

**COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
DOCUMENT, PHASE II, HURRICANE STORM
DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION SYSTEM**

APPENDIX B

ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

EMERGENCY ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

PREPARED BY:

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division
New Orleans District
New Orleans, Louisiana

Revision Date: February 23, 2007



Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Request for Emergency Alternative Arrangements under the National Environmental Policy Act, 40 CFR 1506.11

Nature and Scope of the Emergency:

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina caused major damage to the Federal and non-Federal flood control and hurricane storm damage reduction systems in Southeast Louisiana. This storm was followed by Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005 which made landfall on the Louisiana, Texas state border, causing damage to hurricane storm damage reduction systems in southern Louisiana. Since the storms, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been working with state and local officials to restore the Federal and non-Federal flood control and hurricane and storm damage reduction projects and related works in the affected area. These efforts have been conducted mainly under the authority provided by Public Law 84-99 and, more recently, under the authority of Public Law 109-148, Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (3rd Supplemental) and Public Law 109-234, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (4th Supplemental) (project maps Appendix A). To date approximately one-third of the New Orleans population has returned to the area. Many residences and business are waiting to see positive improvements in the level of protection before returning to the area. A USACE goal of 2010 has been set for completion of much of the work that will raise the level of protection in the New Orleans area to a new standard and provide a level of security to residents and businesses that will allow and encourage them to return to the area.

Need for Emergency Actions that require Alternative Arrangements:

Alternative arrangements take the place of an Environmental Impact Statement for proposed actions with significant environmental effects that respond to the emergency. These proposed alternative arrangements will remain in effect until the analyses of the proposed actions outlined in the attached descriptions of the Individual Environmental Reports (IER) are completed.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita weakened the existing storm damage reduction system in southern Louisiana. The USACE has made great progress to restore that system under the auspices of Task Force Guardian, whose charge was to repair and rehabilitate the existing system back to pre-Katrina conditions by June 1, 2006 for Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes. Work funded under the 3rd and 4th supplemental laws is considered imperative to reduce an imminent threat for several reasons. First, the existing system is still weakened from the back to back hurricanes. Second, the system does not meet an acceptable level of protection based upon new engineering criteria developed in the aftermath of the hurricanes. Third, the area has been devastated, physically and economically. Finally, many citizens of New Orleans are awaiting proposals and actions to lower the risk of floods and improve infrastructure to protect human health and safety before returning and rebuilding. To facilitate recovery, environmental issues must be addressed as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

USACE staff has preliminarily determined that significant impacts to the human environment could possibly occur if certain aspects of the proposed actions are built to meet USACE levee level of safety standards. Potential impacts would be primarily related to the loss of wetlands and impacts to a barrier island ecosystem.

Potential Impacts to the Human Environment

The raising of the levees and floodwalls under the 4th Supplemental, construction of gated closure structures, improved protection along the IHNC, and making repairs to non-Federal levees has the potential for creating significant impacts to the human environment. To illustrate why we believe the 4th Supplemental projects may have potential impacts on the human environment we did a couple of quick investigations based upon limited information. As more data becomes known, we will be able to better determine which projects may have significant impacts if constructed.

Example 1: Because the majority of the projects Congress and the Administration authorized and funded under the 4th Supplemental already exist, alternatives are limited to enlarging the levees along the protected side, flood side, or a combination of the two for most areas of the hurricane levee system. Based upon a conservative footprint of a 1,000 foot wide levee equally divided on the flood side and protected side, we have estimated that the LPV project could impact 4,393 acres of wetlands and 5,482 acres of non-wetlands. Wetland impacts could include the destruction of bottomland hardwoods, swamps, freshwater marsh, and saltwater marsh.

The majority of the non-wetland protected side area that may be impacted is mostly developed property, so any levee enlargement along the protected side would likely involve impacts to residential structures and businesses. The 1,000 foot wide levee footprint is not specific to any one region or project. In some cases the additional right of way required to accommodate a 100-year levee may be minor while in other locations it may be significantly larger. During the alternative analysis phase, design plans will be advanced to a level where the actual impacts can be determined with a level of confidence.

Example 2: Based upon a conservative footprint of a 1,000 foot wide levee equally divided on the flood side and protected side, we have estimated that the WBV project could impact upwards of 1,328 acres of wetlands and 2,230 acres of non-wetlands. Wetland impacts could include the destruction of bottomland hardwoods and swamps. Much of the non-wetland protected side area is developed property, so any levee enlargement along the protected side would likely involve impacts to residential structures and businesses.

For both examples shown, unavoidable wetland impacts would be mitigated for as discussed in the following section. No mitigation is anticipated to be needed for the impacts to any uplands areas; however large numbers of residences and businesses may be impacted by the levee work. Some of these residences and businesses were destroyed by the flooding of the city, while others were left untouched. Private landowners would be fairly compensated (Fair Market Value), if the levee is expanded on to their property. As a standard practice for this type of work the USACE would complete a full

environmental investigation, Cultural Resource study, HTRW Phase 1 investigation along with any other investigation pertinent to the area. As stated previously no work would be completed prior to achieving compliance with all the environmental laws. Concurrence from the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office would be required before any construction award is granted.

Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Environmental Quality (33 CFR 230), Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), paragraph 8, provides that district commanders may respond to emergency situations to prevent or reduce imminent risk of life, health, property, or severe economic losses in advance of compliance with the documentation and procedural requirements of NEPA. To date the New Orleans District Commander has issued three determinations of imminent threat (Appendix B). Paragraph 8 of the regulation states that NEPA documentation should be accomplished prior to initiation of emergency work if time constraints render this practicable; however, if appropriate, such documentation may be accomplished after completion of the emergency work. Paragraph 8 also states that, when possible, emergency actions considered major in scope with potentially significant environmental impacts shall be referred through the division commanders to HQUSACE for consultation with the CEQ about NEPA arrangements. Compliance with all non-NEPA Federal, state and local environmental statutes and regulations must be met prior to initiating construction activities.

3rd Supplemental Authority and Funding Provided to Address the Emergency:

No 3rd Supplemental Projects are being recommended for inclusion into the emergency alternative arrangements laid out in this document. However, a discussion of the 3rd Supplemental process and projects is warranted so that everyone has an understanding of how the environmental process for the 3rd Supplemental projects was completed and why 4th Supplemental projects require emergency alternative arrangements. The 3rd Supplemental directs the Secretary of the Army, through the Chief of Engineers to restore the flood damage reduction projects, hurricane and storm damage reduction projects, and related works by providing the level of protection for which they were designed at full Federal expense. The plan to repair, restore, and rehabilitate damaged hurricane protection projects was implemented with funds appropriated by Congress for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies related to Hurricane Katrina in the area covered by the disaster declaration made by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, 88 Stat 143, as amended (42 U.S.C. sec. 121 et seq).

