

Final Environmental Assessment

Diamondhead Water and Sewer District – Lift Station 13

Hancock County, Mississippi

May 2013



FEMA

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

FEMA-1604-DR-MS

Mississippi Recovery Office – Biloxi, MS



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

DIAMONDHEAD WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT – LIFT STATION 13 DIAMONDHEAD, HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI FEMA-1604-DR-MS

The Diamondhead Water and Sewer District (DWSD) in Hancock County, Mississippi has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with replacement of Lift Station 13 (LS 13). The Lift Station is located within the city limits of Diamondhead, Mississippi. The exact location is at the north end of a cul-de-sac on Apua Court. This project is part of an overall plan to improve the District's services.

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

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, this Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Lift Station and determine if it is necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A final EA and FONSI were prepared for Lift Station 13 Project in April 2013.

In the EA process, FEMA considered three alternatives, the No Action Alternative, a Rejected Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. Under the Rejected Alternative, the applicant considered repairing the existing LS 13. The existing LS 13 receives flow from four other lift stations making it critical to provide dependable service. LS 13 is at the end of its useful life and requires replacement. The LS 13 pumps and controls are difficult to keep in continuous service and are not reliable. In order to alleviate the problems that the District is experiencing, relocating LS 13 to the end of Apua Court is the most effective remedy.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the existing LS 13 would be demolished, removed and disposed of in a nearby landfill. The existing LS 13 would be replaced by relocating LS 13 at the end of Apua Court. The proposed LS 13 would be placed on two lots owned by DWSD. The proposed LS 13 would be constructed in the center of the lots near an existing cul-de-sac. LS 13 would then connect to existing underground utilities to provide dependable and reliable service to the 4,300 residents of Diamondhead. Preliminary plans have illustrated that construction would occur within upland areas of the lots. A construction pad 30 ft wide by 30 ft wide, an access driveway and an access buffer will be required for LS 13. A trench would be required to connect the lift station to the existing underground utilities. The trench to connect the lift station would be dug approximately 7 ft deep from LS 13 to a location of a manhole cover within the existing road, owned by the City of Diamondhead.



water resources / environmental consultants

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Diamondhead Water and Sewer District
Lift Station 13
Diamondhead, Hancock County, MS**

May 3, 2013

Final Environmental Assessment for
Diamondhead Water and Sewer District
Diamondhead, Hancock County, MS

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May 3, 2013

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

amsl	above mean sea level
BMP	Best Management Practice
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	carbon monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
dB	decibel
DNL	Day-Night Average Sound Level
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FTN	FTN Associates, Ltd.
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
I-10	Interstate 10
LS 13	Lift Station 13
MDAH	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
MDEQ	Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
MDMR	Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
MDOT	Mississippi Department of Transportation
MGD	million gallons per day
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NCA	Noise Control Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
O ₃	ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PA	Public assistance
Pb	lead
PM _{2.5}	Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
PM ₁₀	particulate matter less than 10 microns

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (CONTINUED)

SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SEA	Supplemental Environmental Assessment
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCB	United States Census Bureau
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Diamondhead Water and Sewer District (DWSD) in Hancock County, Mississippi has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with the relocation/replacement of Lift Station 13 (LS 13). The Lift Station is located within the city limits of Diamondhead, Mississippi. The exact location is at the north end of a cul-de-sac on Apua Court. Figures 1, 2 and 3 illustrate the location and the proposed plan.

DWSD has 33 lift stations serving the Diamondhead wastewater collection system. Fifteen of these are being repaired or replaced with FEMA assistance. One of the remaining 18 stations, LS 13, is at the end of its useful life and requires replacement. This lift station receives flow from four other lift stations making it critical to provide dependable service. The LS 13 pumps and controls are difficult to keep in continuous service and are not reliable. Most of the collection system overflows and related problems experienced by the District occur at LS 13. Replacing LS 13 will result in a more dependable system and alleviate the unreliable conditions.

This project is part of an overall plan to improve the District's services. FEMA proposes to provide assistance for this project through the Public Assistance Program under Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1604-DR-MS.

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B, Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, this EA has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508).

The purpose of this EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Lift Station and determine if it is necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact).

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

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

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

3.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The following alternatives were considered for the construction of the proposed lift station:

3.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed Lift Station would not be replaced. The proposed Lift Station would not connect to the existing wastewater system.

3.2 Alternative 2: Construction of Lift Station 13 (Proposed Action)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the existing LS 13 would be demolished, removed and disposed of in a nearby landfill. The existing LS 13 would be replaced by relocating LS 13 at the end of Apua Court. The proposed LS 13 would be placed on two lots owned by DWSD. The proposed LS 13 would be constructed in the center of the lots near an existing cul-de-sac. LS 13 would then connect to existing underground utilities to provide dependable and reliable service to the 4,300 residents of Diamondhead. Preliminary plans have illustrated that construction would occur within upland areas of the lots. A construction pad 30 ft wide by 30 ft wide, an access driveway and an access buffer will be required for LS 13. A trench would be required to connect the lift station to the existing underground utilities. The trench to connect the lift station would be dug approximately 7 ft deep from LS 13 to a location of a manhole cover within the existing road, owned by the City of Diamondhead.

Preparation of construction plans and specifications for the proposed LS 13 have been initiated and are anticipated to be completed by June 2013. Construction for LS13 is scheduled for completion in February 2014.

