials are encountered. This stipulation should be placed on the construction plans to insure contractors are aware of it. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Ms. Johnnie Jacobs
Section 106 Coordinator
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74701
jjacobs@choctawnation.com
choctawnationculture.com
1-800-522-6170 Ext. 2559
580-924-8280 Ext. 2559

From: Ian Thompson
Sent: Wednesday, August 01, 2012 8:08 AM
To: Johnnie L. Jacobs
Subject: FW: FEMA Section 106 Consultation: LSU Northeast Research Station (Tensas)

Ian Thompson PhD, RPA
THPO, Tribal Archaeologist,
Director Historic Preservation Dept.
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
PO Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74701
1-800-522-6170 ext. 2216

From: Seward, Adrian (CTR) [<mailto:Adrian.Seward@associates.fema.dhs.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 4:38 PM
To: Ian Thompson
Subject: FEMA Section 106 Consultation: LSU Northeast Research Station (Tensas)

Dear Ian:

Attached is the Tribal Section 106 consultation regarding construction of a new greenhouse at LSU's Northeast Research Station in Tensas Parish. FEMA has determined that there will be no historic properties affected as a result of this project. If you have comments regarding this project, please notify FEMA by 8/15/12.

Should you have any other questions or comments, please contact Katherine Zeringue, FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer for the Louisiana Recovery Office, at katherine.zeringue@dhs.gov or (504)-762-2256, or Jerame Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer for the Louisiana Recovery Office, at jerame.cramer@dhs.gov or (504) 762-2917.

Sincerely,

Adrian Seward (CTR)
FLUOR Contractor
Federal Emergency Management Agency
1 Seine Court, New Orleans LA, 4th Floor
Cell: 504.432.6368
Desk: 504.762.2238

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure. If you have received this message in error, you are hereby notified that we do not consent to any reading, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and destroy the transmitted information. Please note that any view or opinions presented in this email are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the Choctaw Nation.



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

July 26, 2012

Gregory Pyle
Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
623 N 16th
Durant OK 74702

RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Rita, FEMA-1603-DR-LA

Applicant: State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control
Undertaking: Construction of a new Greenhouse at LSU's Northeast Research Station,
Highway 605 St. Joseph, Tensas Parish, Louisiana (31.949836/ -91.233584)
(AI 1812)
Determination: **No Historic Properties Affected**

Dear Chief Pyle:

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 Declarations:

FEMA-1603-DR-LA, dated September 23, 2005.

FEMA, through its Public Assistance Program, proposes to fund the construction of a greenhouse at Louisiana State University's Northeast Research Station (Undertaking) as requested by the State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control (Applicant). 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, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, 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" executed on August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 (2009 Statewide PA as amended) and providing the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma with the opportunity to consult on the proposed Undertaking. Documentation in this letter is consistent with the requirements in 36 CFR §800.11(d).

Description of the Undertaking

Louisiana State University proposes to construct a new greenhouse at LSU's Northeast Research Station in St. Joseph, Louisiana (Figures 1 and 2). The greenhouse, measuring 30 feet by 96 feet,

will be constructed on a concrete foundation and feature HVAC, automated environmental controls, grow lights, plant benches and all necessary furnishings and equipment.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

In accordance with Stipulation VIII.A of the 2009 Statewide PA as amended, the APE for both the standing structures and archaeology were developed in coordination with SHPO staff. The standing structures APE is the viewshed from the greenhouse at the Northeast Research Station (Figure 2). The archaeological APE consists only of the area immediately surrounding the footprint of the greenhouse and includes all required staging and construction activities, measuring approximately 0.25 acres (Figure 2).

