

From: Ettinger.John@epamail.epa.gov
[mailto:Ettinger.John@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 12:29 PM
To: Wilkinson, Laura L MVN
Cc: Keeler.Barbara@epamail.epa.gov; Landers.Timothy@epamail.epa.gov;
gilmore.cathy@epa.gov; Richard.Hartman@noaa.gov; Walther, David
Subject: EPA Comments on IER #10

May 11, 2009

Laura Lee,

EPA has reviewed draft Individual Environmental Report (IER) #10. We do not object to the proposed project. We would recommend that the final IER include additional information to help explain the alternatives analysis, and to provide greater detail on the design of the proposed action.

The final IER should provide further detail on why the proposed action (T-wall on existing levee) was selected over the deep soil mixing option, which would have less wetland impacts. As currently written, the draft IER provides only a generalized discussion of the rationale behind the selection of the proposed action. Based on recent communications with the Corps of Engineers, we understand that the deep soil mixing option was ruled out because of concerns pertaining to risk and reliability, construction limitations, and cost. In short, the deep soil mixing option could cost up to twice as much as the proposed action, while providing an inferior product in terms of risk and reliability. This is compelling information which should be included in the final IER. While we do not question the selection of the proposed action, we believe the public should have as much specific information as is possible on the rationale behind this decision.

We would also note that the description of the design of the proposed action (particularly figure 4) suggests that there will be limited anchoring of the T-wall to the existing levee. Would the T-wall be anchored to the existing levee by sheet piling (or some other structure) extending downward into the existing levee? If so, how deep would such anchoring go? Such design information should be included in the final IER. If no such anchoring is needed, we would suggest that the Corps of Engineers explain in the final IER why this is the case.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these comments. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

John Ettinger
U.S. EPA Region 6
(504) 862-1119
ettinger.john@epa.gov

From: Dustin White [mailto:Dustinw@MAIL.LA.GOV]
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2009 4:24 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: FW: IER #10 Comments

Comments on IER #10 from OCPD.

Dustin White
Project Management Branch
Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration
450 Laurel St., 12th Floor, 1210-0
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
(225) 342-4512
(225) 242-3418 FAX

From: Elizabeth Davoli
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2009 3:59 PM
To: Dustin White
Subject: IER #10 Comments

Dustin-
I found a few errors within the IER.

1. Section 2.5.1, 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: a small portion of Orleans Parish would be protected by these project. Change project to projects.
2. p. 45, top of page, 8th sentence: Delete the semi-colon after material.
3. p. 47, paragraph above Table 10: information for the reaming alternatives. Should reaming be remaining?
4. p. 48, LPV 145, Direct Impacts, 2nd sentence: Add of between acres and brackish marsh.
5. p. 62, LPV 147, Direct Impacts, 3rd sentence: Add a period at the end of the sentence.
6. p. 67, 1st full paragraph on page, 1st sentence: Italicize scientific name for bald eagle.
7. p. 79, top of page: "pollution due in large pat." Change pa" to part.
8. p. 89, 1st full paragraph on page, 4th sentence: communities within in the study area. Delete in.
9. p. 90, LPV 145, Direct Impacts, 4th sentence: the use of stacked hay bails. Change bails to bales.

Liz Davoli
Coastal Resources Scientist Supervisor
Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration
Planning & Program Management Division
Environmental Section
Elizabeth.Davoli@la.gov

From: Diane Hewitt
To: Owen, Gib A MVN
Sent: Mon May 04 14:35:46 2009
Subject: DEQ SOV:90417/0830 USACE/Draft IER #10

May 4, 2009

Gib Owen, USACE
CEMVN-PM-RS
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
gib.a.owen@usace.army.mil <<mailto:gib.a.owen@usace.army.mil>>

RE:
90417/0830 USACE/Draft IER #10
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Dear Mr. Owen:

The Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Assessment and Office of Environmental Services received your request for comments on the above referenced project. Please take the appropriate steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.

There were no objections based on the limited information submitted to us. However, the following comments have been included. Should you encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, please make the appropriate notification to this Department.

The Office of Environmental Services/Permits Division recommends that you investigate the following requirements that may influence your proposed project:

* If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.

* If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify their LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.

* LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact Melissa Conti at (225) 219-3078 to determine if your proposed improvements require one of these permits.

* All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities.

* If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps to inquire about the possible necessity for permits. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a Water Quality Certification from LDEQ.

* All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.

* Please be advised that water softeners generate waste waters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact DEQ, Water Permits to determine if special water quality based limitations will be necessary

* Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28.Lead-Based Paint Activities, LAC 33:III.Chapter 27.Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation) and LAC 33:III.5151.Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.

Currently, St. Bernard Parish is classified as an attainment parish with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all criteria air pollutants.

Please forward all future requests to Ms. Diane Hewitt, LDEQ/Performance Management/ P.O. Box 4301, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301 and we will expedite it as quickly as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (225)219-4079 or by email at diane.hewitt@la.gov <<mailto:diane.hewitt@la.gov>> . Permitting questions should be directed to the Office of Environmental Services at 225-219-3181.

Sincerely,

Diane Hewitt
LDEQ/Community and Industry Relations
Business and Community Outreach Division Office of the Secretary P.O.
Box 4301 (602 N. 5th Street) Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301
Phone: 225-219-4079
Fx: 225-325-8208
Email: diane.hewitt@la.gov