3.3 Alternative Considered But Rejected

The applicant has considered repairing the existing LS 13. The existing LS 13 receives flow from four other lift stations making it critical to provide dependable service. LS 13 is at the end of its useful life and requires replacement. The LS 13 pumps and controls are difficult to keep in continuous service and are not reliable. Most of the collection system overflows and

related problems experienced by the District occur at LS 13. In order to alleviate the problems that the District is experiencing, relocating LS 13 to the end of Apua Court is the most effective remedy.

4.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS

Table 4.1 summarizes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative and conditions or mitigation measures to offset those impacts. Following the summary table, any areas where potential impacts were identified are discussed in greater detail.

Table 4.1. Potential impacts of the Proposed Action Alternative and conditions or mitigation measures to offset those impacts.

Affected Environment	Impacts	Mitigation
Geology, Topography, and Soils	No impacts to geology or topography are anticipated; short-term impacts to previously impacted soils within the lots and in the existing roadbed are anticipated.	Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as installing silt fences and revegetating bare soils immediately upon completion of construction would be used to stabilize soils. The applicant is not required to submit a SWPPP.
Groundwater	Potential impacts to shallow groundwater are not anticipated.	None
Surface Water	Impacts to surface waters are not anticipated	None
Floodplains	No impacts to the floodplain are anticipated because construction of LS 13 would not result in modifications to the floodplain. No Indirect impacts will occur with future developments.	None
Transportation	There would be a minor temporary increase in the volume of construction traffic on roads in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site. No road closures are anticipated.	Construction vehicles and equipment would be stored on-site during project construction and appropriate signage would be posted on affected roadways.
Public Health and Safety	No impacts to public health and safety are anticipated.	All construction activities would be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations. Appropriate signage and barriers would be in place prior to construction activities to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities.
Hazardous Materials	No impacts to hazardous materials or wastes are anticipated.	Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction would be disposed of and handled in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Table 4.1. (Continued).

Affected Environment	Impacts	Mitigation
Socioeconomic Resources	No adverse impacts to socioeconomic resources are anticipated.	None
Environmental Justice	No disproportionately high or adverse effect to minority or low-income populations is anticipated.	None
Air Quality	Short-term impacts to air quality are anticipated to occur during the construction period; no adverse long-term impacts are anticipated.	Construction contractors would be required to water down construction areas when necessary and fuel-burning equipment running times would be kept to a minimum and engines would be properly maintained.
Noise	Temporary short-term increases in noise levels are anticipated during construction.	Construction would take place during normal business hours. Equipment and machinery used for the project would meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations.
Biological Resources	Limited vegetation removal would occur at the proposed location of LS 13. No impacts to federally listed species are anticipated.	None
Cultural Resources	No impacts to archeological resources or historic structures are anticipated.	If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts 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 in FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. Work will not proceed until FEMA Historic Preservation staff has completed consultation with SHPO and MBCI.

4.1 Geology, Topography, and Soils

Upper elevations of the proposed project area consist of red sand and gravel and white clay terrace deposits of the Citronelle Formation deposited during the Early Pleistocene (or possibly Pliocene) Epoch (Bicker, 1969). Coastward, lower elevations consist of fluvial deposits of the Late Pleistocene Prairie Formation, which are overlain by mostly sandy fine-grained silt and clay alluvial deposits of the Holocene Epoch (Otvos, 1985).

The topography at the proposed project site is generally level (typically less than 2 percent slope). Elevations within the proposed project site range from 10 ft above mean sea level (amsl) to 20 ft amsl.

The *Soil Survey of Hancock County, Mississippi* (Smith et al. 1981) lists one soil type within the survey area. Saucier fine sandy loam (8 to 12 percent slopes) is a moderately well-drained soil found on side slopes. The surface layer is a dark grayish-brown fine sandy loam about 5 inches thick. Below this is a pale brown fine sandy loam subsoil layer.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) states that Federal agencies must “minimize the extent to which Federal programs contribute to the unnecessary conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses....”

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stormwater program that requires operators of construction sites one acre or larger (including smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development) to obtain authorization to discharge stormwater under an NPDES construction stormwater permit.

NPDES permit requirements include submittal of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that outlines the temporary and permanent Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be used to prevent erosion and the transport of sediment off-site during and after construction activities (i.e., mulching, planting bare soils, silt fence, etc.). The NPDES program is administered by MDEQ.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to geology, topography, or soils would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, impacts to geology or topography are not anticipated. Temporary impacts to soils would occur during construction due to the potential for erosion during trenching and construction activities.

A letter requesting project review was sent to the NRCS and MDEQ on December 11, 2012. Stormwater management during construction of LS 13 will be managed with properly

designed best management practices to insure the water quality is not adversely affected. Construction stormwater on sites disturbing 1 to less than 5 acres are covered under the Small Construction General Permit (MSR15) issued by MDEQ. Since this site is less than 1 acre, coverage under the MDEQ general permit is not needed. Since its incorporation in 2012, the City of Diamondhead is not subject to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit issued to Hancock County.

No response was received from the NRCS within the comment period.

4.2 Groundwater

Groundwater beneath the proposed project site is located within the Coastal Lowlands Aquifer System, which is divided into several permeability zones. Groundwater in Holocene alluvium and Late Pleistocene Prairie Formation sediments comprises the shallowest permeability zone. Groundwater in Early Pleistocene Citronelle Formation deposits is the next deeper groundwater zone, freshwater parts of which are typically located about 500 ft below sea level. The two permeability zones are not separated by a confining unit; rather, they are distinguished by differences in vertical hydraulic gradient and hydraulic conductivity. Both zones yield large quantities of water for agricultural, public supply, domestic and commercial, and industrial uses. Recharge of the aquifer system in the vicinity of the proposed project site occurs at outcrops at higher elevations, and groundwater flows under the influence of gravity coastward to the Gulf of Mexico. Dissolved solids concentrations in groundwater increase along flow paths to the coastline as minerals from aquifer materials are dissolved and mixing with salt water increases (USGS, 1998).

