

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR  
THE NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RELOCATION OF THE LOUISIANA  
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN,  
ST. GABRIEL, LOUISIANA**

**Background:** President Barack Obama declared a major disaster for the state of Louisiana (FEMA-4277-DR-LA) on August 14, 2016, authorizing the United States (U.S.) Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. This assistance is pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), Public Law (P.L.) 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to assist with funding the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of public facilities damaged as a result of the declared disaster.

The State of Louisiana Division of Administration (sub-recipient), through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (recipient) applied for funding under FEMA's PA Program to restore the function of the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW). The LCIW sustained severe damages during the presidentially declared flooding disaster (DR-4277) of 2016. The damages sustained are eligible for FEMA funding through the PA program. The sub-recipient proposes to demolish the existing LCIW facility and relocate and construct a new facility at a nearby location.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed new LCIW facility would be constructed in an existing cattle pasture in Iberville Parish, Louisiana. The approximate GPS coordinates from center of the proposed LCIW facility are N: 30.263625, W: -91.093515. The proposed new LCIW facility would be constructed on a 54-acre tract located adjacent to the western boundary of the Elayn Hunt Correctional (also known as Hunt Correctional) facility. The proposed facility would be approximately 248,000 square feet (sq ft) and is being designed as a shelter-in-place holding facility to detain 938 adjudicated female offenders. Principle functions at the facility could be of Administration / Intake, Visitation, Medical / Observation, Education / Vocational-Technical Training, Housing, Kitchen / Dining, Gymnasium / Assembly, Warehousing and Maintenance.

Sitework will consist of utilities infrastructure, security fencing, lighting, surveillance, and drives and parking to accommodate approximately 290 administration / visitor vehicles and 40 fleet vehicles. Building construction will consist of pile-supported concrete slab on grade, steel structure, tilt-up pre-cast veneer panels, a combination of non-load-bearing masonry and light-gage metal-framed partitions, single-ply low-slope roofing, and associated mechanical and electrical inclusive of emergency standby electrical. It is assumed that the new facility will be located on only approximately 34 acres of the 54-acre parcel.

Demolition and removal of the existing facility is also part of the Proposed Action. Although it is not known at this time when the old facility will be demolished, that action is incorporated into the EA. The old facility in its entirety would be removed from its current location, and this area will be repurposed for agricultural or other land uses.

The existing adjacent Hunt Correctional facility is located at 6925 LA 74, St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish, Louisiana 70776.

**FINDINGS:** FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts on water resources (surface water, groundwater, and wetlands), floodplains, coastal resources, air quality, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, federally listed threatened or endangered species, and Critical Habitats), cultural resources, socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations), safety, noise, and hazardous materials. The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other Federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. During the construction period, short-term impacts on water quality, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts on the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

**CONDITIONS:** The following conditions and best management practices must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions and best management practices may jeopardize federal funds:

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:** Best Management Practices were identified for each resource category that could be potentially affected. The BMPs to be implemented are found below and in Section 4.0 of the EA.

## **GENERAL PROJECT PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Avoid contamination of ground and surface waters by storing concrete wash water, and any water that has been contaminated with construction materials, oils, equipment residue, etc., in closed containers on-site until removed for disposal. This wash water is toxic to wildlife. Storage tanks must have proper air space (to avoid rainfall-induced overtopping), be on-ground containers, and be located in upland areas instead of washes.
2. Avoid lighting impacts during the night by conducting construction and maintenance activities during daylight hours only. If night lighting is unavoidable, 1) use bulbs designed to ensure no increase in ambient light conditions, 2) minimize the number of lights used, 3) place lights on poles pointed down toward the ground, with shields on lights to prevent light from going up into the sky, or out laterally into landscape, and 4) selectively place lights so they are directed away from all native vegetative communities.
3. Avoid the spread of non-native plants by not using natural materials (e.g., straw) for on-site erosion control. If natural materials must be used, the natural material would be certified weed and weed-seed free. Herbicides not toxic to listed species that may be in the area can be used for non-native vegetation control. Application of herbicides will follow federal guidelines and can be used in accordance with label directions.
4. Place drip pans under parked equipment and establish containment zones when refueling vehicles or equipment.

## **SOILS**

1. Clearly demarcate the perimeter of all new areas to be disturbed using flagging or temporary construction fencing. Do not allow any disturbance outside that perimeter.
2. The area of disturbance will be minimized by limiting deliveries of materials and equipment to only those needed for effective project implementation.
3. Within the designated disturbance area, grading or topsoil removal will be limited to areas where this activity is needed to provide the ground conditions necessary for construction or maintenance activities.
4. Rehabilitation will include revegetating or the distribution of organic and geological materials (i.e., boulders and rocks) over the disturbed area to reduce erosion while allowing the area to naturally vegetate.

