DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS P.O. BOX 80 VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

1 9 DEC 2007

CEMVD-PD-N

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, New Orleans District

SUBJECT: Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation, Louisiana Feasibility Study, Peer Review Plan (PRP)

1. References:

- a. EC 1105-2-408, Peer Review of Decision documents, 31 May 2005.
- b. Memorandum CECW-CP, 30 March 2007, subject: Peer Review Process.
- c. Memorandum, March 2007, subject: Supplemental information for the "Peer Review Process."
- d. Subject Peer Review Plan submitted via email, 5 November 2007.
- 2. I hereby approve subject Peer Review Plan and concur in the conclusion that external peer review of this project is not necessary for the following reasons: (1) no influential scientific information will be produced by the study and (2) the risk was assessed as low. The proposed PRP has been coordinated with the National Deep Draft Navigation Planning Center of Expertise (DDN-PCX) and concurred in by the DDN-PCX. The PRP complies with all applicable policy and provides an adequate independent technical review of the plan formulation, engineering and environmental analyses, and other aspects of the plan development. Non-substantive changes to this PRP do not require further approval.
- 3. The District should take steps to post the PRP to its web site and to provide a link to the DDN-PCX for their use. Before posting to the web site, you are required to remove the names of Corps/Army employees in accordance with reference 1.c. above.

CEMVD-PD-N

SUBJECT: Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation, Louisiana

Feasibility Report Peer Review Plan (PRP)

4. The MVD point of contact is Mr. James Wojtala, CEMVD-PD-N,

Encl

ROBERT CREAR Brigadier General, USA Commanding

CF:

CESAM-PD-FE (ATTN:

CECW-CP



Peer Review Plan

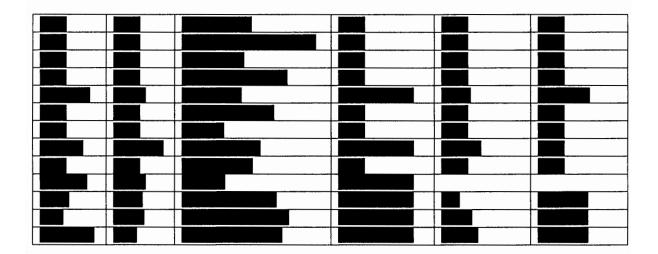
Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation, LA

October 2007

1) Project Description

- a) Decision Document. This document outlines the peer review plan for the Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation project. Engineering Circular 1105-2-408 dated 31 May 2005 "Peer Review of Decision Documents" 1) establishes procedures to ensure the quality and credibility of Corps decision documents by adjusting and supplementing the review process and 2) requires that documents have a peer review plan. The Circular applies to all feasibility studies and reports and any other reports that lead to decision documents that require authorization by Congress. This Feasibility Report will lead to Congressional Authorization and is therefore covered by the Circular. The purpose of this feasibility study is to investigate possible solutions to traffic congestion problems being experienced on the Calcasieu River and Pass Ship Channel.
- b) General Site Description. The Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation, Louisiana study area is located in southwest Louisiana in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes, extending from Lake Charles, Louisiana, southward into the Gulf of Mexico. The existing Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation project provides deepdraft navigation access to oil refineries, chemical plants, liquefied natural gas plants, and other facilities along the Calcasieu River. The study area includes this navigation channel and the areas adjacent to them that would potentially be impacted by the construction and maintenance of anchorage areas and passing lanes along the ship channel.
- c) Problems and Opportunities. Deep-draft vessel traffic on the Calcasieu River and Pass Ship Channel suffers significant, costly delays due to the restrictive width of the inland reach of the ship channel, which precludes most deep-draft vessels from passing head-on in the channel. These delays are exacerbated by LNG vessel traffic, which cannot meet and pass along the entire length of the ship channel, including the 32-mile long gulf reach. There is an opportunity to significantly reduce these delays by providing anchorage areas along the channel where deep-draft vessels can layover closer to their destinations or by providing passing lanes where non-LNG vessels can meet and pass closer to their destinations. Either of these plans could significantly reduce delays and the associated delay costs to deep-draft vessels using the ship channel.
- d) Project Delivery Team. The project delivery team (PDT) is comprised of those individuals directly involved in the development of the decision document. Contact information and disciplines are listed below.

| Last | First | Discipline | Phone Number | Office Symbol | Org. Code |
|------|-------|------------|--------------|---------------|-----------|
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2) Quality Control. This quality plan was developed to insure that high quality products are produced within the New Orleans District. This plan establishes the policies, procedures, and organizational responsibilities for providing quality control of planning products for this project.

The quality control plan (QCP) for the Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation, Louisiana feasibility study provides a technical review mechanism insuring that quality products are developed during the course of the study by the New Orleans District (MVN). The technical review of the feasibility study will consist of Independent Technical Review. By a Corps' district outside of MVN. All processes, quality control, quality assurance, and policy review, will complement each other producing a seamless review process that identifies and resolves technical and policy issues during the course of the study.

Technical review will assure accountability for the technical quality of the product. Each technical review objective in the QCP will be satisfied through a seamless review process performed outside MVN (Internal Technical Review), MVD (quality assurance of technical products), and HQUSACE (policy review). The quality control plan is based upon applicable guidance from higher authority including the Engineering Circular 1105-2-408 titled: Peer Review of Decision Documents dated May 31, 2005, Report of the Task Force on Technical Review, dated December 1994, and CELMV-ET memorandum of 23 September 1995, subject: Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Directorate of Engineering and Technical Services, Quality Control and Quality Assurance Guidance.