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to groundwater would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, construction activities would result in digging a trench approximately 50 ft long and filling of an area approximately 30 ft by 30 ft with

uncontaminated soil and gravel. Since this site is less than 1 acre, coverage under the MDEQ general permit is not needed. Since its incorporation in 2012, the City of Diamondhead is not subject to the MS4 General Permit issued to Hancock County. MDEQ has responded in a letter dated January 2, 2013 regarding the location of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)/Uncontrolled Sites. Stormwater management during construction of LS 13 will be managed with properly designed best management practices to insure the water quality is not adversely affected.

4.3 Surface Water

The proposed project site is located between two small streams. Elevations within the proposed project site range from 10-20 ft amsl. Elevations are highest at the center of the project site and in the areas adjacent to Apua Court. Stormwater flows to the north to Coon Branch to Rotten Bayou and into the Jourdan River.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to groundwater would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, temporary impacts to offsite surface waters may occur due to the transport of sediment from disturbed soils in storm water runoff during construction.

The project, as proposed, is not anticipated to impede or modify the existing drainage ditches located along the project corridor by returning ditches to existing grades and using properly designed best management practices.

MDEQ has responded in a letter dated January 2, 2013 regarding the location of CERCLA/Uncontrolled Sites. Since this site is less than 1 acre, coverage under the MDEQ general permit is not needed. Since its incorporation in 2012, the City of Diamondhead is not subject to the MS4 General Permit issued to Hancock County. To minimize impacts to surface

water, construction will use properly designed best management practices to insure surface water is not adversely affected.

4.4 Floodplains

EO 11988 (Floodplain Management) requires that a Federal agency avoid direct or indirect support of development within the 100-year floodplain whenever there is a practicable alternative. FEMA uses Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to identify the regulatory 100-year floodplain for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Diamondhead is a participant in the NFIP.

Consistent with EO 11988, FIRMs were examined during the preparation of this EA. The FIRMs for Mississippi have been updated since Hurricane Katrina to more accurately delineate flood zones. The project area is located on the Hancock County, Mississippi FIRM with Community Panel Number 28045CO261D (FEMA, 2012); the proposed project is located within Zone X. Zone X has been determined to be outside the 0.2-percent annual floodplain.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed outfall line and outfall structure would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to floodplains would occur. The proposed WWTP would not connect to the existing sewer system and outfall structure.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no direct impacts to the floodplain would occur. Installation of the proposed outfall line and outfall structure would not result in modifications to the floodplain because the outfall line and outfall structures will be buried and left at the current elevation. The proposed plan was designed to service the Diamondhead community and the existing WWTP. Indirect impacts are not anticipated since the project will not provide service to areas outside of the previous service area. Individual projects would be required to adhere to current regulations of the appropriate agency.

4.5 Waters of the U.S. including Wetlands

The Clean Water Act (CWA), as amended in 1977, established the basic framework for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or filled material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Additionally, EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) requires federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, adverse impact of wetlands.

A review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map indicates no wetlands were identified within the project site (USFWS, 2012 b). A wetland delineation was conducted by FTN Associates, Ltd. (FTN) biologists on December 13, 2012, in accordance with the 1987 *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual*. The Corps' manual requires the presence of all three parameters (dominance of hydrophytic vegetation, evidence of hydric soils, and presence of hydrologic indicators) for an area to be considered a wetland.

The FTN delineation identified two jurisdictional areas within the project site. The wetland communities contain two, forested, bottomland hardwood wetlands. The forested, bottomland hardwood wetlands include the following species: sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) water oak (*Quercus nigra*), large gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*) greenbriar (*Smilax laurifolia*) and netted chainfern (*Woodwardia areolata*). The remaining areas within the project lack hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation or hydric soils.

According to NRCS data, soils within the wetland areas consist of Saucier fine sandy loam (USDA/NRCS, 2012 a). Smithton, a hydric soil can be found within the Saucier mapunit (USDA/NRCS, 2012b).

Soil test pits were dug to verify the presence of positive indicators of hydric soils. Soils had a high organic content in the surface layer and chroma values of 2 with a depleted matrix, a hydric soil characteristic. Hydrology indicators consisted of areas with a high water table, saturation and oxidized rhizospheres along living roots.

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) enables coastal states, including Mississippi, to designate state coastal zone boundaries and develop coastal management programs to improve protection of sensitive shoreline resources and guide sustainable use of

coastal areas. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the proposed project site is located within the Mississippi Coastal Zone (NOAA, 2012).

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the project will avoid all wetlands and waters of the U.S.

The applicant is required to coordinate with the USACE and MDMR for impacts to wetlands in the coastal zone. The MDMR responded in a letter dated January 22, 2013. The MDMR requested an application if wetland impacts are anticipated. A proposed site plan and a request for project review were submitted to the USACE on January 17, 2013. The USACE notified the applicant on February 21, 2013 that a permit would not be required for the proposed project. A copy of the February 21, 2013 email to the USACE and the proposed site plan was sent to Willa Brantley, of the MDMR, on March 5, 2013. The MDMR responded that a permit would not be necessary for the proposed project as designed on March 5, 2013.