## **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

1. Materials used for on-site erosion control will be free of non-native plant seeds and other plant parts to limit potential for infestation.
2. Identify by its source location any fill material, sandbags, hay bales, and mulch brought in from outside the project area. These materials will be free of non-native plant seeds and other plant parts to limit potential for infestation.
3. Native seeds or plants will be used to revegetate temporarily disturbed areas.
4. Obtain materials such as gravel, topsoil, or fill from existing developed or previously used sources that are compatible with the project area and are from legally permitted sites. Do not use materials from undisturbed areas adjacent to the project area.

## **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

1. If any human remains are accidentally encountered during construction, work shall cease with the human remains left undisturbed, and the state police will be notified immediately.

## **AIR QUALITY**

1. Soil watering will be utilized to minimize airborne particulate matter created during construction activities. Bare ground may be covered with hay or straw to lessen wind erosion during the time between construction and the revegetation of temporary impact areas with a mixture of native plant seeds or nursery plantings (or both). All construction equipment and vehicles will be kept in good operating condition to minimize exhaust emissions.

## **WATER RESOURCES**

1. Wastewater is to be stored in closed containers on-site until removed for disposal. Wastewater is water used for project purposes that is contaminated with construction materials or from cleaning equipment and thus carries oils or other toxic materials or other contaminants as defined by Federal or state regulations.
2. Avoid contamination of ground and surface waters by collecting concrete wash water in open containers and disposing of it off-site.
3. Avoid contaminating natural aquatic and wetland systems with runoff by limiting all equipment maintenance, staging, and laydown and dispensing hazardous liquids, such as fuel and oil, to designated upland areas.
4. Cease work during heavy rains and do not resume work until conditions are suitable for the movement of equipment and materials.
5. Erosion control measures and appropriate BMPs, as required and promulgated through a site-specific SWPPP and engineering designs, will be implemented before, during, and after soil-disturbing activities.
6. Areas with highly erodible soils will be given special consideration when preparing the SWPPP to ensure incorporation of various erosion control techniques, such as straw bales, silt fencing, aggregate materials, wetting compounds, and rehabilitation, where possible, to decrease erosion.
7. Wastewater from pressure washing must be collected. A ground pit or sump can be used to collect the wastewater. Wastewater from pressure washing must not be discharged into any surface water.
8. If soaps or detergents are used, the wastewater and solids must be pumped or cleaned out and disposed of in an approved facility. If no soaps or detergents are used, the wastewater must first be filtered or screened to remove solids before being allowed to flow off-site. Detergents and cleaning solutions must not be sprayed over or discharged into surface waters.

## **NOISE**

1. Avoid noise impacts during the night by conducting construction and maintenance activities during daylight hours only.
2. All Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements will be followed. To lessen noise impacts on the local wildlife communities, construction will only occur during daylight hours. All motor vehicles will be properly maintained to reduce the potential for vehicle-related noise.

## **SOLID AND HAZARDOUS WASTES**

1. BMPs will be implemented as standard operating procedures during all construction activities, and will include proper handling, storage, and/or disposal of hazardous and/or regulated materials. To minimize potential impacts from hazardous and regulated materials, all fuels, waste oils, and solvents will be collected and stored in tanks or drums within a secondary containment system that consists of an impervious floor and bermed sidewalls capable of containing the volume of the largest container stored therein. The refueling of machinery will be completed in accordance with accepted industry and regulatory guidelines, and all vehicles will have drip pans during storage to contain minor spills and drips. Although it is unlikely that a major spill would occur, any spill of reportable quantities will be contained immediately within an earthen dike, and the application of an absorbent (e.g., granular, pillow, sock) will be used to absorb and contain the spill.
2. All waste oil and solvents will be recycled. All non-recyclable hazardous and regulated wastes will be collected, characterized, labeled, stored, transported, and disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations, including proper waste manifesting procedures.
3. Solid waste receptacles will be maintained at the project site. Non-hazardous solid waste (trash and waste construction materials) will be collected and deposited in on-site receptacles. Solid waste will be collected and disposed of by a local waste disposal contractor.
4. Disposal of used batteries or other small quantities of hazardous waste will be handled, managed, maintained, stored, and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal and state rules and regulations for the management, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, hazardous waste, and universal waste. Additionally, to the extent practicable, all batteries will be recycled locally.
5. All rainwater collected in secondary containment will be pumped out, and secondary containment will have netting to minimize exposure to wildlife.
6. A properly licensed and certified hazardous waste disposal contractor will be used for hazardous waste disposal, and manifests will be traced to final destinations to ensure proper disposal is accomplished.

## **ROADWAYS AND TRAFFIC**

1. Construction vehicles will travel and equipment will be transported on established roads with proper flagging and safety precautions.

**CONCLUSION:**

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other Federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse impacts on the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the Proposed Action as described in the EA may proceed.

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Traci Brasher Date  
Division Director of Recovery  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

**KEVIN R JAYNES** Digitally signed by KEVIN R JAYNES  
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Kevin Jaynes Date  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Federal Emergency Management Agency