



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
7400 LEAKE AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Regional Planning and Environment  
Division South  
Environmental Compliance Branch

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**  
**Programmatic Environmental Assessment #556**

**Categorical Permissions to Alter**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects**  
**Pursuant to 33 USC 408**

**Description of the Proposed Action:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District receives numerous requests each year from private interests and local and state agencies for permission to perform activities that would affect or alter USACE civil works projects. When requests are received, they are evaluated to determine if the proposed alteration would impair the usefulness of the USACE project or be injurious to the public interest in accordance with Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, codified at 33 U.S. Code § 408, and Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-216, titled *Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests to Alter US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to 33 U.S. Code (USC) 408*. The proposed action establishes categorical permissions to address National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for proposed alterations that are similar in nature and have similar impacts. A categorical permission is similar to a categorical exclusion under NEPA. A categorical exclusion is a category of actions that a Federal agency determines does not normally result in individually or cumulatively significant environmental effects and for which therefore neither an environmental assessment (EA) nor an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required (40 CFR §1508.4). Categorical permissions also cover activities that have been found not to result in more than minor impacts both individually and cumulatively. The attached Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) evaluates the anticipated individual and cumulative impacts of the proposed categorically permitted activities and substantiates the conclusion that these activities will not result in significant impacts either individually or cumulatively. Importantly, EC 1165-2-216 directs that the scope of analysis for the NEPA and environmental compliance evaluations for the Section 408 review is limited to the area of alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration.

The no-action alternative (Alternative 1) and twelve individual alternatives or types of actions (Alternatives 2-13) have been evaluated for qualification as categorical permissions. A combination of all twelve types of actions has also been evaluated (Alternative 14). No-action is defined as not establishing any categorical permissions and evaluating all Section 408 requests through application of existing categorical exclusions as provided by Engineering Regulation 200-2-2, titled *Procedures for*

*Implementing NEPA*”, or through the preparation of EAs or EISs. The types of actions that are proposed as categorical permissions and that have been evaluated are:

- Alternative 2 - Categorical permission for pipeline crossings including horizontal directional drills, open cuts, ramp-overs, and floodwall penetrations
- Alternative 3 - Categorical permission for utility lines including fiber optic, water, natural gas, and electricity, both aerial and underground, including associated structures and support poles
- Alternative 4 - Categorical permission for bulk material conveyor systems
- Alternative 5 - Categorical permission for culverts, drainage pipes, and drainage ditches
- Alternative 6 - Categorical permission for vehicle and pedestrian bridges
- Alternative 7 - Categorical permission for bank stabilization and erosion control features
- Alternative 8 - Categorical permission for bulkheads, docks, wharfs, mooring pilings and dolphins
- Alternative 9 - Categorical permission for barge fleeting operations in channels with existing barge fleeting operations
- Alternative 10 - Categorical permission for cattle guards, fences, and other ranching and farming activities on easement lands
- Alternative 11 - Categorical permission for trails, signage, lighting, and other similar operational, recreational, and decorative features
- Alternative 12 - Categorical permission for soil investigations and seismic surveys, including borings, piezometers, and inclinometers.
- Alternative 13 - Categorical permission for levee ramps and crossings
- Alternative 14 - Categorical permission for alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions (recommended plan)

Alternative 14 is the proposed action or recommended plan. Alternative 14 includes all of the individual types of actions considered for designation as categorical permissions.

All 408 requests are reviewed for compliance with District requirements as set forth in PEA #556 at page 12. Alterations that are approved as categorical permissions will also be evaluated for compliance with District requirements. Additionally, in order to qualify for use of a categorical permission, the request must meet the following requirements:

1. The activity must not result in more than minor impacts to the environment.
2. The activity must have a small footprint.
3. The activity must not be likely to adversely affect a listed species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act.
4. The activity must not have the potential to result in disproportionate adverse impacts to low income or minority populations.
5. The activity must not adversely affect prime and unique farmlands, state-designated scenic streams or socioeconomic resources.
6. The activity must have no or only temporary adverse impacts to recreational resources.

Proposed activities not meeting these requirements will be evaluated for NEPA compliance through use of a categorical exclusion or the preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, as appropriate.

**Factors Considered in Determination:** This New Orleans District has assessed the impacts of the no action alternative and each of the types of actions under consideration for their effect on or impacts to important resources including: air quality, water quality, wetlands and other waters, upland habitats, essential fish habitat, threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources. The New Orleans District has also evaluated the potential for these actions to adversely affect prime and unique farmlands, state designated scenic streams, floodplain values and functions, socioeconomic resources, recreational resources, and aesthetics, and environmental justice, and determined that these resources are not expected to be adversely affected.

There is no specific documentation of compliance with other environmental laws associated with PEA #556 since the PEA addresses proposed actions in a programmatic manner. However, the PEA has been provided to other resource agencies for review and comment and a Programmatic Agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation under the National Historic Preservation Act is being developed for use with the categorically permitted activities. Individual Section 408 permissions (regardless whether categorically permitted) would require specific environmental compliance documentation and permitting, as applicable, to comply with laws such as, but not limited to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**Environmental Design Commitments:** The following commitments are an integral part of the proposed action:

1. Section 408 requests to construct or install culverts, drainage pipes, and drainage ditches (Alternative 5), will be examined to determine the purpose and potential effects of such structures and if found to have the potential to drain wetlands and cause the loss of those areas, a categorical permission would not be used. The action would be evaluated through either an EA or EIS as appropriate.
2. Section 408 requests to construct bank stabilization and erosion control features (Alternative 7), will be subjected to the criteria found in the USACE's Nationwide General Permit #13 (Bank Stabilization) to determine if application of a categorical permission is appropriate.

**Public Involvement:** On September XX, 2017, draft PEA #556 and the associated draft Finding of No Significant Impact were distributed to Federal, state, and local agencies and businesses, organizations, and individuals for a 30-day review and comment period. Comments on the draft PEA and FONSI were received from (*insert names here*). All comments received have been addressed. Comments and responses are provided as Appendix E of PEA #556.

**Decision:** I approve establishment of the twelve categories of categorical permissions as set forth in the recommended plan (Alternative #14). The expected environmental impacts of the recommended plan have been addressed in PEA #556. The actions which comprise the recommended plan are not expected to result in significant impacts either individually or cumulatively. I have reviewed PEA #556 and have considered public and agency comments and recommendations. Based on the assessment documented in PEA #556, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, I have determined that the recommended plan would have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

DRAFT

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Date

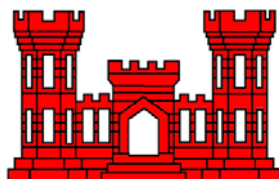
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Michael N. Clancy  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT**

**Programmatic Environmental  
Assessment #556**

**Categorical Permissions to Alter  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects  
Pursuant to 33 USC 408**



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division  
Regional Planning and Environment Division South  
New Orleans District**

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APPENDIX E - Section 408 New Orleans District Environmental Compliance

# 1 Introduction

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), District (District) has constructed, and continues to construct, numerous civil works projects within its geographical area of responsibility in the southern portion of Louisiana. The District receives numerous requests each year from private interests and local and state agencies for permission to perform activities that would affect or alter these USACE civil works projects. When requests are received, they are evaluated to determine if the proposed alteration would impair the usefulness of the USACE project or be injurious to the public interest. Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-216, titled *Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests to Alter US Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to 33 U.S. Code (USC) 408*, provides guidance to process such requests. The EC is available at:

[http://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerCirculars/EC\\_1165-2-216.pdf?ver=2016-06-28-100552-103](http://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Publications/EngineerCirculars/EC_1165-2-216.pdf?ver=2016-06-28-100552-103). Because issuance of permission to alter a USACE project is a federal action, it is subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §4321, et seq., compliance.

To simplify the review process, EC 1165-2-216, Section 6.s states that USACE districts may develop "categorical permissions" to address environmental compliance for proposed alterations that are similar in nature and have similar impacts. A categorical permission is similar to a "categorical exclusion" under NEPA. Categorical permissions are established at the district level and address only requests to alter civil works projects under Section 408, whereas categorical exclusions are established at the agency level with the involvement of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and cover agency-wide actions. A categorical exclusion covers a category of actions that does not normally result in individually or cumulatively significant environmental effects and for which therefore neither an environmental assessment (EA) nor an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required. Once the agency has identified categories of activities that do not normally have the potential for individually or cumulatively significant impacts, the agency may establish a categorical exclusion for those activities. Because use of a categorical exclusion obviates the need to prepare an EA or EIS, use of categorical exclusions can reduce paperwork and delay so that more resources are available to assess proposed actions that have the potential to cause significant environmental effects. Under EC 1165-2-216, categorical permissions are used in the same manner as categorical exclusions, and offer the same time and resource-saving benefits to the agency.

The District has prepared this environmental assessment to evaluate the environmental impacts of certain categories of requested alterations to determine whether those actions may appropriately be designated as categorical permissions. Designation of a type of proposed action as a categorical permissions would allow expedited NEPA review of the proposed action to validate application of the categorical permission and to identify and specify any special conditions that may apply on a site-specific basis. If validated, this expedited review would result in preparation of a Memorandum for



Record documenting the use of the categorical permission in lieu of preparation of an EA or EIS. If approved, categorical permissions would be applicable to certain categories of requests to alter Federal flood control and flood risk reduction projects and navigation projects within the boundaries of the District.

Preparation of this programmatic environmental assessment follows the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance for Effective Use of Programmatic National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Reviews. It evaluates "a suite of ongoing, proposed, and reasonably foreseeable actions that share a common geography or timing, such as multiple activities within a defined boundary" as described in the CEQ guidance. The purpose of this Programmatic Environmental Assessment is to develop categorical permissions as described in EC 1165-2-216 to cover potential alterations that are similar in nature, have similar impacts, and have impacts that do not individually or cumulatively have any significant effect on the human environment in order to simplify the Section 408 review process. If approved, the respective categorical permissions will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that based on on-going experience, those types of activities continue to have only minimal environmental impacts, and that circumstances have not changed that would impact the analyses and conclusions reached in this document.

This document provides the necessary information to fully address the potential environmental impacts of implementing categorical permissions for Section 408 as required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.); CEQ Regulations [40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500 – 1508] (CEQ, 1992); and USACE Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2 (33 CFR 230). ER 200-2-2 contains the USACE's procedures for implementing NEPA.

## **1.1 33 USC Section 408 Authority and Guidance**

The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent alterations to Federally authorized civil works projects is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, codified at 33 U.S. Code § 408, titled *Taking possession of, use of, or injury to harbor or river improvements*. It states:

*"It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to take possession of or make use of for any purpose, or build upon, alter, deface, destroy, move, injure, obstruct by fastening vessels thereto or otherwise, or in any manner whatever impair the usefulness of any sea wall, bulkhead, jetty, dike, levee, wharf, pier, or other work built by the United States, or any piece of plant, floating or otherwise, used in the construction of such work under the control of the United States, in whole or in part, for the preservation and improvement of any of its navigable waters or to prevent floods, or as boundary marks, tide gauges, surveying stations, buoys, or other established marks, nor remove for ballast or other purposes any stone or other material composing such works: Provided, That the Secretary of the Army may, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, grant permission for the temporary occupation or use of any of the aforementioned*

*public works when in his judgment such occupation or use will not be injurious to the public interest: Provided further, That the Secretary may, on the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, grant permission for the alteration or permanent occupation or use of any of the aforementioned public works when in the judgment of the Secretary such occupation or use will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of such work.”*

Specific USACE guidance for implementation of 33 U.S. Code § 408 ("Section 408") is provided by EC 1165-2-216. The expiration date on the EC is July 21, 2016, however the expiration was extended by Headquarters USACE until September 30, 2017. It is expected that the expiration date of the EC will continue to be extended until it is succeeded by new guidance. EC 1165-2-216 defines the use of the terms “alteration” and “alter” as any action by any entity other than USACE that builds upon, alters, improves, moves, occupies, or otherwise affects the usefulness or the structural or ecological integrity of a USACE project. This definition is also being used in this document as well. The entity or individual requesting permission to alter the USACE project, hereafter referred to as the requester, is responsible for acquiring all other needed permissions, authorizations, and permits. This includes any permits needed from the USACE Regulatory Program, specifically Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 and Clean Water Act Section 404 permits.

EC 1165-2-216 contains USACE policy statements concerning environmental compliance for Section 408 permissions. “This EC only applies to alterations proposed within the lands and real property interests identified and acquired for the USACE project and to lands available for USACE projects under the navigation servitude.” Because USACE only has Section 408 jurisdiction over the lands within the USACE project area, generally “[t]he scope of analysis for the NEPA and environmental compliance evaluations for the Section 408 review should be limited to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration.” The EC also recognizes that in some circumstances, a larger area should be subject to environmental review.

## **1.2 Scope of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment**

The District’s geographical area of responsibility for civil works projects is shown in Figure 1. USACE districts are defined mainly by drainage basins. The District includes the drainage basin of the Mississippi River within Louisiana generally south of the Old River Control Complex near Simmesport, and nearly all of the coastal streams and rivers draining into the Gulf of Mexico within Louisiana, but it does not include the Sabine River Basin or the Pearl River Basin. The Galveston District has responsibility for the Sabine River Basin and the Vicksburg District has responsibility for the Pearl River Basin. The Vicksburg District also has responsibility for the Red and Ouachita River Basins in central and north Louisiana.

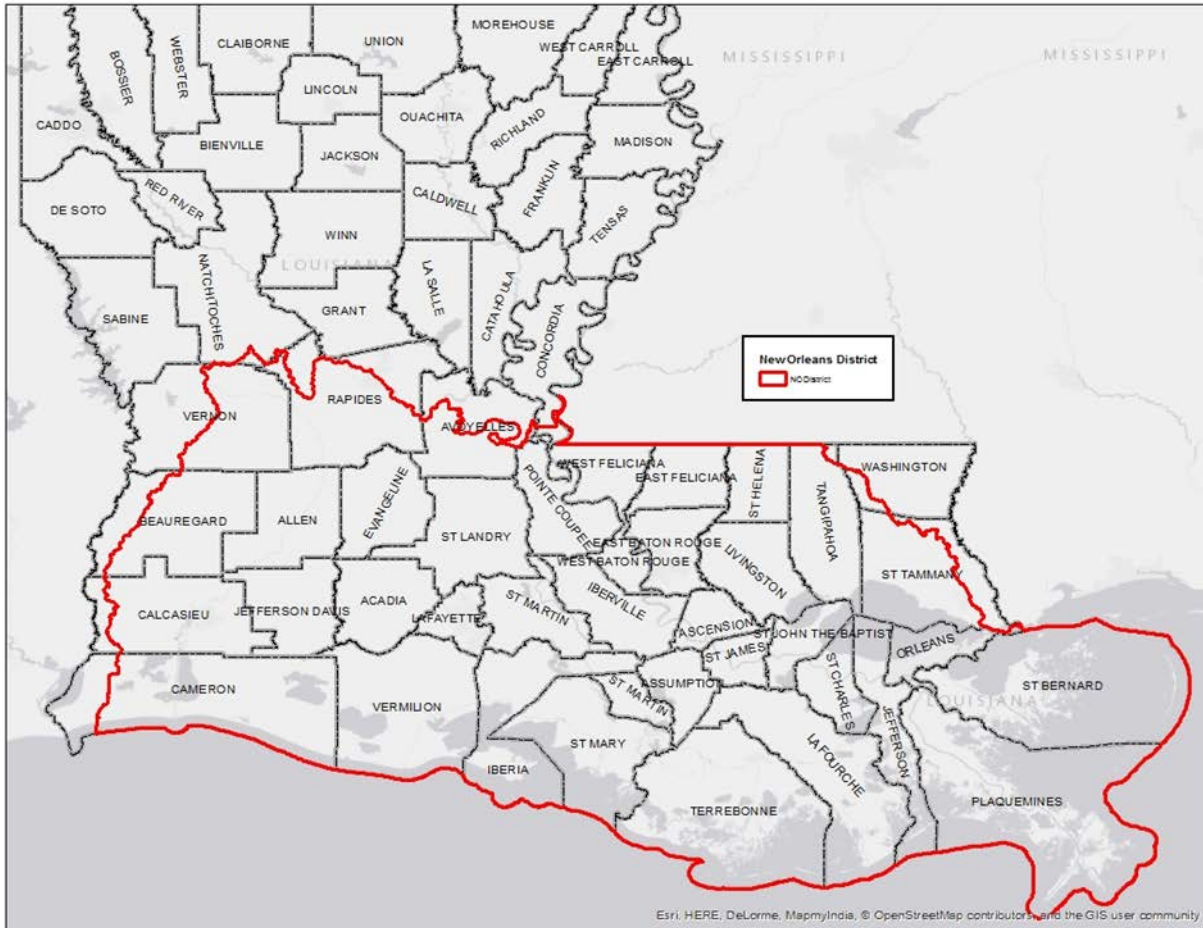


Figure 1: The New Orleans District geographical boundary.

Per EC 1165-2-216, the scope of the analysis for Section 408 reviews is limited to the lands and real property interests required for USACE projects and those adjacent areas that are directly or indirectly affected by the alteration. If a proposed alteration is part of a larger project that extends beyond the USACE project boundaries, the District staff would determine what portions or features of the larger project USACE has control and responsibility over to warrant inclusion as part of the evaluation, as described in EC 1165-2-216. Requests to alter projects other than Federal flood risk reduction, flood control projects (Mississippi River and Tributaries Project), and Federal navigation projects, and alteration types not considered in this Programmatic Environmental Assessment, will be evaluated for National Environmental Policy Act compliance separately. Either a categorical exclusion as provided under ER 200-2-2, an environmental assessment (EA) with a finding of no significant impact (FONSI), or an environmental impact statement (EIS) with a record of decision (ROD) would be prepared for those requests.

The lead paragraph of EC 1165-2-216 states that the EC applies to Federally-authorized projects. There are several large Federal projects within the District that are

Congressionally-authorized for construction, but construction, as part of a Federal project has not commenced. Examples are the East Baton Rouge Parish flood risk reduction project, the Morganza to the Gulf flood risk reduction project, and the West Shore Lake Pontchartrain flood risk reduction project. (Note that some components of these projects have been constructed by non-Federal interests at their own expense.) In some cases, project cost-share agreements have not been executed between the USACE and the non-Federal project sponsors, and in some cases the projects have not received “new start” construction funding from Congress. When USACE has jurisdiction over the project area under another authority (such as the Clean Water Act §404 or Rivers and Harbors Act §10), the District will evaluate proposed actions that would alter these authorized but not-yet-constructed projects in the same manner as proposals to alter constructed projects are evaluated, while considering that real estate acquisition to establish project boundaries has not yet occurred.

The establishment of categorical permissions would not change the engineering and real estate reviews conducted for every Section 408 request. The District’s Engineering Division conducts, and would continue to conduct, a thorough evaluation of every Section 408 request to assure that the usefulness of the USACE project(s) is not impaired and that the alteration would not be injurious to the public interest. The USACE Regional Real Estate Division would also continue to evaluate every Section 408 request to assure that the USACE project’s real estate interests are not adversely affected. These two District technical divisions would continue to work with the requesters to modify the requests as needed to assure the Section 408 actions do not adversely affect USACE projects. All Section 408 requests also undergo an agency technical review or ATR, as required by EC 1165-2-216. The District has developed and utilizes an overarching review plan, called a procedural review plan, which established the review procedures to be used for requests that are similar in nature and that have similar impacts. The District’s procedural review plan applies to generally the same categories of requests as this programmatic EA. Individual review plans are developed and used for the types or categories of requests that are not covered under the procedural review plan.

### **1.2.1 Federal Flood Risk Reduction and Flood Control Projects**

There are several large-scale flood risk reduction projects within the District. The project providing hurricane storm surge risk reduction to most of Orleans Parish (New Orleans) and the parts of Jefferson and St. Charles Parishes that lie on the east bank of the Mississippi River, is the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project. The West Bank and Vicinity project provides hurricane storm surge risk reduction to parts of Jefferson, St. Charles and Orleans Parishes that lie on the west bank of the Mississippi River. Both of these projects are designed to provide risk reduction from storms with a one percent chance of occurring in any single year, otherwise known as the 100-year level of risk reduction. The New Orleans to Venice project provides hurricane storm surge risk reduction to parts of Plaquemines Parish, generally the higher lands bordering both banks of the Mississippi River. The Larose to Golden Meadow project provides

hurricane storm surge risk reduction to parts of Lafourche Parish, generally the higher lands bordering both banks of Bayou Lafourche. All of these projects consist primarily of earthen levees, along with concrete floodwalls, concrete barriers, navigable floodgates, vehicular floodgates, and pumping stations.

The Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project's flood control plan employs a variety of engineering techniques, including an extensive levee system to prevent disastrous overflows on developed alluvial lands; floodways to safely divert excess flows past critical reaches so that the levee system will not be unduly stressed; channel improvements and stabilization features to protect the integrity of flood control measures and to ensure proper alignment and depth of the navigation channel; and tributary basin improvements, to include levees, headwater reservoirs and pumping stations, that maximize the benefits realized on the main stem by expanding flood protection coverage and improving drainage into adjacent areas within the alluvial valley. Major features of the MR&T project lie within the District. The most notable feature is the mainline levees along the banks of Mississippi River. Within the District, the west bank levee is continuous, except for floodwalls, floodgates, and water control structures from the upstream limit of the District near Old River to Venice. On the east bank, the levee runs from Baton Rouge to Bohemia in Plaquemines Parish, with interspersed floodwalls, floodgates, and water control structures. Major project features along the Mississippi River include the Bonnet Carre diversion structure and spillway, the Morganza diversion structure, and the Old River Control Complex, which includes three major water control structures (Low Sill, Auxiliary, and Overbank Structures), and the Old River Lock. The Atchafalaya Basin Flood Control project is also a major feature of the MR&T project. The Atchafalaya Basin Flood Control project consists of levees along both banks of the Atchafalaya River from Old River downstream to approximately Butte La Rose and basin protection levees on the east and west sides of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway down to the vicinity of Morgan City, and the Levees West of Berwick which provide river flood protection to cities, towns and communities along Bayou Teche and Bayou Sale. In addition to these levees, the project includes many floodgates, several pumping stations, several navigation locks, navigable floodgates, gravity drainage structures, and channel dredging for flood control and navigation.

The MR&T project also includes a channel improvement program which prevents migration of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. Under this program, dikes, revetment, and dredging are used to stabilize the river channel and its banks. These channel improvement features provide both navigation and flood risk reduction benefits by maintaining an efficient channel alignment, providing the required flood-carrying capacity, and protecting the adjacent levee system.

One additional, notable flood risk reduction project is the Comite River Diversion project under construction in East Baton Rouge Parish which, when operational, will divert flood flows from the Comite River to the Mississippi River. Appendix A contains annotated tables of the flood risk reduction and MR&T projects within the District.

## 1.2.2 Federal Navigation Projects

The District likely has the densest concentration of navigation projects in the U.S. The most heavily used and deepest draft channel is the Mississippi River which is currently maintained to provide a 45 feet deep navigation channel from the Gulf of Mexico to Baton Rouge. Dredging is required to maintain the navigation channel from the bar channel in the Gulf of Mexico at the entrance to Southwest Pass, through Southwest Pass to the vicinity of Venice. Dredging is also required at several locations between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, known as crossings, where the deep, natural channel of the river crosses from one side of the river to the other.