4.6 Transportation

LS 13 is located on Apua Court. Apua Court provides the only access to the proposed project site. There is minimal traffic activity from nearby houses near the proposed project area.

The City of Diamondhead oversees permitting for any activities that occur within the right-of-way of city streets.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to transportation would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no significant adverse impacts to transportation are anticipated. Much of the construction would be limited to areas outside of the right-of-way.

A minor temporary increase in the volume of construction traffic on roads in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site, which could potentially result in a slower traffic flow for the duration of the construction phase, is anticipated for the nearby residents. To mitigate potential delays, construction vehicles and equipment would not be stored on site during project construction and appropriate signage would be posted on affected roadways. No road closures are anticipated during the construction on Apua court. The areas within the right-of-way that will be impacted will not interfere with the nearby resident driveway entrances.

The applicant would be required to coordinate with the City of Diamondhead to obtain any necessary permits for installing a connector pipe to the existing utilities prior to the start of construction.

A letter requesting project review was sent to the City of Diamondhead on December 11, 2012; no response has been received to date.

4.7 Environmental Justice

Executive Order (EO) 12898 (Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations) requires federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their mission. Agencies are required to identify and correct programs, policies, and activities that have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

Socioeconomic and demographic data for the project area were analyzed to determine if a disproportionate number (greater than 50%) of minority or low-income persons have the potential to be adversely affected by the proposed project. According to the 2010 Census of Population, in 2009 the median household income reported in the State of Mississippi was \$36,919 with 22.6% of individuals living below the poverty level. Within Hancock County the median annual household income was \$45,956, with 15.9% of the population living below the poverty level. In 2010, the annual median household income reported within Diamondhead was

\$63,914, with 6.1% of the population living below the poverty level. In addition, minorities represented 40.9%, 11.7%, and 6.1%, respectively, of the population of the State of Mississippi, Hancock County, and Diamondhead (USCB, 2012).

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to minority and low-income populations would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations are anticipated. Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would benefit all populations equally within the WWTP service area. Without the proposed construction of the outfall and wastewater treatment facility, future projects that could potentially benefit low-income populations or minority populations may not proceed.

4.8 Air Quality

Under the Clean Air Act, EPA establishes primary and secondary air quality standards. Primary air quality standards protect the public health, including the health of “sensitive populations, such as people with asthma, children, and older adults.” Secondary air quality standards protect public welfare by promoting ecosystems health, preventing decreased visibility, and damage to crops and buildings. The EPA has set national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for six of the following criteria pollutants; ozone (O₃), particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and 10), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and lead (Pb). According to MDEQ, the entire state of Mississippi is classified as in attainment, meaning criteria air pollutants do not exceed the NAAQS (MDEQ, 2012).

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to air quality would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no impacts to air quality are anticipated to occur during construction. To reduce temporary impacts to air quality, the construction contractors would be required to water down construction areas when necessary in order to minimize dust. Emissions from fuel-burning internal combustion engines (e.g., heavy equipment and earthmoving machinery) could temporarily increase the levels of some of the criteria pollutants, including CO, NO₂, O₃, and PM₁₀. To reduce the emission of criteria pollutants, fuel-burning equipment running times would be kept to a minimum and engines would be properly maintained.

4.9 Noise

Sound is most commonly measured in decibels (dB) on the A-weighted scale, which is the scale most similar to the range of sounds that the human ear can hear. The Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) is an average measure of sound. The DNL descriptor is accepted by federal agencies as a standard for estimating sound impacts and establishing guidelines for compatible land uses.

Noise, defined herein as undesirable sound, is federally regulated by the Noise Control Act of 1972 (NCA). Although NCA gives the EPA authority to prepare guidelines for acceptable ambient noise levels, it only charges those federal agencies that operate noise-producing facilities or equipment to implement noise standards. EPA guidelines, and those of many other federal agencies, state that outdoor sound levels in excess of 55 dB DNL are “normally unacceptable” for noise-sensitive land uses such as residences, schools, or hospitals. The proposed project site consists mainly of public roads. The closest noise-sensitive receptors to the proposed LS13 site are located adjacent to the project site and include residences. The City of Diamondhead has recently passed Noise Ordinance 2012-014.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to noise levels would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, no long-term impacts to noise are anticipated. During the construction period, temporary short-term increases in noise levels are anticipated. To prevent potential noise disturbances to the community, construction activities would be limited to normal business hours when possible. The City of Diamondhead recently passed Ordinance 2012-014. In the event activities require additional work to be performed outside of normal business hours, exempts the installation and maintenance of public utilities.

4.10 Biological Resources

The proposed project area consists of upland pine forests and bottomland hardwoods of the coastal plain. The proposed project site supports wildlife common to undeveloped, suburban areas in coastal Mississippi including songbirds, reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, and white-tailed deer.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) lists the following federally endangered (E) and threatened (T) animal species for Hancock County (USFWS, 2012 b) as shown in Table 4.2:

Table 4.2. Federally endangered and threatened animal species in Hancock County.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Louisiana black bear	<i>Ursus americanus luteolus</i>	T
West Indian manatee	<i>Trichechus manatus</i>	E
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald and Golden Eagle Act
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	T (CH)
Gopher tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	T
Green turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	T
Loggerhead turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	T
Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	T (CH)
Inflated heelsplitter	<i>Potamilus inflatus</i>	T
Louisiana quillwort	<i>Isoetes louisianensis</i>	E
Kemp's Ridley turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	E
Ringed map turtle	<i>Graptemys oculifera</i>	T
Leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys comacea</i>	E

A letter requesting project review was sent to the USFWS on December 11, 2012; a letter dated January 11, 2013, states “the Service has determined that the proposed project will have “No Effect” on federally listed species or their habitat.”