Identification and Evaluation

FEMA Historic Preservation Staff consulted the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Database and the Louisiana Cultural Resources Map November 28, 2011 and determined that the standing structures APE is not within a historic district. The standing structures APE includes 1 structure less than fifty years of age and 2 structures over 50 years of age. The structure less than 50 years of age is a pre-fabricated metal building used for a lab. It does not meet Criterion Consideration G. The two structures over the 50 years of age are; the research station office building and a greenhouse/storage building. Neither are eligible for the NRHP, as they lack significance. In addition, the station office lacks integrity, having undergone extensive renovation, including an addition and the re-cladding of the exterior with brick ca. 1970. Photographs are attached to this letter.

Building Name (State ID#)	Construction Date	FEMA's Determination of NRHP Eligibility	Photograph No.
Greenhouse/Storage Building (11027)	1959	Not Eligible for NRHP listing. Lacks Significance	2
Research Station Office Building (11013)	1930	Not Eligible for NRHP listing. Lacks Significance and Integrity.	3
Lab Building (11022)	1981	Does not meet 50 year age criterion or Criterion Consideration G	4

On February 13, 2012 FEMA Historic Preservation Specialists consulted data provided by SHPO and determined that there were no known archaeological sites within or adjacent to the APE (Figures 1). Historic map research revealed that the project area was located on the Mount Ararat Plantation in 1939 and included a landing field in 1958 (Figures 3-4). By 1986, the project area appears as it does today (Figure 1). Of note, is the 1878 Mississippi River Commission map which, while not providing coverage of the project area, suggests that the APE was located in a cotton field at that time.

A site visit and pedestrian walkover of the archaeological APE was carried out on February 24, 2012 by FEMA Historic Preservation Specialists Hanan Browning and Annette Carroll. The project area, a mowed area adjacent to agricultural fields, is located in the Mississippi River flood plain. According to the NRCS Web Soil Survey website, soils within the APE consist of Commerce silt loam, a somewhat poorly drained soil found on natural levees of the Mississippi River. Shovel probes from within the project area reveal stratum consisting of a 20-30cm layer of silt loam over brownish gray loamy clay subsoil. No archaeological material was observed by FEMA during the

7/26/2012

Construction of a New Greenhouse at LSU's Northeast Research Station AI 1812

field work and the soils within the APE appear deflated from previous agricultural activities in the area.

Assessment of Effects

Based on the aforementioned identification and evaluation, FEMA has determined that there are no historic properties as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(l) within the APE's. Therefore, FEMA has determined a finding of **No Historic Properties Affected** for this Undertaking and is submitting this Undertaking 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 Jeramé Cramer, Deputy Environmental Liaison Officer, at (504) 762-2917 or jerame.cramer@dhs.govp; or Annette Carroll, Historic Preservation Specialist, at (504) 762-2935 or annette.loomis@associates.fema.dhs.gov; or Hanan Browning, Archaeologist/HP Specialist at (205) 568-8412 or hanan.browning@fema.dhs.gov

Sincerely,



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

CC: File
Ian Thompson, Director/THPO
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Enclosures