3) Peer Review. Based upon cost, technical expertise, and current and projected workload, the on-going review process for Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation feasibility study will be conducted by the New Orleans District in conjunction with another District with Deep Draft Navigation experience. The local sponsor will also be involved in the review process by participating in Project Delivery Team (PDT) meetings. In terms of technical expertise, the New Orleans District has a vast amount

of experience and capability in order to produce a quality product for the Calcasieu River and Pass Navigation feasibility study given the similarity to numerous other Deep Draft Navigation constructed throughout the New Orleans District. Peer Review Teams (PRT) will be responsible for verifying; 1) assumptions, 2) methods, procedures, and material used in analyses based on the level of analyses, 3) alternative evaluated is reasonable, 4) appropriateness of data used, and level of data obtained, and 5) reasonableness of results

- 4) Independent Technical Review (ITR). ITR will consist of a single level study review performed outside the New Orleans District by another Corps District in coordination with MVD and the Planning Center of Expertise of another District.
 - Planning Center of Expertise (PCX). The Calcasieu River and Pass
 Navigation feasibility study will be assigned to the Deep Draft Navigation
 Planning Center of Expertise (DDNPCX) headed by the Deputy Director,
 (251) 694-3884. The ITR will be performed by another Corps district in
 coordination with the PCX and MVD. These potential reviewers may include
 nominations from scientific or professional societies, if the Center so chooses.
 - ii) Independent Technical Review Team (ITRT). The ITRT will be comprised of the same disciplines on the PDT, and will have experience in the type of analyses in which they are responsible for reviewing. Each ITRT member will be senior or equal in experience to the analyst or production person. Consistent with recent Corps guidance, the ITR team member for cost engineering will be obtained through the Walla Walla District. The review team should consist of no less than 15 members and of include members with expertise in the following disciplines:

| DISCIPLINE | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Economics | | | | |
| Environmental | | | | |
| Cultural Resources | | | | |
| Recreational Resources | | | | |
| Project Management | | | | |
| Hydraulic Engineering | | | | |
| Civil Engineering - cost | | | | |
| Geotechnical Engineering | | | | |
| Civil Engineering | | | | |
| Mechanical Engineering | | | | |
| Civil Engineering - Projects | | | | |
| Civil Engineering - Operations | | | | |
| Real Estate – Acquisition and Leasing | | | | |
| Real Estate - Appraisal | | | | |
| Office of Counsel | | | | |

- iii) *DrChecks*. ITR of this decision document will be conducted using the online DrChecks system (www.projnet.org). Use of DrChecks will document all ITR comments, responses, and associated resolution accomplished throughout the study delivery process.
- iv) Milestones and Schedule: ITR will be conducted throughout the majority of the study life. The amount of time it will take to conduct the ITR will depend on the Deep Draft Navigation PCX workload and schedule, but tentative dates have ITR beginning in June 2008 and ending in March 2010. The following milestones are also tentatively scheduled as follows:

| Milestone | Date | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| FCSA Execution | FEB 2007 | |
| Feasibility Initiation | MAR 2007 | |
| ITR Initiation | JUNE 2008 | |
| AFB | JUNE 2009 | |
| Draft Report | SEP 2009 | |
| Draft Submittal | NOV 2009 | |
| Technical review conference | If needed DEC 2009 | |
| NEPA Public Review | FEB 2010 | |
| ITR Certification | MAR 2010 | |
| Final Submittal | APR 2010 | |
| CWRB | AUG 2010 | |
| MSC Commanders Public Notice | NOV 2010 | |

- v) Planning Models: The study will be using the two-dimensional TABS-MD suite of models, a two-dimensional hydrodynamics model RMA2 and the convection-diffusion model SED2D that uses RMA2 hydrodynamics as input. All of these models are certified therefore no ITR will be necessary.
- b) External Peer Review (EPR). This feasibility study does not meet the EPR criteria of EC 1105-2-408. The cost of this project is not expected to exceed \$40 million, therefore its magnitude is determined as low. The study will not contain precedent-setting methods or models, present conclusions that are likely to change prevailing practices, or contain a potential for failure or controversy. Because of the anticipated cost and low magnitude there is a consensus at the District that EPR will not be necessary.
- c) **Public Involvement.** The public will have several opportunities to comment on the feasibility study through a public involvement plan implemented through a notice of study initiation, public meetings, and workshops. This will give the Corps the opportunity to exchange information with the public and insure that individuals with an inherent interest in the study are identified and contacted allowing them to voice their views and concerns relative to the study process.

Public meetings and workshops will be conducted to gather and provide feedback from the public, formulate a consensus, and generally keep interested parties informed. The first public meeting is scheduled for March of 2008 to present the tentative alternatives, and a public meeting will be scheduled subsequent to the public release of the draft feasibility report and environmental assessment to present the study conclusions. Throughout the study other public meetings and workshops will be held as necessary.

Although all comments will not be provided to the ITR team, significant and relevant public comments will prior to ITR certification. Any major changes in the study resulting from these comments, and all pertinent comments, will be made available to the PCX.