



FEMA

January 22, 2007

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

RE: Categorical Exclusion, Repair and improvements to the Science Building at Port Sulphur High School, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, PW#: 9157 Version 1, DR-1603-LA, PA ID: 075-U5R52-00

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Public Assistance project for the science building (EJE0154) at Port Sulphur High School, 164 School Road, Port Sulphur, Louisiana, Plaquemines Parish, 70083, (29.47767N, 89.69487W), has been cleared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Code of Federal Regulations, 44 CFR Part 10, requires that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) take into account environmental considerations when authorizing or approving major actions. This project has been determined to be categorically excluded in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8(d)(2)(xv), from the need to prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment. No extraordinary circumstances in accordance with 44 CFR 10.8(d)(3) have been identified regarding this action. The Categorical Exclusion is attached. Particular attention should be given to the general comments and conditions before and during project implementation. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal assistance including funding.

The following conditions apply to this project:

- Replacement/new construction must coordinate and comply with local floodplain ordinances, and be built to current codes and standards. Elevation information, signed and sealed by a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect must be obtained and filed for verification of compliance. Applicant is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. Applicant is responsible for obtaining and retaining all permits and certificates for verification. All coordination pertaining to these permit(s), should be documented to the local floodplain administrator and copies provided to the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LA GOHSEP) and FEMA as part of the permanent project files. In compliance with E.O.11988, an 8-step process, showing considered alternatives, was completed and is attached. The second 8-step was used because Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFE) maps precede the flood recovery guidance letter used in the first 8-step. Replacement of the building must be elevated to or above the ABFE. Per ABFE maps, all equipment and contents should be elevated at least 3 ft. above the highest existing adjacent grade. 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.
- If required by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the applicant shall require its contractor to prepare, certify, and implement a construction storm water pollution

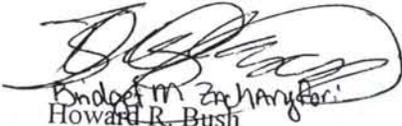
prevention plan to prevent sediment and construction material transport from the sites (regulated under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, section 402 of the Clean Water Act). All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.

- Demolition must follow the Lower Impact Demolition Stipulations & additional protocols which are attached. The stipulations and protocols should be explicit in the demolition contract.
- If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their public assistance (pa) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA historic preservation staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA historic preservation staff has completed consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). In addition, if unmarked graves are present, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Unmarked Burial Sites Board (call the Louisiana Division of Archeology at 225-342-8170) within seventy-two hours of the discovery. If this scope of work and/or the footprint/location of the new building changes, this project will need to be resubmitted for further section 106 review prior to ground disturbing activities taking place outside of the pre-disaster footprint of the building.
- The project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) 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 LDNR. Projects may be coordinated by contacting LDNR at 1-800-276-4019.
- The proposed project includes activities that would produce a minor, temporary, and localized impact on air quality from vehicle emissions and fugitive dust particles. No long-term air quality impact is anticipated. To reduce potential short term effects to air quality from construction related activities, the contractor will be responsible for keeping all excavated areas periodically sprayed with water (when dry), all construction vehicles should be limited to 15 mph in the work area, and all equipment maintained in good working order to minimize pollution/fugitive dust.
- 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).
- 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 (such as asbestos and lead based paint) and/or toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.

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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 approval scope of work for this project will require additional environmental review by FEMA.

Sincerely,


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

Enclosures: Project Worksheet 9157 Version 1

Cc: Oliver Mack, FEMA DPAO for Grants