The Calcasieu River and Pass project in southwest Louisiana provides a 40 feet deep navigation channel from the Gulf of Mexico to the Port of Lake Charles, with side channels and turning basins. The Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black project provides a 20 feet deep channel from the Gulf of Mexico, through the Atchafalaya River and Bayou Chene, up to the industrial fabrication facilities located along Bayous Boeuf and Black near Morgan City. Other notable coastal waterways that have USACE-maintained navigation channels are Mermentau River, Freshwater Bayou, Houma Navigation Canal, Port Fourchon (Bayou Lafourche), Barataria Bay Waterway, Tiger Pass, and Baptiste Collette Bayou. All of these channels provide for navigation between the Gulf of Mexico and inland, land-based facilities.

The primary navigation channel running parallel to the Louisiana coast is the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway or GIWW. The GIWW provides for shallow-draft, inland navigation from Brownsville, Texas to the vicinity of Apalachicola, Florida. Within the District, the main stem of the GIWW runs from the western to the eastern borders of the District. An alternate route runs from the main stem near Morgan City to the Port Allen Lock on the west bank of the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge. The GIWW is heavily used for the transportation of liquid petroleum and petroleum products. This project is unlike nearly all other USACE projects in the District because it does not have a non-Federal project sponsor who is responsible for acquisition of lands, easements, right-of way, and disposal areas. All real estate interests required for the GIWW project are in the name of the Federal Government. Appendix A contains annotated tables of the navigation projects within the District.

## 2 Purpose and Need

**2.1 USACE Policy Guidance.** Engineering Circular 1165-2-216, Section 6.s, states that USACE districts have the ability to develop categorical permissions for compliance with Section 408 to cover potential alterations that are similar in nature and that have similar impacts in order to simplify the National Environmental Policy Act review process. The District proposes to establish categorical permissions for common types of requests that experience has shown to not typically cause any more than minimal environmental impacts. During 2016 and the first eight months of 2017, the District's environmental compliance staff received 96 requests subject

to Section 408 review. While the majority of these requests have generally fallen into types of actions that are both similar in nature and impacts, as of late 2017 the District has reviewed and prepared individual environmental assessment checklists for 36 separate requests that did not meet the criteria for a categorical exclusion contained under ER-200-2-2. Each of these 36 separate requests resulted in a determination of no significant impact on the human environment made by the USACE, CEMVN District Commander. Appendix E of this EA lists each request along with a description of the type of action and compliance with associated Federal, state and local laws and regulations. Through this programmatic EA, the District proposes to establish categorical permissions for additional types of actions that are common in the District, even though no such requests have been received through the Section 408 program.

Establishing categorical permissions would simplify the review process for the majority of the Section 408 requests that are received and allow the District to expedite environmental reviews while continuing to provide an adequate level of environmental review meeting NEPA requirements. The majority of future requests, based on requests received in 2016 and 2017, are expected to have minimal to minor levels of adverse environmental impacts on the environment within USACE project boundaries and adjacent areas indirectly affected. Expedited reviews would benefit both the Government and requesters by reducing the time and expense related to processing the Section 408 requests, while continuing to fully comply with USACE NEPA implementing regulations and USACE Section 408 policy guidance. Further, it would free up personnel resources to process environmental reviews of the remaining requests which require the preparation of EAs or EISs, within a reasonable amount of time.

EC 1165-2-216 contains guidance to District offices concerning the use of existing categorical exclusions under 33 CFR 230.9 for the efficient processing of Section 408 requests. Two categorical exclusions are specifically mentioned. The first, 33 CFR 230.9(b), addresses activities at completed Corps projects which carry out the authorized project purposes. The District has not applied this categorical exclusion for any Section 408 requests, since no requests have been received which support or carry out the authorized project purposes. The second, 33 CFR 230.9(i), addresses real estate grants for rights-of-way which involve only minor disturbances to earth, air, or water. The following activities are specifically mentioned under this categorical exclusion: "Minor access roads, streets, and boat ramps; Minor utility distribution and collection lines, including irrigation; Removal of sand, gravel, rock, and other material from existing borrow areas; and oil and gas seismic and gravity meter survey for exploration purposes." The EC specifically states "Real estate grants for rights-of-way as referenced in Section 33 CFR 230.9(i) should be broadly interpreted to include grants of rights-of-way by either USACE or the non-Federal sponsor." This information is provided here to explain why these types of activities are not included as proposed categorical permissions in this EA. As of June 2017, the District has applied this categorical exclusion to five Section 408 requests; one for an earthen levee ramp for vehicle access, one for a fiber optic cable crossing of a levee, one for a multi-use trail

(road) on top of an existing levee and two for utility lines used for drainage. There are currently three additional projects undergoing review that will likely be categorically excluded under ER 200-2-2.

The purpose of this document is to develop categorical permissions as described in EC 1165-2-216 to cover potential alterations that are similar in nature and have similar impacts and that do not have the potential for individually or cumulatively significant impacts in order to simplify the Section 408 review process. This aligns with guidance from CEQ concerning development of programmatic NEPA reviews for multiple actions that are similar in nature (CEQ, 2014). Also, a programmatic document allows for a more comprehensive evaluation of potential cumulative impacts that may result from numerous alterations within the District.

## **2.2 Procedures and Limitations**

The following general requirements are applicable to all Section 408 requests received by the District:

1. Design and construction specifications must be signed and sealed by a Louisiana-registered professional engineer and, if applicable, a Louisiana-registered geologist.
2. The proposed alteration must not negatively impact typical inspections, operations, and maintenance of the USACE project.
3. The proposed alteration must not impact any flood-fighting operations that may be conducted at the USACE project.
4. The proposed alteration must not result in any increase in operation and maintenance costs to the USACE.

The following engineering and environmental conditions have been developed to assist in determining if proposed alterations would be injurious to the public interest:

1. Proposed alterations must not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species, including their critical habitat, listed or designated under the Endangered Species Act.
2. Proposed alterations must not result in the “take” of migratory birds as defined in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
3. Proposed alterations must incorporate best management practices to control storm water runoff or any point source discharges in accordance with any required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits.
4. Proposed alterations must not encourage additional development within the floodplain, or adversely affect floodplain values or the base flood elevation.
5. Proposed alterations must not adversely affect any significant cultural resources and be in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106.
6. Proposed alterations must meet other conditions as described in Section 5, Environmental Consequences.
7. Proposed alterations must not cause a public health or safety issue, or a



navigation safety issue.

All 408 requests are reviewed for compliance with these requirements. Any alterations that are approved as categorical permissions will continue to be evaluated for compliance with these requirements. Additionally, in order to qualify for use of a categorical permission, the request must meet the following requirements:

1. The activity must not result in more than minor impacts to the environment.
2. The activity must have a small footprint.
3. The activity must not be likely to adversely affect a listed species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act.
4. The activity must not have the potential to result in disproportionate adverse impacts to low income or minority populations.
5. The activity must not adversely affect prime and unique farmlands, state-designated scenic streams or socioeconomic resources.
6. The activity must have no or only temporary adverse impacts to recreational resources.

Proposed activities not meeting these requirements will be evaluated through the preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, as appropriate.

Generally, the requester is responsible for conducting all necessary environmental and cultural resources studies and analyses, obtaining necessary permits, and providing copies to USACE for review. If the environmental conditions listed above are met and the request would not result in more than minor impacts to the environment, then the proposed alteration would be determined to not be injurious to the public interest, from an environmental perspective, unless there are extraordinary circumstances are involved.

Detailed engineering criteria and requirements for some proposed alterations have been developed by the Districts' Engineering Division to assist in determining if the proposed alteration would impair the usefulness of the USACE project. Requesters are required to comply with these criteria and requirements. These engineering criteria and requirements are provided as Appendix B and are available on the District's website at: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Portals/56/docs/Section%20408/Section%20408%20Criteria%20for%20website.pdf>.

### **3 Alternatives**

For this EA, categories or types of requests are the alternatives. Thirteen action alternatives were evaluated in detail, in addition to the no-action alternative.

The following general requirements apply to all of the action alternatives:

The requester conducts all necessary environmental and cultural resources surveys and provides the information to the District staff. The requester obtains all necessary permits and approvals from other agencies, including State water quality certification and a State coastal use permit, when applicable. The District staff conducts Endangered Species Act Section 7 review and as necessary consultation with the USFWS and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service, conducts Essential Fish Habitat consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service as necessary, and conducts cultural resources review and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 coordination with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and interested Tribes.

Once the above environmental compliance is complete and if the request would not result in more than minor impacts to the environment, then absent unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the appropriate categorical permission(s) would be applied to the request and a Memorandum for Record would be prepared to document that determination.

### **3.1 Alternative 1 – No Categorical Permissions (No-Action)**

No action is defined as not establishing any categorical permission(s). The District would obtain the NEPA compliance for each request individually by application of a categorical exclusion under ER 200-2-2, preparation of an EA and signing of a FONSI (if appropriate), or preparation of an EIS and signing of a record of decision. All requests to alter USACE projects would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to assess individual and cumulative environmental impacts. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need of developing categorical permissions to simplify and expedite the Section 408 request environmental review process for activities with individually and cumulatively minor impacts. The District would continue to expend valuable time and resources processing EAs for activities with no potential for significant impacts. The processing of other more complicated 408 requests would continue to be delayed by lack of resources and a backlog of requests.

Note that the no-action alternative as described in this EA is not the scenario of the District ceasing to accept Section 408 requests and grant Section 408 permissions for alterations determined to be permissible. The District does not have the discretion to disregard Federal law and USACE implementation policy. Attempting to determine what would happen if no Section 408-type actions were allowed would be a highly speculative endeavor, and doing so could lead the reader to believe it to be a viable alternative, which it is not. In some limited, specific cases, there would likely be options to redesign proposed actions to avoid interacting with USACE projects, and proponents would take advantage of those options. But, it is unreasonable to believe the USACE could avoid granting Section 408 permissions for more than a short period of time.

### **3.2 Alternative 2 – Categorical Permission for Pipeline Crossings Including Horizontal Directional Drills, Open Cuts, Ramp-Overs, and Floodwall Penetrations**

This alternative would establish a categorical permission for pipeline crossings of levees, floodwalls, navigation channels, flood risk reduction channels, and dredged material disposal areas. This alternative does not apply to requests for new, long distance pipelines crossing multiple USACE navigation and flood risk reduction projects. The alternative would apply to the large number of requests the District receives for pipelines connecting industrial facilities located along navigation channels to docks and wharves where products are loaded or unloaded from barges and ships. Common requests include new pipelines, additional pipelines using existing pipe racks, and replacement pipelines. Often, the requests include both a pipeline crossing of a levee/floodwall and construction or modification of a dock or wharf along the adjacent navigation channel. Occasionally, a short access road and/or levee ramp may also be proposed to provide access to the pipeline corridor between the levee and the river. Minor access roads are categorically excluded from NEPA evaluation by ER 200-2-2.

A large variety of industrial chemicals and petroleum products are transported in these pipelines, although requests for pipelines to carry cooling water, drainage water, and drinking water are also received. Most requests of this type are for pipelines associated with facilities located along major shipping channels, especially the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and Venice, Louisiana, and along the Calcasieu River and Pass project in southwest Louisiana. There are hundreds of pipeline crossings of the Mississippi River Levees downstream from Baton Rouge. Requests for this type of action along the Mississippi River would typically alter three Federal navigation projects; the Mississippi River Levees, the Mississippi River Channel Stabilization project, and the Mississippi River Ship Channel project. The area of effect considered in the Section 408 review is normally from the landside toe of the Mississippi River levee to the end of any bank stabilization features in the Mississippi River. In some cases, a 408 request also has the potential to affect the maintained navigation channel, in which case the shipping channel also is within the area of effect. A typical Mississippi River levee cross-section with adjacent features is shown in Figure 2.

Other requests under this alternative are for horizontal directional drills (HDDs) beneath a USACE project. Several requests have been received to replace a portion of an existing pipeline beneath a navigation channel due to unsafe conditions of the existing pipeline. Conditions requiring a horizontal directional drill may include corrosion of the existing pipeline, exposure of the pipeline due to scour and erosion of the channel, or proactive replacement at the end of pipeline's service life. Usually, the entrance and exit points for the directional drills are outside of the USACE project boundary and there is no surface disturbance or expression of the work within the USACE project, although sometimes the HDD drill sites are located on dredged material disposal areas used for a USACE project.

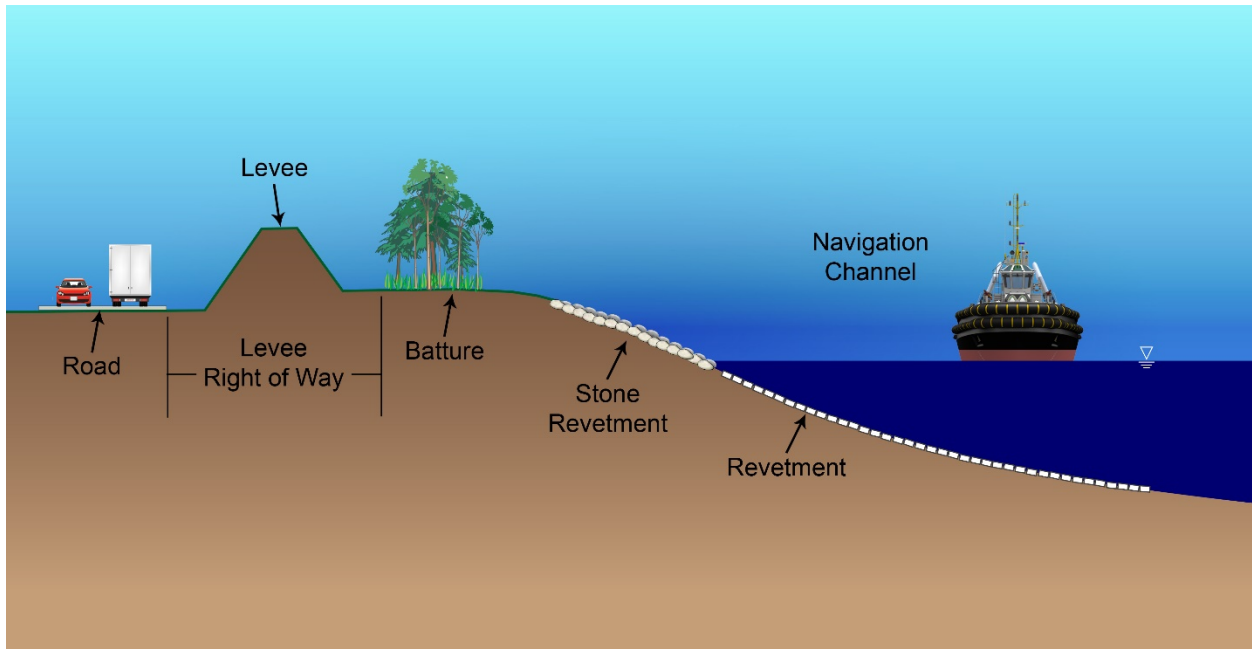


Figure 2. Typical Mississippi River levee and adjacent features.

### 3.3 Alternative 3 - Categorical Permission for Utility Lines Including Fiber Optic, Water, Natural Gas, and Electricity, Both Aerial and Underground, Including Associated Structures and Support Poles

This alternative would establish a categorical permission for utility lines including fiber optic, water, natural gas, and electricity, and including associated structures and support poles. Installations may be aerial, on-ground (at grade), or underground. The District receives a large number of requests for installation and replacement of utility lines. Typically, the requests are for crossing of a levee or floodwall, and less commonly, the crossing of a navigation channel. Horizontal directional drilling is the most commonly requested method for the placement of fiber optic, water and natural gas lines. Usually, the entrance and exit points for the directional drills are outside of the USACE project boundary and there is no surface disturbance or expression of the work within the USACE project. Large-diameter water lines, such as those used for municipal water supply, sewage treatment intakes and discharges, industrial equipment cooling typically use the ramp-over method or the bridge-over method for crossing levees. For crossing floodwalls, either the bridge-over or penetration method is typically used. Aerial placement on poles or towers is the most commonly requested method for installing electrical lines. This categorical permission is applicable to electrical lines for residential, commercial, and industrial uses, but is not meant for long distance, high voltage transmission lines affecting multiple USACE projects, or for proposals requiring new corridors through USACE-owned project lands.

### **3.4 Alternative 4 - Categorical Permission for Bulk Material Conveyor Systems**

This alternative would establish a categorical permission for bulk material conveyor systems, including associated support structures. The District has received several requests for bulk product conveyor systems along the Mississippi River. Types of materials that are moved with the conveyors include coal, grain, bauxite (aluminum ore), fertilizer, and various other manufactured products. These systems allow materials to be transferred between ships and barges on a navigation channel and nearby storage facilities or industrial plants. There are normally docks or wharves associated with the conveyor systems. Along the Mississippi River, a levee and paved road typically run parallel to the river bank. In such situations, the conveyor system crosses the levee and road overhead, supported on steel structures, with sufficient clearance provided for vehicles to travel along the crown of the levee for levee maintenance and inspection. The area of review for the Section 408 request is normally from the land-side toe of the levee to the outer edge of the dock, wharf, or associated mooring pilings.

### **3.5 Alternative 5 - Categorical Permission for Culverts, Drainage Pipes, and Drainage Ditches**

This alternative would establish a categorical permission for culverts, drainage pipes, and drainage ditches. The District has processed one such request for this type of activity, which occurred on developed land in a suburban environment associated with USACE flood risk reduction and project.

Culverts, drainage pipes, and drainage ditches have the potential to cause the inadvertent loss of wetlands depending on their location and purpose. All requests for the installation of these types of structures would be examined to determine the purpose and potential effects of such structures and if found to have the potential to drain wetlands and cause the loss of those areas, a categorical permission would not be used. The action would be evaluated through either an EA or EIS as appropriate.

### **3.6 Alternative 6 - Categorical Permission for Vehicle and Pedestrian Bridges**

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include construction, replacement, modification, or removal of vehicle or pedestrian bridges. The District has received two requests for bridge projects. One request is for a new bridge across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway where no bridge currently exists. The other request is for demolition of an existing, historically-significant bridge and replacement with a new bridge. Neither of these requests would qualify for a categorical permission under this alternative because of extraordinary circumstances associated with them. The first example has a large scope and impacts that require consideration, while the second example has impacts to a significant cultural resource and possible issues with disturbance of existing contaminated soils and sediments. The requests covered under this alternative include primarily bridge replacements, major bridge maintenance, modifications, and removals with no extraordinary circumstances.

The District has not received any such requests, but anticipates receiving such requests because of the large number of bridges crossing USACE navigation and flood risk reduction projects in south Louisiana.

### **3.7 Alternative 7 - Categorical Permission for Bank Stabilization and Erosion Control Features**

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include bank stabilization and erosion control features. Typical techniques are vegetative stabilization, bioengineering, sills, rip rap, revetment, gabion baskets, stream barbs, and bulkheads, or combinations of bank stabilization techniques. The surface soils and sediments that make up coastal Louisiana is mostly alluvial sediment carried downstream by the Mississippi and other rivers and reworked since the last Ice Age. This material is generally highly erodible and bank and shoreline erosion is an all too common problem along navigation channels and natural waterways.

The most common method for addressing shoreline erosion is armoring bank lines and shorelines with quarry stone. Another common method is placing quarry stone a short distance out from the shoreline to form a dike, often referred to as a foreshore dike. This method is used when geotechnical and other conditions, such as expected wave energy allow, and when avoidance of direct impacts to the shoreline is a priority. In some documented cases, enough suspended sediment has been captured in the stilled water behind such dikes that the shoreline naturally extends itself out to the foreshore dike. Other materials that may be used for shoreline erosion are articulated concrete mattress, poured concrete, broken concrete (rip-rap), and earthen material excavated from nearby areas or hauled from remote locations. Construction is usually accomplished using equipment positioned on barges or other vessels in the waterway. Dredging to provide access for barges and other vessels to construction sites may also be necessary. Commonly-used dredging equipment includes a barge-mounted hydraulic excavator or a crane with a clamshell-type bucket. Typically, the dredged material either is deposited on the shoreline before surfacing material is placed over it or it is deposited adjacent to the access channel, and then is used to fill in the access channel once the shoreline work is completed.

To determine if a request for a bank stabilization or erosion control feature is appropriate to consider as a categorical permission, criteria found in the USACE's Nationwide General Permit (NGP) #13 (Bank Stabilization) will be used. Bank stabilization projects which conform to the criteria found in NGP #13 have been determined, through the USACE Regulatory permitting process, to neither individually nor cumulatively have significant adverse impacts. If the requested action does not comply, or cannot be modified to comply with the criteria in the NGP, the request would not be processed as a categorical permission. NGP #13 contains the following criteria:

- (a) No material is placed in excess of the minimum needed for erosion protection;
- (b) The activity is no more than 500 feet in length along the bank, unless the

- district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects (an exception is for bulkheads – the district engineer cannot issue a waiver for a bulkhead that is greater than 1,000 feet in length along the bank);
- (c) The activity will not exceed an average of one cubic yard per running foot, as measured along the length of the treated bank, below the plane of the ordinary high water mark or the high tide line, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;
  - (d) The activity does not involve discharges of dredged or fill material into special aquatic sites, unless the district engineer waives this criterion by making a written determination concluding that the discharge will result in no more than minimal adverse environmental effects;
  - (e) No material is of a type, or is placed in any location, or in any manner, that will impair surface water flow into or out of any waters of the United States;
  - (f) No material is placed in a manner that will be eroded by normal or expected high flows (properly anchored native trees and treetops may be used in low energy areas);
  - (g) Native plants appropriate for current site conditions, including salinity, must be used for bioengineering or vegetative bank stabilization;
  - (h) The activity is not a stream channelization activity; and
  - (i) The activity must be properly maintained, which may require repairing it after severe storms or erosion events. This permit authorizes those maintenance and repair activities if they require authorization.

### **3.8 Alternative 8 - Categorical Permission for Bulkheads, Docks, Wharfs, Mooring Pilings and Dolphins**

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for bulkheads, docks, wharves, and mooring pilings and dolphins (piling clusters), or actions that are similar in nature. The District receives numerous Section 408 requests for the types of actions included in this alternative. Requests for new construction and repair, modification, expansion, and removal of existing structures are all common. It is common for these actions to be combined with actions covered under other alternatives, such as pipelines and bulk product conveyors. These types of actions are usually located along the major navigation channels within the District, including the Calcasieu River, Atchafalaya River, Mississippi River, and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. These actions always include the installation of pilings. Steel, treated wood, and pre-stressed concrete are the materials typically used for load-bearing pilings. Sheet pilings used for constructing bulkheads are usually constructed of these same materials, or occasionally vinyl or manufactured

composite material. Pilings that penetrate the USACE's underwater revetment in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers must have stone or rip-rap placed around their base to prevent scour.

### **3.9 Alternative 9 - Categorical Permission for Barge Fleeting Operations in Channels with Existing Barge Fleeting Operations**

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include barge fleeting operations in channels with existing barge fleeting operations. Barge fleeting is a common practice along navigation channels, especially near facilities where large numbers of barges are loaded and unloaded, such as grain elevators, refineries, and chemical plants. Barge fleeting is the temporary mooring and storage of barges while awaiting loading, unloading, or transport elsewhere. There are dozens of permitted barge fleeting operations in the Mississippi River within the District, and the District has received several requests for new fleeting operations and expansion or modification of existing operations. Permitted barge fleeting also occurs on other navigation channels within the District, although to a much lesser degree. Depending on the location of the fleeting operation, barges can be tied to pilings, dolphins (piling clusters), mooring buoys anchored to the channel bottom, or anchors embedded in the channel bank.

