

Record of Environmental Consideration

REVISED FOR FEMA ENVIRONMENTAL -- LOUISIANA -- 2006

See 44 Code of Federal Regulation Part 10

Project Name/Number: Timbers Office Building II / PW#12450
FIPS#071-UFTI3-00

Project Location: 3500 General De Gaulle Drive, New Orleans, LA 70114
Latitude: 29.92586, Longitude: -90.03815

Project Description: Heavy rains and high winds from Hurricane Katrina (DR-1603) caused significant exterior and interior damage to Timbers Office Building II of the Orleans Parish School Board. This pw reimburses the eligible applicant repair/replacement of all electrical/mechanical systems and for the replacement of all doors, wallboard, decking, flooring, lighting, roofing/components, siding, ceiling tile, and lavatory components. Cleaning work is also associated with this pw. The new building material will be replaced according to codes and standards upgrades. All work will be performed in a previously disturbed area with no indication of nearby waterways or other bodies of water.

Documentation Requirements

- (Short version)** All consultation and agreements implemented to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, and Executive Orders 11988, 11990 and 12898 are completed and no other laws apply. **(Review Concluded)**
- (Long version)** All applicable laws and executive orders were reviewed. Additional information for compliance is attached to this REC and/or included in project files, as applicable.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Determination

- Statutorily excluded from NEPA review. **(Review Concluded)**
- Programmatic Categorical Exclusion - Category (Reference PCE in comments) **(Review Concluded)**
- Categorical Exclusion - Category
 - No Extraordinary Circumstances exist.
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Extraordinary Circumstances exist (See Section IV).
 - Extraordinary Circumstances mitigated. (See Section IV comments)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
- Environmental Assessment
- Supplemental Environmental Assessment (Reference EA or PEA in comments)
- Environmental Impact Statement

Comments: Although this project would have qualified as a catex (xv) under 44 CFR part 10.8 (d)(2), this project meets the definition of critical infrastructure (Government & Court Administration Buildings) under the alternative arrangements for NEPA compliance. This project has conditions and requires mitigation under the other Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) laws which are listed under the NEPA level of environmental review in the project worksheet. Any changes to this approved scope of work will require submission to, and evaluation and approval by, the state and FEMA prior to initiation of any work, for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The applicant is required to obtain and comply with all local, state and federal permits and requirements. Non-compliance with the requirements noted above may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

Reviewer and Approvals

- Project is Non-Compliant (See attached documentation justifying selection).

FEMA Environmental Reviewer:

Name: Adam Borden, FEMA- Environmental Specialist

Signature Adam Borden Date 9.1.06

FEMA Regional Environmental Officer or Delegated Approving Official:

Name: Howard R. Bush, Environmental Liason Officer

Signature HR Bush Date 9.1.06

I. Compliance Review for Environmental Laws (other than NEPA)

A. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)

- Not type of activity with potential to affect historic properties.
- Activity meets Programmatic Agreement, December 3, 2004. Appendix A:
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No
- Programmatic Agreement not applicable, must conduct standard Section 106 Review.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

- No historic properties that are listed or 45/50 years or older in project area. **(Review Concluded)**
- Building or structure listed or 45/50 years or older in project area and activity not exempt from review.
 - Determination of No Historic Properties Affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Determination of Historic Properties Affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
 - Property a National Historic Landmark and National Park Service was provided early notification during the consultation process. If not, explain in comments
 - No Adverse Effect Determination (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file).
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Adverse Effect Determination (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
 - Resolution of Adverse Effect completed. (MOA on file)
Are project conditions required Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Project affects only previously disturbed ground. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project affects undisturbed ground.
 - Project area has no potential for presence of archeological resources
 - Determination of no historic properties affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence or consultation on file). **(Review Concluded)**
 - Project area has potential for presence of archeological resources
 - Determination of no historic properties affected (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
Are project conditions required Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Determination of historic properties affected
 - NR eligible resources not present (FEMA finding/SHPO/THPO concurrence on file).
Are project conditions required Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - NR eligible resources present in project area. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
 - No Adverse Effect Determination. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Adverse Effect Determination. (FEMA finding/ SHPO/THPO concurrence on file)
 - Resolution of Adverse Effect completed. (MOA on file)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: Per Valerie Gomez, Historic Preservation Specialist, this facility was built in 1982.
Correspondence/Consultation/References:

