



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506



May 28, 2009

Colonel Alvin B. Lee
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Lee:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the draft "Individual Environmental Report (IER) Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Bayou Dupre Control Structure, St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, (IER8)" transmitted to our office via a letter from Ms. Joan Exnicios, Acting, Chief of your Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch. That study was conducted in response to Public Law 109-234, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (i.e., Supplemental 4). That law authorized the Corps of Engineers (Corps) to upgrade the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity and the West Bank and Vicinity hurricane protection projects to provide protection against a 100-year hurricane event. The Service submits the following comments in accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (83 Stat. 852; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The IER is well-written and provides a good description of fish and wildlife resources in the project area and project impacts on those resources. Wetlands in the project area would be temporarily impacted by the construction of a cofferdam across Bayou Dupre; however, recovery from those impacts is expected to occur following removal of the cofferdam. Incorporation of four 48-inch culverts through the cofferdam will aid in the minimization of those impacts.

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The Service thus far does not object to the proposed hurricane protection features for IER 8. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft IER. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact David Walther at (337) 291-3122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Boggs', written in a cursive style.

James F. Boggs
Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX
CEMVN-PM-RS
National Marine Fisheries Service, Baton Rouge, LA
LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, Baton Rouge, LA
LA Dept. of Natural Resources (CMD/CRD), Baton Rouge, LA