### **3.10 Alternative 10 - Categorical Permission for Cattle Guards, Fences, and other Ranching Activities on Easement Lands**

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include cattle guards and fences, and actions that are similar in nature. Actions that could be considered similar in nature include typical ranching features, including stock pens, corrals, watering troughs, hay barns, etc. These types of activities are not allowed on USACE fee-owned properties within the District, but are allowed on lands where the USACE or the non-Federal project sponsor holds an easement. Cattle guards are allowed on USACE levees but they must be constructed higher than the required levee elevation so as to not to compromise the levee section. The underlying landowner or their lessee is allowed to conduct normal ranching operations as long as those operations do not conflict with the USACE project's authorized purposes. The District has received a small number of requests that could be covered under this alternative.

### **3.11 Alternative 11 - Categorical Permission for Trails, Signage, Lighting, and Other Similar Operational, Recreational, and Decorative Features**

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include trails, signage, lighting, and other similar operational, recreational, and decorative features, or actions that are similar in nature. The District has received a small number of requests that could be covered under this alternative, specifically paved trails on levee crowns and associated signage. Levee access ramps are often included in requests for trails on levee crowns.



### **3.12 Alternative 12 - Categorical Permission for Soil Investigations and Seismic Surveys, Including Borings, Piezometers, and Inclometers.**

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include geotechnical investigations including geotechnical borings, installation of piezometers and inclinometers, and seismic surveys, or actions that are similar in nature. These types of activities normally have a very small and temporary footprint, although seismic surveys can stretch over long distances. Any permissions granted for such activities would require filling of any holes with earthen material or grout. Construction activities for borings usually involve the use of truck-mounted drill rigs. Any spoil material from these activities would be graded onto nearby lands, used for other project purposes, or disposed of offsite.

### **3.13 Alternative 13 - Levee Ramps and Crossings**

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for levee ramps and crossings for pedestrians or vehicles, and access roads or actions that are similar in nature. The District has received several requests for levee ramps, and requests that include levee ramps among other features. Only ramps proposed to be constructed with earthen material, and those that conform to the standard engineering criteria would be considered under this alternative. Earthen ramps that are seldom used are often built with no surfacing other than earth, whereas often-used ramps are usually surfaced with crushed limestone or gravel, or paved with asphalt. Access roads may be included in requests for ramps. Minor access roads are categorically excluded in ER 200-2-2.

### **3.14 Alternative 14 - Categorical Permission for Alterations that Meet Engineering Requirements and Environmental Conditions (Recommended Plan)**

The recommended plan would result in the establishment of categorical permissions for Alternatives 2 through 13. The use of one of the categorical permissions in any particular case would only be approved when the requested action meets the limitations described above, when the action is not controversial, and when there are no special circumstances suggesting a need for a more detailed NEPA review. Following an evaluation of potential environmental impacts detailed in Section 5, this alternative was identified as the Recommended Plan. The proposed alterations may include one or more of the activities described for these alternatives. This alternative would meet the purpose and need of efficiently processing Section 408 requests because it would provide NEPA compliance for the types of proposed alterations that are frequently requested and typically only result in no more than minor environmental impacts.

### **3.15 Important Differences between Alternative 1 and All Other Alternatives**

The differences between the No-Action alternative and Alternatives 2 through 14 are primarily in the level of environmental analysis that will be performed and the level of public notification provided on requests for Section 408 alterations. If categorical permissions are established, it is anticipated that staff effort and the overall duration between receipt of requests and issuance of permissions would be reduced substantially. Considering Section 408 requests processed between January 2016 and the present in MVN that would fit into one or more of the types of actions discussed above, none of those requests required denial or modification due to environmental concerns. Nearly all permissions contain environmental conditions, to minimize adverse environmental impacts. Some requests are modified due to engineering concerns. There would be no change in the level of engineering review with the establishment of categorical permissions. Likewise, there would be no change in the level of review during the District's Section 10 and Section 404 permitting process.

Currently, public notices for all Section 408 requests are posted on the MVN web site. As EC 1105-2-216 states, "For the purposes of Section 408 requests that are expected to have less than a significant effect on the human or natural environment, a public notice soliciting input will serve as the method of advising all interested parties of the proposed alteration...." If categorical permissions are established, the District does not plan to issue public notices for actions that qualify to use a categorical permission. Presently, the public notice is the only means used to notify the public of the 408 request. EC 1105-2-216 states "Generally, Section 408 EAs should not be circulated for public comment." In compliance with the EC, the District has not circulated Section 408 EAs for public comment, and no change to this practice would occur with the establishment of categorical permissions. However, in the District, the majority of actions contained in Section 408 requests are also subject to Section 10 and Section 404 permitting. So, many actions contained in Section 408 requests will be put on public notice through the District's Section 10/404 permitting process.

## **4 Affected Environment**

This section describes the affected environment in terms of relevant resources for the Federal flood protection project (Mississippi River and Tributaries or MR&T), flood risk reduction projects, and navigation projects within the District. Because of the broad geographical scope covered by this programmatic document, it is not practical to describe the site-specific affected environment for each USACE project. Instead, this section describes the existing conditions at a regional scale with some limited site-specific details.

There are several resources that are not expected to occur or be adversely affected within the boundaries of USACE projects, by any of the types of actions under consideration for categorical permissions, including prime and unique farmlands, state designated scenic streams, and socioeconomic resources. Socioeconomic resources

are generally expected to be benefitted by the Section 408 actions requested since most requests are for improvements to commercial, industrial, or governmental infrastructure. Recreational resources and aesthetics are likewise not expected to be adversely affected, or possibly minimally affected temporarily during project construction only. Floodplain values and functions are not expected to be adversely affected by any of the alternatives under consideration. Additionally, this alternative would not be expected to result in a disproportionate share of negative consequences to people with regard to race, color, national origin, or income in accordance with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. These resources are not addressed further in this programmatic EA. If any of the above mentioned resources are located within the USACE project boundary, or have a possibility of being adversely affected by actions proposed under a Section 408 request, that request would not be processed as a categorical permission.

#### **4.1 Air Quality**

Federal air quality policies are regulated through the Clean Air Act. In accordance with this act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six criteria pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. They are carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, lead, particulates of 10 microns or less in size (PM-10 and PM-2.5), and sulfur dioxide. Ozone is the only parameter not directly emitted into the air but forms in the atmosphere when three atoms of oxygen ( $O_3$ ) are combined by a chemical reaction between oxides of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight. Motor vehicle exhaust and industrial emissions, gasoline vapors, and chemical solvents are some of the major sources of nitrogen and volatile organic compounds, also known as ozone precursors. Strong sunlight and hot weather can cause ground-level ozone to form in harmful concentrations in the air.

The USEPA is required to designate counties or air basins as in attainment or nonattainment for each criteria pollutant. If an area is in nonattainment, the state must develop an implementation plan to achieve compliance. Once in compliance with NAAQS, the area becomes a maintenance area.

The Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule (58 FR 63214, November 30, 1993, Final Rule, Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans) dictates that a conformity review be performed when a Federal action generates air pollutants in a region that has been designated a non-attainment or maintenance area for one or more NAAQS pollutants. A conformity assessment requires quantifying the direct and indirect emissions of criteria pollutants caused by the Federal action to determine whether the proposed action conforms to Clean Air Act requirements and any State Implementation Plan.

The Final Conformity Rule requires Federal agencies to ensure that Federal actions in designated nonattainment or maintenance areas conform to an approved or promulgated state implementation plan or Federal implementation plan to ensure that a Federal action would not cause a new violation of the NAAQS, contribute to any increase in the frequency or severity of violations of existing NAAQS, or delay the timely attainment of any NAAQS interim or other attainment milestones. If a project would result in a total net increase in pollutant emissions that is less than the applicable *de minimis* threshold established in 40 CFR 93.153(b), detailed conformity analyses are not required.

There are two areas within the District that are designated as nonattainment: the Baton Rouge 5-parish area that includes East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Iberville, Livingston, and Ascension Parishes was designated as marginal nonattainment of the currently applicable 2008 8-hour ozone standard on July 20, 2012. St. Bernard Parish was designated as nonattainment for sulfur dioxide under the 1-hour standard on October 4, 2013. All other areas in the District are classified as in attainment of air quality standards.

## **4.2 Water Quality**

Individual states have jurisdiction for managing water quality within their states. The State of Louisiana's Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) developed the State's water quality assessment methods and prepares biennial Integrated Reports in order to meet reporting requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. §1313 and 40 CFR Chapter 1 §130.7), commonly known as the Clean Water Act (CWA). Specifically, assessment results for the Integrated Reports satisfy requirements of §303(d) and §305(b) of the CWA.

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to identify waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards and to develop total maximum daily loads for those pollutants suspected of preventing the waterbodies from meeting those standards. Total maximum daily loads are the maximum amount of a given pollutant that can be discharged into a water body from all natural and anthropogenic sources including both point and non-point source discharges. Section 305(b) of the CWA requires, among other items, a description of all navigable waters in each state and the extent to which these waters provide for the protection and propagation of fish and wildlife and allow for recreational activities in and on the water (33 U.S.C. §1315(b) et seq.), assessments of the state's water pollution control activities toward achieving the CWA goal of having water bodies that support recreational activities and fish and wildlife propagation, estimates of the costs and benefits of implementing the CWA, and descriptions regarding the nature and extent of nonpoint sources of pollution and recommendations for programs to address nonpoint source pollution.

Louisiana Water Quality Standards define eight designated uses for surface waters: primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation, fish and wildlife propagation, drinking water supply, oyster propagation, agriculture, outstanding natural resource, and limited aquatic life and wildlife use. Designated uses have a specific suite of ambient water quality parameters used to assess their support. Data and information collected from within or immediately downstream of a water body sub-segment is used to evaluate each sub-segment's designated uses. Where more than one parameter and criterion define a designated use, support for each use is defined by the designated use's poorest performing parameter (most severely impaired). Likewise, where data from more than one sample station were available, the most severely impaired station was used to make the assessment.

The State's surface water quality monitoring program provides baseline data on individual waterbodies to monitor long-term trends in water quality. Information on each waterbody can be found at <http://deq.louisiana.gov/page/water-quality-integrated-report-305b303d>. Appendix A of the FINAL Louisiana Water Quality Inventory: Integrated Report (305(b)/303(d)) for each biennial reporting year provides information related to water body types, water body sizes, designated water body uses, and IR categories and suspected causes of impairment.

According to the 2016 Integrated Report, the percentage of water body sub-segments in Louisiana that were fully supporting their designated uses of primary contact recreation (swimming) was 72%, and the percentage of water body sub-segments supporting secondary contact recreation was 96%. These figures are both up slightly from the previous report in 2014. Of the sub-segments still showing impairment of these uses, nearly 90% are due solely to elevated fecal coliform densities. The percentage of water body sub-segments that supported fish and wildlife propagation use was 31%, which is slightly better than the average use amount between 2000 and 2016. The low fish and wildlife propagation use is due in part to the large number of water quality parameters and information considered in assessing the use. The LDEQ currently analyzes dissolved oxygen, chlorides, sulfates, total dissolved solids, turbidity, non-native aquatic plants, pH, oil/tar/grease, seven different metals, and dozens of organic compounds including pesticides when assessing water quality for designated use. In addition to these monitored parameters, the presence of advisories due to mercury or organic chemicals also results in impairment to this designated use. Low dissolved oxygen is the most frequently cited suspected cause of fish and wildlife propagation impairment.

### **4.3 Wetlands and Other Waters**

Wetlands are lands that transition between terrestrial and aquatic systems. Wetlands are characterized by three attributes: hydric soils, vegetation adapted to such soils, and soils that are saturated or inundated with water for long periods during the growing season. Wetlands serve a variety of important functions, including wildlife habitat, fish breeding and foraging habitat, nutrient/sediment trapping, flood control, and recreation.

Louisiana's wetlands and associated water bodies support an abundance of fish and wildlife resources. Important freshwater species targeted by recreational fishermen with rod and reel are largemouth bass, black and white crappie, bluegill sunfish, redear sunfish, blue catfish, channel catfish, and flathead catfish. The catfish species are also caught with trot lines, limb lines and jug lines. Commercial fishermen harvest blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, garfish, and three species of buffalo fish primarily with hoop nets, trot lines, and gill nets. Other important fisheries are the commercial and personal-use harvest of crawfish, blue crabs, and white and brown shrimp. The primary area for the harvest of wild crawfish is within the Atchafalaya River Floodway, but some fishing occurs in other river basins and wetlands. Blue crabs and white and brown shrimp are harvested in the coastal estuarine waters, primarily by commercial fishermen, although personal-use harvest of these species is very common in some areas.

Wetlands, especially swamps and bottomland hardwood forests, provide habitat for mammals such as gray squirrel, fox squirrel, swamp rabbit, red fox, gray fox, and coyote. Common wetland furbearers include nutria, mink, muskrat, beaver, otter, and raccoon. White-tailed deer is a common species found in the floodplain. Many reptile and amphibian species also occur in wetland habitats. Waterfowl are very common in Louisiana's wetlands due in part to the state lying in the core of the Mississippi Flyway. Common dabbling duck species include mallard, wood duck, northern shoveler, northern pintail, gadwall, blue-winged teal, green-winged teal, and American widgeon. Wood ducks and mottled ducks are probably the most common nesting species in the area. Common species of diving ducks are ring-necked, lesser scaup, redhead, common golden-eye, and bufflehead. Other waterfowl in the study area include hooded merganser, common merganser, red-breasted merganser, Canada geese, snow geese, and white-fronted geese. Wading birds such as great blue heron, great egret, tri-colored heron, snowy egret, black-crowned and yellow-crowned night heron, and green heron are examples of common wading birds. Neotropical migrants are the largest group of migratory bird species within the study area and include thrushes, warblers, flycatchers, vireos, hummingbirds, swallows, wrens, tanagers, orioles, sparrows, as well as others. Hawks, falcons, eagles, vultures, and owls are also found in floodplain habitats. Bald eagles have become increasingly common within much of the District and breeding occurs in many areas within the District.

The District has numerous navigable waterways and a large number of them serve as federally-maintained navigation channels. These waterways are very important to the economy of the area. The larger, deeper channels are used by ocean-going vessels primarily transporting raw materials and products internationally. Barge tows also utilize these deeper channels as well as numerous smaller channels. Some of the smaller channels also service large numbers of commercial fishing vessels, as well as recreational fishermen and boaters.

#### 4.4 Upland Habitats

The most common upland habitats found in areas where Section 408 actions are located include non-wetland bottomland hardwood forest, scrub-shrub land, and developed land. Non-wetland bottomland hardwood typically contains a large variety of dominant and understory trees and shrubs including various oaks, hickories, elms, sweet pecan, black willow, sycamore, rough-leaf dogwood, and box elder. Chinese tallow, an invasive exotic species sometimes colonizes and dominates areas where native bottomland hardwood forest has been removed or disturbed. Native bottomland hardwood forest, even when jurisdictionally non-wetland, provides suitable habitat for a variety of mammals, reptiles, and birds. The suitability of such habitats for particular species is at least partially dependent upon the size of the tract and the level of disturbance from surrounding areas. Scrub-shrub areas occur primarily on disturbed ground and is composed of woody species such as eastern *Baccharis*, wax myrtle and various young trees typical of bottomland hardwood forest. Also included as upland habitat, although of lesser value for many species, is mowed areas such as levees, levee berms, powerline and pipeline rights-of-ways. These areas provide feeding habitat for some species of birds and mammals.

#### 4.5 Essential Fish Habitat

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, established procedures designed to identify, conserve, and enhance essential fish habitat (EFH) for those species regulated under a Federal fisheries management plan. EFH regulations require Federal agencies to prepare assessments to evaluate the effects of proposed actions that may adversely affect EFH and to provide those assessments to the National Marine Fisheries Service for comments and recommendations. Specific categories of essential fish habitat that could occur in areas where Section 408 actions are proposed include estuarine waters and substrates (mud, sand, shell, rock, and associated biological communities), including the sub-tidal vegetation (seagrasses and algae) and inter-tidal vegetation (marshes and mangroves). The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, through the generic amendment of the Fishery Management Plans for the Gulf of Mexico, lists the following Federally-managed species as commonly occurring in coastal Louisiana: brown shrimp, white shrimp, red drum, gray snapper, Spanish mackerel, and several species of sharks. Brown shrimp, white shrimp and red drum are, by far, the most likely species to occur in areas where Section 408 actions are proposed due to their occurrence in low salinity habitats and along the water/wetland interface. Table 2 lists these common species and their essential fish habitats that could be found in areas of proposed Section 408 actions.

Species	Life Stages	Essential Fish Habitat
<i>Brown shrimp</i>	<i>Post larvae, Juveniles</i>	<i>Marsh edge, inner marsh, submerged aquatic vegetation, tidal creeks</i>
	<i>Subadults</i>	<i>Estuarine mud bottoms, marsh edge</i>
<i>White shrimp</i>	<i>Post Larvae, Juveniles, Subadults</i>	<i>Marsh edge, inner marsh, marsh ponds, submerged aquatic vegetation, oyster reefs</i>
<i>Red Drum</i>	<i>Post larvae, Juveniles</i>	<i>Submerged aquatic vegetation, estuarine mud bottoms, marsh/water interface</i>
	<i>Subadults</i>	<i>Estuarine mud bottoms, oyster reefs</i>

#### 4.6 Threatened and Endangered Species

Within the District there are 21 animal and 2 plant species listed as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, plus critical habitat designated for three species. The majority of these species are under the purview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibility for the Atlantic sturgeon (previously named Gulf sturgeon), with the USFWS having the lead role in freshwater areas and the NMFS having the lead in estuarine and marine areas. The NMFS has the lead role for sea turtles unless the turtles are nesting, in which case the USFWS has the lead role. The NMFS has responsibility for whales, however no habitat suitable for or utilized by whales is expected in areas where USACE projects exist in the District. There have been no instances so far in the District when Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultation with the NMFS has been required for Section 408 requests. Species under their purview would very rarely occur in areas where Section 408 actions are proposed. A list of threatened and endangered species by parish is provided as Appendix C. Based on Section 408 permissions issued by the District, the species that are most likely to occur in areas of Section 408 actions are pallid sturgeon which occur in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers, and West Indian manatee, which occur in coastal rivers and estuaries, primarily east of the Mississippi River.

In addition to listed species, designated critical habitats for several species occur within the District. Critical habitat has been designated for Atlantic sturgeon (formerly Gulf sturgeon), red knot (a shorebird), piping plover (a shorebird), and dusky gopher frog.

The USFWS developed Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) to assist the District's Regulatory Functions Branch in complying with the consultation requirements of Section 7(a)2 of the Endangered Species Act for Section 404 and 10 permitting. The USFWS has also endorsed the use of SLOPES for the District's Section 408 permission process, and it has been in use for evaluating Section 408 requests since June 2016. SLOPES is specifically designed for small, routine actions, so that limited staff time may be spent on more significant actions. In that respect, SLOPES is appropriate to use in the proposed categorical permission process.



SLOPES consists of several dichotomous keys, one of which is the base key and the others are for individual species. The keys lead the user to three possible findings for each species: 1) No Effect, 2) May Affect, But Not Likely to Adversely Affect (with or without conditions), and 3) May Affect, and Likely to Adversely Affect. If a “May Effect” determination is reached for any species or critical habitat, the District must consult with the USFWS either formally or informally under established Section 7 consultation procedures.

#### **4.7 Cultural Resources**

The consideration of impacts to historic and cultural resources is mandated under §101(b)(4) of NEPA as implemented by 40 CFR Parts 1501-1508. NEPA calls for the consideration of a broad range of historic and cultural resources, including American Indian Cultural Sites. Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is also mandated, but takes a more narrow focus on historic properties, while requiring federal agencies to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. As an additional consideration, it is the policy of the Federal government to consult with Indian Tribal Governments on a Government-to-Government basis as required in Executive Order 13175. Projects involving Federal land, funds, or permitting are subject to compliance with these laws, regulations, and policies.

Cultural resources include historic properties, archeological resources, and Native American resources including sacred sites and traditional cultural properties. They are a broad pattern of material and non-material sites or objects that represent contemporary, historic, and pre-historic human life ways or practices. Common cultural resource sites include prehistoric Native American archeological sites, historic archeological sites, shipwrecks, and structures such as bridges and buildings. Historic properties have a narrower meaning and are defined in § 101(a)(1)(A) of NHPA; they include districts, sites (archaeological and religious/cultural), buildings, structures, and objects that are listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Historic properties are identified by qualified agency representatives in consultation with the SHPO, affected Tribes, and other consulting parties.

The District contains all or part of 40 parishes (see Figure 1), and thus includes all or part of each of the five terrestrial management units defined by the 1983 Louisiana Comprehensive Archaeological Plan prepared by the Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism. Specifically, the District includes all of Management Units III and V, the majority of Management Unit IV, and small portions of Management Units I and II. This means that the permissions envisioned as part of this Programmatic EA have the potential to span the full range of history and prehistory, and potentially address any of the current relevant research questions posed by the Louisiana Comprehensive Archaeological Plan. Based on USACE’s review of existing documentation, data on

known or existing historic sites provided by the Louisiana SHPO and historic maps, it is clear that the majority of archaeological sites are outside the boundaries of the typical types of civil works projects that would be proposed for alteration under this EA; however there still remains potential to affect significant historic properties such as burial areas, prehistoric mound sites, historic plantation sites, submerged watercraft, and NRHP-listed structures such as navigation locks and spillways.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b)(2), *Phased Identification and Evaluation*, and 36 CFR 800.8, *Coordination with the NEPA*, the District has notified the Louisiana SHPO, affected Tribes, and Consulting parties that USACE intends to develop a Programmatic Agreement to address the “Section 408 Permissions.” The agreement is intended to facilitate the streamlined review of individual requests relative to the civil works structures and the individual cultural resources.

## 5 Environmental Consequences

The impact analyses in this Programmatic EA were developed based on experience in evaluating and processing Section 408 requests, including public and agency comments on public notices and preparation and review of previous NEPA documents. If a proposed request to modify a USACE project within the scope of this document would result in impacts in excess of what is described in this section, a stand-alone EA or EIS would be prepared to evaluate that request.

In accordance with the NEPA regulations' goal for clear, concise environmental documents, only significant environmental issues are discussed below. See 40 CFR §§1500.2 and 1500.4.

### 5.1 Air Quality

**Alternative 1 – No Categorical Permissions (No-Action):** The No-Action alternative would result in no categorical permissions established to provide NEPA compliance for actions that would alter USACE projects. Individual requests would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for potential impacts to air quality, especially for actions proposed within non-attainment areas, through preparation of an EA or EIS, unless a categorical exclusion as provided by ER 200-2-2 is applicable. With the exception of five parishes within the Baton Rouge metropolitan area, and St. Bernard Parish, all of the projects that are within the scope of this programmatic environmental assessment would be in NAAQS attainment areas.

**Alternatives 2 through 13:** It is expected that actions covered under these alternatives would produce no more than minimal air emissions from construction equipment during project construction within NAAQS attainment areas. No analysis of air emissions for requests for actions in attainment areas would be performed. The actions covered under these alternatives are not expected to cause air emissions that exceed *de minimus* discharge levels within non-attainment areas within the District.

These conclusions are based on the numerous Section 408 requests that have been reviewed and covered under previous NEPA documents within the District. This is taking into consideration that, unless the District determines that it has effective control over more of the project, only direct and indirect impacts of those components of the overall action that lie within USACE project boundaries are considered with respect to air emissions. Typically, emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter would result from the use of construction equipment such as earthmoving equipment, drill rigs, concrete trucks, and delivery trucks during project construction. If, during evaluation of an individual request for coverage under a categorical permission, there is reason to believe that the proposed action could exceed the established *de minimus* discharge levels within a non-attainment area, a conformity determination would be conducted and a separate stand-alone NEPA document would be prepared if the calculations indicate the possibility of exceeding *de minimus* emissions levels.