The majority of the work funded by the 3rd Supplemental relates to the repair, restoration, and rehabilitation at full Federal expense of the referenced Federal flood control and hurricane protection projects to the design level of protection on previously authorized Federal Hurricane Protection Projects. Those projects are: West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans, Louisiana, Hurricane Protection Project (WBV); Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana, Hurricane Protection Project (LPV); New Orleans to Venice, Louisiana Hurricane Protection Project (NOV); Larose to Golden Meadow, Louisiana, Hurricane Protection Project (LGM); and the Southeast Louisiana, Louisiana, Flood

Control Project (SELA). It is anticipated that approximately 104 construction contracts will be awarded by the USACE to complete the 3rd Supplemental mission.

NEPA and other environmental compliance has been completed for these projects as part of a variety of Environmental Impact Statements and Environmental Assessments that were written in the past when the projects were authorized and funded. No additional significant impacts are anticipated to occur as the result of the repair, restoration, and rehabilitation of these projects. It should be noted that some new environmental compliance investigations have been required due to project changes that occur as a result of alignment shifts, right of way expansions, need for additional borrow, etc.

The 3rd Supplemental arguably provided funding for the repair to design elevations of existing non-Federal levees in Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Plaquemines Parishes. Damage Survey Reports were completed and two levees systems were selected for further investigation. The Grand Isle Back Levee, Jefferson Parish and the Plaquemines Parish East Bank Back Levee were selected based upon the level of damage, amount of funding available and local government requests for assistance. .

4th Supplemental Authority and Funding Provided to Address the Emergency:

The 4th Supplemental directs the Secretary of the Army, through the Chief of Engineers to raise levee and floodwalls heights and otherwise improve the existing 186 miles of levees and floodwalls for the LPV and WBV projects to provide a level of protection necessary for landowners to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Authorization and funds were also provided for the construction of pumps and closure structures at the 17th Street, Orleans, and London Avenue Canals, to improve the level protection at the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal. Funds were allocated to reduce the risks of storm surge and storm damage to the greater New Orleans metropolitan area by restoring the surrounding wetlands and for developing a comprehensive plan, at full Federal expense, to study deauthorization of deep draft navigation on the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet. Additional funds were provided to complete the storm proofing of non-Federal interior pump stations, replace or modify and incorporate certain non-Federal levees in Plaquemines Parish into the existing New Orleans to Venice hurricane protection system, and to complete repairs, modifications, and improvement to non-Federal levees and associated protection measures in Terrebonne Parish. It is anticipated that approximately 77 construction contracts will be awarded by the USACE to complete the 4th Supplemental mission. The USACE is proposing that this emergency alternative arrangement only be implemented for the LPV and WBV projects as they relate to the hurricane protection authorizations (100 – year levee and floodwall, selective armoring, IHNC closure structures, Outfall closure structures/pump stations) that were funded under the 4th Supplemental. All other projects (MRGO Deep Draft Study, Plaquemines Non-Federal Levee, Terrebonne Non-Federal Levee, Wetlands Restorations Projects, etc) would follow the normal USACE NEPA processes.

The planned work will be implemented with funds appropriated by Congress for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies related to Hurricane Katrina in the area covered by the disaster declaration made by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief

and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, 88 Stat 143, as amended (42 U.S.C. sec. 121 et seq).

Significant impacts to the human environment could occur as a result of some of these proposed actions. Direct impacts to wetlands, residences, and businesses may occur as a result. Loss of homes and businesses due to larger levee and floodwall footprints is possible. At this time no NEPA investigations or any other environmental compliance has been completed for the work funded by the 4th Supplemental.

Duration:

Emergency flood control and hurricane storm damage reduction proposed activities may be subject to alternative arrangements by deferring compliance with established NEPA documentation requirements, if it is determined that a risk to life, health, property, or severe economic loss is imminent, and that the proposed actions will have significant effects.

Imminent risk to life, health or property can be defined as subjective and statistically supported via evaluation of how quickly a threat scenario can develop; how likely that threat is to develop in a given geographical location; and how likely it is that the threat will produce catastrophic consequences to life and property. Implicit in the timing aspect could be considerations of time or season or known cyclical activities.

Historically, the normal process followed by the USACE has been to complete environmental investigations prior to a project being authorized and funded by Congress and the Administration. This process has typically required a year to complete environmental assessments and approximately four years for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Prior to any feasibility studies, funding and authorization was granted under the 4th Supplemental which, has made environmental compliance a primary factor in developing project schedules for the authorized work. The USACE environmental team in New Orleans looked at the authorized work and came to the conclusion that four to six EISs would be required to adequately evaluate the projects authorized by the Administration. Aggressive schedules were developed that would allow for EISs to be completed in 14 months once sufficient design information was available to evaluate the reasonable alternatives. Issues with completing the EISs include a lack of design information due to ongoing modeling efforts required to establish a new FEMA 100-year flood elevation for landowners to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program and the authorization to construct several new major structures such as, three new closure structures in navigable waterways and three new closure structures/pump stations at outfall canals in Orleans Parish. The construction of the new projects has the potential to be controversial, require extensive environmental investigations, and could possibly require long design times. A supplemental EIS (Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project) completed under expedited schedules that included the new projects discussed above, would impact the construction schedule for other segments of the project that have relatively minor issues.

If the USACE were to follow a systematic environmental approach to investigating all the work authorized under the 4th Supplemental projects, a single EIS would be completed that integrated all the impacts and evaluation together. This would tie all the 4th Supplemental projects to the completion date of the Record of Decision (ROD), as such, no work on any of the projects could start until the ROD was executed.

Because this work is deemed an emergency by the USACE and the completion of the work is critical to the future of New Orleans, an alternative arrangement process to NEPA was developed that would allow for proposed actions to be evaluated and decisions to be made on how to proceed with portions of the overall system that have independent utility for reducing the risk of flooding in particular areas prior to completing a system-wide analysis. This allows for a system wide environmental study to be completed, while still moving segments ahead to construction at a pace fitting the nature of the emergency.

Several criteria cited in the above definition are important in determining if there is an imminent threat to the New Orleans Metropolitan area. The first is “subjective” which allows a decision to be based on sound reasoning. The second and third are “statistically supported evaluation” and “how likely that threat is to develop in a given geographical location.” During the past five hurricane seasons, Southeast Louisiana has had 15 tropical storms or hurricanes pass within 300 miles of the city (three in 2002, two in 2003, three in 2004, five in 2005, and two in 2006). This represents an average of over three storms per hurricane season. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Hurricane Center has reported for the past several years that we have entered a period of more active hurricane seasons. The most recent outlook (issued December 8, 2006 by the Colorado State University Hurricane Center) calls for an active 2007 season, with 14 named storms, seven hurricanes of which three may become major hurricanes. The Center further predicts that there is a 40 percent chance of a Category 3-5 hurricane making landfall in the Gulf of Mexico during the 2007 hurricane season. This is an increase from last year’s prediction of a 30 percent chance of a major hurricane making landfall in the Gulf of Mexico.