B. Endangered Species Act

- No listed species and/or designated critical habitat present in areas affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action. **(Review Concluded)**
- Listed species and/or designated critical habitat present in the areas affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action.
- No effect to species or designated critical habitat. (See comments for justification)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - May affect, but not likely to adversely affect species or designated critical habitat (FEMA determination/USFWS/NMFS concurrence on file) **(Review Concluded)**
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Likely to adversely affect species or designated critical habitat
 - Formal consultation concluded. (Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion on file)
Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: Project is located in an urban or previously developed area. Neither listed species nor their habitat occur in or near this site, thus FEMA finds there will be no effect to threatened or endangered species.
Correspondence/Consultation/References: USFWS emergency consultation provisions determined in letters dated September 15, 2005 for Katrina.

C. Coastal Barrier Resources Act

- Project is not on or connected to CBRA Unit or Otherwise Protected Area **(Review Concluded)**.
- Project is on or connected to CBRA Unit or Otherwise Protected Area. (FEMA determination/USFWS consultation on file)
- Proposed action an exception under Section 3505.a.6 **(Review Concluded)**
 - Proposed action not excepted under Section 3505.a.6.
Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: Project is not within a CBRA zone.
Correspondence/Consultation/References: Louisiana Coastal Barrier Resource System Maps referenced 09/1/06.

D. Clean Water Act

- Project would not affect any waters of the U.S. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project would affect waters, including wetlands, of the U.S.
- Project exempted as in kind replacement or other exemption. **(Review Concluded)**
 - Project requires Section 404/401/or Section 9/10 (Rivers and Harbors Act) permit, including qualification under Nationwide Permits.
Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: No jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including wetlands, occur in or near the project area.
Correspondence/Consultation/References: USFWS National Wetlands Inventory map (<http://www.fws.gov/nwi/>) queried on 09/1/06.

E. Coastal Zone Management Act

- Project is not located in a coastal zone area and does not affect a coastal zone area **(Review concluded)**
- Project is located in a coastal zone area and/or affects the coastal zone
- State administering agency does not require consistency review. **(Review Concluded)**
 - State administering agency requires consistency review.
Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. LA 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 LA DNR at 1-800-276-4019.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: LDNR Louisiana Coastal Zone map 2002.

F. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

- Project does not affect, control, or modify a waterway/body of water. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project affects controls or modifies a waterway/body of water.
 - Coordination with USFWS conducted
 - No Recommendations offered by USFWS. **(Review Concluded)**
 - Recommendations provided by USFWS.
 - Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: No streams or water bodies are located in or near the project area.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: Louisiana Map (<http://www.lamap.doa.louisiana.gov/>) queried 09/1/06.

G. Clean Air Act

- Project will not result in permanent air emissions. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project is located in an attainment area. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project is located in a non-attainment area.
 - Coordination required with applicable state administering agency.
 - Are project conditions required? YES (see section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: This project involves the demolition or renovation of a public structure. Regardless of the asbestos content, the applicant is responsible for ensuring that renovation or demolition activities are coordinated with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) in accordance with the LDEQ "Sixth Amended Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order" dated March 31, 2006, and the LESHAP protocol dated March 1, 2006, incorporating the provisions of EPA's National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 33.III.5151 and Chapter 27. Should Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) be present at the project site, the applicant is also responsible for ensuring proper disposal in accordance with the previously referenced administrative orders.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: EPA Region 6 Non-attainment Map.

