



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

News Release

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Corps releases addendums on government and contractor furnished borrow material Individual Environmental Reports

NEW ORLEANS - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District released addendums to Individual Environmental Report (IER) 18, titled Government Furnished Borrow Material, and IER 19, titled Pre-Approved Contractor Furnished Borrow Material, for a 30-day public comment period today. Public comments on the addendums are due to the Corps by 5 p.m., Feb. 11, 2008.

Today the Corps mailed printed copies of the addendums to parties who previously indicated their interest in reviewing the documents. The addendums are also available online at www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

“The addendums address public feedback received during the initial release of Individual Environmental Reports 18 and 19,” said Gib Owen, chief of the Corps’ Ecological Planning and Restoration Section. “IERs 18 and 19 were the first documents to go out for public review as part of the Corps’ alternative arrangements made under the National Environmental Policy Act.”

IERs 18 and 19 discuss earthen clay, also called borrow material, which will be used to rebuild and complete construction of the Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction System in the New Orleans metropolitan area. The Corps needs more than 100 million cubic yards of borrow to complete 350 miles of earthen levees and floodwalls throughout six parishes.

The public comment period for IER 18 was Oct. 28 – Dec. 4, 2007 and IER 19’s public comment period was Nov. 2 – Dec. 7, 2007; however, the Corps continued to accept comments related to IERs 18 and 19 until a Dec. 10 public meeting held onsite at the Corps’ office.

Minor modifications to IERs 18 and 19 coincide with release of the addendums and are posted on www.nolaenvironmental.gov. Changes include:

- Description of the role additional IERs play in the alternative arrangement NEPA process
- Clarification on how the Corps will proceed with locating and investigating potential borrow source sites
- Information regarding selection of potential borrow source sites as it relates to wetlands, threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, etc.
- Explanation of borrow material specifications
- Acknowledgement that there is a data gap as it relates to the discussion of possibly backfilling borrow areas after excavation. Information will be discussed in future IERs once it becomes available.
- Acknowledgement that there is a data gap as it relates to transportation of borrow material to construction sites. Information will be discussed in future IERs once it becomes available.

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 addendums to IERs 18 and 19 by mail, e-mail or by visiting www.nolaenvironmental.gov at any time throughout the environmental analysis period.

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

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

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