The next key phrase is “how likely the threat will produce catastrophic consequences to life and improved property”. Assessment of the state of hurricane and storm damage reduction system in the New Orleans metropolitan area following Hurricane Katrina revealed that the existing level of protection, even for areas not damaged by Hurricane Katrina, was generally less than that associated with the one percent chance of flooding for a given year (the “100-year level of protection”). The absence of such protection would normally result in the system being deemed “not certified” for purposes of the national flood insurance program. However, in the case of the New Orleans metro area following Hurricane Katrina, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) determined that it was appropriate to consider the system as “certified” for purposes of the national flood insurance program given the commitment of the Administration and Congress to expeditiously restore the system to a level consistent with “100-year protection”.

This determination by FEMA is critical to the overall prospects for the restoration and redevelopment of the New Orleans area economy. In the absence of certified hurricane protection works, flood insurance would not be available to area residents and commercial interests at an affordable level. As a consequence, area redevelopment would be stifled.

Significant delays in completing the work required to achieve protection from the one percent chance storm event would expose the New Orleans metropolitan area to two threats. The first of these threats would be additional exposure to the one percent chance storm event. Damages to the metropolitan area from such an event, reflecting post-Katrina conditions, are estimated to be approximately \$51 billion exclusive of infrastructure damages. The second threat, and arguably one of an equal or perhaps even greater level than that associated with additional exposure to the 100-year storm event, is the severe economic condition the area is in. It is critical to the redevelopment of the area that the people feel secure with the level of protection being built.

The last phrase of significance is “known cyclical activities.” As every day passes as we move toward another hurricane season, the threat to life and property increases without adequate storm surge protection. In this post Katrina world, updated engineering data shows that much of the existing hurricane protection system only offers a 25 –year level of risk reduction for most of the New Orleans area. As many as 60,000 FEMA trailers are still being utilized in the metropolitan area, thus people and property are more susceptible to storm damages than they would be if living in a more permanent residence. Most of Jefferson and St. Charles Parishes and some parts of Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes have been repopulated by residents returning to the area after completing repairs to their structures.

Stakeholder Coordination

Coordination with Federal and State resource agencies is ongoing as we move forward with the implementation of this mission. Numerous meetings, phone calls, e-mails, etc. have occurred regarding the 3rd and 4th Supplemental projects with the Federal and state resource agencies. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA), and the Environmental Protection Agency have reviewed the USACE proposal for Emergency Alternative Arrangements and have agreed to the concept of implementing the arrangements for the hurricane protection related to 4th Supplemental projects. Agency comments have been incorporated into this document. The USACE alternative arrangements requires that environmental compliance for all environmental laws (Threatened & Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, etc) be completed prior to the award of any construction contracts or the acquisition of property. Federal and state resource agencies regulating non-NEPA related laws were not actively involved in the review; however the agencies have been briefed on the position the USACE is taking in regards to this matter.

Project staffs are routinely engaged in a variety of public meetings, local governmental meetings, media interviews, etc., to ensure local stakeholders know what is going on

regarding these projects. Stakeholder involvement during analysis of the proposed actions and reasonable alternatives is critical to good decision making.

Potential Mitigation

While every effort will be made to avoid and minimize the impacts that will result from the proposed actions, it is entirely possible that some unavoidable significant impacts will occur as a result of the USACE actions as we carry out the mission assigned to us.

Impacts to freshwater and saltwater marshes, swamps, bottom land hardwoods, upland forests, residences and business are likely to occur. Mitigation for unavoidable impacts would be completed in areas close to where the impacts occurred, as is USACE policy. Mitigation plans would be developed early in the process in cooperation with Federal, state agencies, and public stakeholders.

Cumulative Impacts

The 3rd and 4th Supplementals have authorized and funded an unprecedented amount of work for the New Orleans metropolitan area. The potential cumulative impacts as well as the potential for additional Federal funding for a Category 5 hurricane protection system are one of the highest priority tasks to be evaluated during the design phase for this proposed work. Under the proposed alternative arrangement process, cumulative impacts would be evaluated by an interagency group of Federal and state agencies along with interested stakeholders. The process would be to evaluate the cumulative impacts for each proposed action as a part of the IER, with each new IER building off previous reports, adding any new information that becomes available. Ultimately, a Comprehensive Environmental Document would be written that would combine all the environmental documents into a comprehensive evaluation of the past, present, and future cumulative impacts of the proposed actions and tie together the mitigation plans developed and being implemented.

Proposed Emergency Alternative Arrangements:

It is the intent of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) to follow a systematic planning effort that investigates the proposed actions funded and authorized under the authority of Public Law 109-148, Department of Defense, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations to Address Hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico, and Pandemic Influenza Act, 2006 (3rd Supplemental) and Public Law 109-234, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (4th Supplemental). These Proposed Alternative Arrangements have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and DHS/Federal Emergency Management Agency, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Agencies are supportive of this process and recognize that it is critical that the repair and improvement of existing hurricane protection projects be completed in a timely manner. The alternative NEPA arrangements proposed by USACE will not result in a lesser quality or level of environmental detail than currently required by CEQ's NEPA regulations. The difference between the proposed alternative arrangements and compliance with the typical NEPA process relates to the timing of the analysis of the individual components of actions enhancing flood protection for the greater New Orleans area in the Individual Environmental Reports (IER) and the manner in which cumulative effects will be analyzed. The cumulative effects would be evaluated as a part of each IER, with each new IER building off previous reports, adding any new information that becomes available. Ultimately, the full cumulative effects analysis will be presented in a Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED).

In order to meet the needs of the people of Southern Louisiana in a timely manner that is appropriate to the level of imminent threat, CEMVN proposes to achieve compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by using the following Emergency Alternative Arrangements.

1. CEMVN will place a public notice of the approved NEPA Alternative Arrangements in the Federal Register along with a description of the proposed actions that would be covered in the Individual Environmental Reports (IER) and the Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED). Additionally, CEMVN will place a copy of the public notice in local newspapers and in a newspaper with national distribution.

2. Scoping Process:

A: CEMVN will host a series of public scoping meetings in the New Orleans metropolitan area to gather public comments on the proposed actions. There will be a thirty-day comment period following the public meetings. Additional scoping meetings may be conducted in other locales in the United States if deemed necessary.

B: CEMVN will place an ad in local newspapers and in a newspaper with national distribution explaining each proposed action that will be analyzed in the IERs and asking

for written comments to be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to a point of contact at CEMVN. The information for each proposed action will also be mailed and/mailed to all interested stakeholders, including state and federal resource agencies. Comments will be compiled and e-mailed to appropriate Federal and state agencies for coordination. There will be a thirty-day comment period each time an ad is placed.