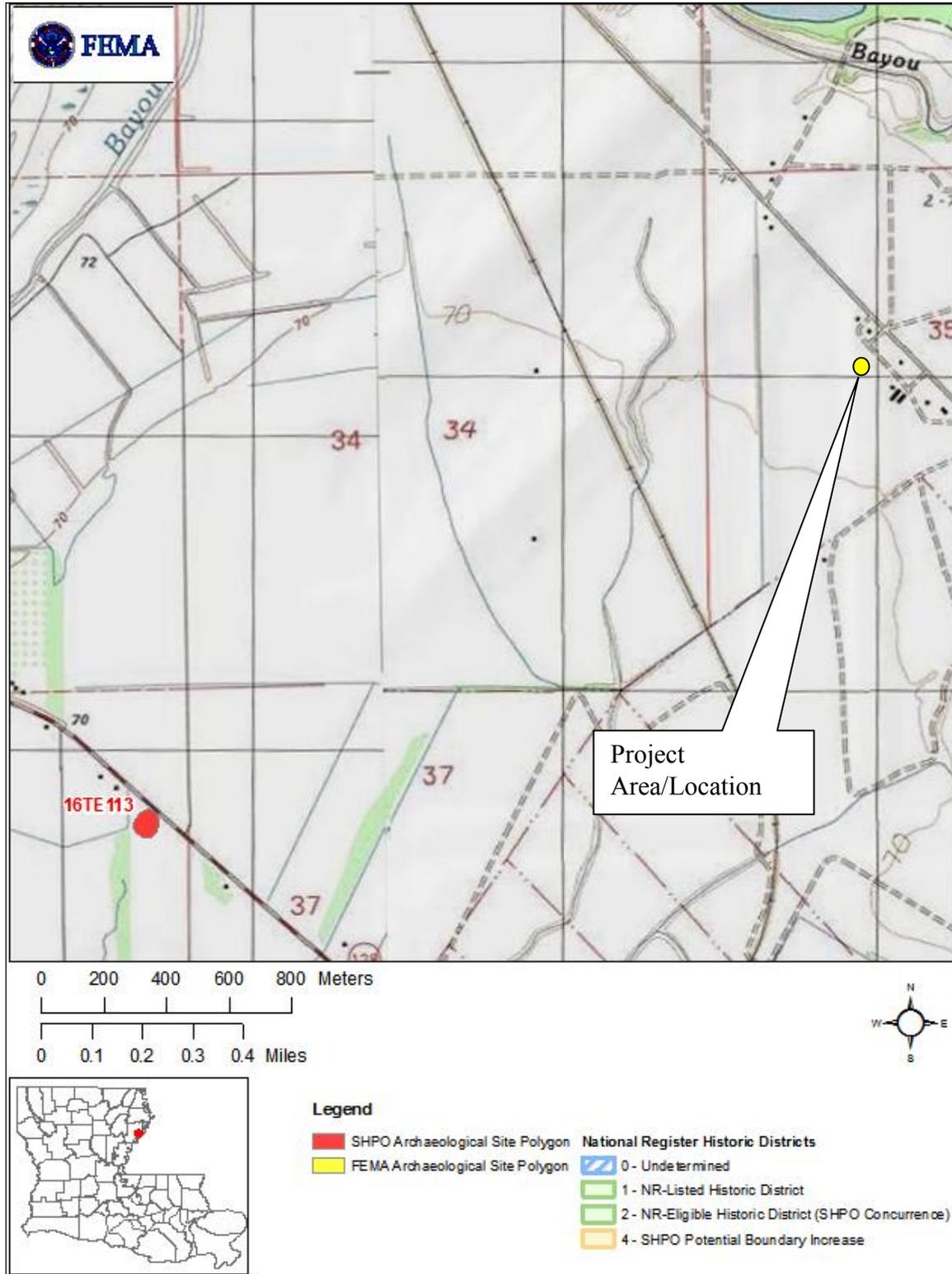


Figure 1. 7.5 minute 1986 USGS Saint Joseph Quad map showing the location of the project area and the nearest known archaeological sites.

