



**FEMA**

July 18, 2006

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

RE: Alternative Arrangements, Reconstruction of Critical Infrastructure in the New Orleans Metropolitan Area, Main Office Building And Parking Structure, Slidell Memorial Hospital, PW#: 9150, DR-1603-LA, PA ID: 103-U857Y-00

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that the Public Assistance project for Main Office Building And Parking Structure, Slidell Memorial Hospital 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 documentation Level II Categorical Exclusion. 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](http://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:

- Applicant should handle, manage, and dispose of potentially hazardous waste, biomedical waste, radioactive waste, universal waste, and hazardous materials in accordance with the requirements of local, state, and federal regulations. These materials may include but are not limited to asbestos, lead-based paint, laboratory reagents, propane cylinders, paints and solvents, coolants containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), used oil, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), other petroleum products, used oil filters, fuel filters, cleaning chemicals, pesticides, batteries, and unlabeled tanks and containers. Equipment that may include these materials are ice machines, refrigerators, generators, computers, televisions, mercury switches, fluorescent lights, fluorescent light ballasts, sandblast units, paint sprayers, etc.
- 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.
- This project is located within the Louisiana Coastal Management Zone. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LA 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 1-800-267-4019.

- 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 projects 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 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 2005., 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 order.
- 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).

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,

  
Wm. FAGAN FOR:  
Donald R. Fairley, REM  
Environmental Liaison Officer  
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Enclosures: P.W. 9150

Cc: Oliver Mack, FEMA DPAO for Grants