H. Farmland Protection Policy Act

- Project does not affect designated prime or unique farmland. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project causes unnecessary or irreversible conversion of designated prime or unique farmland.
 - Coordination with Natural Resource Conservation Commission required.
 - Farmland Conversion Impact Rating, Form AD-1006, completed.
 - Are project conditions required? YES (see section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: The project site is in a developed urbanized area and Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is precluded. No prime or unique farmland present.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: National Resource Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>) referenced 09/1/06.

I. Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- Project not located within a flyway zone. **(Review Concluded)**
- Project located within a flyway zone.
 - Project does not have potential to take migratory birds. **(Review Concluded)**
 - Are project conditions required? Yes (see section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Project has potential to take migratory birds.
 - Contact made with USFWS
 - Are project conditions required? YES (see section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: The site is an existing disturbed area with little value to migratory birds and would not be included in the USFWS migratory bird management program.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: USFWS guidance letter dated September 15, 2005 for Katrina

J. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

- Project not located in or near Essential Fish Habitat. (**Review Concluded**)
- Project located in or near Essential Fish Habitat.
- Project does not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. (**Review Concluded**)
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No (**Review Concluded**)
 - Project adversely affects Essential Fish Habitat (FEMA determination/USFWS/NMFS concurrence on file)
 - NOAA Fisheries provided no recommendation(s) (**Review Concluded**).
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No (**Review Concluded**)
 - NOAA Fisheries provided recommendation(s)
 - Written reply to NOAA Fisheries recommendations completed.
Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO (**Review Concluded**)

Comments: Project is not located in or near any surface waters with the potential to affect EFH species.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: Louisiana Map (<http://www.lamap.doa.louisiana.gov/>) referenced 09/1/06.

K. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

- Project is not along and does not affect Wild or Scenic River (WSR) - (**Review Concluded**)
- Project is along or affects WSR
- Project adversely affects WSR as determined by NPS/USFS. **FEMA cannot fund the action.** (NPS/USFS/USFWS/BLM consultation on file) (**Review Concluded**)
 - Project does not adversely affect WSR. (NPS/USFS/USFWS/BLM consultation on file)
Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO (**Review Concluded**)

Comments: None

Correspondence/Consultation/References: National Wild and Scenic Rivers <http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wildriverslist.html>. referenced 09/1/06 .

L. Other Relevant Laws and Environmental Regulations

State Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste Laws

Comments: - In accordance with the Formosan Termite Initiative Act, (LA R.S. 3:3391.1 thru 3391.13) the Louisiana parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington are under quarantine. The movement of wood or cellulose material, temporary housing or architectural components (e.g. beams, doors and other wood salvaged from a structure) may not leave the quarantined parishes without written authorization from the commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and forestry or his designee(s).

- Removal and disposal of debris containing household hazardous waste and certain categories of liquid wastes must be performed in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, executive orders and guidelines. LAC title 33 part VII requires that specified items, including lead acid batteries, used oil filters, used motor oil, scrap tires, cfc's (refrigerants), radioactive waste or regulated infectious wastes must be segregated from and excluded from non-hazardous debris collection, staging, processing and disposal sites. Failure to comply with applicable legal requirements in debris collection and/or disposal operations will jeopardize federal funding. The clean-up or restoration/repair of sites damaged as a result of such operations are ineligible for federal funding. Previously obligated funding is subject to de-obligation if a determination of ineligibility is made.

-Mercury containing devices - this project potentially involves the disposal of metallic mercury containing electronic devices. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that these devices are recovered, recycled, reused or sequestered in accordance with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) "Declaration of Emergency; Mercury-Containing Devices and Electronic Equipment as Universal Waste" letter dated October 3, 2005.