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to biological resources would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, LS 13 would be constructed within two lots at the end of Apua Court. The email dated January 11, 2013 from USFWS confirms the project will have no effect on federally listed species or their habitats.

4.11 Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and implemented by 36 CFR Part 800, requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on federal projects prior to implementation. Historic properties are defined as archeological sites, standing structures, or other historic resources listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

No-Action Alternative

Under the No-Action Alternative, the proposed LS 13 would not be constructed; therefore, no impacts to cultural resources would occur.

Proposed Action Alternative

A consultation letter dated December 11, 2013 was submitted to MDAH State Historic Preservation Office and to the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians (MBCI) requesting review and comments regarding the proposed project. A Phase I Cultural-Resource Survey for LS 13 was also sent to both agencies. A letter was received from MDAH that stated no significant

cultural resources would be affected by the project on January 7, 2013. No response has been received to date from the MBCI.

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 in FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. Work will not proceed until FEMA Historic Preservation staff has completed consultation with the SHPO and the MBCI. Non-compliance with this requirement may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

5.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

According to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, cumulative impacts represent the “impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).” In accordance with NEPA and to the extent reasonable and practical, this EA considered the combined effect of the Proposed Action Alternative and other actions occurring or proposed in the vicinity of the proposed project site.

Diamondhead and the entire Mississippi Gulf coast are undergoing recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damages. The recovery efforts in Diamondhead include demolition, reconstruction, and new construction. Recovery efforts including the relocated WWTP project and the proposed project may have a cumulative temporary impact on soils, transportation, air quality and noise pollution during construction activities. No other cumulative effects are anticipated.

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

FEMA is the lead federal agency for conducting the NEPA compliance process for this lift station construction project in Diamondhead, Mississippi. It is the goal of the lead agency to expedite the preparation and review of NEPA documents and to be responsive to the needs of the community and the purpose and need of the proposed action while meeting the intent of NEPA and complying with all NEPA provisions.

The District notified the public of the availability of the draft SEA through publication of a public notice in a local newspaper. The public notice was published on April 13, 2013 and April 20, 2013 in *The Sea Coast Echo* (Appendix C). FEMA conducted an expedited public comment period commencing on the initial date of publication of the public notice and ending on April 28, 2013. No comments were received from the public.

7.0 AGENCY COORDINATION AND PERMITS

The following agencies and organizations were contacted by a letter requesting project review during the preparation of this EA. Letters sent to the agencies and received to date are included in Appendix B.

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
- City of Diamondhead
- Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission

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.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

No impacts to geology, topography, floodplains, public health and safety, hazardous materials, socioeconomics, environmental justice, threatened/endangered species, surface water, groundwater, wetlands and cultural resources are anticipated with the Proposed Action Alternative. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas. Since the impacts are less than 1 acre, potential impacts to soils, would not require permits from MDEQ. The installation to connect the proposed LS 13 to the existing utilities would require coordination with the City of Diamondhead for construction activities and to connect to existing utilities under the street. Although no mitigation is required for temporary impacts to air quality or noise, measures to reduce the amount of air pollution and noise will be taken during construction.

9.0 REFERENCES

- Bicker, A.R., Jr., compiler, 1969, Geologic map of Mississippi: Mississippi Geological Society Map.
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- USCB (United States Census Bureau). 2012. Census 2010 State and County Quick Facts. <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/28/2819100.html>. Accessed December 7, 2012.
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- USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service). 2012a. National Wetlands Inventory Mapper. <http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/wtlnds/launch.html> . December 7, 2012.
-

- USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service). 2012 b. Mississippi: List of Threatened and Endangered Species by County. (convert web link to blue font)
<http://www.fws.gov/mississippiES/pdf/SpeciesbyCounty.pdf>. December 7, 2012.
- Renken, Robert A., 1998. Groundwater Atlas of the United States: Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, HA 730-F. The United States Geological Society.
http://pubs.usgs.gov/ha/ha730/ch_f/index.html . Accessed March 1, 2013.

APPENDIX A

FIGURES



Figure 1. Vicinity map.