Bulk material conveyor systems (Alternative 4) have the potential to emit dust particles during normal operation. The US EPA NAAQS includes standards for both 10 microgram and 2.5 microgram diameter particulate matter. Currently there are no areas designated non-attainment for these pollutants within the District. However, indirectly, the potential for visible dust from bulk conveyors could be a concern for business owners and residents located near such operations, although bulk conveyors are typically not located or proposed in close proximity to other businesses or residential areas. The District staff will consider existing land uses in proximity to proposed bulk material conveyor systems, and also consider the types of permits the facility owner has acquired and will need to acquire related to air quality. If the request is potentially controversial due to issues related to air quality, a separate NEPA document would be prepared.

**Alternative 14: Categorical permission for all alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions (recommended plan).** This alternative is a combination of the other action alternatives considered. The previous section addressed the individual impacts of these alternatives. The actions proposed as categorical permissions are not expected to cause any more than minimal or *de minimus* impacts. Indirectly and cumulatively these alternatives would address a large number of separate, unrelated requests for a variety of project types. Since these projects would be taking place at various times and places spread throughout the District, there would be no potential for the accumulation of air pollutants. Since the minimal to minor air emissions would be spread over time and area, there would be no adverse cumulative impacts.

## 5.2 Water Quality

**Alternative 1 – No Categorical Permissions (No-Action):** The No-Action alternative would result in no categorical permissions established to provide NEPA compliance for actions that would alter USACE projects. Individual requests would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for potential environmental impacts to water quality through

preparation of an EA or EIS, unless a categorical exclusion as provided by ER 200-2-2 is applicable. Regardless of whether or not categorical permissions are established, the requester would be responsible for obtaining all necessary Clean Water Act permits, including permits to comply with Sections 401, 402, and 404, as applicable. The District would condition any applicable permissions granted with the requirement for the requester to obtain state water quality certification prior to initiating construction activities.

**Alternatives 2 through 13:** It is expected that actions covered under these alternatives would produce no more than minimal, localized impacts to water quality. Impacts of individual actions would typically be in the form of disturbance to water bottoms resulting in suspension of bottom sediments, thereby increasing turbidity levels. This type of impact is usually unavoidable due to the type of construction involved. For Alternatives 6 (bridges), 7 (bank stabilization), 8 (docks and mooring pilings), and 9 (barge fleeting), the installation of pilings and/or the placement of rock on water bottoms would permanently alter small areas of the water bottom at those specific locations.

Temporary and sometimes permanent impacts to wetlands may occur under these alternatives. Any and all impacts to wetlands, whether within or outside of the USACE project boundary would be addressed under the USACE Section 404 permitting process, with avoidance, minimization, and compensatory mitigation required as appropriate for each situation. No discharge of hazardous or toxic chemicals or other substances is anticipated from any of these alternatives.

The District would condition any applicable permissions granted with the requirement for the requester to obtain state water quality certification prior to initiating construction activities.

**Alternative 14: Categorical permission for all alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions (recommended plan).**

This alternative is a combination of the other action alternatives considered. The previous section addressed the individual impacts of these alternatives. Independently they are not expected to cause any more than minimal impacts. Indirectly and cumulatively these alternatives would address a large number of separate, unrelated requests for a variety of project types. Since these projects would be taking place at various times and places spread throughout the District, there would be no potential for an accumulation or magnification of water pollution or other water quality issues. Since there would be minimal to minor water quality issues, such as temporary turbidity caused by disturbance of water bottoms, would be spread over time and area, there would be no adverse cumulative impacts. These activities would have Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certifications associated with them, or would be exempt from such regulation, ensuring that they would not result in more than minor, localized, temporary impacts to water quality. Further, these activities would be subject to Louisiana regulations implementing Clean Water Act, Section 402, related to

stormwater discharges from construction projects. The requester would be required to obtain coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit if more than one acre of ground would be disturbed as part of the overall project. The permit would require a stormwater pollution prevention plan be developed to minimize any impacts to water quality. The conditions described in this EA ensure that no more than minor impacts would occur to water quality. If there was reason to believe that more than minor impacts would occur to water quality during the preparation of any tiered environmental assessment, a separate stand-alone environmental assessment that includes mitigation measures, or an environmental impact statement would be prepared.

### **5.3 Wetlands and Other Waters**

**Alternative 1 – No Categorical Permission (No-Action):** The No-Action alternative would result in no categorical permissions established to provide NEPA compliance for actions that would alter USACE projects. Individual requests would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for potential impacts to wetlands and other waters through preparation of an EA or EIS, unless a categorical exclusion as provided by ER 200-2-2 is applicable.

Regardless of whether or not categorical permissions are established, the requester would be responsible for obtaining all necessary Clean Water Act (CWA) permits, including permits to comply with Section 404, as applicable. As part of the CWA Section 404 permitting process, unavoidable wetland impacts would be evaluated using the Regulatory Functions Branch's established procedures. Currently Regulatory Functions Branch typically uses the Rapid Assessment Model to determine the level of wetland impacts and the amount of compensatory mitigation required. Section 404 permittees provide compensatory mitigation on USACE-owned properties for wetland impacts that occur on those properties, to the maximum extent practicable. Compensatory mitigation for impacts occurring on lands where easements are held by the USACE, or by the USACE project's non-federal sponsor, would occur on project lands, or elsewhere, including the purchase of credits from established and approved mitigation banks.

**Alternatives 2 through 13:** These alternatives are not expected to result in significant impacts to wetlands or waters of the U.S. within the property interests of USACE projects due mainly to the anticipated small footprints of these types of activities within the USACE project boundaries. While individual actions may result in minor impacts to water quality during project construction, these impacts are expected to be local and short-term in duration. There would be no change in the Section 404 permitting process for impacts to wetlands if these categorical permissions for Section 408 requests are established. The District's Section 10/404 permitting process would run concurrent with the 408 permission process, however the Section 408 process would be completed prior to the Section 10/404 process, as stated in EC 1165-2-216. The requester would be responsible for obtaining all necessary Clean Water Act permits, including permits to

comply with Section 404, as applicable. Unavoidable wetland impacts would be evaluated using the District, Regulatory Functions Branch's established procedures. Currently Regulatory Functions Branch typically uses the Rapid Assessment Model to determine the level of wetland impacts and the amount of compensatory mitigation required. Unavoidable impacts to wetlands would be compensated through purchase of mitigation bank or In Lieu Fee credits or a permittee-responsible project.

Some of the Section 408 requests processed by the District affect navigable waters, and navigation channels in particular, especially those requests that fall under Alternatives 8 (bulkheads, docks, etc) and Alternative 9 (barge fleeting). It is possible that a requester may propose an activity that could cause a navigation safety issue. As an example, in 2016 the District received a request for expansion of a barge fleeting operation on the Mississippi River. The U.S. Coast Guard and a pilot organization responded to the public notice, saying the operation has a history of having barges break free from their moorings and should not be allowed to expand their operation. The requester subsequently modified the request to address the navigation interests' concerns. In the unlikely event that navigation channels could be adversely affected by a Section 408 proposed action, the request would not be processed as a categorical permission, and a separate EA or EIS would be prepared to evaluate the request.

During the public /agency review period on the public notice announcing this EA, the USFWS expressed concern that actions proposed under Alternative 5 (culverts, drainage pipes, and drainage ditches), as written in the public notice, could result in the inadvertent loss of wetland areas. The USFWS recommended that conditions to the proposed categorical permission be added to require examination of the purpose of such structures, and if found to be draining wetlands that could result in the loss of those areas, then the categorical permission should not be used. The current description of Alternative 5, as contained in this EA, incorporates USFWS' recommendation.

**Alternative 14: Categorical permission for all alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions (recommended plan).** This alternative is a combination of the other action alternatives considered. The previous section addressed the individual impacts of these alternatives. Independently they are not expected to cause any more than minimal impacts to wetlands. Indirectly and cumulatively these alternatives would address a large number of separate, unrelated requests for a variety of project types. Since these projects would be taking place at various times and places spread throughout the District, there would be no potential for an accumulation or magnification of wetland impacts in any one location. Since wetland impacts of the activities addressed under these alternatives would be avoided, minimized, and mitigated where applicable, through the USACE's Section 404 Regulatory Program, there would be no potential for significant cumulative adverse impacts to wetlands. Likewise, there would be no potential for cumulative impacts to navigable waterways since each request would be individually assessed for navigation compatibility and safety issues, considering the existing condition of the waterway,

including previously permitted activities.

#### **5.4 Upland Habitats**

**Alternative 1 – No Categorical Permission (No-Action):** The No-Action alternative would result in no categorical permissions established to provide NEPA compliance for actions that would alter USACE projects. Individual requests would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for potential impacts to upland habitats, through preparation of an EA or EIS, unless a categorical exclusion as provided by ER 200-2-2 is applicable.

**Alternatives 2 through 13:** Activities such as pipeline crossings (Alternative 2) and utility lines (Alternative 3) often affect upland habitats, although impacts are typically small in size and often temporary. In some cases engineering requirements may dictate re-vegetation of disturbed area to minimize erosion. Generally, upland habitats such as mowed land and scrub/shrub have less fish and wildlife habitat value than aquatic habitats and wetlands, although non-wetland bottomland hardwood forest can provide quality wildlife habitat. Impacts to quality forested habitat on USACE-owned property from Section 408 activities would be avoided and minimized as much as practical. However, there is no allowance in the USACE guidance for Section 408 permitting that allows the USACE to require requesters to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable adverse impacts to quality upland habitats. If more than minor impacts to upland habitats within a USACE project boundary are identified during the evaluation of a Section 408 request, a separate environmental assessment would be prepared.

There may be minor, short-term impacts to terrestrial wildlife as a result of noise and land disturbances during project construction. It is expected that wildlife that normally use the USACE project area would move to other nearby locations during construction. Because USACE project areas have typically been heavily disturbed in the past, they are not known to contain unique habitats for wildlife that are not available in other nearby locations.

**Alternative 14: Categorical permission for all alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions (recommended plan).** This alternative is a combination of the other action alternatives considered. The previous section addressed the individual impacts of these alternatives. Independently they are not expected to cause any more than minimal impacts to upland habitats. Indirectly and cumulatively these alternatives would address a large number of separate, unrelated requests for a variety of project types. Since these projects would be taking place at various times and places spread throughout the District, there would be no potential for an accumulation or magnification of upland habitat impacts in any one location. There would be no significant cumulative impact to upland habitats due to the small areas disturbed by the Section 408 activities that are under consideration for categorical permissions. Most of the alternatives (Alternatives 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13) would normally have no impact or only temporary impacts to upland habitats.

## 5.5 Essential Fish Habitat

**Alternative 1 – No Categorical Permission (No-Action):** The No-Action alternative would result in no categorical permissions established to provide NEPA compliance for actions that would alter USACE projects. Individual requests would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for potential impacts to essential fish habitat, through preparation of an EA or EIS, unless a categorical exclusion as provided by ER 200-2-2 is applicable.

**Alternatives 2 through 13:** These alternatives may result in minor, primarily short-term, construction-related impacts to essential fish habitat related to physical disruption by mechanized equipment and installation, repair, replacement, or removal infrastructure, such as docks and mooring pilings. Only a small percentage of the requests processed by the District affect areas considered to be EFH. The categories of essential fish habitat most likely to be disturbed or impacted are estuarine mud bottom and estuarine water column. Construction activities and resulting bottom disturbance and higher turbidity levels would cause most mobile species to leave the immediate area during project construction. The potential impacts to red drum, brown shrimp, and white shrimp, and other aquatic species would primarily be related to changes in water quality that may occur during project construction, specifically the potential for localized increases in water turbidity. However, the District is located in a region that consists of easily erodible soils and short-term increases in turbidity occur naturally during storm and high water events. Because of this, most of the native fish and other aquatic species within the region are tolerant of short-term increases in turbidity that may result from construction activities. Some non-mobile benthic species and planktonic species, such as brown and white shrimp post larvae could be killed by such operations, but effects would normally be short-term and restricted to a short distance from construction sites. Small areas, generally less than one acre, may be subject to long-term impacts from projects under Alternative 2 (pipeline crossings), Alternative 7 (bank stabilization), and Alternative 8 (bulkheads, docks, etc.) due to conversion of essential fish habitat to other types of essential fish habitat (mud bottom to rock bottom) or conversion to other types of habitat (upland).

**Alternative 14: Categorical permission for all alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions (recommended plan):** This alternative is a combination of the other action alternatives considered. The previous section addressed the individual impacts of these alternatives. Independently they are not expected to cause any more than minimal impacts to essential fish habitat. Indirectly and cumulatively these alternatives would address a large number of separate, unrelated requests for a variety of project types. Since these projects would be taking place at various times and places spread throughout the District, there would be no potential for an accumulation or magnification of essential fish habitat impacts in any one location. There would be no significant cumulative impact to essential fish habitats due to the very minor areas disturbed by the Section 408 activities that are under consideration for categorical permissions. Most of the alternatives (Alternatives 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, and 13) would normally have no impact or only temporary impacts to



essential fish habitats.

## 5.6 Threatened and Endangered Species

**Alternative 1 – No Categorical Permission (No-Action):** The No-Action alternative would result in no categorical permissions established to provide NEPA compliance for actions that would alter USACE projects. Individual requests would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for potential impacts to threatened or endangered species, through preparation of an EA or EIS, unless a categorical exclusion as provided by ER 200-2-2 is applicable.

**Alternatives 2 through 13:** Every Section 408 request will be subjected to Endangered Species Act, Section 7 consultation requirements. For species and critical habitats under the purview of the USFWS, Standard Louisiana Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES), described under the Existing Conditions section, would be used. Using SLOPES for activities under these alternatives, possible outcomes are:

- Determination of “No Effect” - No further action is required beyond including the determination in the categorical permission memo and including the completed SLOPES keys in the project file.
- Determination of “May Affect, But Not Likely to Adversely Affect” - No further action is required beyond including the determination in the categorical permission memo and including the completed SLOPES keys in the project file.
- Determination of “May Affect, But Not Likely to Adversely Affect” with Conditions - The SLOPES determination is documented in the categorical permission memo and the completed SLOPES keys are included in the project file. Species-specific conditions provided by the USFWS under SLOPES are included as conditions of the Section 408 permission. The requester is required to comply with the conditions under their Section 408 letter of permission.
- Determination of “May Affect and Likely to Adversely Affect” - The initial action in this case would be for District staff to contact the requester and notify them of the issue. Using SLOPES, District staff would work with the requester to determine if they would be willing to modify their request so that a “May Affect, But Not Likely to Adversely Affect” determination could be made. If the requester modifies their request to bring the proposed action within the scope of a not likely to adversely affect determination, the SLOPES documentation is completed, with appropriate conditions included in the permission letter to assure the action is not likely to adversely affect listed species. If the requester is unwilling or unable to modify their request so that a “May Affect, But Not Likely to Adversely Affect” determination cannot be made, the categorical permission process is terminated since potential adverse effects to listed species or critical habitats is an extraordinary circumstance, making the request unsuitable for categorical permission. The requester is notified that their action may affect a listed species or critical habitat, and that an EA or EIS

will be required, including consultation as required by regulations promulgated by the USFWS and NMFS (50 CFR 402).

None of the Section 408 requests reviewed by the District during 2016 or 2017, until present, resulted in a determination of May Affect and Likely to Adversely Affect. Since most of the Section 408 requests have been for actions in south Louisiana, and several species, including Gulf sturgeon, pallid sturgeon, and West Indian manatee could occur in the areas where these proposed actions would be located, most of the determinations have been May Affect, but Not Likely to Adversely Affect, either with or without conditions included in the Section 408 permission documents to support the determinations. The remainder of the determinations were No Effect.

Although unprecedented in the District, listed species or critical habitats under the NMFS' purview could be located in an area where a Section 408 activity is requested. The species that may occur in Section 408 project areas are Atlantic sturgeon (formerly Gulf sturgeon), loggerhead sea turtles, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles. Although some species of whales and three other species of sea turtles are listed as occurring in the waters of Louisiana's coastal parishes, these species are normally found only in open offshore waters and highly unlikely to be affected by Section 408 actions. Nevertheless, impacts to these species would be considered for any Section 408 action proposed in coastal waters.

Critical habitat for Atlantic sturgeon occurs in and near Lakes Pontchartrain and Borgne in southeast Louisiana. District staff would determine if each Section 408 request would be located in areas where these species or critical habitat may be affected. In most cases, a "No Effect" determination will likely be appropriate because most Section 408 requests are for actions located in areas where these species and critical habitat do not occur. If listed species or critical habitat under the NMFS' purview could reasonably occur where a Section 408 action is requested, District staff would make a determination of potential impacts. If a "No Effect" determination is made, the determination is documented and no further action is required. If a "May Affect, But Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination is made, informal consultation with the NMFS would be required to obtain the NMFS' concurrence. If the NMFS concurs with the determination, no further action is required beyond including any appropriate conditions in the Section 408 permission letter. If the NMFS does not concur, the categorical permission process is terminated since potential adverse effects to listed species or critical habitats is an extraordinary circumstance, making the request unsuitable for categorical permission. The requester is notified that their action may affect a listed species or critical habitat, and that an EA or EIS will be required, including consultation as required by regulations promulgated by the USFWS and NMFS (50 CFR 402).

**Alternative 14: Categorical permission for all alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions (recommended plan):** This alternative is a combination of the other action alternatives considered. The previous section addressed the individual impacts of these alternatives. Based on the determinations

made for numerous requests processed by the District, these types of actions are independently not expected to cause adverse impacts to threatened and endangered species or their designated critical habitats. Indirectly and cumulatively these alternatives would address a large number of separate, unrelated requests for a variety of project types. Since these projects would be taking place at various times and places spread throughout the District, there would be no potential for an accumulation or magnification of threatened and endangered species impacts in any one location. As stated previously, all Section 408 requests would undergo an analysis for potential effects to threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats, regardless of whether or not the request will be handled as a categorical permission or not. Any request for which a “May Effect and Likely to Adversely Affect” determination is made would not be processed as a categorical permission since such a determination would be considered an extraordinary circumstance.

## 5.7 Cultural Resources

**Alternative 1 – No Categorical Permission (No-Action):** The No-Action alternative would result in no categorical permissions established to provide NEPA compliance for actions that would alter USACE projects. Individual requests would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for potential impacts to cultural resources, through preparation of an EA or EIS, unless a categorical exclusion as provided by ER 200-2-2 is applicable.

**Alternatives 2 through 13:** With these alternatives, each request to modify a USACE project within the scope of this document would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis under the terms of the Programmatic Agreement (PA), *Programmatic Agreement Among The U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, District, The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, The Advisory Council For Historic Preservation, and Participating Tribes For Section 408 Permissions*, because these actions individually and cumulatively have some potential to adversely affect historic properties. The “Section 106 process” outlined in the proposed district-wide Agreement provides for the use of Programmatic Allowances where the project scope meets certain pre-defined actions. Where the work does not meet these pre-defined actions, the “Section 106 process” in the PA requires the identification of historic properties/cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed action or alternatives within the project’s area of potential effects (APE). Depending upon the specific action’s potential to affect a cultural resource, USACE would coordinate their findings with the Louisiana SHPO and affected Tribes. All requirements of the NHPA Section 106 would be met.

It is not expected that these alternatives would typically affect cultural resources because the requests to alter USACE projects would typically be located on lands that have already been heavily impacted as a result of constructing the USACE project. In many cases, cultural resource surveys have already been completed in these locations. At the same time, foreseeable potential effects to historic properties include: damage, alteration or removal of historic engineering features and materials that contribute to the historic significance of individual properties, and damage or removal of intact

archaeological deposits. Indirect effects to surrounding historic properties could potentially result from vibration created through extended construction activity. If a specific request was identified as being likely to affect any cultural resources, then a separate stand-alone environmental assessment that included mitigation measures, or an environmental impact statement would be prepared. If any cultural resources were inadvertently discovered during construction of an approved alteration, work would be stopped and the Louisiana SHPO and affected Tribes would be consulted to determine the NRHP-eligibility and to resolve any potential effects

The Requesters must comply with all of the following general NHPA conditions. Specific conditions, if necessary, will be presented with each request.

- Requester must provide a written Scope of Work to USACE for individual requests that includes a description of the proposed work including duration of construction activities, extent of ground disturbance, and proposed actions to monitor and minimize damage to surrounding structures, trees and vegetation.
- Requester will modify the Scope of Work in response to conditions recommended by USACE to avoid adverse effects to historic properties. Applicant will explain to USACE in writing why any such modifications are not feasible and include a description of any other feasible alternatives that may avoid the adverse effect.
- Requester will perform all Treatment Measures identified by USACE through the Section 106 review to offset any adverse effects, as assigned by the USACE.
- Requester will implement an **Inadvertent Discovery and Unexpected Effects Clause** to account for unanticipated discoveries and unexpected effects. It shall read: If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered or unexpected effects to historic properties, including architecture, architectural elements, and/or archaeology, are identified, the applicant shall stop work in the general vicinity of the discovery or unexpected effect and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds or affected property. The applicant will ensure that the discovery or unexpected effects are secured and stabilized, as necessary, and access to the area is restricted. The applicant shall inform their Operations Division (OD) contacts at USACE, who will in turn contact Planning Division (PD) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until USACE PD completes consultation with the Louisiana SHPO, and others, as appropriate.
- Requester will implement a **Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act** discovery provision, as well. It shall read: If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify USACE and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.

**Alternative 14: Categorical permission for all alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions (recommended plan):** This alternative is a combination of the other action alternatives considered. The previous section addressed the potential individual impacts of these alternatives and defines the proposed review program that would be adopted for Alternatives 2 through 14. The review process outlined above and the general conditions defined must be followed if this alternative is selected. Based on the determinations made for numerous requests processed by the District, these types of actions range from not having or affecting historic properties to adversely affecting them. The current “Section 106 review” program and the proposed Programmatic Agreement, account for the variety of potential impacts and graduates both public and agency input in direct response to the types of impacts for each of the alternatives.

Indirectly and cumulatively these alternatives (Alternative 14) would address a large number of separate, unrelated requests for a variety of project types. Since these projects would be taking place at various times and places spread throughout the District, there would be little potential for an accumulation or magnification of cultural resource impacts in any one location beyond those impacts assessed for individual actions. Accordingly, there is little potential for Alternative 14 to expand or amplify the individual impacts of the diverse multiple actions. However, following established review procedures set forth in a Programmatic Agreement, and as a matter of practice, USACE will consider the body of prior 408 Permissions in any one location and make a determination if the categorical permission would continue to apply or if a higher level of NEPA analysis is warranted.

## **5.8 Summary of Potential Direct and Indirect Impacts**

A summary of potential direct and indirect impacts as a result of actions on USACE projects that would result from each of the alternatives is shown in Table 3.

**Table 3: Potential direct and indirect impacts of each alternative.**

<b>Resource Category</b>	<b>Alt 1</b>	<b>Alt 2</b>	<b>Alt 3</b>	<b>Alt 4</b>	<b>Alt 5</b>	<b>Alt 6</b>	<b>Alt 7</b>	<b>Alt 8</b>	<b>Alt 9</b>	<b>Alt 10</b>	<b>Alt11</b>	<b>Alt 12</b>	<b>Alt 13</b>	<b>Alt 14</b>
<b>Air Quality</b>	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	No Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp
<b>Water Quality</b>	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	No Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp
<b>Wetlands</b>	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	No Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp
<b>Upland Habitats</b>	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	No Imp	No Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp
<b>Essential Fish Habitat</b>	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	No Imp	No Imp	No Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp
<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp	Min Imp

No Imp = No Impact      Min Imp = Minimal Impact

Any proposed alteration that may adversely affect any threatened or endangered species, including their critical habitat would result in consultation with the USFWS and an individual stand-alone NEPA document would be prepared. All requirements of NHPA Section 106 would be met.