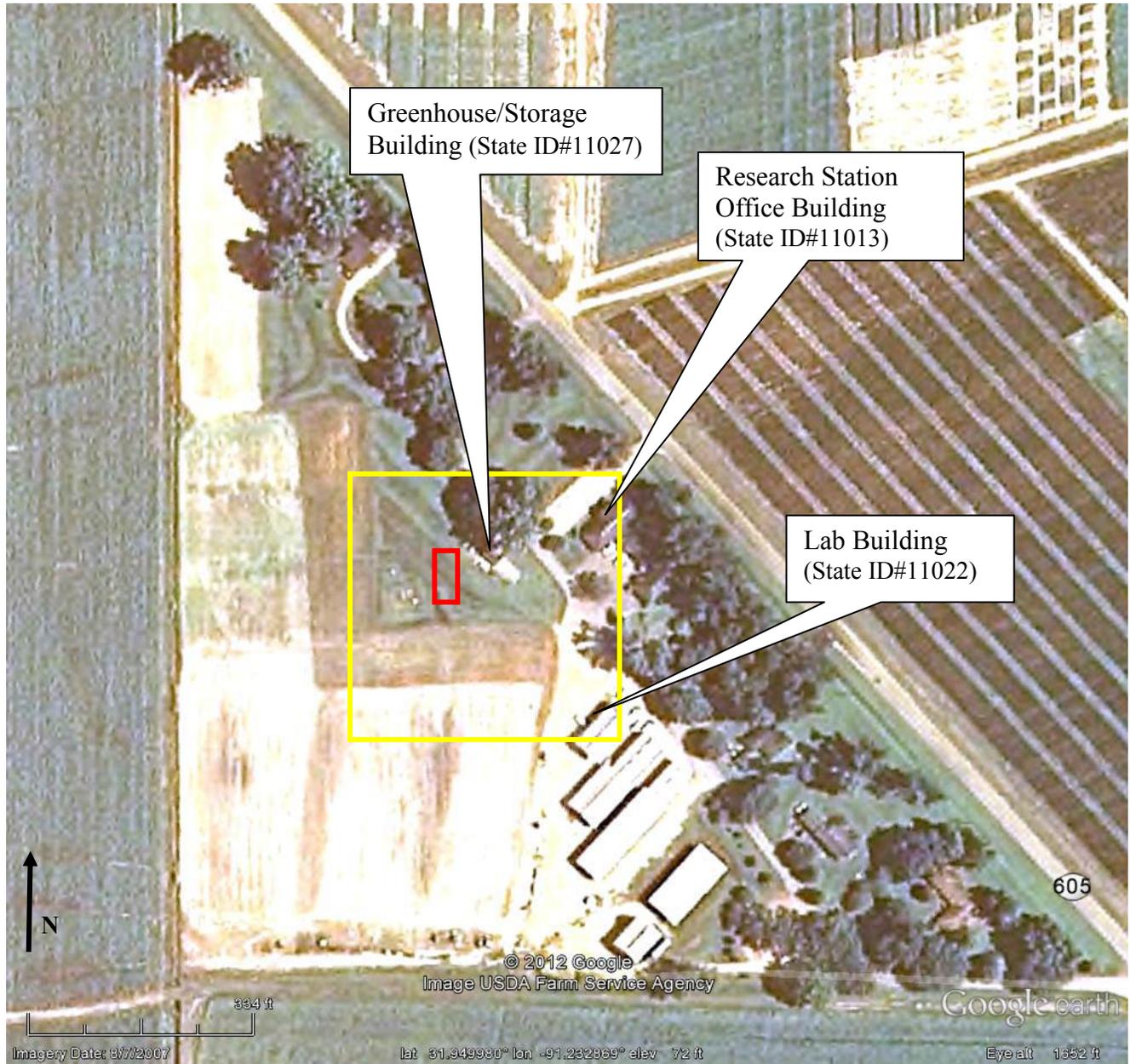


Figure 2. Aerial photograph of the proposed greenhouse location at the Northeast Research Station. The archaeological APE is outlined in red and the standing structures APE is outlined in yellow.



Figure 3. 7.5 minute 1939 USGS Lorman Quad map showing the location of the project area and the nearest known archaeological sites.