C: Web Site - CEMVN will establish and maintain a web page that provides details for each IER and any other proposed actions being investigated or projects that are being constructed in the area. The web page will contain a description of the Alternative Arrangements CEMVN is following to achieve NEPA compliance. The web site will contain updated information on each USACE proposed action that is being proposed and constructed. Information will be shared with the US Geological Survey GIS for the Gulf web site to allow for easier access by the interagency teams and interested stakeholders. The GIS for the Gulf web site is a collaborative activity between the US Geological Survey, the Department of Homeland Security, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

D: Interagency environmental teams will be established for each IER. Federal and state agency, local governmental, and tribal staff will play an integral part in the project planning and alternative analysis. Interagency teams would be integrated with CEMVN Project Delivery Teams to assist in the planning of each proposed actions and to describe the potential direct and indirect impacts of each proposed action that will be used in the development of any needed mitigation plans. Team members will be provided with new information concerning the proposed action as quickly as possible in order to allow for the expedient review and analysis of each proposed action. Teams would rely heavily upon hydrologic models and the best engineering judgment of CEMVN Engineering Divisions staff to develop plans and appropriate mitigation.

E: CEMVN will hold monthly meetings with agencies to keep them informed of overall developments and allow CEMVN to gain agency feedback. All proposed work would be closely coordinated with the ongoing Federal and state efforts to design a coastal restoration and protection plan.

F: CEMVN will host monthly public meetings to keep the stakeholders advised of IER developments. Public will be able to provide verbal comment during the meetings and written comments after each meeting. Meetings will be advertised at least one week prior to meeting. Meetings times and locations will be selected to accommodate public availability.

3. CEMVN will actively involve the Federal and state agencies and local governmental, tribal, and the public in mitigation planning for unavoidable impacts at the onset of the planning process. Quantitative analysis of the acreages, by habitat type that is determined to be potentially impacted directly or indirectly by each reasonable alternative will be prepared. Proposed action and mitigation plans will be based upon existing methodologies utilized for water resource planning. It is CEMVN's intent to implement compensatory mitigation as early as possible in the process once unavoidable impacts are

determined. All mitigation activities will be consistent with standards and policies established in the Clean Water Act Section 404 and the appropriate USACE policies and regulations governing this activity.

4. Prior to any decision to proceed, CEMVN will complete an IER that documents the process followed by the USACE, the preferred and reasonable alternative identified, the alternatives analysis that has been performed, an analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action, an initial description of the cumulative impacts of this proposal, an initial mitigation plan, and any interim decisions made by the USACE. Each IER would identify areas where data was incomplete, unavailable, and areas of potential controversy. Alternatives analysis will be based upon a geographic segment of the area that is large enough to encompass any impacts directly and indirectly attributable to the proposed action.

5. The IER's will be posted on the USACE CEMVN Alternative NEPA Arrangement web page for a 30-day public review and comment period. A notice of availability will be mailed/e-mailed out to interested parties advising them of the availability of the IER for review in addition to placing a notice in newspapers and other media and sharing the IER's during the monthly stakeholder meetings.

6. Public meetings would be held specific to each IER if requested by the stakeholders involved in the review process. An IER addendum responding to comments received during the public review and comment period would be completed and published for a 30-day public review period. Notice will be provided in newspapers and other media, posted on web site, and a notice of availability will mailed/e-mailed out to interested parties.

No sooner than 30 days after publication of the IER addendum, or an IER in the event no comments or requests for meetings are received during the public review and comment period, the District Commander will issue a decision describing how USACE will proceed.

7. At a time when sufficient information is available CEMVN will produce a draft comprehensive environmental document (CED) that will address the work completed and the work remaining to be completed. The purpose of the draft CED will be to document the work done by the USACE on a system wide scale and analyze the relationship of the proposed actions covered in the IERs with other reasonably foreseeable projects. The CED will incorporate the IERs by reference. The draft CED will include a discussion of how the individual IER's are integrated into a systematic planning effort, provide an analysis of the overall cumulative impacts, analyze a final mitigation plan, and identify any new information associated with long term operations and maintenance of the approved actions analyzed in the IERs. Draft CED will include an analysis of the any indirect impacts due to altered hydrology or induced development that resulted from the actions taken by the USACE. Additionally, the draft CED would contain updated information for any IER, or IER addendum that had incomplete or unavailable data at the time the District Commander made a decision on how to proceed.

8. The draft CED will be posted on the USACE web page for a 60-day public review period. A notice of availability will be posted on the web site, mailed/e-mailed out to interested parties advising them of the availability of the draft CED for review in addition to placing a notice in newspapers and other media. Public meetings would be held during the review period if requested by the stakeholders involved in the process.

9. Upon completion of the 60-day review period all comments will be appropriately addressed in a final CED. The final CED will be published for a 30-day public review period. Notice will be provided in newspapers and other media, posted on web site, and a notice of availability will mailed/e-mailed out to interested parties.

No sooner than 30-days after publication of the final CED, the District Commander will issue a decision describing how CEMVN will proceed. Decision will be made available to stakeholders by posting to web site, mailing/e-mailing notices of availability, ads in newspapers and news releases to other media such as radio and television stations.

The USACE will continue to obtain concurrence, permits, and any other authorizations necessary to be in compliance with all other environmental laws prior to the initiation of any proposed actions. This includes but is not limited to complying with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

February 23, 2007

CHAIRMAN

Major General Don T. Riley
Director of Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington, D.C. 20314

Dear General Riley:

I am responding to your request of February 8, 2007, seeking to conclude consultation and obtain Council on Environmental Quality approval of alternative arrangements pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 1506.11 for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The CEQ regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA provide that where emergency circumstances make it necessary to take an action without observing the normal procedures set forth in those regulations, the federal agency taking the action should consult with the Council about alternative arrangements.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is requesting NEPA compliance through the use of Alternative Arrangements for selected New Orleans and Vicinity Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction measures funded by the 4th Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, Public Law 109-234, and has provided to the CEQ proposed alternative arrangements along with a description of the measures to be evaluated and accomplished. The measures describe the work necessary to reduce the imminent and continuing threat to life, health, and property posed by hurricane storm damage reduction systems damaged and weakened by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and to put into place the infrastructure needed to protect human health and safety and to encourage recovery.

CEQ has had a number of meetings and conference calls with representatives of the Corps, as well as with representatives of other federal, state and local agencies, and interested citizens. In addition, the Corps and CEQ hosted four public meetings in New Orleans to assess the request and gather input on the proposed alternative arrangements. The input received during the course of the discussions and meetings provided strong support for alternative arrangements that allow for expedited decisions on actions to lower the risk of floods and that restore public confidence in the hurricane storm reduction system so that the physical and economic recovery of the area can proceed as citizens return and rebuild. It was also made clear that the alternative NEPA arrangements should provide the Corps with a way to proceed that complements other ongoing and proposed hurricane protection and coastal restoration efforts.