## 6 Cumulative Impacts

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations defines cumulative impact as “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time”. The cumulative impacts addressed in this document consist of the impacts of multiple actions that result in similar effects on the natural resources.

### 6.1 Past Actions

All of the project areas covered by this programmatic environmental assessment have been altered to some degree in the past as a result of constructing a USACE project, or will be altered once the USACE project is constructed. The degree of impact varies widely by USACE project and relationship of the proposed alteration to the USACE project. The District has a high density of Federally-constructed levee systems subject to Section 408. Generally speaking, Federal levees provide important socioeconomic benefits by providing flood damage risk reduction to populated and developed areas. However, levees to address river flooding disconnect river systems from their floodplains which can negatively impact the natural structure and functions of rivers and adjacent backwater and coastal habitats. The levees along the Mississippi River have been cited in a multitude of studies as contributing to coastal wetland loss in Louisiana due to the prevention of overbank flows that would nourish wetlands in a riverine environment with only naturally high banks. Coastal levee systems built to provide risk reduction from tropical weather events also isolate wetlands and other important fish and wildlife habitats from estuarine processes. Those are tradeoffs that were not well known and appreciated when earlier levees systems were built. These levee systems also allowed residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial development in areas that were previously more vulnerable to flooding, indirectly causing widespread loss of fish and wildlife habitats. Those are unavoidable cumulative and indirect adverse impacts to the environmental from the construction of USACE flood and storm surge risk reduction projects. However, residential, commercial, and industrial use of these lands would be tenuous, at best, with no form of flood or storm surge risk reduction systems in place.

The District also has numerous navigation projects that have collectively caused a variety of direct and indirect impacts to the environment. Nearly all coastal rivers from the Calcasieu on the west side to the rivers draining into Lake Pontchartrain on the east side, have been modified in some manner by USACE projects. Note that the Sabine and Pearl Rivers are not mentioned since they are in the Galveston and Vicksburg Districts, respectively. Natural bayous and distributary passes of the Mississippi River have also been dredged and straightened. The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway cuts completely across the District, almost entirely through what was previously coastal

wetlands. These project have collectively brought significant direct adverse impacts to fish and wildlife habitats, although beneficial use of dredged materials partially compensates for adverse impacts. Indirectly, some of these waterways have allowed saltier waters to enter freshwater swamps and marshes killing those habitats and causing significant loss of these coastal wetlands.

While USACE navigation, flood control, and flood risk reduction projects have been widely cited as having caused significant adverse impacts within the District, Section 408 requests to alter these projects have not been identified as causing significant impacts. Some Section 408 requests, like utility lines and access roads, simply cross through USACE project lands. Other Section 408 requests seek to build projects to take advantage of USACE navigation projects by siting docks, wharves, bulkheads, etc. next to the maintained waterways. Regardless, all Section 408 projects have increased the human presence in the landscape.

## **6.2 Present and Future Actions**

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the USACE began major upgrades to the storm surge risk reduction projects in southeast Louisiana. The efforts at upgrading the project are nearly complete, except for the New Orleans to Venice project in Plaquemines Parish which still has considerable construction underway. Upgrading these flood risk reduction systems has caused significant unavoidable impacts to valuable fish and wildlife habitats requiring mitigation. Compensatory mitigation for impacts to valuable fish and wildlife habitats, including swamps, wetland and non-wetland bottomland hardwood forest, and coastal marshes has occurred and continues to be implemented at mitigation banks, a National wildlife refuge, a National park, and other locations in southeast Louisiana.

The Congressional authorizations for the upgrading of the risk reduction systems provided funding for construction, but not major maintenance. Southeast Louisiana rests upon alluvial sediments which tend to compress and sink. Since the recently upgraded levees are expected to lose elevation over time through subsidence, additional levee maintenance events or “lifts” are expected to be required over time. During the course of upgrading the earthen levee system, the USACE determined that resilience needed to be built into the levees in the case of overtopping during a storm. The USACE decided upon an armoring system composed of geotextile material with a grass cover. Once installed, this armoring system would be very expensive to remove and replace for the purpose of a levee lift. The non-Federal sponsor for the projects, who will be responsible for all project maintenance, requested permission to raise the levees before armoring is placed to account for future subsidence. A series of Section 408 requests were submitted and processed to allow the levee “lifts” to occur before the levee armoring was installed. The earthen material used for the levee lifts is being obtained from sources that had been environmentally cleared earlier during the upgrading of the levee systems. Some levee lifts have been completed, some remain underway, and the remainder will be begun soon. The requests for the levee lifts



represents the most significant alterations of USACE projects by Section 408 actions in recent years. None of the levee lifts would have been covered by any of the categorical permissions under consideration in this EA.

The District has not processed any notable requests for modifications to navigation projects in recent years. However, the District is currently processing a request for installation of a permanent “barge gate” across Bayou Chene near Morgan City, Louisiana. This proposed action would essentially block the USACE navigation channel officially named Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black during periods of extreme high water on the Atchafalaya River. The benefit of the project is expected to be decreased flooding of developed lands to the east of the barge gate. This proposed action has been determined to require Headquarters USACE approval due to the impact on the Federal project.

## **7 Agency Coordination and Public Comments**

On May 8, 2017 a public notice was issued to announce the District’s intention to prepare a programmatic EA to establish categorical permissions for certain Section 408 actions. The notice was posted on the District’s web site and emailed to state and Federal agencies. A copy of the public notice is provided as Appendix D. The web link to the notice is:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Section-408/Public-Notices/Article/1176810/permissions-to-alter-us-army-corps-of-engineers-projects-establishment-of-categ/>

The public and agency review period was 30 days. Three comments on the public notice were received. The Louisiana SHPO’s office commented they will be participating in the development of the programmatic agreement to handle National Historic Preservation Act compliance and look forward to working with the Corps in the future. The US EPA, Region 6 office stated, since there would be no effect on the separate review and permitting process under the USACE Section 10/404/103 regulatory program, they do not object to the development of categorical permissions to be used in the Section 408 program at the District.

The USFWS provided more detailed comments. They are concerned that Alternative 5 (culverts, drainage pipes, and drainage ditches) could result in the inadvertent loss of wetlands, and recommended that conditions be added to the proposed categorical permission to require examination of the purpose of such structures, and if found that wetland areas could be lost, then a categorical permission should not be used. The District agrees with this USFWS recommendation and has included the condition under the description of Alternative 5 in this EA.

The USFWS is also concerned that new structures or expansion of existing structures that fall under Alternative 7 (bank stabilization and erosion control features) and Alternative 8 (bulkheads, docks, wharfs, mooring pilings and dolphins) may impact fish

and wildlife habitat depending on the location and size of such structures. The USFWS recommended that the criteria for applicability in Nationwide General Permit 13 (Bank stabilization) and General Permit 128 (Small wharves, boat sheds, bulkhead, and associated dredge and fill activities) be used to determine if the requested activities are suitable for application of a categorical permission.

The District agrees that the criteria in Nationwide General Permit 13 are appropriate for evaluating whether a request fitting the description of Alternative 7 is suitable for a categorical permission. In response to the USFWS' comment, the description of Alternative 7 in Section 3.7 of this EA references the criteria in Nationwide Permit 13 as determining factors for the application of categorical permissions.

The District does not agree to add the criteria in General Permit 128 (GP 128) as the USFWS recommended. Considering prior requests, the criteria in GP 128 would eliminate all, or nearly all future requests fitting the description of Alternative 8 from consideration as categorical permissions. To illustrate this point, one of the criteria in GP128 restricts its use to actions proposed by private individuals, not companies or other entities, and another restriction limits the size of the affected area to 300 square feet. The District considers these criteria to not be appropriate to the intent or purpose of establishing categorical permissions.

This EA and a draft FONSI will be posted on the District's website and distributed via email and US Postal Service mail to interested parties including individuals, organizations, elected officials, and local, state, and Federal agencies for a 30-day review period. Comments will be considered, and the EA will be revised as appropriate in response to those comments, prior to any decision being made.

## **8 Conclusion**

Following an evaluation of environmental consequences, Alternative 14 has been identified as the Recommended Plan. This alternative best meets the purpose and need for requests to modify USACE projects within the scope of this document. The Recommended Plan would not result in any significant adverse impacts, either directly, indirectly, or cumulatively to the human environment. While minor impacts may occur as a result of some proposed actions, all Section 408 applications will be rigorously evaluated according to the procedures and limitations criteria listed in Chapter 2 of this EA. Section 106 of the NHPA would comply with an executed programmatic agreement for Section 408 categorical permissions.

## **9 Preparers**

This document was prepared primarily by Mr. Richard E. Boe, Supervisory Environmental Resources Specialist, and Dr. Jason A. Emery, Archeologist. Both preparers work in the Regional Planning and Environmental Division, South, and physically located at the District, USACE.

## **APPENDIX A**

**Navigation, Flood Risk Reduction, and Mississippi River and  
Tributaries Projects within the New Orleans District**

**NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT - RIVER AND HARBOR PROJECTS<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Parishes</b>
Amite River and Bayou Manchac	7-foot channel from Lake Maurepas to Port Vincent, thence clearing and snagging upstream	St. John the Baptist, Livingston, Ascension and East Baton Rouge
Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf, and Black	20-foot channel from the Gulf of Mexico to Amelia	St. Mary and Terrebonne
Barataria Bay Waterway	12-foot channel from the Gulf of Mexico to Crown Point	Jefferson
Bayou Bonfouca	10-foot channel from Lake Pontchartrain to Slidell	St. Tammany
Bayou Dupre	6-foot channel from Violet to Lake Borgne	St. Bernard
Bayou Grand Caillou and Bayou Le Carpe	5-foot and 10-foot channels from Houma to Bayou Dulac	Terrebonne
Bayou Lacombe	8-foot channel from Lake Pontchartrain to Slidell	St. Tammany
Bayou Lafourche and Port Fourchon	24-foot channel from Gulf of Mexico to Port Fourchon, thence 12-foot, 9-foot, and 6-foot channels upstream to Larose	Lafourche
Bayous La Loutre, St. Malo, and Yscloskey	5-foot and 6-foot channels connecting Yscloskey, Hopedale, Lake Borgne and Chandeleur Sound	St. Bernard
Bayou Segnette Waterway	6-foot channel from Westwego to Barataria Bay Waterway	Jefferson
Bayou Teche	8-foot from the Atchafalaya River to New Iberia, thence a 6-foot channel up to Arnaudville	St. Mary, Iberia and St. Martin
Bayou Teche and Vermilion River	8-foot and 9 foot channels from Vermilion Bay to Lafayette and thence channel improvements to Port Barre	Vermilion, Lafayette, St. Martin, St. Landry
Bayou Terrebonne	6-foot channel from Houma to Bush Canal	Terrebonne
Calcasieu River and Pass, including Coon Island, Devil's Elbow, and Salt Water Barrier	40-foot channel from Gulf of Mexico to Lake Charles plus side channels and salt water barrier	Cameron and Calcasieu
Tchefuncte and Bogue Falaya Rivers	10 -foot, thence 8-foot channel from Lake Pontchartrain to Covington	St. Tammany
Freshwater Bayou	12-foot channel from Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway	Vermilion

<b>NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT - RIVER AND HARBOR PROJECTS<sup>1</sup> (Continued)</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Parishes</b>
Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, including Alternate Route and Locks	12-foot channel from eastern to western limits of New Orleans District, plus alternate route from Morgan City to Baton Rouge	Cameron, Vermilion, Iberia, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Lafourche, Jefferson, Plaquemines, Orleans, St. Martin, Iberville, West Baton Rouge
Houma Navigation Canal	18-foot channel from the Gulf of Mexico to Houma	Terrebonne
Little Caillou Bayou	5-foot channel from the Robinson Canal to Bayou Terrebonne	Terrebonne
Mermentau River	15-foot channel from Gulf of Mexico to Mile 8. Also structures at Catfish Point and Schooner Bayou and other features.	Cameron, Vermilion
Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico	55-foot channel authorized from Gulf of Mexico to Baton Rouge. 45-foot channel constructed.	Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Ascension, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge
Mississippi River Gulf Outlet	36-foot remaining authorized channel extends from Inner Harbor Navigation Canal to Michoud Canal.	Orleans
Mississippi River Outlets at Venice (Baptiste Collette Bayou and Tiger Pass)	14-foot channels from the Gulf of Mexico to Venice	Plaquemines
Michoud Canal	36-foot dead-end channel extending north from the remaining authorized section of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet	Orleans
Petit Anse, Tigre, and Carlin Bayous	7-foot and 9-foot channels from Vermilion Bay to Delcambre and other locations	Iberia, Vermilion
Tangipahoa River	8-foot channel at the entrance in Lake Pontchartrain and clearing and snagging	Tangipahoa
Waterway from Empire to the Gulf of Mexico	9-foot channel from the Gulf of Mexico to Empire	Plaquemines

<sup>1</sup>This is not a complete list of every authorized river and harbor project. Some projects in the deferred status and inactive status are not included.

<b>NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT - FLOOD RISK REDUCTION PROJECTS<sup>2</sup></b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Parishes</b>
Amite River and Tributaries (Comite River Diversion - Under Construction)	Diversion canal and structures to carry flood flows from the Comite River to the Mississippi River	East Baton Rouge
Grand Isle and Vicinity	Various jetties and dunes to provide flood risk reduction on this inhabited barrier island	Jefferson
Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity	System of levees, floodwalls, pump stations and floodgates designed to provide storm surge risk reduction for a 100-year hurricane storm surge event	Parts of Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Charles on the east bank of the Mississippi River and St. Bernard
Larose to Golden Meadow	System of levees, floodwalls, pump stations and floodgates designed to provide storm surge risk reduction	Lafourche
Morganza to the Gulf (Authorized - No Federal funding)	System of levees, floodwalls, pump stations and floodgates designed to provide storm surge risk reduction	Terrebonne, Lafourche
New Orleans to Venice	System of levees, floodwalls, pump stations and floodgates designed to provide storm surge risk reduction for a 50-year hurricane storm surge event	Plaquemines
Southeast Louisiana (SELA)	Internal stormwater drainage improvements	Orleans, Jefferson. No projects constructed in St. Tammany
West Bank and Vicinity	System of levees, floodwalls, pump stations and floodgates designed to provide storm surge risk reduction for a 100-year hurricane storm surge event	Parts of Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Charles on the west bank of the Mississippi River, and Plaquemines
West Shore Lake Pontchartrain (Authorized - Not Constructed)	System of levees, floodwalls, pump stations and floodgates designed to provide storm surge risk reduction for a 100-year hurricane storm surge event	Parts of St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and St. James on the east bank of the Mississippi River

<sup>2</sup>This is not a complete list of every authorized flood risk reduction project. Some projects that were constructed but not maintained, and projects in the deferred status and inactive status are not included.

<b>NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT- MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES PROJECTS</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Parishes</b>
Atchafalaya Basin Flood Control	System of floodways, levees, floodwalls, water control structures, channel enlargement, channel training, internal drainage, and flowage easements to convey Mississippi and Red River flood flows to the Gulf of Mexico	St. Mary, St. Martin, Iberia, Iberville, St. Landry, Pointe Coupee, Avoyelles, Concordia
Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System	System of environmental protection easements, public access lands, recreation facilities, and water management units within the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway	Primarily Iberville, St. Martin, Iberia
Baton Rouge Harbor (Devil's Swamp)	12-foot deep, 2.5 mile long navigation channel off of the Mississippi River near Scotlandville	East Baton Rouge
Bayou Cocodrie and Tributaries	System channel enlargements, a diversion channel and water control structures along Bayous Rapides, Boeuf, and Cocodrie to improve drainage	Rapides, Avoyelles, St. Landry
Bonnet Carre Spillway	Control structure and floodway to divert Mississippi River flood flows into Lake Pontchartrain	St. Charles
Mississippi and Louisiana Delta Region (Caernarvon and Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Projects)	Projects to divert fresh water from the Mississippi River into the Breton and Barataria Basins to reestablish historic salinity levels for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources and estuarine habitats	Plaquemines, St. Bernard (Caernarvon). Jefferson, St. Charles (Davis Pond)
Mississippi River Channel Improvement (Dredging)	9-foot channel upstream from Baton Rouge	Within the Mississippi River in East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana
Mississippi River Channel Improvement (Revetments and Foreshore Protection)	Placement of articulated concrete mattress and rock along the river banks to prevent erosion	Along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Ascension, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana

**NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT- MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES PROJECTS (Continued)**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Parishes</b>
Mississippi River Levees	Levees along the east bank of the river from Baton Rouge to Bohemia and the west bank from north of Old River to Venice	Along the Mississippi River in Plaquemines, St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, St. James, Ascension, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, West Feliciana
Morganza Floodway	Control structure and floodway to divert Mississippi River flood flows into the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway	Pointe Coupee
Old River Control	Structures and channels to regulate flows between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers	Concordia

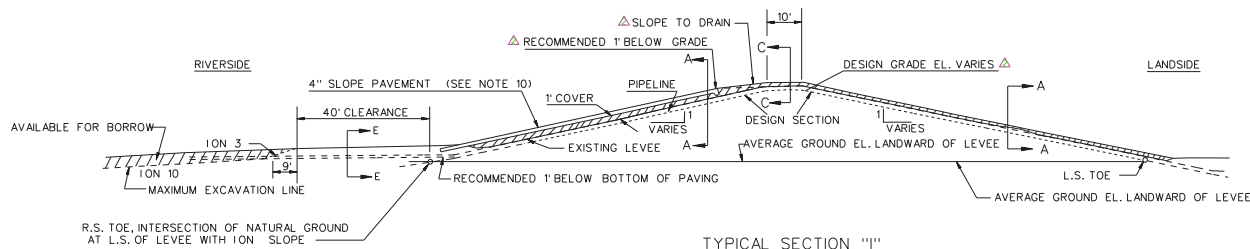


## **APPENDIX B**

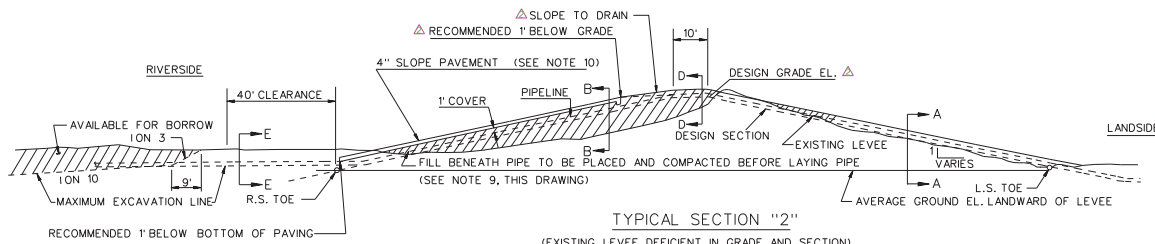
### **Engineering Criteria and Requirements for Section 408 Requests**

## CONTENTS OF APPENDIX B

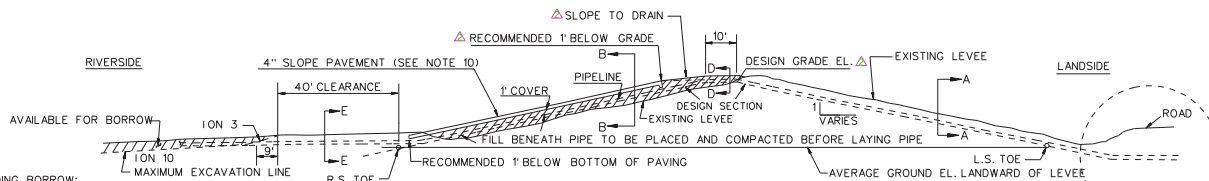
- Sheets 1 to 9** - These nine sheets address surface crossings of both river and hurricane levees by utilities and pipelines, and penetrations of floodwalls by utilities and pipelines
- Sheet 10** - Power Line Service, Crossing Over Levee
- Sheet 11** - Limits of Permissible Excavation in River, Mississippi River
- Sheet 12** - Limits of Permissible Stockpile on Riverbanks
- Sheet 13** - Limits of Permissible River Side Borrow Pits, Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers
- Sheet 14** - USACE Levee Standards, Concrete Slope Pavement Details, Louisiana
- Sheet 15** - Repair Procedures Required when Penetrating Revetments with Piles, Caissons, and/or Pile Clusters
- Sheet 16** - Permit Requirements for Construction of Utilities (Piers, Dolphins, Bulkheads, Pilings, Wharves, and Other Structures Adjacent to Authorized Navigation Channels)
- Sheet 17** - Permit Requirements for Construction of Utilities across Navigation Channels Having Less Than 30' of Depth
- Sheet 18** - Permit Requirements for Construction of Utilities, Mississippi River
- Sheet 19** - Permit Requirements for Construction of Utilities Based on May 2010 Criteria (Atchafalaya Basin Main Channel)
- Sheet 20** - Permit Requirements for Construction of Utilities for May 2010 Criteria (Calcasieu River)
- Sheet 21** - Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Permit Requirements for Constructing Bulkheads, Structures, Slips, etc., along Algiers Navigation Canal
- Letter 1** - General Criteria for Pipeline and Utility Line Burial in Waterways within the New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers (3 page letter with 1 enclosure)



TYPICAL SECTION "1"  
(M.R.C. CODE SECTION CONTAINED WITHIN EXISTING LEVEE)  
NOT TO SCALE



TYPICAL SECTION "2"  
(EXISTING LEVEE DEFICIENT IN GRADE AND SECTION)  
NOT TO SCALE

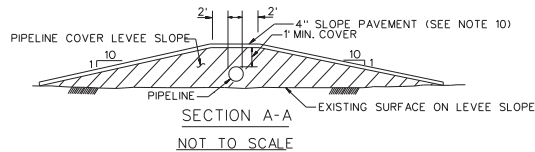


TYPICAL SECTION "3"  
(LEVEE TO GRADE AND SECTION BUT SHIFT  
REQUIRED FOR PIPE CLEARANCE UNDER ROAD)  
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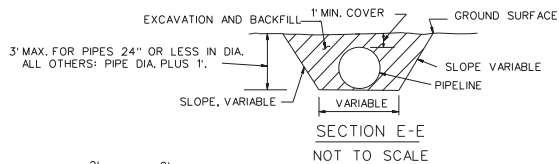
NOTES REGARDING BORROW:

BORROW SHALL BE LIMITED TO THAT REQUIRED FOR LEVEE ENLARGEMENT.  
NO BORROW EXCAVATION ALLOWED WITHIN 50' OF THE FLOODSIDE  
LEVEE TOE WITHOUT A STABILITY ANALYSIS SUBMITTED.  
WITHOUT A STABILITY ANALYSIS, BORROW EXCAVATION MUST NOT BE  
CLOSER THAN 200' FROM THE FLOODSIDE LEVEE TOE.

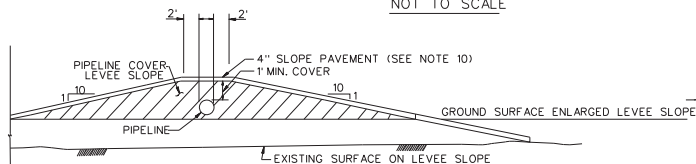
BORROW PIT DRAINAGE DITCHES SHALL BE EXCAVATED TO THE RIVER TO INSURE COMPLETE DRAINAGE OF PITS.