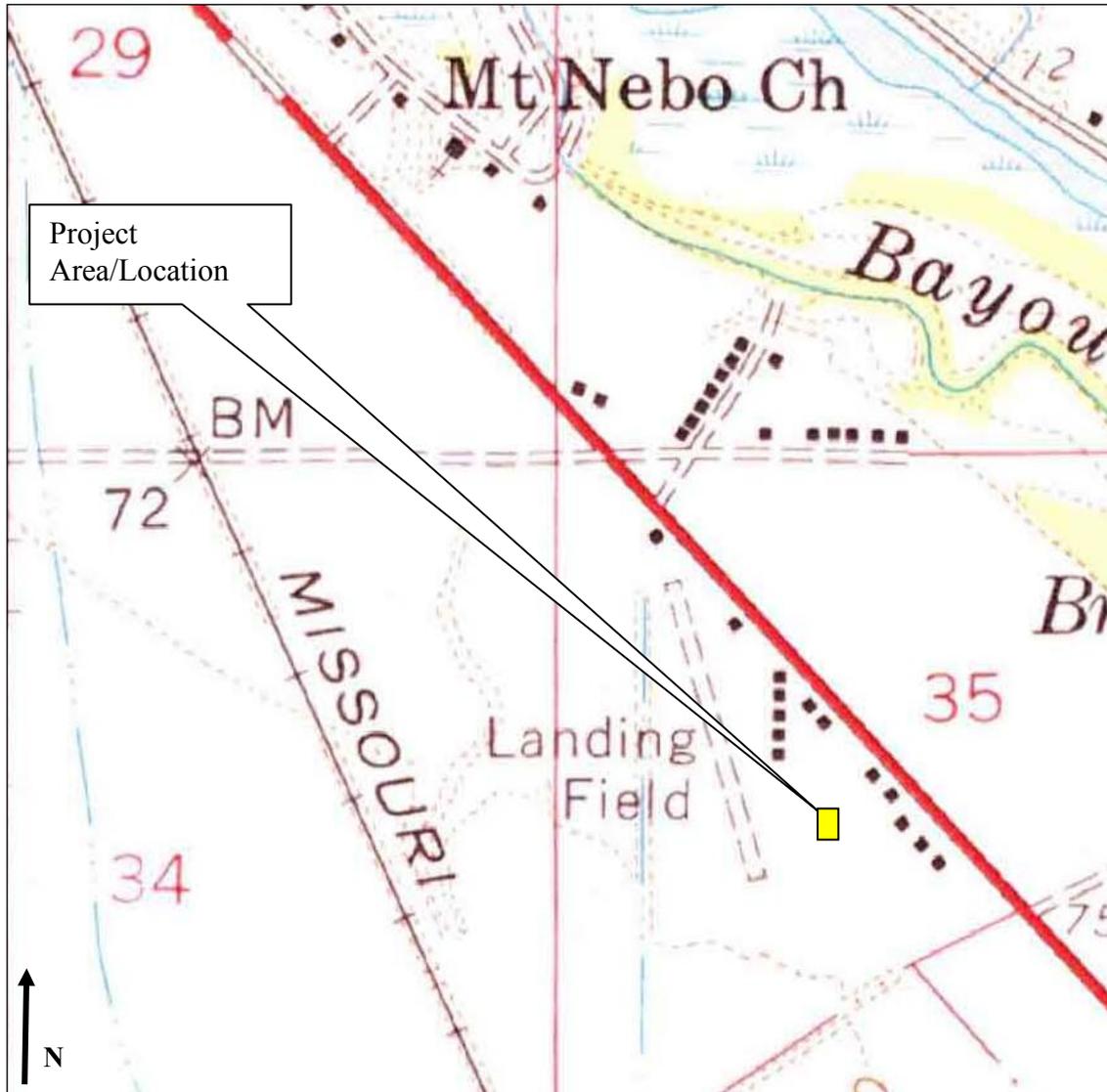


Figure 4. 7.5 minute 1958 USGS St. Joseph Quad map showing the location of the project area and the nearest known archaeological sites.

