



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

News Release

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Corps signs Decision Record for Government Furnished Borrow Material Individual Environmental Report

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Commander, COL Alvin Lee, has signed the Decision Record for Individual Environmental Report 18. This decision allows the Corps to proceed with implementing the government's proposed action of using clay materials from 12 government furnished borrow source sites for the Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction System.

This is the second Decision Record signed by the District Commander as part of the Corps' alternative National Environmental Policy Act arrangements, which were implemented by the Corps in March 2007. IER 19 was signed Feb. 16, 2008.

The approval allows for the government to acquire, on behalf of the local sponsors, or the non-Federal sponsor to acquire for 100-year level protection cost-shared work, suitable real estate interests in the, 12 sites discussed in IER 18. Sites are located in Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, St. Charles, and Plaquemines parishes in Louisiana.

Within IER 18, the Corps has assessed the impacts of the proposed action on significant resources in the proposed project area, including:

- wetlands and bottomland hardwood forest
- threatened and endangered species
- cultural and recreational resources
- noise, air, and water quality
- socioeconomic resources

All reasonable and practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the plan. Various

governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and citizens were engaged throughout the preparation and review of IER 18.

A draft of IER 18 was released for public review on Oct. 29, 2007. Stakeholders and citizens had until Dec. 4, 2007 to comment on the information in the document. The Corps hosted a public meeting on Dec. 10, 2007 to discuss the government's proposed action noted in IERs 18 and 19.

In December, the District Commander made a decision that an addendum to IER 18, addressing comments received during the public review period, would be completed. The addendum was released for public review and comment on Jan. 10, 2008; the comment period closed on Feb. 11, 2008. Stakeholders and citizens had the opportunity to provide comments on the Addendum to IER 18 during this 30-day review period.

All IER 18 documents are available on www.nolaenvironmental.gov. Questions or comments concerning proposed hurricane storm damage and risk reduction actions should be addressed to:

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