The continued consultation and comments received resulted in the formulation of the following modifications to the proposed alternative arrangements enclosed with your request.

- The proposed process will begin with one Federal Register notice that includes the alternative arrangements, and provides the Notice of Intent (NOI) that describes the

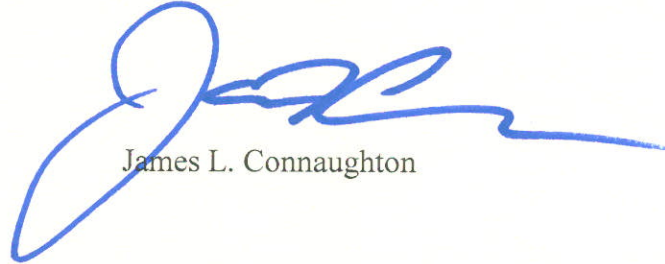
proposed actions analyzed in the Individual Environmental Reports (IERs). That NOI will also initiate the scoping process with a thirty-day public comment period.

- Concurrent with the Federal Register notice, the Corps will make its best efforts to ensure that the proposed notices reach citizens of New Orleans, including, to the extent feasible, persons who have relocated to other areas (including Atlanta, Houston, Memphis and Baton Rouge) using mailing and electronic mailing lists, website postings, notices or ads in broadcast media, and notices or ads in local newspapers and a newspaper with national distribution.
- The proposed mitigation plans will be analyzed and developed in one or more additional IER(s) that consider reasonable alternatives including pooling compensatory mitigation consistent with proposed coastal restoration initiatives.
- The external peer review of proposed levees and floodwalls analyzed in the IERs will be made available as soon as practicable and no later than publication of the Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED).
- The proposed monthly public meetings that provide comment opportunities for the IERs will also provide ongoing scoping for the CED. In the event that all IERs are completed prior to completion of the CED, the monthly agency and public meetings will continue to provide comment and feedback opportunities for the development of the CED.
- The CED will include the proposed systemic integration of the IERs as well as their relationship to proposed and reasonably foreseeable proposals for hurricane protection measures located within the Lake Pontchartrain and West Bank Hurricane Project areas and proposed and reasonably foreseeable proposals for hurricane protection and coastal restoration measures identified in the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Study and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana's Master Plan.
- The proposed web site will provide references and, where available, links to environmental analyses previously conducted in the area, as well as available links to proposed actions and ongoing environmental analyses by FEMA, HUD, FHWA and other agencies.

The CEQ commends the Corps for its open and thorough consultation on these alternative arrangements and agrees that the alternative NEPA arrangements proposed by the Corps, as modified by and agreed to by the CEQ, represent appropriate alternative arrangements for compliance with NEPA for actions taken to respond to this emergency. Alternative arrangements are limited to those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency and will remain in effect during the preparation and completion of the Individual Environmental Reports (IERs) and Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED) included in the alternative arrangements.

We ask that you include CEQ in the distribution of notices. We are available to review these alternative arrangements in the event there are any concerns, questions or requests for clarifications from the Corps, other agencies and the public.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Connaughton', with a large loop at the start and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James L. Connaughton

copy of the vessel registration or documentation, and proof of identification.

Representatives of a business owned or co-owned vessel must bring proof that the individual is an agent of the business (such as articles of incorporation), a copy of the applicable permit(s), and proof of identification.

Vessel operators must bring proof of identification.

Workshop Objectives

The Atlantic Shark Identification Workshops are designed to reduce the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks reported in the dealer reporting form and increase the accuracy of species-specific dealer-reported information. Reducing the number of unknown and improperly identified sharks will improve quota monitoring and the data used in stock assessments. These workshops will train shark dealer permit holders or their proxies to properly identify Atlantic shark carcasses.

The Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops are designed to teach longline and gillnet fishermen the required techniques for the safe handling and release of entangled and/or hooked protected species, such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and smalltooth sawfish. Identification of protected species will also be taught at these workshops in an effort to improve reporting. Additionally, individuals attending these workshops will gain a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries. The overall goal for these workshops is to provide participants the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species, which may prevent additional regulations on these fisheries in the future.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: March 8, 2007.

James P. Burgess,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E7-4560 Filed 3-12-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463), announcement is made of the following committee meeting:

Name of Committee: Board of Visitors, United States Military Academy.

Date: Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

Place of Meeting: The Capitol Building, Room H137, Washington, DC.

Time of Meeting: Approximately 9:30 a.m. through 3 p.m.

Board Mission: The Board, under the provisions of 10 U.S.C. 4355, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, as amended, shall provide the President of the United States independent advice and recommendations on matters relating to the U.S. Military Academy, to include but not limited to morale and discipline, curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, and academic methods.

Board Membership: The Board is composed of 15 members, 9 of which are members of Congress and 6 persons designated by the President. The 2007 Chairman of the Board is Congressman John McHugh, New York-23rd District.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Lieutenant Colonel Shaun T. Wurzbach, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY 10996-5000, (845) 938-4200 or via e-mail:

shaun.wurzbach@usma.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Proposed Agenda:* Spring Meeting of the Board of Visitors. Review of the Academic, Military and Physical Programs at the USMA. All proceedings are open to the public. Picture identification is required to enter the Capitol Building. Subcommittees shall meet prior to the Board meeting. The Board plans to inquire into curriculum and academic methods, fiscal affairs, the USMA Master Plan, Lean Six Sigma, BRAC and the relocation of the United States Military Academy Preparatory School, and Admissions. The Board shall consider a motion to expand subcommittees and shall vote to approve revised Board operating rules.

Public Inquiry at Board Meetings: Any member of the public is permitted to file a written statement with the USMA Board of Visitors. Written statements should be sent to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at: United States Military Academy, Office of the Secretary of the General Staff (MASG), 646 Swift Road, West Point, NY 10996-1905 or faxed to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) at (845) 938-3214. Written statements must be received no later than five working days prior to the next meeting

in order to provide time for member consideration.

By rule, no member of the public attending open meetings will be allowed to present questions from the floor or speak to any issue under consideration by the Board.

Brenda S. Bowen,

Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 07-1162 Filed 3-12-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Adoption of Alternative Arrangements Under the National Environmental Policy Act for New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction System

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Public notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) is implementing Alternative Arrangements under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.11) in order to expeditiously complete environmental analysis of major portions of a new 100-year level of Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction effort authorized and funded by the Administration and the Congress. The proposed actions are located primarily in southern Louisiana and relate to the Federal effort to rebuild the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction system following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The USACE consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), as required under 40 CFR 1506.11 and the USACE Environmental Quality Procedures for Implementing the NEPA (33 CFR 230), concluded on February 23, 2007 with the CEQ approving the Alternative Arrangements. The Alternative Arrangements request was also coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Board of Visitors, United States Military Academy (USMA)

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer.