A/I 1812, Construction of a Greenhouse at LSU's Northeast Research Station, Highway 605, St. Joseph, Tensas Parish, Louisiana

Photograph 1:
View of proposed
greenhouse
location, looking
northwest
(FEMA, February
2012)



Photograph 2:
Greenhouse
/Storage Building
(State ID#11027)
(built 1959).
View of north
corner, looking
south. (FEMA,
February 2012)



A/I 1812, Construction of a Greenhouse at LSU's Northeast Research Station, Highway 605, St. Joseph, Tensas Parish, Louisiana

Photograph 3:
Research Station
Office Building
(State ID#11013)
(ca. 1930). View
of west corner,
looking east.
(FEMA, February
2012)



Photograph 4:
Lab Building
(State ID#11022)
(ca. 1981). View
of northwest
facade, looking
southeast.
(FEMA, February
2012)





JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

CHARLES R. DAVIS
DEPUTY SECRETARY

PAM BREAU
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

August 9, 2012

Ms. Katherine Zeringue
Environmental Liaison Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA Mail Center—First Floor
1 Seine Ct.
New Orleans, LA 70114

RE: Section 106 Review Consultation, Hurricane Katrina (FEMA-1603-DR-LA)
Applicant: State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control (FP&C)
Undertaking: Construction of a new Greenhouse (A/I 1812)
at LSU's Northeast Research Station, 4589 Highway 605, St. Joseph, Tensas Parish,
Louisiana (31.949836 -91.233584)
Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Ms. Zeringue:

Thank you for your letter of July 26, 2012 regarding the above-referenced project. We understand that FEMA through its Public Assistance Program proposes to provide funding for the construction of a single-story greenhouse measuring 30 ft. wide x 96 ft. long with concrete slab foundation, to be erected at Louisiana State University, Northeast Research Station located on 4589 Highway 605 in St. Joseph, Tensas Parish, Louisiana (Undertaking). Section 106 review for this project is in accordance with the *Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, 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* executed August 17, 2009 and amended on July 22, 2011 (2009 Statewide PA as amended).

We agree that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for standing structures is the view shed associated with the proposed greenhouse. We recommend that the APE for archaeology consider all areas subject to construction activities, including staging, access, and the entire construction footprint as represented on Figure 2 in your letter (and not limit the APE to "the area immediately surrounding the footprint of the greenhouse," as suggested in your narrative).

Ms. Katherine Zeringue
August 9, 2012
Page 2

Regarding potential archaeological resources, we understand that FEMA performed standard background review utilizing the requisite Louisiana Division of Archaeology, FEMA Cultural Resources Maps, and other applicable source data to determine historic land-use conditions within the APE; including but not limited to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, USACE Mississippi River Commission Survey Maps, USGS historic quad maps, and NRCS soils maps. We understand that historic map coverage for the area is limited. The 1939 USGS 7.5 minute Lorman Quad map indicates a place name of Mt. Ararat Plantation. However, field investigations in the form of soil probes yielded no archaeological material within the APE. NRCS soil surveys indicate that the APE consists of Commerce silt loam. And after further discourse with FEMA HP, we understand that an archaeological discovery clause will be included as part of the granting of Federal funds for this project.

Review for the built environment as presented in your letter indicates that three buildings are situated within the standing structures APE. We agree that none of the buildings are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Table 1 in our letter reiterates FEMA's determinations of eligibility for listing on the NRHP and lists date(s) of SHPO concurrence.

Table 1. FEMA Determination of Eligibility for Listing on NRHP

Building Name (LA State ID#)	Date Built	FEMA Determination of Eligibility for Listing on NRHP	SHPO Concurrence
Greenhouse/Storage Bldg. (11027)	1959	Not Eligible for listing on NRHP, lacks significance	Concur 8/8/2012
Research Station Office Bldg. (11013)	1930	Not Eligible for listing on NRHP, lacks significance	Concur 8/8/2012
Lab Bldg. (11022)	1981	Less than 50 years old; not eligible for listing on NRHP under Criterion G	Concur 8/8/2012

Therefore, we concur with FEMA's determination that the Undertaking as described in your letter would result in No Historic Properties Affected. For more information, please contact Rachel Watson at (225) 342-8165, rwatson@crt.la.gov, or David Livingstone (504) 762-2264, david.livingstone@associates.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Pam Breaux
State Historic Preservation Officer

PB: RW/DL:s