



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Notice

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) #583 entitled "Mississippi River and Tributaries, Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana, Humble Canal Gate Site Preparation and Initial Levee Preload, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana"

Introduction. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN), has prepared Draft EA #583 which is available for your review and comment. This public notice is being posted per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council of Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA, Section 1506.6, Public Involvement and the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 in accordance with provisions of Title 33 CFR Parts 336.1(b)(1) and 337.1, which establish policy, practices, and procedures to be followed on Federal actions involving the disposal of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (application of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA guidelines). Notice is hereby given that for the EA #583, a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC 210601-03) has been received. CEMVN has coordinated this proposed action with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LAC 33:IX.1507.A-E and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and no further action is required.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide hurricane and storm damage risk reduction for the communities located within the Morganza to the Gulf levee system. Evaluation of the proposed action includes application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, through 40 CFR 230. The proposed action has been reviewed and is consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program in accordance with Section 307 (c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

Location of Work. The proposed action is located near Humble Canal, approximately 3 miles south of Montegut, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

Description of Work. The proposed preload levee would tie-in to existing flood protection levees on the Morganza to the Gulf levee system, between Reaches 1-3 and J-2. Approximately 150,000 cubic yards (cyd) of fill and borrow material comprised of mostly of clay and some sand and rock will be used to construct the preload levee. The preload will be constructed over a wick drain foundation that will extend within and drain the upper 45 feet of clay foundation. The borrow material shall be of naturally occurring earth materials hauled in from Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District's J-1 borrow site which is approximately 100-acres. The Proposed Action to construct the preload levee will directly impact approximately 0.1 acres of open water in the canal and approximately 9.6 acres of existing wetlands consisting of fresh and brackish marsh and bottomland hardwoods.

Public Involvement. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. Copies of EA #583 and supporting documents are available at: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/Morganza-to-the-Gulf/> or upon request.

The 30-day public review and comment period for EA #583 and CWA Section 404(b)(1) will begin on August 12, 2021 and end on September 11, 2021. Interested parties may express their views on the proposed action. All comments postmarked on or before the expiration of the comment period for this notice will be considered. Comments may be submitted to Daniel Meden by emailing mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil, or mailed to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Regional Planning and Environmental Division South; PDS-C; 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-3651.