II. Compliance Review for Executive Orders

A. E.O. 11988 - Floodplains

- No Effect on Floodplains/Flood levels and project outside Floodplain - **(Review Concluded)**
- Located in Floodplain or Effects on Floodplains/Flood levels
- No adverse effect on floodplain and not adversely affected by the floodplain. **(Review Concluded)**
Are project conditions required? Yes (see Section V) No **(Review Concluded)**
 - Beneficial Effect on Floodplain Occupancy/Values **(Review Concluded)**.
 - Possible adverse effects associated with investment in floodplain, occupancy or modification of floodplain environment
 - 8 Step Process Complete - documentation on file
Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: The site is located in Zone A2.

<http://store.msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/FemaWelcomeView?storeId=10001&catalogId=10001&langId=-1>,

The city of New Orleans/Orleans Parish is enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), as of 08/03/1970. Per Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel number 2252030180E dated 03/01/1984, project is located within an "A2" zone, area of 100-yr flooding, base flood elevations and flood hazard factors as determined. Project is repair of building, including mechanical and electrical components. In compliance with e0 11988, a completed 8-step process showing considered alternatives is attached. Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment, where possible, disaster proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses by relocation of those building contents, materials and equipment to or above the advisory base floodplain elevation. Per 44 CFR 9.12, applicant must publish a final public notice 15 days prior to the start of construction activities. Final public notice is to be forwarded to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files. K. Roof, Floodplain Management Specialist

Correspondence/Consultation/References: FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Panel No. # 2252030180E dated 03/01/1984

B. E.O. 11990 - Wetlands

- No Effects on Wetland(s) and project located outside Wetland(s) - **(Review Concluded)**
- Located in Wetland or effects Wetland(s)
- Beneficial Effect on Wetland - **(Review Concluded)**
 - Possible adverse effect associated with constructing in or near wetland
 - Review completed as part of floodplain review
 - 8 Step Process Complete - documentation on file
- Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments: No wetlands were observed during site visit or determined to be present by checking the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: USFWS NWI map accessed on-line (<http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/wtlnds/launch.html>) 09/1/06.

C. E.O. 12898 - Environmental Justice for Low Income and Minority Populations

- No Low income or minority population in, near or affected by the project - **(Review Concluded)**
- Low income or minority population in or near project area
- No disproportionately high and adverse impact on low income or minority population- **(Review Concluded)**
 - Disproportionately high or adverse effects on low income or minority population
- Are project conditions required? YES (see Section V) NO **(Review Concluded)**

Comments The percent populations of 70114 are: 73.6% Black, 21.8% White, and 4.3% Hispanic. The median household income in 1999 was \$ 23,379 and 30.3% of families are below poverty level.

Correspondence/Consultation/References: U.S. Census bureau 2000 data at <http://factfinder.census.gov>, referenced 09/1/06.

III. Other Environmental Issues

Identify other potential environmental concerns in the comment box not clearly falling under a law or executive order (see environmental concerns scoping checklist for guidance).

State Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste Laws

Comments: - In accordance with the Formosan Termite Initiative Act, (LA R.S. 3:3391.1 thru 3391.13) the Louisiana parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington are under quarantine. The movement of wood or cellulose material, temporary housing or architectural components (e.g. beams, doors and other wood salvaged from a structure) may not leave the quarantined parishes without written authorization from the commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and forestry or his designee(s).

-Removal and disposal of debris containing household hazardous waste and certain categories of liquid wastes must be performed in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, executive orders and guidelines. LAC title 33 part VII requires that specified items, including lead acid batteries, used oil filters, used motor oil, scrap tires, cfc's (refrigerants), radioactive waste or regulated infectious wastes must be segregated from and excluded from non-hazardous debris collection, staging, processing and disposal sites. Failure to comply with applicable legal requirements in debris collection and/or disposal operations will jeopardize federal funding. The clean-up or restoration/repair of sites damaged as a result of such operations are ineligible for federal funding. Previously obligated funding is subject to de-obligation if a determination of ineligibility is made.

