



FEMA

August 22, 2006

Johnny Gonzales
GOHSEP PAO
FEMA-1603-DR-LA
415 N. 15th Street
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

RE: Alternative Arrangements, Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the City of Gretna, Repair Water & Sewer Lines in Eleven Locations, City of Gretna, PW 13609, DR-1603, PA ID: 051-31915-00.

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Public Assistance project for the Repair of Water & Sewer Lines in Eleven Locations, (all locations listed in PW) 625 Monroe Street, Gretna Louisiana, Jefferson Parish, (29.91794N, 90.04577W), qualifies for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Alternative Arrangements for the Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area.

Under the regular Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) NEPA review this project would have qualified for CATEX Level Two (XV). However, due to the unprecedented number of grants requested that need to be processed in a short time, the potential cumulative effects, and potential environmentally-related socio-economic effects of FEMA's funding in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, FEMA has determined that this type of action may have significant impacts that cannot be reviewed under the normal EIS process. FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) have adopted the Alternative Arrangements to address the basic elements of NEPA under these circumstances. For more information visit www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/noma/index.shtm.

While the use of Alternative Arrangements meets NEPA compliance requirements, there are requirements of other Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) laws and executive orders that must be individually complied with. For the work described in this PW the following conditions relating to those requirements apply:

- Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project applicant shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies
- This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has determined that receipt of federal assistance is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resource Program. Projects within the coastal zone may still require a coastal use permit or other authorization from DNR. Projects may be coordinated by contacting Louisiana DNR at 1-800-267-4019.

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Please note that this transmittal is a notification that this project has been cleared under NEPA only. **This is not a notice of final approval or eligibility.** Any change beyond the approved scope of work for this project will require additional environmental review by FEMA.

Sincerely,



Howard R. Bush
Howard R. Bush, ELO
Environmental Liaison Officer
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Enclosures: PW 13609

Cc: Oliver Mack, FEMA DPAO for Grants