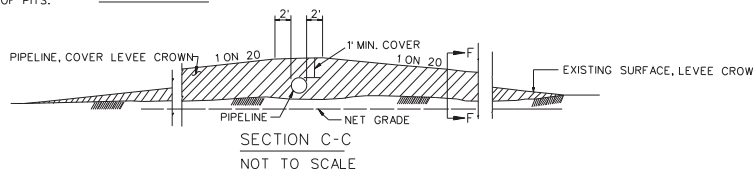
SECTION A-A  
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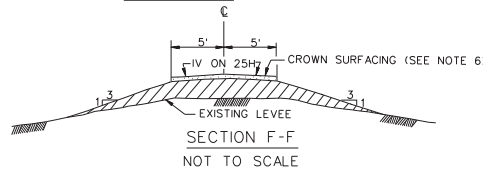
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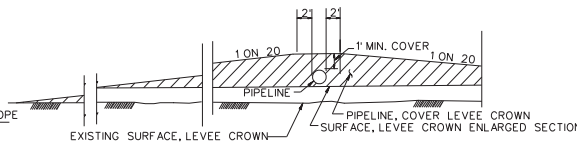
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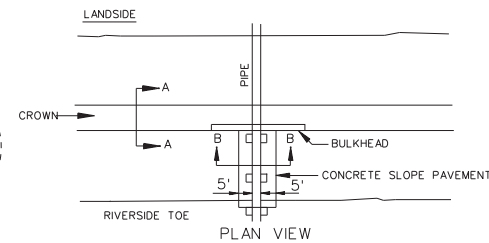
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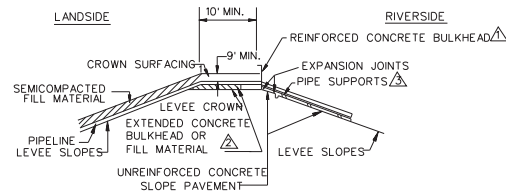
SECTION F-F  
NOT TO SCALE



SECTION D-D  
NOT TO SCALE



CONCRETE BULKHEAD  
SECTION B-B  
NOT TO SCALE



SECTION A-A  
NOT TO SCALE

NOTES:

- DESIGN DETAILS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT.
- BOTTOM OF CONCRETE BULKHEAD MAY EXTEND COMPLETELY ACROSS CROWN.
- PIPE SUPPORTS MUST BE INDEPENDENT OF CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT. EXISTING PAVEMENT CAN BE CUT TO ACCOMMODATE SUPPORTS.
- CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT MUST EXTEND 5' BEYOND OUTERMOST EDGES OF THE STRUCTURE OR SUPPORTS AND 3' INTO BATTER.

NOTES:

- TYPICAL SECTION "1": WHEN EXISTING LEVEE IS  $\geq$  M.R.C. DESIGN SECTION, THE PIPELINE SHALL BE LAID ON EXISTING LEVEE SURFACE AND COVERED OVER AS SHOWN IN SECTIONS A-A AND C-C. NO EXCAVATION TO DESIGN SECTION WILL BE ALLOWED. ALLOWABLE EXCAVATION ON RIVERSIDE AS SHOWN IN SECTION E-E.
- TYPICAL SECTION "2": PIPELINE MAY BE PLACED ON ENLARGED DESIGN SECTION, SHOWN AS DASHED LINE. EXCESS EXISTING LEVEE EMBANKMENT MATERIAL ON THE LANDSIDE SLOPE CAN BE DEGRADED AND USED AS LEVEE FILL ON THE RIVERSIDE SLOPE. EXCAVATION LANDWARD OF LANDSIDE TOE SHALL NOT EXTEND BELOW LANDSIDE SLOPE EXTENDED. ALLOWABLE EXCAVATION ON RIVERSIDE AS SHOWN IN SECTION E-E.
- TYPICAL SECTION "3": SAME AS NOTE "2". IF PASSING THE PIPELINE UNDER AN ADJACENT ROAD WILL REQUIRE A SUBSTANTIAL SHIFT IN THE LEVEE, THE PIPELINE MAY BE ALLOWED TO VIOLATE THE DESIGN SLOPE EXTENDED. WAIVERS WILL BE EVALUATED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.
- SMOOTH TRANSITIONS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE LEVEE ENLARGEMENT AND EXISTING LEVEE.
- ALL FRESH FILLS SHALL BE SODDED OR FERTILIZED AND SEEDING SHALL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL A HEALTHY GROWTH IS OBTAINED.
- THE CROWN RAMP OVER THE PIPELINE CROSSING SHALL BE SURFACED WITH NINE (9) INCHES OF CRUSHED STONE (LOOSE MEASUREMENT) FOR FULL WIDTH (10' MIN.) AND LENGTH OF RAMP.
- FILL MATERIAL USED IN CONSTRUCTION OF LEVEE ENLARGEMENTS, RAMP, PIPE COVER, AND BACKFILL OF EXCAVATION SHALL BE A COMPACTED IMPERVIOUS EARTH FILL (CLAY). SEE NOTE 9 BELOW.
- PIPELINE MARKERS SHALL BE PLACED AND MAINTAINED AT EACH TOE OF LEVEE IN LINE WITH THE CROSSING AND INDICATING OWNER, SIZE, NUMBER OF LINES, PRODUCT AND ADDRESS FOR CONTACTING OWNER.
- SEE DWGS. 2, 3, OR 4 FOR DESCRIPTION OF COMPACTED FILL.
- THE INSTALLATION OF 4" THICK UNREINFORCED CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT ON THE LEVEE FLOODSIDE SLOPE IS REQUIRED IN ALL AREAS OF EXISTING SLOPE PAVEMENT OR IN AREAS SUSCEPTIBLE TO WAVE EROSION. SEE SLOPE PAVEMENT DETAILS SHEET 4 OF 7.
- ALL COVER OVER PIPELINES MUST BE DESIGNED FOR H520-44 LOADING FOR THE LIFE OF THE LINE.

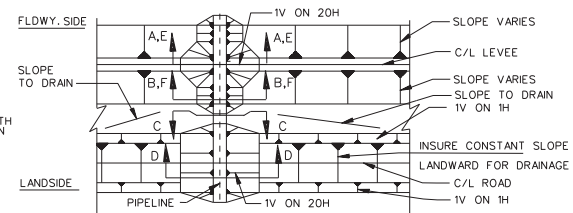
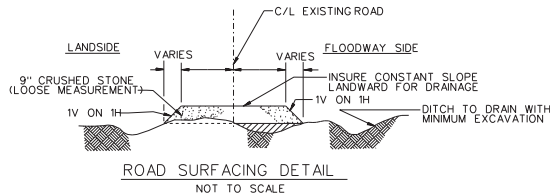
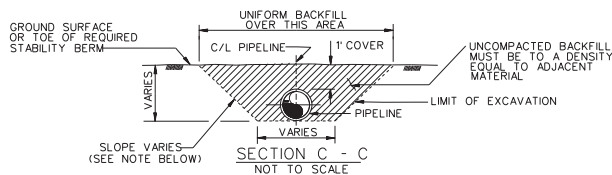
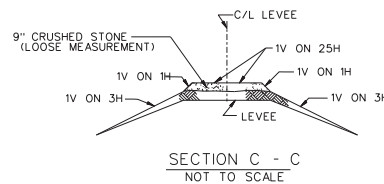
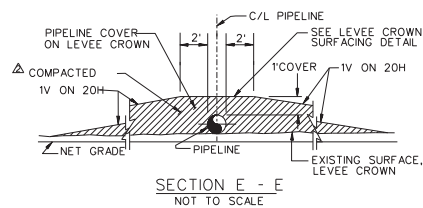
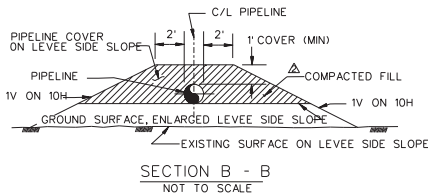
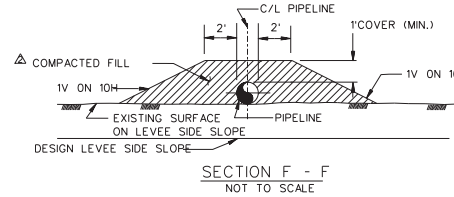
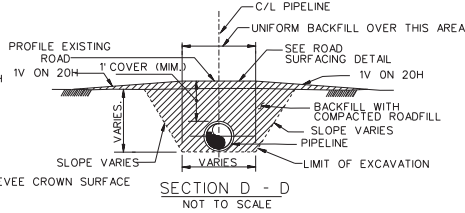
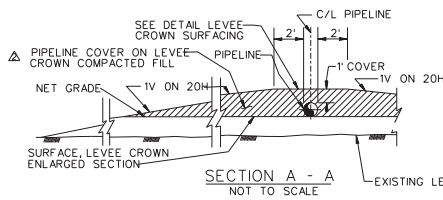
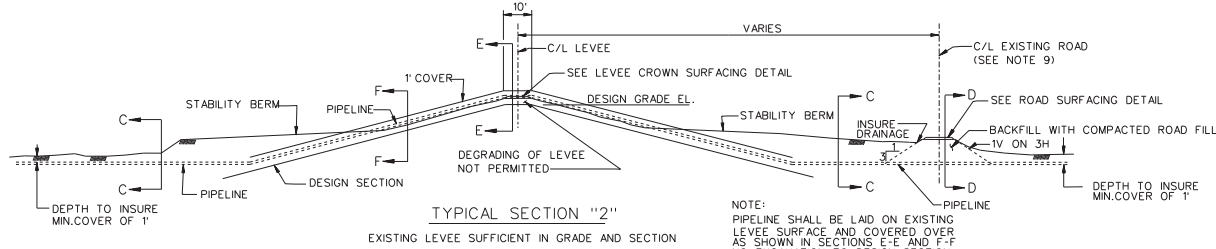
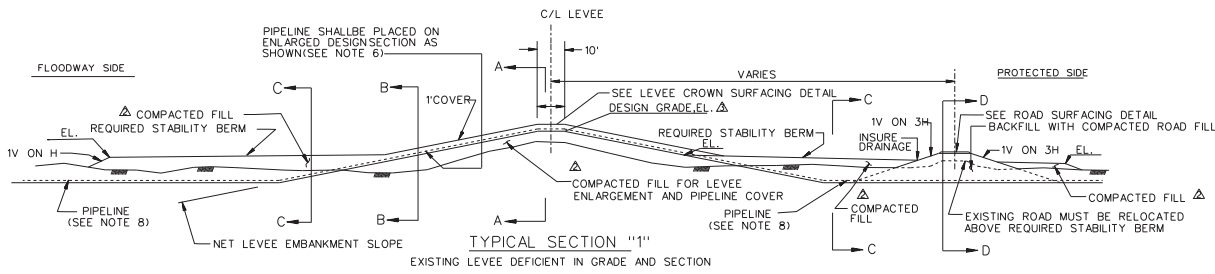


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U. S. ARMY  
ENGINEER DISTRICT 1, NEW ORLEANS  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
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CHECKED BY: [NAME]  
DATE: [DATE]  
SCALE: [SCALE]  
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DATE: [DATE]  
PROJECT NO.: [PROJECT NO.]  
DRAWING NO.: [DRAWING NO.]  
DATE: [DATE]

PIPELINE CROSSINGS OVER LEVEES AND FLOODWALLS  
SURFACE CROSSINGS  
TYPICAL FOR RIVER LEVEES  
MBS, INER, ATON, INER, AND RED RIVER LEVES

FILE NUMBER  
H-8-29027  
DWG. 1 OF 7



NOTE:  
MAXIMUM DEPTH ALLOWED IS THAT REQUIRED TO PROVIDE 1' OF COVER OVER PIPELINE OR ALLOWED BY STABILITY ANALYSIS.

NOTES:

- SMOOTH TRANSITION SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE LEVEE ENLARGEMENT AND EXISTING LEVEE.
- ALL FRESH FILL SHALL BE SODDED OR FERTILIZED AND SEEDED AND SHALL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL A HEALTHY GROWTH IS OBTAINED.
- THE CROWN RAMP OVER THE PIPELINE CROSSING SHALL BE SURFACED WITH CRUSHED STONE NINE (9) INCHES IN THICKNESS FOR A FULL WIDTH (10' MIN.) AND LENGTH OF RAMP.
- FILL MATERIAL USED IN CONSTRUCTION OF LEVEE ENLARGEMENT RAMPS, PIPE COVER, AND BACKFILL OF EXCAVATION SHALL BE IMPERVIOUS EARTH FILL.
- PIPELINE MARKERS SHALL BE PLACED AND MAINTAINED AT EACH TOE OF LEVEE IN LINE WITH PIPE CROSSING AND INDICATING OWNER, SIZE, AND NUMBER OF LINES, PRODUCT AND ADDRESS FOR CONTACTING OWNER.
- NEW STABILITY BERMS OR ENLARGEMENT OF EXISTING BERMS MAY BE REQUIRED BEFORE THE LEVEE CAN BE ENLARGED TO DESIGN SECTION AND PLACEMENT OF THE PIPELINE AND COVER THEREON. EACH CROSSING MUST BE EVALUATED FROM A LEVEE STABILITY STANDPOINT PRIOR TO APPROVAL.
- EMBANKMENT REQUIREMENTS:
  - COMPACTED FILL (LEVEE). THE FIRST AND EACH SUCCESSIVE LAYER OF COMPACTED FILL MATERIAL SHALL BE COMPACTED TO AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF MAXIMUM DRY DENSITY AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D 698 (STANDARD PROCTOR COMPACTION TEST) AT A MOISTURE CONTENT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF PLUS 5 TO MINUS 3 PERCENT OF OPTIMUM MOISTURE CONTENT DETERMINED FROM THE STANDARD PROCTOR COMPACTION TEST ASTM D 698.
  - THE FILL USED FOR LEVEE ENLARGEMENT OR BACKFILL MUST HAVE AN ORGANIC CONTENT NO GREATER THAN 3% AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D2974 METHOD C. THE P.L. OF THE FILL MUST BE 10 OR MORE BY ATTERBERG LIMITS BY ASTM D4318, AND THE MATERIAL IS CLASSIFIED AS EITHER A CH OR CL BY ASTM D2487, WITH LESS THAN 35% SAND RETAINED ON THE NO. 200 SIEVE BY ASTM D1140.
- PIPELINE MAY BE PLACED ON TOP OF THE REQUIRED STABILITY BERM AND COVERED AS SHOWN IN SECTION B-B OR F-F.
- IN SOME LOCATIONS THE ROAD IS LOCATED ON THE CROWN OF LEVEE.



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U. S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ORLEANS, LA  
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DATE: [Date]  
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PIPELINE CROSSINGS OVER LEVEES AND FLOODWALLS  
SURFACE CROSSINGS  
TYPICAL FOR RIVER LEVEES  
MBS, INER, ATOR, INER, AND RED RIVER LEVEES

FILE NUMBER  
H-8-29027  
DWC 2 OF 7



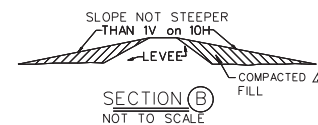
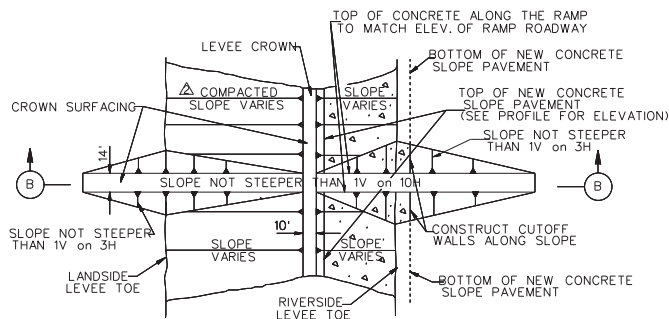
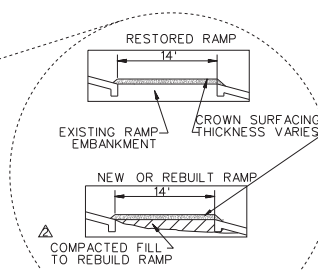
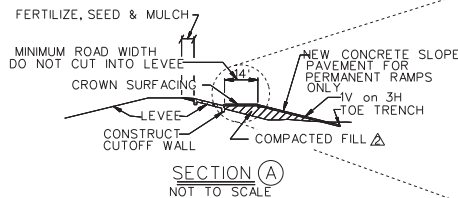
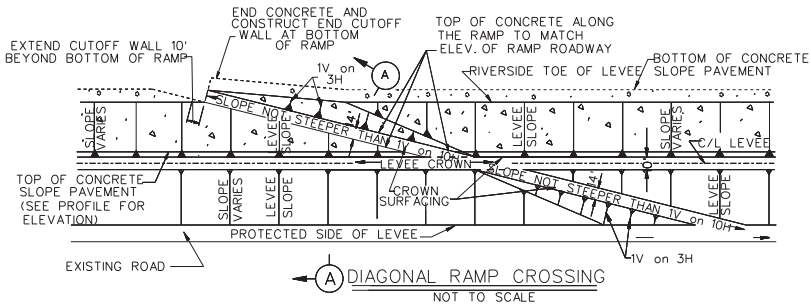










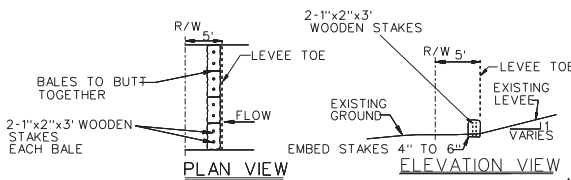


**EMBANKMENT REQUIREMENTS**

COMPACTED FILL: (LEVEE ACCESS ROADS AND FOOTINGS)  
 THE MATERIALS FOR COMPACTED FILL SHALL BE PLACED OR SPREAD IN LAYERS, THE FIRST OR BOTTOM LAYER AND THE LAST TWO LAYERS NOT MORE THAN 6 INCHES IN THICKNESS AND ALL LAYERS BETWEEN THE FIRST AND THE LAST TWO LAYERS NOT MORE THAN 12 INCHES IN THICKNESS PRIOR TO COMPACTION. THE FIRST AND EACH SUCCESSIVE LAYER OF COMPACTED FILL MATERIAL SHALL BE COMPACTED TO AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF MAXIMUM DRY DENSITY AS DETERMINED BY ASTM D 698 (STANDARD PROCTOR DENSITY) AT A MOISTURE CONTENT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF PLUS 5 TO MINUS 3 PERCENT OF OPTIMUM MOISTURE CONTENT DETERMINED FROM THE STANDARD PROCTOR DENSITY TEST ASTM D 698.

**NOTES:**

1. A 10' MIN. DISTANCE (OR AS OTHERWISE REQUIRED) BETWEEN THE LEVEE TOE AND THE PIPELINE SUPPORT IS REQUIRED TO AVOID PENETRATION OF CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT.
2. CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT IS REQUIRED WHEN SPREAD FOOTINGS REST ON LEVEE SLOPE. PAVEMENT MUST EXTEND 5' EACH SIDE OF FOOTINGS.
3. IN ABSENCE OF FOOTING ON LEVEE, LANDSIDE SLOPE PAVING WILL NOT BE REQUIRED. RIVERSIDE SLOPE PAVING WILL BE REQUIRED WHEN NECESSARY FOR EROSION CONTROL.
4. SMOOTH TRANSITIONS SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN THE LEVEE ENLARGEMENT AND THE EXISTING LEVEE.
5. ALL FRESH FILLS SHALL BE SODDED OR FERTILIZED AND SEEDDED AND SHALL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL A HEALTHY GROWTH IS OBTAINED.
6. THE CROWN OF THE ENLARGED LEVEE AND THE LEVEE ACCESS RAMPS SHALL BE SURFACED WITH CRUSHED STONE (7" IN THICKNESS, (LOOSE MEASUREMENT) FOR EXISTING CROWN AND RAMPS AND 9" FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION) FOR THE FULL WIDTH (10' MIN.) AND LENGTH OF THE ENLARGED LEVEE OR RAMP. THE CRUSHED STONE SURFACING SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF LSSRB SECTION 1003.04 (a), 2000 EDITION.
7. SEE NOTE 7, DRAWING 2 FOR FILL AND COMPACTION REQUIREMENTS.
8. A PIPELINE MARKER SHALL BE PLACED AND MAINTAINED AT EACH LEVEE TOE IN LINE WITH THE PIPELINE CROSSING AND INDICATE OWNER, SIZE, NUMBER OF LINES, PRODUCT AND ADDRESSES FOR CONTACTING OWNER.



NOTE:  
 AFTER REMOVAL OF HAYBALES, FERTILIZE, SEED AND MULCH THE AREA OCCUPIED BY THE HAYBALES AND AREAS DISTURBED AS A RESULT OF REMOVING THE HAYBALES.

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS  
 CORPUS ENGINEERING CENTER  
 NEW ORLEANS, LA 70115  
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 CHECKED BY: [Name] DATE: [Date]  
 SCALE: [Scale]  
 SUBMITTED BY: [Name] DATE: [Date]  
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 DESIGN FILE NUMBER: [Number] DRAWING NUMBER: [Number]

PIPELINE CROSSINGS OVER LEVEES AND FLOODWALLS  
 SURFACE CROSSINGS  
 TYPICAL FOR RIVER LEVEES  
 MBR, INPR, ATOH, INPR, AND RED RIVER LEVEES

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 H-8-29027  
 DWG. 6 OF 7





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4

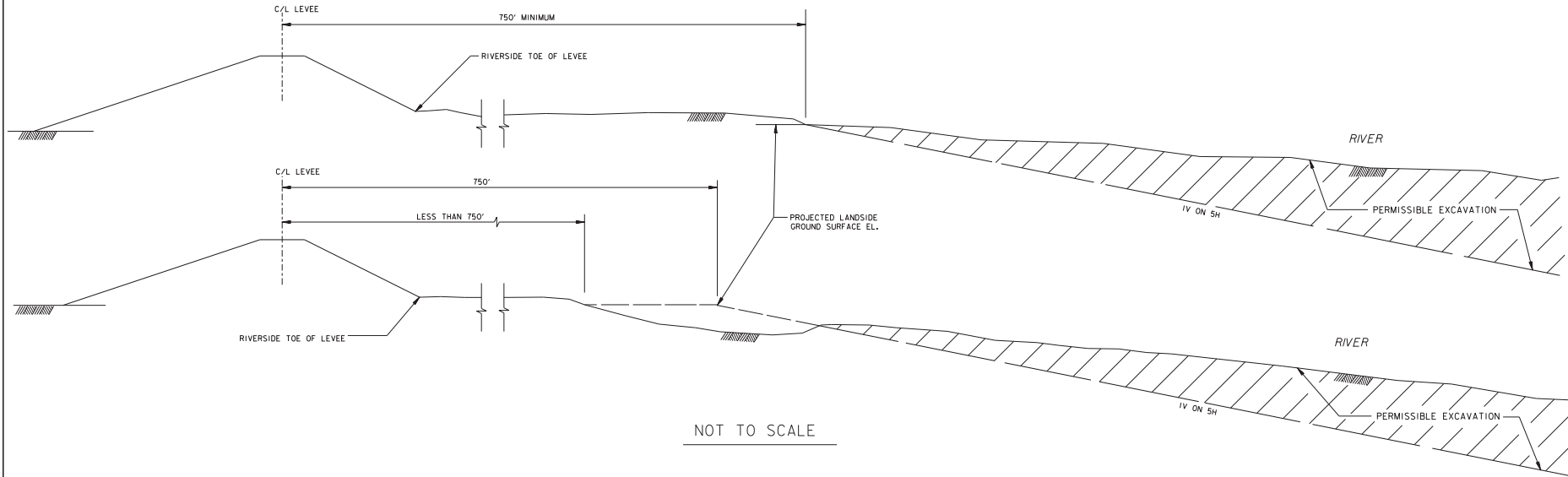
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2

1

LANDSIDE

RIVERSIDE



NOT TO SCALE

NOTES:

1. NORMALLY, DREDGING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED CLOSER THAN 4,000 FEET TO THE UPSTREAM SIDE OF BRIDGES CROSSING THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
2. EXCAVATION MADE WITHIN THE PERMISSIBLE AREA SHALL HAVE AVERAGE SLOPES NOT STEEPER THAN 1 ON 5. BOX CUTS ARE PERMITTED TO A MAXIMUM DEPTH OF 6 FEET.
3. EXCAVATION SHALL PROCEED FROM THE LANDSIDE TO THE RIVERSIDE LIMITS OF EXCAVATION TO MINIMIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN "OVERBURDEN FAILURE" OF THE BANK.