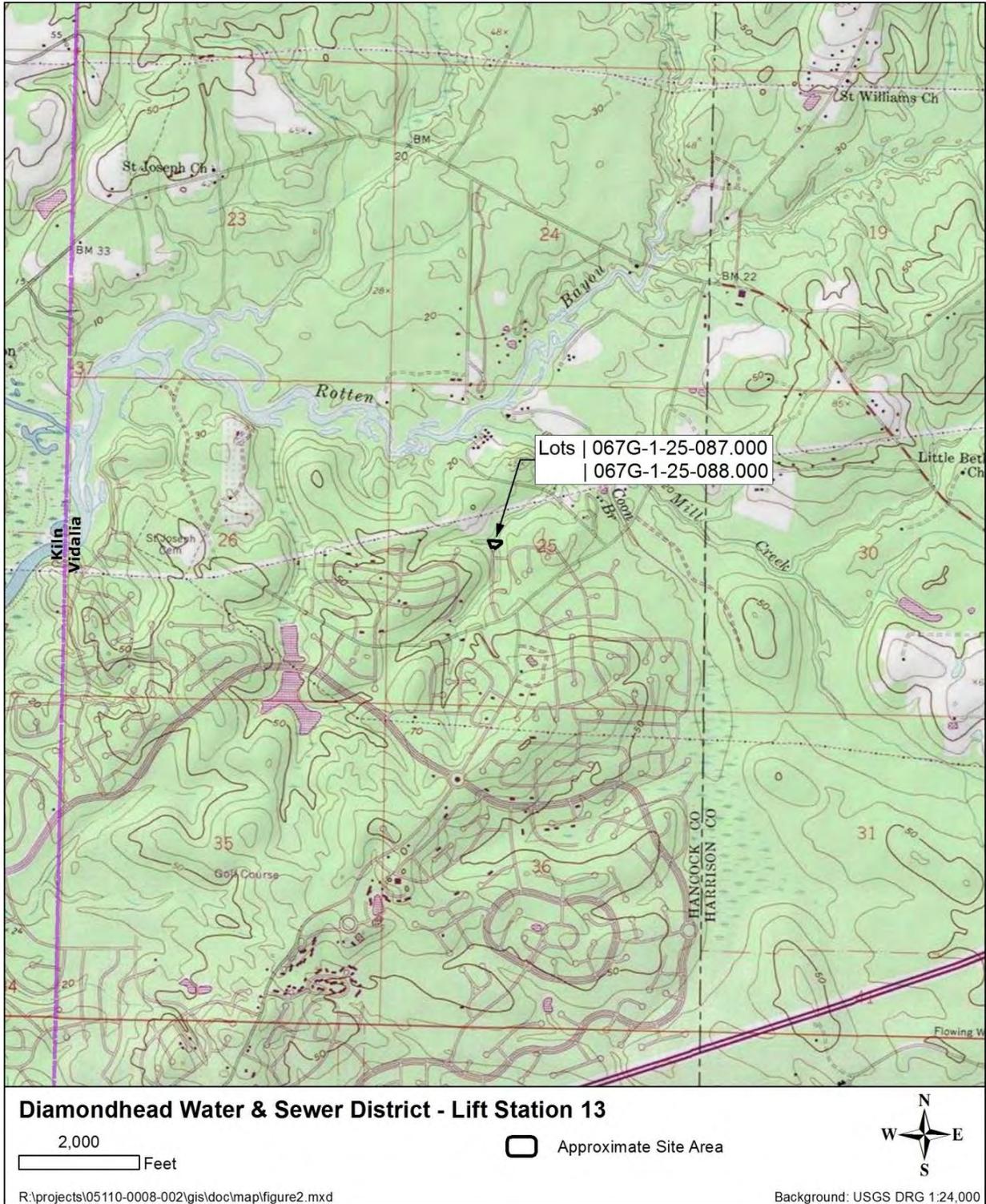


Figure 2. Map showing overview of project on USGS topographic quadrangles Kiln, MS and Vidalia, MS (7.5-minute series).

APPENDIX B
AGENCY COORDINATION

Eric Necaïse

From: Zebryk, Tad M SAM [Tad.M.Zebryk@usace.army.mil]
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 11:41 AM
To: Eric Necaïse
Subject: Jurisdictional Determination; Lift Station 13, Diamondhead Water and Sewer District, Diamondhead, Hancock County, MS (SAM-2013-00059-TMZ) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Mr. Necaïse:

We are in receipt of your request for a jurisdictional determination pertaining to the proposed site for Lift Station 13, to be located at the end of Apua Court, Diamondhead, Hancock County, Mississippi (USACE File Number SAM-2013-00059-TMZ). Your client is the Diamondhead Water and Sewer District.

Based on your delineation report dated January 9, 2013 and our site visit conducted on February 20, 2013, we concur with your conclusion that no wetlands subject to our jurisdiction occur at the proposed construction site for Lift Station 13; therefore, no Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water will be required to develop the proposed site. This determination is based on the methodology described in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement (Version 2.0) to the 1987 Manual. Please be aware that this determination does not obviate the need for your client to obtain any other necessary state, local and federal permits, and does not convey any property rights.

Thank you for cooperating with the Mobile District Regulatory program. If you have any questions regarding this determination, please call me at 251-694-3779.

Sincerely,

Tad M. Zebryk
USACE, Mobile District
Regulatory Division, Coastal Branch
251-694-3779

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mississippi Field Office
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

January 11, 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:
04EM1000-2013-I-0219

FTN Associates, LTD.
Attn: Eric Necaise
6508 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite B
Jackson, MS 39213

Dear Ms. Necaise:

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information in your letter dated December 14, 2012, regarding the proposed replacement of a Lift Station located within the City of Diamondhead. The Diamondhead Water and Sewer District has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for assistance to replace Lift Station number 13, which is located at the north end of a cul-de-sac on Apua Court in Diamondhead, Hancock County, Mississippi. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Based on the information provided in your letter, the Service has determined that the proposed project will have "No Effect" on federally listed species or their habitats. No further consultation under the ESA is required with this office unless there are changes in the scope or location of the proposed project.

If you have any questions, please contact Paul Necaise in our office, telephone: (228) 493-6631, or visit our website at <http://www.fws.gov/mississippiES/>.

Sincerely,

for Stephen M. Ricks
Field Supervisor
MS Field Office



PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571
601-576-6850 • Fax 601-576-6975
mdah.state.ms.us
H. T. Holmes, Director

December 17, 2012

Mr. Eric F. Necaise
FTN Associates, LTD
6508 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite B
Jackson, Mississippi 39213

RE: Project No. R05110-0008-002; Proposed replacement of a lift station on Aqua Court, Diamondhead, by the Diamondhead Water and Sewer District, MDAH Project Log #12-076-12, Hancock County

Dear Mr. Necaise:

We have reviewed your request for a cultural resources assessment, received on December 17, for the above referenced project in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After reviewing the information provided, it is our determination that no cultural resources are likely to be affected, provided that work is limited to within thirty feet of existing rights-of-way. With that provision, we have no objection with the proposed undertaking.