During the consultation, the USACE and CEQ hosted four public meetings in New Orleans metropolitan area to assess the request and gather input on the proposed Alternative Arrangements. The input received during the course of the discussions and meetings provided strong support for Alternative Arrangements that allow for expedited decisions on actions to lower the risk of floods and that restore public confidence in the hurricane storm reduction system so that the physical and economic recovery of the area can proceed as citizens return and rebuild. It was also made clear that the Alternative Arrangements should provide the USACE a way to proceed that complements other ongoing and proposed hurricane protection and coastal restoration efforts.

These Alternative Arrangements apply to certain proposed actions included in the 100-year Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction measures authorized under Public Law 109-234, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (4th Supplemental). The Alternative Arrangements will allow decisions on smaller groups of proposed actions to move forward sooner than under the traditional NEPA process. An in-depth analysis and consideration of potential environmental impacts will be completed and negative environmental impacts will be addressed. Detailed information on the Alternative Arrangements can be downloaded from the USACE New Orleans District Web site at: http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/Envir_Processes_NEPA/Index.htm.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting addresses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning the emergency Alternative Arrangements should be addressed to Gib Owen at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, phone (504) 862-1337, fax number (504) 862-2088 or by e-mail at mvnenvironmental@mvn02.usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Emergency Alternative Arrangement Process: In order to meet the needs of the people of southern Louisiana in a timely manner that is appropriate to the level of imminent threat, CEMVN will comply with the

NEPA by using the following emergency Alternative Arrangements.

1. CEMVN is placing this public notice of the NEPA Alternative Arrangements in the **Federal Register** along with a description of the proposed actions that will be analyzed in Individual Environmental Reports (IERs) and a Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED).

2. Scoping Process: a. This **Federal Register** notice is initiating the scoping process with a thirty-day public comment period for the IERs described in this notice. CEMVN will also host a series of public scoping meetings, followed by thirty-day comment periods, in the New Orleans metropolitan area to gather public comments on the proposed actions. Additional scoping meetings may be conducted in other locales in the United States if deemed necessary.

b. Concurrent with this **Federal Register** notice, CEMVN is placing public notices in broadcast media, local newspapers and a newspaper with national distribution publicizing the dates and location of the public scoping meetings, describing each proposed action that will be analyzed in the IERs, and providing thirty days for written comments to be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to a point of contact at CEMVN. The information for each proposed action will also be mailed and e-mailed to all interested stakeholders, including state and Federal resource agencies. The Corps will make its best effort to reach the citizens of New Orleans, including, to the extent feasible, persons who have relocated to other areas. The comments received will be compiled and e-mailed to appropriate Federal and state agencies for coordination.

c. CEMVN will establish and maintain a Web page that provides details for each IER and other proposed actions being investigated or projects that are being constructed in the area by the USACE. The Web site will contain a description of the Alternative Arrangements CEMVN is following to achieve NEPA compliance. Additionally, information or links from other Federal and state agencies conducting operations in the New Orleans area will be available on this Web site. This will include, where available, links to proposed actions and ongoing environmental analyses, and references and available links to environmental analyses previously conducted in the area.

d. Interagency environmental teams are being established for each IER. Federal and state agency, local governmental and tribal staff will play an integral part in the project planning

and alternative analysis. Interagency teams will be integrated with USACE Project Delivery Teams to assist in the planning of each proposed action and in the description of the potential direct and indirect impacts of each proposed action that will be used in the development of any needed mitigation plans. Team members will be provided with new information concerning the proposed action as quickly as possible in order to allow for the expedient review and analysis of each proposed action. Teams will rely heavily upon hydrologic models and the best engineering judgment of CEMVN Engineering Division staff to develop appropriate mitigation plans.

e. CEMVN will hold monthly meetings with agencies to communicate overall developments and allow for agency feedback. All proposed work would be closely coordinated with the ongoing Federal and state efforts to design a coastal restoration and protection plan.

f. CEMVN will host monthly public meetings during the preparation and completion of the IERs and CED included in these Alternative Arrangements. The monthly meetings will keep the stakeholders advised of IER and CED developments and provide the public opportunities to comment during the meetings and to submit written comments after each meeting for a 30-day period. Meetings will be advertised at least one week prior to each meeting and meeting times and locations will be selected to accommodate public availability.

3. CEMVN will actively involve the Federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, and the public in mitigation planning for unavoidable impacts at the onset of the planning process. Quantitative analysis of the acreages, by habitat type, determined to be potentially impacted directly or indirectly by each reasonable alternative will be prepared. Proposed actions to mitigate adverse environmental effects and mitigation plans will be based upon existing methodologies utilized for water resource planning and analyzed in one or more IERs that will consider reasonable mitigation alternatives, including pooling compensatory mitigation, consistent with proposed coastal restoration initiatives. It is CEMVN's intent to implement compensatory mitigation as early as possible in the process once unavoidable impacts are determined. All mitigation activities will be consistent with standards and policies established in the Clean Water Act Section 404 and the appropriate USACE

policies and regulations governing this activity.

4. Prior to any decision to proceed with proposed actions, CEMVN will complete an IER that documents the decision-making process followed by the USACE, the preferred and all other reasonable alternatives, the alternatives analyses that were performed, the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action, an initial description of the cumulative impacts of the proposal, an initial mitigation plan, and any interim decisions made by the USACE. Each IER will identify areas where data was incomplete, unavailable, and areas of potential controversy. Alternatives analysis will be based upon a geographic segment of the area that is large enough to encompass any impacts directly and indirectly attributable to the proposed action.

5. The IERs will be posted on the USACE CEMVN Alternative NEPA Arrangement Web page for a 30-day public review and comment period. A notice of availability will be mailed/e-mailed to interested parties advising them of the availability of the IER for review in addition to placing a notice in newspapers and other media selected to reach residents of New Orleans including those who have relocated to other areas. The IERs will also be made available during the monthly public meetings.

6. Public meetings to discuss a specific IER will be held if requested by the stakeholders involved in the review process. Upon completion of the comment period, and after any meetings, an IER addendum responding to comments received will be completed and published for a 30-day public review period. Notice will be provided in newspapers and other media, posted on the Web site, and a notice of availability mailed/e-mailed to interested parties.

No sooner than 30 days after publication of the IER addendum, or an IER in the event no comments or requests for meetings are received during the public review and comment period, the District Commander will issue a decision describing how USACE will proceed.