LIMITS OF PERMISSIBLE EXCAVATION IN RIVER



U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Sheet 11

DRAWN BY: PHIL MARCHESE	PLOT SCALE: 10	PLOT DATE: X	ICADD FILE: 491956.01.dgn
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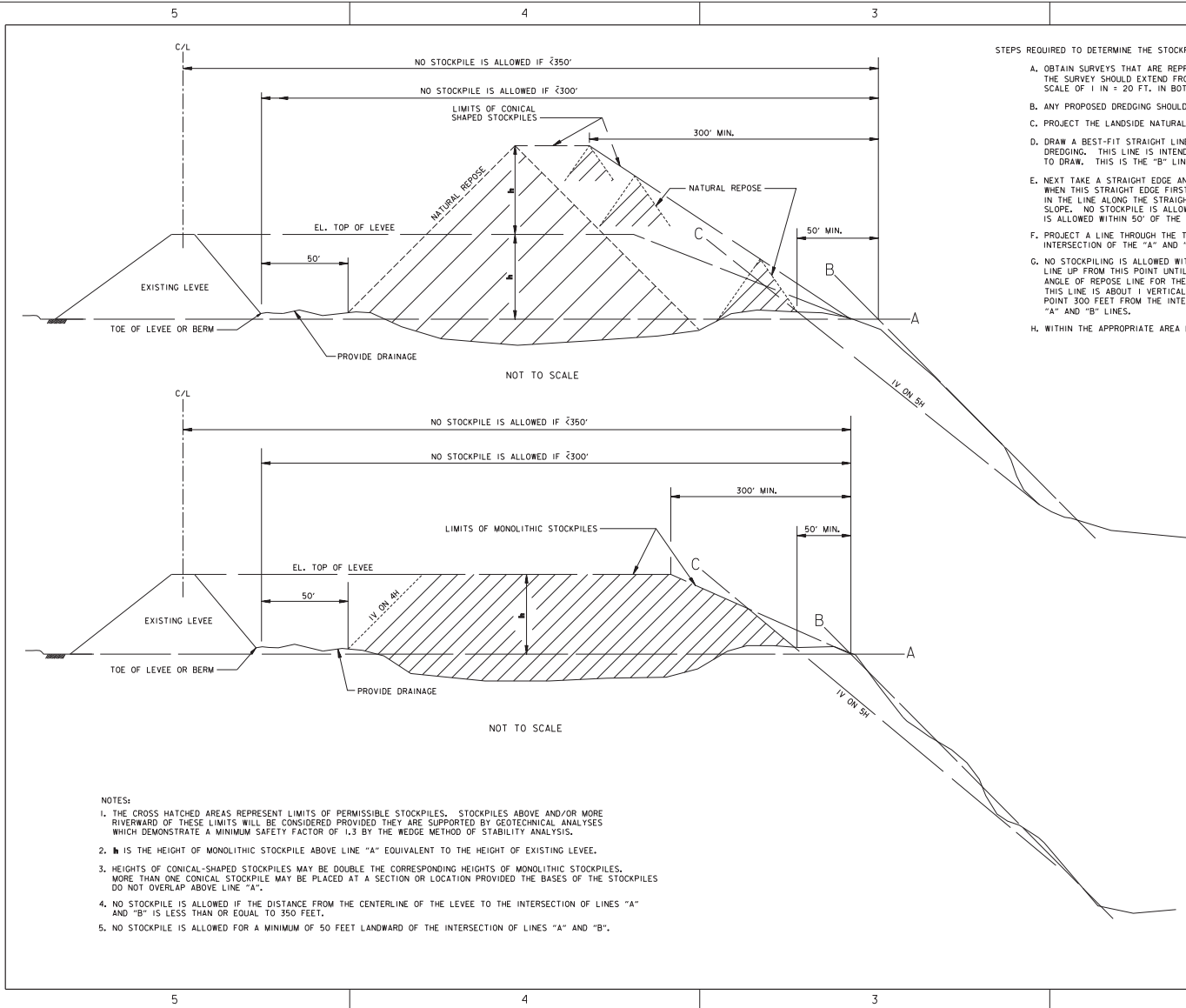
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2

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STEPS REQUIRED TO DETERMINE THE STOCKPILE LIMITS:

- A. OBTAIN SURVEYS THAT ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL CONDITIONS THAT EXIST AT THE SITE, PERFORMED BY A REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR. THE SURVEY SHOULD EXTEND FROM THE LANDSIDE LEVEE TOE TO THE (UNDERWATER) TOE OF THE RIVERBANK SLOPE, AND BE PLOTTED TO A SCALE OF 1 IN = 20 FT. IN BOTH THE HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL DIRECTIONS.
- B. ANY PROPOSED DREDGING SHOULD BE SUPERIMPOSED ON THE ABOVE SURVEY CROSS-SECTION. REFER TO STANDARD DRAWING H-8-45755.
- C. PROJECT THE LANDSIDE NATURAL GROUND ELEVATION AT THE LEVEE TOE HORIZONTAL TOWARDS THE RIVER. THIS DETERMINES THE "A" LINE.
- D. DRAW A BEST-FIT STRAIGHT LINE THROUGH THE POINTS OF THE RIVERBANK SURVEY CROSS-SECTION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY PROPOSED DREDGING. THIS LINE IS INTENDED TO REPRESENT THE AVERAGE SLOPE FROM TOP TO TOE OF THE RIVERBANK, AND REQUIRES JUDGEMENT TO DRAW. THIS IS THE "B" LINE.
- E. NEXT TAKE A STRAIGHT EDGE ANGLED TO A 1 VERTICAL ON 5 HORIZONTAL SLOPE AND SLIDE THIS FROM THE LEVEE TOWARDS THE "B" LINE. WHEN THIS STRAIGHT EDGE FIRST TOUCHES ANY POINT OF THE SURVEY CROSS-SECTION, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANY PROPOSED DREDGING, DRAW IN THE LINE ALONG THE STRAIGHT EDGE. THIS IS THE "C" LINE, WHICH IS TANGENT TO THE RIVERBANK AND/OR PROPOSED DREDGING ON A 1 ON 5 SLOPE. NO STOCKPILE IS ALLOWED RIVERWARD OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE "C" LINE AND THE NATURAL GROUND. FURTHERMORE, NO STOCKPILE IS ALLOWED WITHIN 50' OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE "A" AND "B" LINES.
- F. PROJECT A LINE THROUGH THE TOP OF THE LEVEE TOWARDS THE RIVER AND PARALLEL TO THE "A" LINE, STOPPING AT A POINT 300 FEET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF THE "A" AND "B" LINES. DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE FROM THIS POINT TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE "A" AND "B" LINES.
- G. NO STOCKPILING IS ALLOWED WITHIN 50 FEET OF THE RIVERSIDE LEVEE TOE. FOR MONOLITHIC STOCKPILES, DRAW A 1 VERTICAL ON 4 HORIZONTAL LINE UP FROM THIS POINT UNTIL IT INTERSECTS THE LINE THROUGH THE TOP OF THE LEVEE. FOR CONICAL SHAPED STOCKPILES, DRAW A NATURAL ANGLE OF REPOSE LINE FOR THE MATERIAL TO BE STOCKPILED UP FROM THIS POINT TO TWICE THE HEIGHT OF THE LEVEE (2H). FOR SANDY MATERIAL, THIS LINE IS ABOUT 1 VERTICAL ON 2 HORIZONTAL. FROM THIS POINT AT A HEIGHT OF 2H, PROJECT A HORIZONTAL LINE TOWARDS THE RIVER TO A POINT 300 FEET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF "A" AND "B". DRAW A STRAIGHT LINE FROM THIS POINT TO THE POINT OF INTERSECTION OF THE "A" AND "B" LINES.
- H. WITHIN THE APPROPRIATE AREA DETERMINED BY THE ABOVE, DRAW IN YOUR PROPOSED STOCKPILE CONFIGURATION.

NOTES:

1. THE CROSS HATCHED AREAS REPRESENT LIMITS OF PERMISSIBLE STOCKPILES. STOCKPILES ABOVE AND/OR MORE RIVERWARD OF THESE LIMITS WILL BE CONSIDERED PROVIDED THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY GEOTECHNICAL ANALYSES WHICH DEMONSTRATE A MINIMUM SAFETY FACTOR OF 1.3 BY THE WEDGE METHOD OF STABILITY ANALYSIS.
2. H IS THE HEIGHT OF MONOLITHIC STOCKPILE ABOVE LINE "A" EQUIVALENT TO THE HEIGHT OF EXISTING LEVEE.
3. HEIGHTS OF CONICAL-SHAPED STOCKPILES MAY BE DOUBLE THE CORRESPONDING HEIGHTS OF MONOLITHIC STOCKPILES. MORE THAN ONE CONICAL STOCKPILE MAY BE PLACED AT A SECTION OR LOCATION PROVIDED THE BASES OF THE STOCKPILES DO NOT OVERLAP ABOVE LINE "A".
4. NO STOCKPILE IS ALLOWED IF THE DISTANCE FROM THE CENTERLINE OF THE LEVEE TO THE INTERSECTION OF LINES "A" AND "B" IS LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 350 FEET.
5. NO STOCKPILE IS ALLOWED FOR A MINIMUM OF 50 FEET LANDWARD OF THE INTERSECTION OF LINES "A" AND "B".

LIMITS OF PERMISSIBLE STOCKPILE ON RIVERBANKS

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

DRAWN BY: PHIL MARCHESE	PLOT SCALE: 10	PLOT DATE: X	CADD FILE: 45756L01.dgn
DATE: MAY 2002	FILE NO. H-8-45756		

Sheet 12

5

4

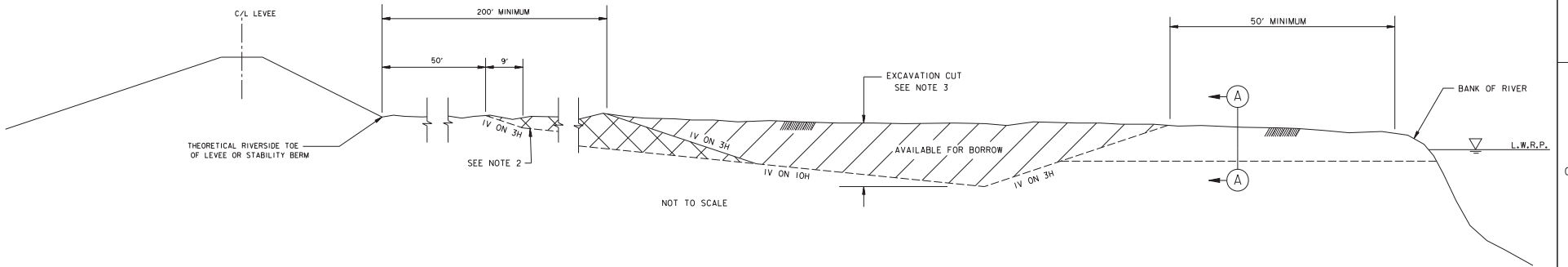
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2

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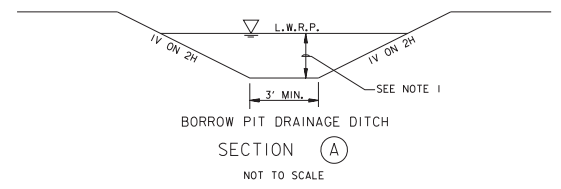
LANDSIDE

RIVERSIDE



NOTES:

1. A BORROW PIT DRAINAGE DITCH SHOULD BE EXCAVATED THRU THE RIVER BANK. THE DITCH SHALL HAVE A BOTTOM WIDTH OF 3 FEET AND 1 ON 2 SIDE SLOPES. THE BOTTOM ELEVATION OF THE DITCH SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 3 FEET BELOW THE LOW WATER REFERENCE PLANE OF THE RIVER.
2. MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR BORROW IS EXCAVATED FROM A PIT STARTING 200' FROM THE THEORETICAL LEVEE OR STABILITY BERM TOE WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF A SOIL STABILITY ANALYSIS TO INSURE LEVEE FOUNDATION INTEGRITY. THE APPLICANT SHALL BE ALLOWED TO REMOVE BATTERED SAND STARTING 50' FROM THE THEORETICAL LEVEE OR STABILITY BERM TOE PROVIDED THE APPLICANT SUBMITS A SOILS STABILITY ANALYSIS JUSTIFYING THAT THE FACTOR OF SAFETY OF THE LEVEE FAILING INTO THE PIT IS EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 1.3.
3. THE ALLOWABLE EXCAVATION DEPTH OF THE BORROW PIT SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE COE AS BASED UPON MAINTAINING ADEQUATE LEVEE FOUNDATION STABILITY. THE MAXIMUM DEPTH OF ANY PIT SHALL BE NO GREATER THAN 20 FEET.



REVISIONS			
SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	DATE	APPROVED
	ADDED "ATCHAFALAYA" TO TITLE	12/06	E.J.P.

MISSISSIPPI AND ATCHAFALAYA RIVERS  
LIMITS OF PERMISSIBLE  
RIVER SIDE BORROW PITS

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

DRAWN BY: PHIL MARCHESE	PLOT SCALE: 10 X	PLOT DATE: X	CADD FILE: 49151.01.dgn
DATE: MAY 2002	FILE NO. H-8-45757		

Sheet 13

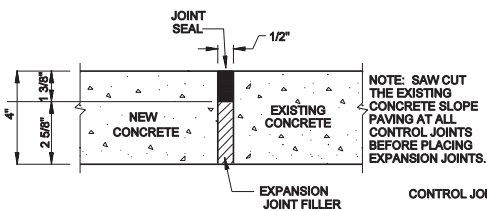
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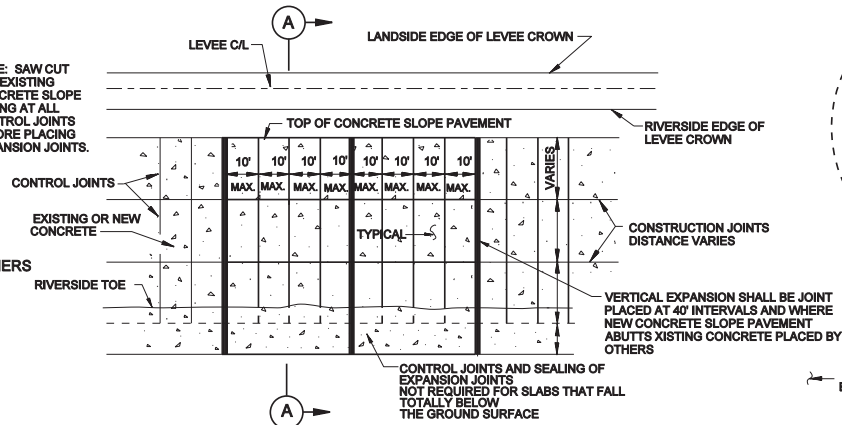
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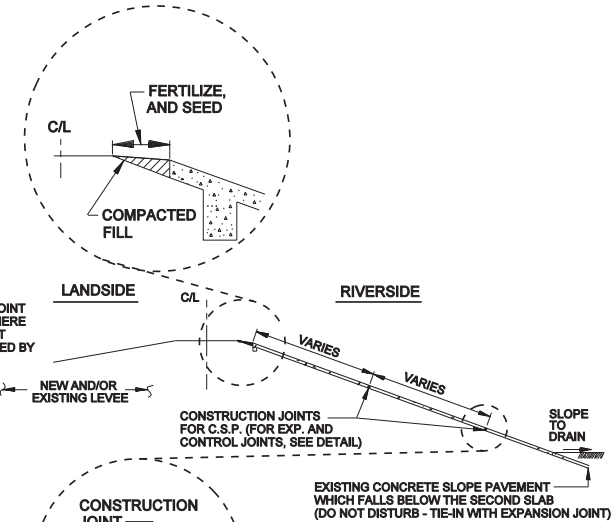
**TRANSITION DETAIL**

DETAIL OF TIE IN WITH EXISTING CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT PLACED PREVIOUSLY BY OTHERS  
NOT TO SCALE



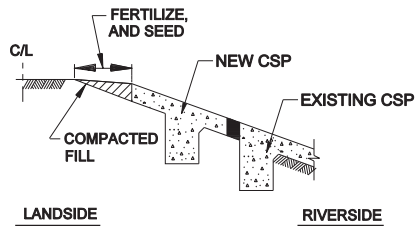
**PLAN VIEW**

NOT TO SCALE

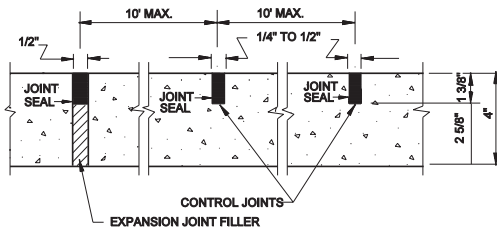


**SECTION A**

NOT TO SCALE

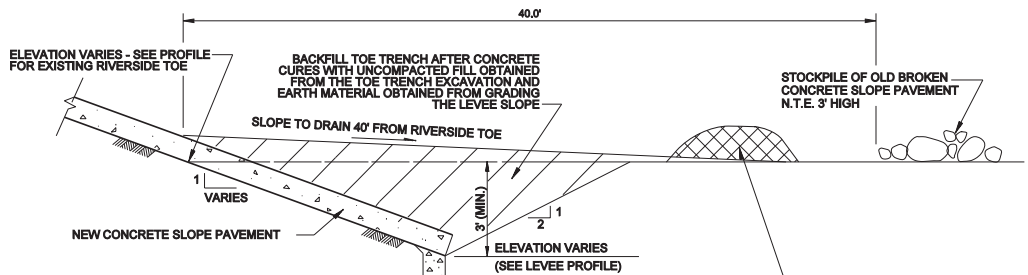


DETAIL FOR TIEING NEW CSP TO EXISTING CSP DUE TO GRADE RAISE.  
LANDSIDE ENLARGEMENT ONLY



**DETAILS OF EXPANSION AND CONTROL JOINTS**

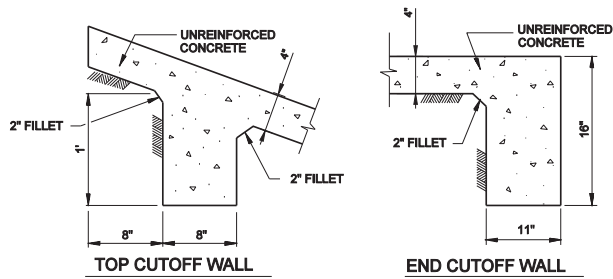
NOT TO SCALE



**TOE TRENCH DETAIL**

NOT TO SCALE

TEMPORARY STOCKPILE OF EARTH TOE TRENCH. 4' GAPS SHALL BE MATERIAL TO BE USED IN BACKFILLING LEFT AT 200' INTERVALS.



**DETAILS OF CUTOFF WALLS**

NOT TO SCALE

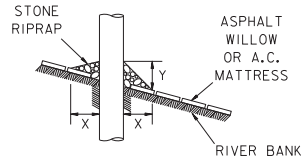
NOTE:  
CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF 1,800 PSI

**Sheet 14**

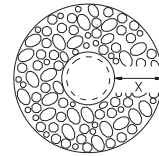
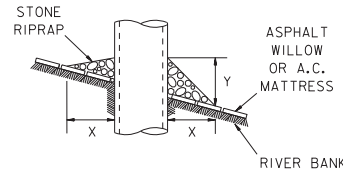
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA	PROJECT NO.: CONTRACT NO.: DRAWING NO.: DATE:
PERMIT APPLICATION USACE LEVEE STANDARDS	CONCRETE SLOPE PAVEMENT DETAILS LOUISIANA
SHEET IDENTIFICATION H-8-45782	DATE: / / APPR: / DATE: / / DESCRIPTION:



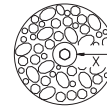
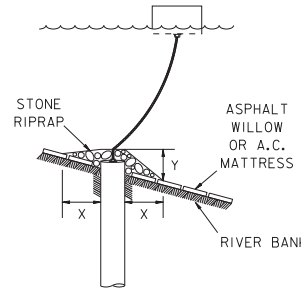
# PILE



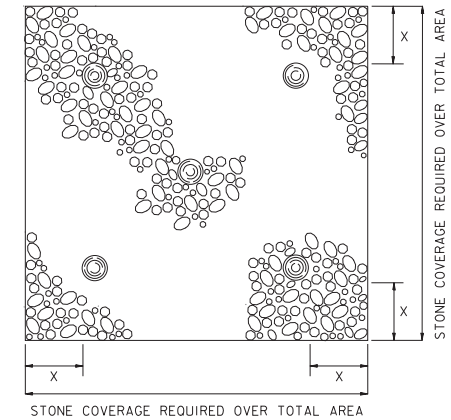
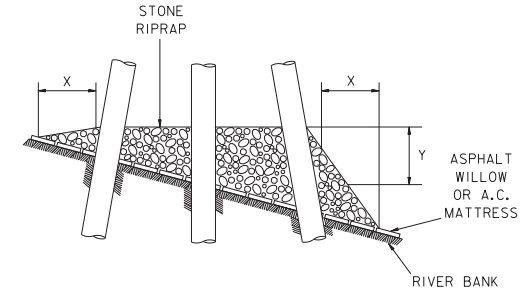
# CAISSON



# SPUD PILE (BUOY AND ANCHOR CHAIN)



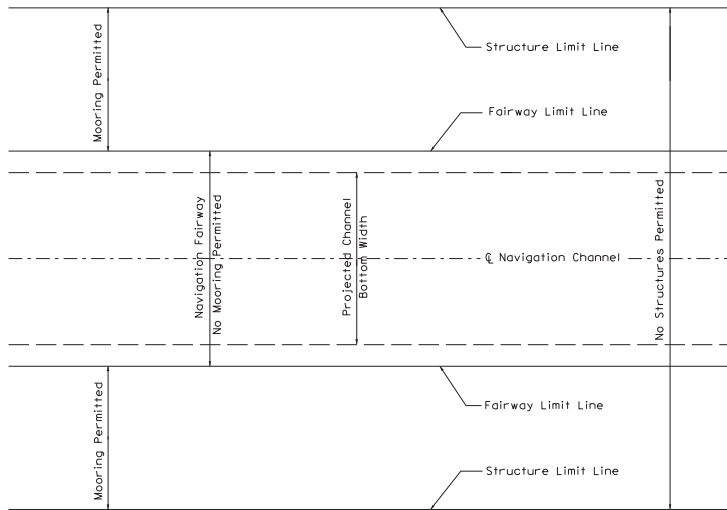
# PILE CLUSTER



DEPTH OF WATER IN FEET AT POINT OF PENETRATION AT TIME OF STONE PLACEMENT	DIMENSIONS IN FEET FOR PROTECTION AREA REQUIRED							
	PILE		CAISSON		SPUD PILE (BUOY AND ANCHOR CHAIN)		PILE CLUSTER	
	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
1' - 10'	3	1.5	5	2			3	1
11' - 40'	5	2	8	3	7	3	6	2
41' - 60'	8	3	12	4	12	4	10	3

### NOTES:

1. SIZE OF RIPRAP TO VARY BETWEEN 6 POUNDS AND 125 POUNDS WITH 40 PERCENT TO 60 PERCENT OF THE STONE WITHIN THE RANGE OF 25 POUNDS TO 75 POUNDS.
2. WHEN PENETRATING THE UPPER BANK PAVING IN A REVETMENT AREA WITH PILES, CAISSONS AND/OR PILE CLUSTERS, A 10 INCH THICK RIPRAP STONE LAYER SHALL BE PLACED OVER ALL AREAS WHERE THE BANK PAVING IS DISTURBED BY DRIVING OPERATIONS.
3. WHEN USING AN ANCHOR CHAIN AND BUOY SYSTEM, THE ANCHOR CHAIN MUST BE ATTACHED AT THE TOP OF THE PILE TO MINIMIZE REVETMENT DAMAGE.