Should there be additional work in connection with the project, or any changes in the scope of work, please let us know in order that we may provide you with appropriate comments in compliance with the above referenced regulations.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (601) 576-6940.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hal Bell
Review and Compliance Assistant

FOR: Greg Williamson
Review and Compliance Officer



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

TRUDY D. FISHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
January 2, 2013

Eric F. Ncaise
FTN Associates
6508 Dogwood View Pkwy
Suite B
Jackson, MS 39213

RE: Diamondhead Water and Sewer District Lift Station Replacement

Dear Mr. Ncaise:

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has received your "Request for Environmental Assessment Statutory-Regulatory Compliance" determination request for the above referenced project in Hancock County. Enclosed is a copy of MDEQ's CERCLA/Uncontrolled Sites File List that identifies sites within Hancock County that have potential contamination issues related to them. There are, however, many abandoned sites around the State that we are not aware of. An environmental site assessment may be necessary to evaluate potential recognized environmental conditions within the proposed project. If recognized environmental conditions are encountered, please contact me at 601-961-5388.

You can obtain additional information by accessing the following web addresses:

<http://www.epa.gov/enviro> (RCRA report and others)

<http://opc.deq.state.ms.us/default.aspx>

<http://muster.deq.state.ms.us/webreportapplication/ustsearchwf.aspx>

This project may be eligible for environmental site assessment assistance from MDEQ through the Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) Program. (See attachment). Should you desire additional information on the application process for the TBA, please contact me at 601-961-5388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy McCain".

Andy McCain

Enclosures

OFFICE OF POLLUTION CONTROL

POST OFFICE BOX 2261 • JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39225-2261 • TEL: (601) 961-5171 • FAX: (601) 354-6612 • www.deq.state.ms.us

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



380	Bay Saint Louis HS Mercury	Bay St. Louis	Hancock	30	19	37	89	21	37
381	Blue Meadow Road - Former Boat Repair Yard	Bay St. Louis	Hancock	30	19	53	89	22	26
382	Brignac Property	Bay St. Louis	Hancock	30	17	54	89	20	7
383	CSX Railroad Property	Bay St. Louis	Hancock	30	18	27	89	20	11
384	Mississippi Army Ammunition Plant - Bay St. Louis	Bay St. Louis	Hancock						
385	Sheffield Park	Bay St. Louis	Hancock	30	19	9	89	20	29
386	Tennessee Gas Pipeline #530 (See also General Correspondance)	Bay St. Louis	Hancock	30	14	24	89	29	42
387	The Lane Agency	Bay St. Louis	Hancock	30	19	1	89	20	50
388	Thermal Associates Inc.	Bay St. Louis	Hancock	30	22	51	89	26	40
389	Hancock Co. Mercury Release	Kiln	Hancock	30	22	28	89	26	43
390	Sam Whitfield Tim Intr'l	Kiln	Hancock	30	23	30	89	25	12
391	Borg Warner Chemicals	Pearlilngton	Hancock	30	12	47	89	34	30
392	Bergeron Marine Site	Pearlington	Hancock	30	15	14	89	35	38
393	Blue Streak Industries Property	Pearlington	Hancock	30	14	23	89	33	55
394	Halter Marine Port Bienville - 13151 Road E	Pearlington	Hancock	30	14	44	89	33	22
395	McCarty Dean	Pearlington	Hancock	30	15	52	89	34	59
396	Hancock Co. Bombing & Gunnery Range	Picayune	Hancock						
397	Stennis Space Center NASA	Stennis Space Ce	Hancock	30	22	33	89	36	21
398	Gulf South Waveland Treatment Plant	Waveland	Hancock	30	21	51	89	28	56
399	Phillips Petroleum	Waveland	Hancock						
400	Water Well Waveland	Waveland	Hancock						
401	GSPC- Ladner #27-1W (00861)		Hancock	30	19	22	89	28	55
402	GSPC- Marshall R. Young (00736)		Hancock	30	20	16	89	26	24
403	GSPC- NASA (00835)		Hancock	30	25	5	89	36	11
404	GSPC- Sales Meter (00715)		Hancock	30	21	53	89	29	1
405	GSPC- Texas Crude Low (00848)		Hancock	30	21	52	89	28	56

Note: SNFA-State No Further Action
 FNFA-Federal No Further Action
 Archived-Archived from CERCLIS
 EPD-Environmental Permits Division
 UST-UST Branch
 SWB-Solid Waste Branch



**MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES**

January 22, 2013

Eric F. Necaise
Environmental Specialist
FTN Associates LTD
6508 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite B
Jackson, MS 39213

RE: DMR-130210

Dear Mr. Necaise:

The Department of Marine Resources in cooperation with other state agencies is responsible under the Mississippi Coastal Program (MCP) for managing the coastal resources of Mississippi. Proposed activities in the coastal area are reviewed to insure that the activities are in compliance with the MCP.

The Department has received a request to review a proposal for Diamonhead Water and Sewer District to construct a lift station adjacent to Apua Court in Diamonhead, Hancock County, Mississippi. The Department has no objections provided there are no direct or indirect impacts to coastal wetlands and no coastal program agency objects to the proposal. If wetland impacts are anticipated, an application should be submitted to this office for review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your project.