7. At a time when sufficient information is available from IERs analyzing proposed actions in the New Orleans area, CEMVN will produce a draft Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED). The CED will incorporate the IERs by reference and address the work completed and the work remaining to be completed on a systemwide scale and a final mitigation plan. Updated information for any IER, or IER addendum, that had incomplete

or unavailable data at the time the District Commander made a decision on how to proceed will be provided and the CED will identify any new information associated with long term operations and maintenance of the approved actions analyzed in the IERs. The CED will include a discussion of how the individual IERs are integrated into a systematic planning effort. A cumulative effects analysis will analyze any indirect impacts due to altered hydrology or induced development that resulted from the actions taken by the USACE and the relationship of the proposed actions covered in the IERs with other proposed and reasonably foreseeable proposals for hurricane protection measures located within the Lake Pontchartrain and West Bank Hurricane Project areas and proposed and reasonably foreseeable proposals for hurricane protection and coastal restoration measures identified in the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Study and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana's Master Plan. An external engineering peer review of the proposed levees and floodwalls work analyzed in the IERs will be made available as soon as practicable and no later than publication of the draft CED.

8. The draft CED will be posted on the USACE web page for a 60-day public review period. A notice of availability will be posted on the Web site and mailed/e-mailed to interested parties advising them of the availability of the draft CED for review in addition to placing a notice in newspapers and other media. Public meetings would be held during the review period if requested by the stakeholders involved in the process.

9. Upon completion of the 60-day review period, all comments will be appropriately addressed in a final CED. The final CED will be published for a 30-day public review period. Notice will be provided in newspapers and other media, posted on the Web site, and a notice of availability will be mailed/e-mailed out to interested parties.

No sooner than 30 days after publication of the final CED, the District Commander will issue a decision describing how CEMVN will proceed. This decision will be made available to stakeholders by posting it to a Web site, mailing/e-mailing notices of availability, public notices in newspapers and news releases to other media such as radio and television stations.

Description of Proposed Actions: CEMVN will analyze the proposed hurricane and storm damage reduction actions for the sub-basins within the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV)

and West Bank and Vicinity (WBV) Hurricane Protection Project areas in a series of IERs. Each IER will identify the proposed actions and will investigate alternatives, direct, indirect, cumulative impacts, and mitigation for impacts to the human environment. Exact alignments and work to be completed will be determined as a part of the NEPA process. IERs will also be prepared for proposed borrow material and mitigation plans. Further information on the IER's can be downloaded from the USACE New Orleans District Web site at: http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/Envir_Processes_NEPA/Index.htm.

IER 1: LPV, LaBranche Wetlands Levee, St. Charles Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 8.7 miles of earthen levees, replacement of 6,400 linear feet of floodwalls, and fronting protection to five existing drainage structures.

IER 2: LPV, West Return Floodwall Jefferson—St. Charles Parish, LA—Proposed action: Replacement of 17,900 linear feet of floodwalls.

IER 3: LPV, Lakefront Levee Jefferson Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 9.5 miles of earthen levees, upgrading foreshore protection, replacement of two floodgates, and fronting protection to four pump stations.

IER 4: LPV, New Orleans Lakefront Levee, West of Inner Harbor Navigational Canal, Orleans Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 4.4 miles of earthen levee, replacement of 7,600 feet of floodwalls, 16 vehicle access gates, and one sector gate.

IER 5: LPV, Outfall Canal Closure Structures, 17th Street Canal, Orleans Avenue Canal and London Avenue Canal, Orleans Parish, LA—Proposed action: Construction of pump stations and closure structures on the three outfall canals.

IER 6: LPV, Citrus Lakefront Levee, Orleans Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 4.1 miles of earthen levees, replacement of 10,662 linear feet of floodwalls, and four floodgates.

IER 7: LPV, New Orleans East Levee, Maxent Canal to Michoud Slip, Orleans Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 19.1 miles of earthen levee and replacement of three floodgates.

IER 8: LPV, Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou Dupre Control Structures, St. Bernard Parish, LA—Proposed action: Replacement of 1,000 linear feet of floodwalls and two navigable floodgates.

IER 9: LPV, Caernarvon Floodwall, St. Bernard Parish, LA—Proposed action: Replacement of two floodgates,

replacement of 1,500 feet of floodwall, and possible realignment of levee.

IER 10: LPV, Chalmette Loop Levee, St. Bernard Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 22 miles of earthen levees and the replacement of 1,500 linear feet of floodwalls.

IER 11: LPV, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Navigable Floodgates, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes, LA—Proposed action: Construction of gated navigable closure structures to protect the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal.

IER 12: WBV, Harvey and Algiers Canal Levee and Floodwalls, Jefferson, Orleans, and Plaquemines Parishes, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 31 miles of earthen levees, replacement of 18,800 linear feet of floodwalls, modifications to 18 existing gates, and fronting protection modifications to nine pump stations.

IER 13: WBV, Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus, Plaquemines Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 22,000 linear feet of earthen levees and construction of 1,500 linear feet of floodwalls.

IER 14: WBV, Harvey to Westwego Levee, Jefferson Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 12 miles of earthen levee, construction of 7,013 linear feet of floodwalls, and modifications to three pump stations.

IER 15: WBV, Lake Cataouatche Levee, Jefferson Parish, LA—Proposed action: Rebuilding of 8 miles of earthen levee and fronting protection at one pump station.

IER 16: WBV, Western Terminus Levee, Jefferson Parish, LA—Proposed action: Construction of western terminus earthen levee section.

IER 17: WBV, Company Canal Floodwall, Jefferson Parish, LA—Proposed action: Replacement of 13,442 linear feet of floodwalls and fronting protection for two pump stations.

IER 18: Borrow, Government Furnished, Multiple sites—Proposed action: Analyze information supplied from a variety of governmental sources to determine appropriate Government Furnished borrow locations. Sources could be from sites throughout southeast Louisiana.

IER 19: Borrow, Pre-Approved Contractor Furnished, Multiple sites—Proposed action: Analyze information supplied from a variety of non-governmental sources to determine appropriate Pre-Approved Contractor Furnished borrow locations. Sources could be from sites throughout the southern United States.

IER 20: LPV, Mitigation Pool—Proposed action: Analyze alternatives to determine appropriate mitigation is

implemented for unavoidable impacts to the human environment.

IER 21: WBV, Mitigation Pool—Proposed action: Analyze alternatives to determine appropriate mitigation is implemented for unavoidable impacts to the human environment.

Scoping Meeting Schedule

All nine of the meetings start at 7 p.m. and are scheduled to conclude at 9 p.m. Dates and locations of the meetings are as follows:

March 27, 2007—Lake Cataouatche Sub-Basin: Lake Cataouatche/Jefferson Parish Dougie V's Restaurant—Banquet Hall, 13899 River Road, Luling, LA

March 28, 2007—Harvey-Westwego Sub-Basin: Westwego City Council Chamber, 419 Avenue A, Westwego, LA

March 29, 2007—St. Charles Parish Sub-Basin: American Legion Hall, Post 366, 12188 River Road, St. Rose, LA

April 3, 2007—Gretna-Algiers Sub-Basin: Our Lady of Holy Cross College, 4123 Woodland Drive, New Orleans, LA

April 4, 2007—Chalmette Loop Sub-Basin: 8201 West Judge Perez Road, Chalmette, LA

April 5, 2007—Jefferson East Bank Sub-Basin: Jefferson Parish Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Avenue, Metairie, LA

April 10, 2007—Belle Chasse Sub-Basin: Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

April 11, 2007—New Orleans East Sub-Basin: Avalon Hotel & Conference Center, 830 Conti Street, New Orleans, LA

April 12, 2007—Orleans East Bank Sub-Basin: National WWII Museum, 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA

Coordination: The USACE will continue to obtain concurrence, permits, and any other authorizations necessary to be in compliance with all other environmental laws prior to the initiation of any proposed actions. This includes, but is not limited to, complying with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Dated: March 2, 2007.