-Mercury containing devices - this project potentially involves the disposal of metallic mercury containing electronic devices. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that these devices are recovered, recycled, reused or sequestered in accordance with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) "Declaration of Emergency; Mercury-Containing Devices and Electronic Equipment as Universal Waste" letter dated October 3, 2005.

Correspondence/Consultation/Reference:

IV. Extraordinary Circumstances

Based on the review of compliance with other environmental laws and Executive Orders, and in consideration of other environmental factors, review the project for extraordinary circumstances.

* A "Yes" under any circumstance may require an Environmental Assessment (EA) with the exception of (ii) which should be applied in conjunction with controversy on an environmental issue. If the circumstance can be mitigated, please explain in comments. If no, leave blank.

Yes

- (i) Greater scope or size than normally experienced for a particular category of action
- (ii) Actions with a high level of public controversy
- (iii) Potential for degradation, even though slight, of already existing poor environmental conditions;
- (iv) Employment of unproven technology with potential adverse effects or actions involving unique or unknown environmental risks;
- (v) Presence of endangered or threatened species or their critical habitat, or archaeological, cultural, historical or other protected resources;
- (vi) Presence of hazardous or toxic substances at levels which exceed Federal, state or local regulations or standards requiring action or attention;
- (vii) Actions with the potential to affect special status areas adversely or other critical resources such as wetlands, coastal zones, wildlife refuge and wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers;
- (viii) Potential for adverse effects on health or safety; and
- (ix) Potential to violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.
- (x) Potential for significant cumulative impact when the proposed action is combined with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, even though the impacts of the proposed action may not be significant by themselves.

Comments: None

V. Environmental Review Project Conditions

Project Conditions:

The following conditions apply as a condition of FEMA funding reimbursement:

- This project involves the demolition or renovation of a public structure. Regardless of the asbestos content, the applicant is responsible for ensuring that renovation or demolition activities are coordinated with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) in accordance with the LDEQ "Fifth Amended Declaration of Emergency and Administrative Order" dated March 31, 2006, and the LESHAP protocol dated March 1, 2006, incorporating the provisions of EPA's National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and the Louisiana Administrative Code (LAC) 33.III.5151 and Chapter 27. Should Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) be present at the project site, the applicant is also responsible for ensuring proper disposal in accordance with the previously referenced administrative orders.
- In accordance with the Formosan Termite Initiative Act, (LA R.S. 3:3391.1 thru 3391.13) the Louisiana parishes of Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington are under quarantine. The movement of wood or cellulose material, temporary housing or architectural components (e.g. beams, doors and other wood salvaged from a structure) may not leave the quarantined parishes without written authorization from the commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and forestry or his designee(s).
- Removal and disposal of debris containing household hazardous waste and certain categories of liquid wastes must be performed in accordance with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, executive orders and guidelines. LAC title 33 part VII requires that specified items, including lead acid batteries, used oil filters, used motor oil, scrap tires, cfc's (refrigerants), radioactive waste or regulated infectious wastes must be segregated from and excluded from non-hazardous debris collection, staging, processing and disposal sites. Failure to comply with applicable legal requirements in debris collection and/or disposal operations will jeopardize federal funding. The clean-up or restoration/repair of sites damaged as a result of such operations are ineligible for federal funding. Previously obligated funding is subject to de-obligation if a determination of ineligibility is made.
- Mercury containing devices - this project potentially involves the disposal of metallic mercury containing electronic devices. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that these devices are recovered, recycled, reused or sequestered in accordance with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) "Declaration of Emergency; Mercury-Containing Devices and Electronic Equipment as Universal Waste" letter dated October 3, 2005.
- Per 44 CFR 9.11(d)(9), the replacement of building contents, materials and equipment, where possible, disaster proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses by relocation of those building contents, materials and equipment to or above the advisory base floodplain elevation. Per 44 CFR 9.12, applicant must publish a final public notice 15 days prior to the start of construction activities. Final public notice is to be forwarded to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.