



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
504-862-2201

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

For Immediate Release

Contact: Wade Habshey, 504-862-2787

April 2, 2008

Corps releases draft of Individual Environmental Report 22

Document discusses five sites in Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes

NEW ORLEANS - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District released Individual Environmental Report (IER) 22, titled "Government Furnished Borrow Material #2, Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes," today for a 30-day public review period. Comments regarding IER 22 must be submitted to the Corps by 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

"IER 22 investigates a total of five potential government furnished borrow areas on the Jefferson Parish Westbank, and in Plaquemines Parish," said Gib Owen, chief of the Corps' Ecological Planning and Restoration Section. "The proposed areas in this document could potentially provide about six percent of the total borrow material needed to construct the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System."

The proposed borrow areas evaluated in IER 22 may generate approximately 6,000,000 cubic yards of suitable borrow material. The proposed areas are:

- Westbank F, located in Jefferson Parish
- Westbank I, located in Jefferson Parish
- Westbank N, located in Jefferson Parish
- Brad Buras, located in Plaquemines Parish
- Tabony, located in Plaquemines Parish

To be approved as a Government Furnished borrow area, a landowner must sign a right-of-entry (ROE) form allowing the Corps to access his or her property to conduct soil testing, environmental testing, and other site analyses. The Corps may also secure access to investigate potential borrow areas through a non-federal partner.

After the Decision Record for IER 22 is signed by New Orleans District Commander, Col. Alvin Lee, and if the land and soil are deemed suitable, the necessary rights will be secured, by the Corps or the non-federal partner as

applicable, to allow the Corps to begin excavating suitable borrow material from the property.

Initial investigations of the five potential borrow areas evaluated in IER 22 show that all or portions of the areas may be excavated to obtain suitable borrow material for construction of the HSDRRS. Potential borrow areas identified in IER 22 are currently under geotechnical investigation, and could be rejected because of the presence of unsuitable soils.

The Corps needs more than 100 million cubic yards of suitable borrow material to complete 350 miles of earthen levees and floodwalls throughout five parishes in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

The Corps mailed notices that IER 22 was available for review to parties who previously indicated their interest in reviewing the document. IER 22 can be downloaded at www.nolaenvironmental.gov, or a physical copy can be sent upon request.

Alternative arrangements allow the Corps to expedite the environmental process required of all federally funded projects while fully complying with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Corps encourages the public to provide written comments on IER 22 by mail, e-mail or by visiting www.nolaenvironmental.gov at any time throughout the comment period.

Questions or comments concerning proposed hurricane and storm damage risk reduction projects should be addressed to:

Gib Owen, PM-RS
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
Phone: 504-862-1337
Fax: 504-862-2088
E-mail: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil.

For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list, please visit the following Web site: www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

###