
**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment
Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission
Administration Building
FEMA-1604-DR-MS**

In accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction of a new Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission (HCPHC) Administration Building within the limits of Stennis Airport Industrial Park north of Interstate Highway 10 (I-10) in the vicinity of the unincorporated community of Kiln.

The HCPHC offices are currently located at 706 Highway 90 in Waveland. That location is approximately 13 miles from Port Bienville and nine miles from Stennis International Airport, the principal facilities owned and operated by the HCPHC. It is also vulnerable to surging tidal waters driven by a major hurricane as proved by Katrina in 2005. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the HCPHC proposes to construct a new Administration Building that would include roughly 6,700 square feet of enclosed office, meeting, reception and miscellaneous space. There would also be a dozen paved parking spaces in front of the building and surface parking accommodations behind the building for another 40 vehicles.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with all requirements of NEPA, the *National Historic Preservation Act* (NHPA), Executive Order 11988 (“Floodplain Management”), Executive Order 11990 (“Protection of Wetlands”), and the implementing regulations of FEMA, for the purpose of assessing the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose of and need for the project, alternatives considered, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences of the project. It is available for review and comment and can be viewed on and/or downloaded from FEMA’s website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm>. Printed copies are also available for viewing or photocopying at the following locations:

- Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission
706 Highway 90
Waveland MS 39576
Monday thru Friday: 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

- Bay St. Louis Library
312 Highway 90
Bay St. Louis MS 39520
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The comment period will conclude 15 days after the initial publication of this Public Notice on *[Fill in date]*. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact listed

below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final. Substantive comments received will be addressed as appropriate in the Final EA/FONSI.

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