Richard P. Wagenaar,
Colonel, U.S. Army, District Commander.
[FR Doc. E7-4515 Filed 3-12-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-84-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records—Study of Former Vocational Rehabilitation Consumers' Post-Program Experiences

AGENCY: Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of a new system of records.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (Privacy Act), 5 United States Code (U.S.C.) 552a, the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education (Department) publishes this notice of a new system of records entitled "Study of Former Vocational Rehabilitation Consumers' Post-Program Experiences" (18-16-03).

The system of records will be maintained for program research and evaluation purposes. The system will contain information on a sample of former vocational rehabilitation (VR) consumers whose cases were closed in fiscal year (FY) 2006. The system will include demographic information, including financial information and responses to a survey about post-VR experiences, particularly related to employment outcomes and post-closure services.

DATES: The Department seeks comments on the new system of records described in this notice, in accordance with the requirements of the Privacy Act. We must receive your comments on or before April 12, 2007.

The Department filed a report describing the new system of records covered by this notice with the Chair of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Acting Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on March 8, 2007. This system of records will become effective at the later date of—(1) the expiration of the 40-day period for OMB review on April 17, 2007 or (2) April 12, 2007, unless the system of records needs to be changed as a result of public comment or OMB review.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about this new system of records to Joe Pepin, Rehabilitation Services Administration, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW., room 5052, Potomac Center Plaza, Washington, DC 20202-2800. If you

Realignment Act of 1990, as amended, and other public benefit conveyance authorities, this surplus property may be available for conveyance to State and local governments and other eligible entities for public benefit purposes. Notices of interest from representatives of the homeless, and other interested parties located in the vicinity of the listed surplus property should be submitted to the recognized Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) and Army Point of Contact listed below. Notices of interest from representatives of the homeless shall include the information required by 32 CFR 176.20(c)(2)(ii). The Recognized Local Redevelopment Authority will assist interested parties in evaluating the surplus property for the intended use. The deadline for notices of interest shall be 90 days from the date a corresponding notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the vicinity of the surplus property.

Surplus Property List:

Addition: Queens, New York, Fort Tilden U.S. Army Reserve Center (NY022), 415 State Road and Breezy Point Boulevard, Fort Tilden, NY 11695-0513, comprising approximately 9.15 acres. Additional information for this surplus property can be found at <http://www.hqda.pentagon.mil/acsimweb/brac/sites.html?state=NY>.

The Army's Point of Contact for this surplus property is Mr. Raymond W. Palma, Base Transition Coordinator, 99th Regional Support Command, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, telephone (609) 221-9558, email: raymond.w.palma.civ@mail.mil.

The Fort Tilden Redevelopment Authority has been recognized as the Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) for this surplus property. The Fort Tilden Redevelopment Authority is located at 120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 226, Kew Gardens, New York 11424, telephone: 718-286-3000. The Point of Contact is Mr. Irving Poy, Director, Planning & Development, Office of Queens Borough President.

Authority: This action is authorized by the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Title XXIX of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991, Pub. L. 101-510; the Base Closure Community Redevelopment and Homeless Assistance Act of 1994, Public Law 103-421; and 10 U.S.C. 113.

Dated: June 4, 2015.

Paul D. Cramer,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations, Housing & Partnerships).

[FR Doc. 2015-15662 Filed 6-25-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers

Ending of the National Environmental Policy Act Emergency Alternative Arrangements for New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS)

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Public notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) announces the formal termination of the Emergency Alternative Arrangements implemented by agreement with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) pursuant to CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1506.11).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Questions concerning ending NEPA Emergency Alternative Arrangements should be addressed to Sandra Stiles at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PDN-CEP, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, (504) 862-1583, fax (504) 862-2088 or by email at Sandra.E.Stiles@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NEPA Emergency Alternative Arrangements (Alternative Arrangements) were announced and published in the **Federal Register** on March 13, 2007 (72 FR 11337). The purpose of the Alternative Arrangements was to expedite the environmental analyses necessary to design and to construct the levees, floodwalls and other risk reduction structures comprising the HSDRRS in light of the threat posed by hurricanes and storm surge to the post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans Metropolitan Area. The Alternative Arrangements were limited to those actions necessary to control the immediate impacts of the emergency (40 CFR 1506.11) and were to remain in effect during the completion of the Individual Environmental Reports (IERS) and the Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED) as identified in the Alternative Arrangements.

The remaining documents to be completed under Alternative Arrangements include the Westbank & Vicinity Supplemental Programmatic IER for compensatory mitigation (SPIER 37a) and the CED, Phase II. While construction of the HSDRRS is very near complete, implementation of compensatory mitigation for the impacts

caused by that construction is ongoing. CEMVN has released multiple IERS evaluating potential mitigation projects. SPIER 37a will be released for public review not later than September 2015.

As set forth in the Alternative Arrangements, the CED addresses the HSDRRS on a system-wide scale. A Phase I CED was finalized on May 22, 2013. A Phase II CED will be released for public review in December 2016. A Decision Record on the CED is anticipated in May of 2017.

SPIER 37a and the CED, Phase II will be the final documents prepared under the Alternative Arrangements. In all other cases, CEMVN no longer utilizes the procedures of the Alternative Arrangements.

Dated: June 19, 2015.

Richard L. Hansen,

Colonel, U.S. Army, District Commander.

[FR Doc. 2015-15661 Filed 6-25-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Availability of Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Naval Base Coronado Coastal Campus at Naval Base Coronado, California

AGENCY: Department of the Navy, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Navy (DoN), after carefully weighing the strategic, operational, and environmental consequences of the proposed action, announces its decision to support the current and future operations readiness of personnel with the Naval Special Warfare Command by constructing, operating, and maintaining a Coastal Campus at Silver Strand Training Complex-South at Naval Base Coronado, California as set out in Alternative 1 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Naval Base Coronado Coastal Campus, California. Implementation of this alternative would include the design and construction of logistical support buildings, equipment use and maintenance training facilities, classroom and tactical skills instruction buildings, storage and administrative facilities, utilities, fencing, roads, and parking. A new controlled entry point would be provided for immediate access to/from State Route 75. Building 99, a World War II-era bunker eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, would be demolished to facilitate campus construction.