For more information, questions concerning this correspondence, or to obtain an application packet, contact Chris Pickering with the Bureau of Wetlands Permitting at (228) 523-4117 or chris.pickering@dmr.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willa J. Brantley", written over a horizontal line.

Willa J. Brantley
Bureau Director, Wetlands Permitting

WJB/csp

Eric Necaie

From: Willa Brantley [Willa.Brantley@dmr.ms.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 2:50 PM
To: Eric Necaie
Subject: RE: Jurisdictional Determination; Lift Station 13, Diamondhead Water and Sewer District, Diamondhead, Hancock County, MS (SAM-2013-00059-TMZ) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Thanks, Eric. No authorization will be needed from DMR either. I will add this to the file for our records.

Willa

Willa J. Brantley
Director, Bureau of Wetlands Permitting
MS Department of Marine Resources
1141 Bayview Ave., Biloxi, MS 39530
offc: 228-523-4108
fax: 228-374-5008

From: Eric Necaie [<mailto:efn@ftn-assoc.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 12:43 PM
To: Willa Brantley
Subject: FW: Jurisdictional Determination; Lift Station 13, Diamondhead Water and Sewer District, Diamondhead, Hancock County, MS (SAM-2013-00059-TMZ) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Willa,

Please find the message from Tad regarding the LS 13 project below. I have included your letter and the site plan.

As you can see there will be no impacts to the streams or wetlands within the site. If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at the number below.

Thanks,



Eric F. Necaie
Environmental Specialist
FTN Associates LTD
Mobile 228-493-9500
e-mail: efn@ftn-assoc.com
website: www.ftn-assoc.com

"We Know H₂O!"

From: Zebryk, Tad M SAM [<mailto:Tad.M.Zebryk@usace.army.mil>]

Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2013 11:41 AM

To: Eric Necaie

Subject: Jurisdictional Determination; Lift Station 13, Diamondhead Water and Sewer District, Diamondhead, Hancock County, MS (SAM-2013-00059-TMZ) (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Mr. Necaie:

We are in receipt of your request for a jurisdictional determination pertaining to the proposed site for Lift Station 13, to be located at the end of Apua Court, Diamondhead, Hancock County, Mississippi (USACE File Number SAM-2013-00059-TMZ). Your client is the Diamondhead Water and Sewer District.

Based on your delineation report dated January 9, 2013 and our site visit conducted on February 20, 2013, we concur with your conclusion that no wetlands subject to our jurisdiction occur at the proposed construction site for Lift Station 13; therefore, no Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water will be required to develop the proposed site. This determination is based on the methodology described in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement (Version 2.0) to the 1987 Manual. Please be aware that this determination does not obviate the need for your client to obtain any other necessary state, local and federal permits, and does not convey any property rights.

Thank you for cooperating with the Mobile District Regulatory program. If you have any questions regarding this determination, please call me at 251-694-3779.

Sincerely,

Tad M. Zebryk
USACE, Mobile District
Regulatory Division, Coastal Branch
251-694-3779

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

APPENDIX C
PUBLIC NOTICE

POST OFFICE BOX 2009
BAY SAINT LOUIS, MS 39521-2009

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HANCOCK COUNTY**

PERSONALLY appeared before me the undersigned authority in and for said County and State, JAMES R. PONDER, publisher of THE SEA COAST ECHO, a newspaper printed and published in the City of Bay Saint Louis, said County, who being duly sworn, deposes and says the publication of this notice hereunto annexed has been made in the said publication 2 weeks to-wit:

On the 13 day of April 2013
 On the 20 day of April 2013
 On the _____ day of _____ 2013
 On the _____ day of _____ 2013

James R. Ponder

Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me A NOTARY PUBLIC

Judith K. Linder

this April 22 2013

Notary Public State of Mississippi At Large
My Commission Expires: November 01, 2013

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for Lift Station 13 for Diamondhead Wastewater and Sewer District, Hancock County, Mississippi FEMA-1604-DR-MS

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist the Diamondhead Water and Sewer District (DWSD) in the relocation/replacement of Lift Station 13 (LS 13). The Lift Station is located within the city limits of Diamondhead, Mississippi. The exact location is at the north end of a cul-de-sac on Apua Court.

DWSD has 33 lift stations serving the Diamondhead wastewater collection system. Fifteen of these are being repaired or replaced with FEMA assistance. One of the remaining 18 stations, LS 13, is at the end of its useful life and requires replacement. This lift station receives flow from four other lift stations making it critical to provide dependable service. The LS 13 pumps and controls are difficult to keep in continuous service and are not reliable. Most of the collection system overflows and related problems experienced by the District occur at LS 13. Replacing LS 13 will result in a more dependable system and alleviate the unreliable conditions.

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

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of installing the new Lift Station and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a FONSI. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?jsessionid=F5EF952E76B82884EE735A38DC1EBF6B.WorkerPublic2?fromSearch=from-search&id=7246> or viewed and copied at the following locations:

- * Diamondhead Water and Sewer District's Office, 4425 Park Ten Drive, Diamondhead, MS 39525
- * Kiln Public Library, 17065 Highway 603, Kiln, MS 39556

The comment period will conclude 15 days after the initial notice publication date of April 13, 2013. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

Michael Grisham
FEMA Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA/State Transitional Recovery Officer
220 Poppas Ferry Road, Building A South
Biloxi, MS 39565
FAX - (228) 385-7884
04/13 04/22/13