PLAN  
NAVIGATION FAIRWAY AND STRUCTURE LIMIT LINES

REQUIREMENTS FOR BARGE CHANNEL

CHANNEL BOTTOM WIDTH	NAVIGATION FAIRWAY WIDTH	DISTANCE FROM $\zeta$ TO STRUCTURE LIMIT LINE (S.L.L.)
30	50	65
40	60	70
50	70	75
60	80	80
70	90	85
80	100	100
100	120	110
125	150	175
150	180	190
200	240	220
250	300	250
300	360	280
400	480	340

REQUIREMENTS FOR SHIP CHANNEL

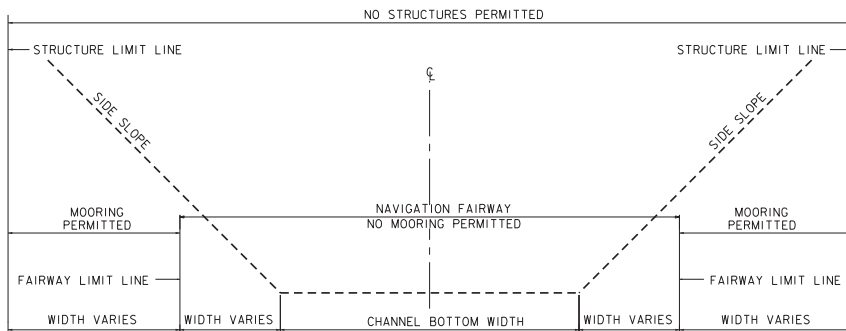
- Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf; The 35' contour (MSL) or 350' from the average low water plane (ALWP), whichever is the lesser distance from the existing bankline.
- Mississippi River Gulf Outlet: See drawing J-15-21546.
- Calcasieu River and Pass:
  - Main channel : 450' from C/L to S.L.L.
  - Coon Island : 250' from C/L to S.L.L.
  - Clooney Island : 350' from C/L to S.L.L.
  - Devil's Elbow : 325' from C/L to S.L.L.
- Lake Charles Deep Water Channel: See EXCEPTIONS (g)
- Michoud Canal: 225' from C to S.L.L.

NOTES:

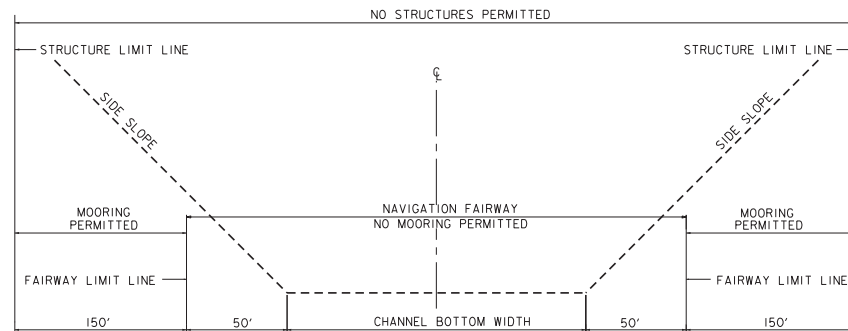
- Structure must be tied to Permanent Reference Point on the U.S.E.D. Baseline or Channel Centerline giving the Station, Azimuth, and Distance.
- The theoretical channel section will be superimposed on the actual cross section.
- See drawings 1 and 2 file No. H-4-24739 for theoretical channel dimension.
- Requirements indicated on this drawing are not all inclusive. See pamphlet PERMITS FOR WORK IN NAVIGABLE WATERS for additional information.

Exceptions:

- Bayou LeCorpe: 135' from  $\zeta$  to S.L.L.
- G.I.W.W. through Houma and LaRose: 150' from  $\zeta$  to S.L.L. or R/W.
- Baton Rouge Borge Channel: 265' from  $\zeta$  to S.L.L.
- Mississippi River: No structures channelward of the - 35' contour.
- Mississippi River - Gulf Outlet: See drawing J-15-21546.
- Coon Island Channel: 250' from  $\zeta$  to S.L.L.
- Lake Charles Deep Water Channel (G.I.W.W. Calcasieu River to Sabine River) : 350' from  $\zeta$  to S.L.L.
- G.I.W.W., Port Allen - Morgan City route, Indian Village - Port Allen : See drawing J-17-24375.
- G.I.W.W., Algiers lock and Canal : See drawing J-17-20002.
- Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black, Fairway 600', S.L.L. 400' from  $\zeta$  Sta. 68+00 on Bayou Boeuf to Bayou Chene and all of Bayous Chene and Black.



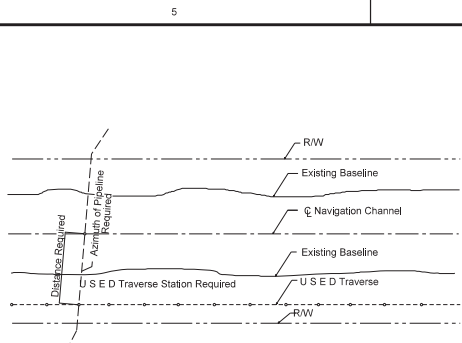
BARGE CHANNEL CLEARANCES  
THEORETICAL CROSS SECTION  
(SEE TABLE FOR WIDTHS)



SHIP CHANNEL CLEARANCES  
THEORETICAL CROSS SECTION

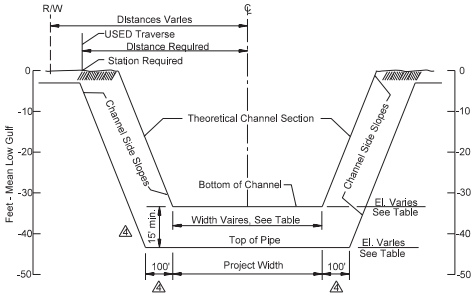
Sheet 16

Revision	3-10-82	ADDED NOTE
Date		Description
<b>PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UTILITIES PIERS, DOLPHINS, BULKHEADS, PILING, WHARVES, AND OTHER STRUCTURES ADJACENT TO AUTHORIZED NAVIGATION CHANNELS</b>		
<b>U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS CORPS OF ENGINEERS</b>		
DRAWN BY: P.L.O.	JUNE, 1971	FILE NO. H-4-25794



REQUIRED PLAN OF PIPELINE CROSSING

NOTE: LOCATION OF USAGE CHANNEL CENTERLINE, AS WELL AS THE PLAN LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED UTILITY PIPELINE CROSSING, SHALL BE PROVIDED IN LA STATE PLAN (SOUTH ZONE) AND/OR GEODETIC COORDINATES



REQUIRED CROSS SECTION OF PIPELINE CROSSING

NOTE  
 The theoretical channel section may be contained within the existing channel section. The pipeline will be placed 15 feet below the theoretical section, or 4 feet below the existing bed whichever provides the greater clearance. A minimum of 15 feet of cover will be provided on the channel slopes.  
 All distances shown are normal to the centerline of the channel and should be increased for skew.

TABULATION OF NAVIGATION CHANNELS					
NAME AND DESCRIPTION	DEPTH	WIDTH	SIDE SLOPES	TOP OF PIPE ELEVATION	REFERENCE DRAWINGS
AMITE RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES: Lake Maurepas to Mile 4.8 (Blind River) Mile 4.8 to Mile 25.3 (c) Mile 25.3 to Mile 35.75 (Bayou Manchac) (c)	7 26.5 to 30 21.8 to 26.5	60 150 165	1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2	22 41.5 to 45 38.8 to 34.5	H-16-21794 H-16-20649, H-16-20749, H-16-208 H-16-21473, H-16-21785
ATCHAFALAYA BASIN ACCESS CHANNELS: East Access (c) West Access (c)	7 7	80 80	1 on 2 1 on 2	22 22	H-16-23440 H-16-23588
ATCHAFALAYA RIVER, BAYOUS CHENE, BOEUF & BLACK	20	400	1 on 3	35	(d)
ATCHAFALAYA RIVER NAVIGATION (c)	12	125	(See Drawing No H-4-24739/1 for Requirements)		
BARATARIA BAY WATERWAY	12	125	1 on 2	27	H-16-22858
BATON ROUGE HARBOR (c)	9.4	300	1 on 3	24.4	H-5-20834
BAYOU BONFOUCA	12	60	1 on 2	27	H-16-22858
BAYOU DUPRE: Bar Channel Mile 0.0 to Violet	6 6	100 80	1 on 2 1 on 2	21 21	H-16-24032 H-16-24032
BAYOU GROSSE TETE (e)	5	60	1 on 2	20	(d)
BAYOU LAFOURCHE - LAFOURCHE JUMP WATERWAY: Leeville to Grand Isle Leeville to the Gulf Auxiliary Channel Leeville to Golden Meadow Golden Meadow to Larose Larose to Lockport Lockport to Thibodaux	12 12 12 9 6 9 6	125 125 125 100 80 100 60	1 on 2.5 1 on 2.5 1 on 2.5 1 on 2.5 1 on 2.5 1 on 2.5 1 on 2.5	27 27 27 24 24 24 21	H-16-22665 H-16-22391 H-16-24331 H-16-22692 (d) (d) (d)
BAYOU LA LOUTRE, ST. MALO & YSCLOSKEY: Bayou LaLoutre, Mile 0 to Mile 15.0 Bayou LaLoutre, Mile 15.0 to Mile 21.7 Bayou Yscloskey Bar Channel Bayou St. Malo, Mile 0.0 to Mile 6.3 Bayou St. Malo Bar Channel Lake Etou Bar Channel	6 5 5 6 6 6	40 30 80 40 40 80	1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2	21 20 20 21 21 21	J-16-20121 J-16-20121 J-16-20121 J-16-20121 J-16-20121 J-16-20121
BAYOU LE CARPE: GMWV to Houma Navigation Canal Houma Navigation Canal to Bayou Dulac	10 5	45 40	1 on 2 1 on 2	25 20	H-16-24194 H-16-22712
BAYOU LACOMBE: Bar Channel Mile 0.0 to Mile 8.2	8	60	1 on 2	23	H-16-23850 (d)
BAYOU PLAQUEMINE BRULE (f)	6	60	1 on 2	21	(d)
BAYOU SEGNETTE WATERWAY	9	60	1 on 2	24	H-16-20565
BAYOU TECHE: Mile 0.0 to Mile 54.5 Mile 54.5 to Mile 72.0 Mile 72.0 to Mile 106.5	8 6 6	80 60 50	1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2	23 21 21	(d) (d) (d)
BAYOU TECHE AND VERMILLION RIVER: GMWV to Lafayette, Mile 52.0 (f) GMWV to Vermillion River Lafayette, Mile 52.0 to Bayou Teche, Mile 79.0 (e)	9 8 9	100 80 80	1 on 2 1 on 3 1 on 2	24 23 (b)	J-12-14762 J-12-14762 J-12-14762
BAYOU TERREBONNE	6	(a)	1 on 2	21	H-16-15916
CHEFUNCTE RIVER AND BOGUE FALAYA: Bar Channel and Mile 0.0 to Mile 3.5 Mile 3.5 to Covington	10 8	125 (a)	1 on 3 1 on 3	25 23	H-2-21372 (d)
FRANKLIN CANAL (c)	8	60	1 on 2	23	H-16-24449
FRESHWATER BAYOU (c)	16	150	1 on 2	31	H-16-22293
FRESHWATER DISTRIBUTION CHANNELS: East Freshwater (c) West Freshwater (c)	7 7	80 80	1 on 2 1 on 2	22 22	H-16-23656 (d)
GRAND BAYOU PASS	6	100	1 on 3	21	H-16-15095/3
GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY (GMWV) Lake Borgne Light No.29 to Harvey Lock Algiers Alternate Route Mississippi River to Atchafalaya River Atchafalaya River to Vermillion River Vermillion River to Mermentau River Mermentau River to Calcasieu River Calcasieu River to Sabine River Morgan City - Port Allen Alternate Route Lake Borgne Light No.29 to Harvey Lock via Lake Pontchartr Old Plaquemine-Morgan City Route via Lower Grand River (Outside Route)	12 16 16 16 16 16 16 12 9 9	150 150 150 200 200 200 200 125 100 100	1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 2 1 on 2	27 31 31 31 31 31 31 27 24 24	J-16-21420 J-17-20002 J-17-19994 J-18-17411 J-19-17413 J-20-17415 J-21-15055 J-17-18995 (d) (d)

NAME AND DESCRIPTION	DEPTH	WIDTH	SIDE SLOPES	TOP OF PIPE ELEVATION	REFERENCE DRAWINGS
HOUMA NAVIGATION CANAL	15	150	1 on 2	30	H-16-23119
INLAND WATERWAY FROM FRANKLIN TO MERMENTAU RIVER (c)	5	40	1 on 2	20	J-24-15979
INLAND WATERWAY FROM WHITE LAKE TO PELICAN ISLAND (c)	5	40	1 on 2	20	
LITTLE CAÏLOU BAYOU	5	40	1 on 2	20	
MERMENTAU RIVER: BAYOU NEZPIQUE AND DES CANES GMWV to Lake Arthur Lake Arthur Lake Arthur to Junction, Bayou Nezpique and Des Cannes	12 12 12	125 200 125	1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 3	27 27 27	
Bayou Nezpique, Junction to I-10 Bayou Des Cannes, Junction to I-10 Bayou Des Cannes, I-10 to Mi. 8.5 Bayou Nezpique, I-10 to Mi. 25	12 12 12	125 125 60	1 on 3 1 on 3 1 on 2	27 27 (b)	(b) (b) (b)
MERMENTAU RIVER, LA.: Mermentau River, Mi.24 to Mi.13 Mermentau River, Mi.13 to Mi.0 Grand Lake to White Lake White Lake to Vermillion Bay North Prong Schooner Bayou Schooner Bayou Cut-Off (Replace by Freshwater Bayou)	15 15 15 15 6	100-175 80-175 170 170 60	1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2 1 on 2	30 30 30 30 21	J-13-22518 J-13-22475 (d) J-13-17192 J-13-17192
NAVIGATION OUTLETS, MISSISSIPPI RIVER VICINITY VENICE, LA Tiger Pass Baptiste Collette	16 16	150 125	1 on 3 1 on 3	31 31	(d) (d)
OLD RIVER (e)	12	150	1 on 3	27	H-4-23153
PETIT ANSE, TIGRE, AND CARLIN BAYOUS (f) Avery Canal (McHenry Canal)	12 12	125 125	1 on 2 1 on 2	27 27	H-16-22294 H-16-22153
RED RIVER WATERWAY	9	200	1 on 4	(See Drawing No H-4-24764 for Requirements)	
SCHOONER BAYOU (c)	6	60	1 on 2	21	J-13-17192
TANGIPAHOA RIVER Bar Channel Mile 0.0 to Mile 53.5	10	100	1 on 6	25	H-16-24569 (b) (d)
VINTON WATERWAY (c)	9	60	1 on 3	24	(d)
WATERWAY FROM EMPIRE, LA. TO THE GULF (c)	12	125	1 on 2	27	H-16-16489

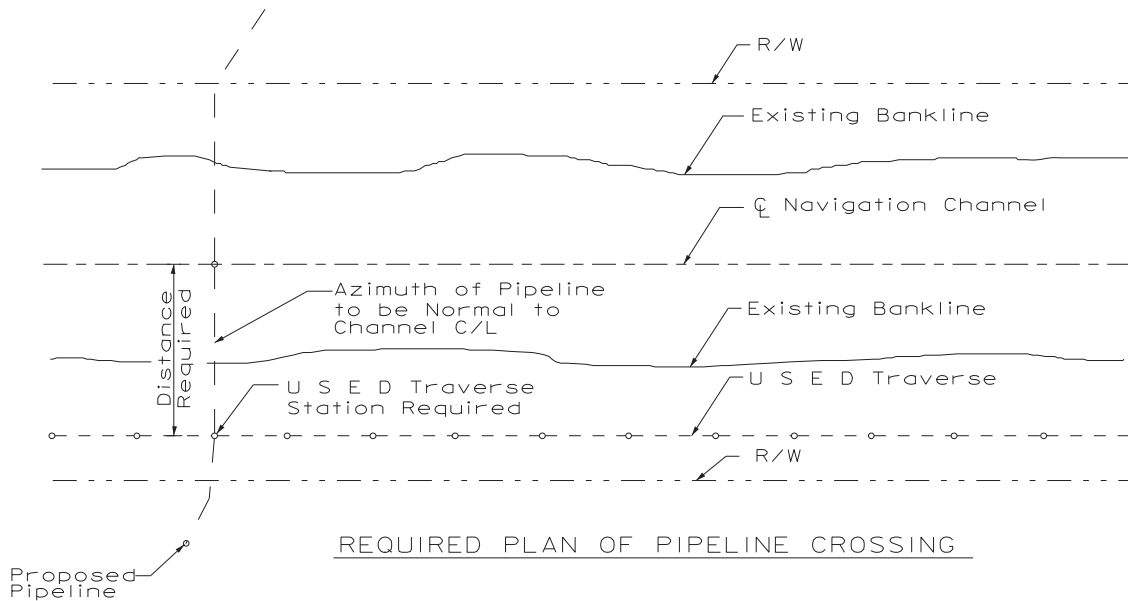
- Notes:  
 (a) Elevations are expressed in feet and refer to Mean Low Gulf unless otherwise indicated  
 (b) No specified width -- a minimum of 10' of cover over the pipeline for the existing channel section  
 (c) No specified width and depth -- a minimum of 4' of cover over the pipeline for the existing channel section  
 (d) Mean Sea Level  
 (e) Not available  
 (f) Mean Low Water  
 (g) Lower end replaced with Morgan City -- Port Allen Route  
 (h) Replaced in part by Mermentau River, La. Project  
 (i) Contained within the Atchafalaya Basin Main Channel from Mi. 54.5 to Mi. 112.6  
 (j) Enlarged by D.P.W.  
 (k) Placed in Mermentau River, La. Project  
 (l) Below Bayou Yokely, D.P.W. enlarged to -8'x80'  
 (m) G.I.W.W. to Mi. 175 Flood control channel enlarged to - 19'x120' M.S.L.  
 (n) Flood Control Channel enlarged for a portion  
 (o) Enlarged by local interest  
 (p) Should provide for this future - 12'x125' channel. Existing maintained channel - 9'x80'  
 (q) Existing channel maintained to - 12'x125' channel - 9'x80'.  
 (r) The -12'x125' channel is contained within the -30'x125' Lake Charles Deep Water Channel  
 The West Calcasieu Parish Port commission requires all crossings to accommodate a future -40'x300' channel.  
 (s) Should provide for this future -16'x150' channel. Existing maintained channel -12'x125'.  
 (t) This Channel has been enlarged by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission as follows:
- | REVISION DATE | DESCRIPTION  | BY       |
|---------------|--|----------|
| 8/31/17       | Revised minimum pipeline cover and updated alignment requirements. | J.I.V.S. |
| 7-12-05       | Converted to CAD   | A.G.     |
| 4-19-96       | Revised minimum pipeline cover                                     | R.B.     |
| 6-12-70       | Revised name, slopes, channel width, notes & title                 | S.S.G.   |
- Reach  
 Panama Canal, Mi. 6.0 to Mi. 3.4  
 Mi. 3.4 to Pass Fourchon, Mi. 2.3  
 Pass Fourchon, Mi. 2.3 to Mi. 0.8  
 Mi. 0.8 to Gulf of Mexico, Mi. <0.71  
 (Mi. 0.8 to Mi. <0.71 future -<20'x500' channel proposed)  
 (p) Should provide for a future -12'x125' channel on Bayou Carlin and Avery Canal  
 East fork of Bayou Petit Anse 8'-8'x80'.  
 (q) D.P.W. enlarged and straightened the channel for flood control.  
 (r) -10'x125' in Bar Channel on curve from PC Sta. 5+04 to PT Sta.21+44

# Sheet 17

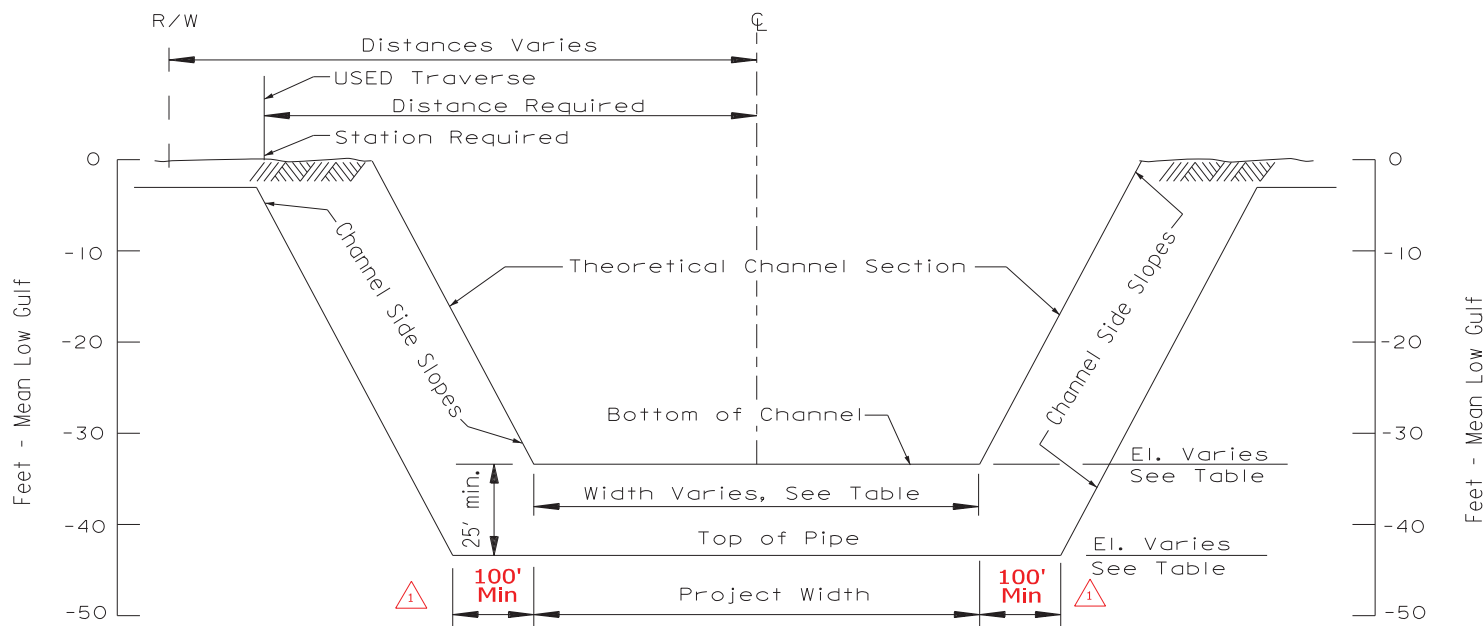
**U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS  
 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UTILITIES  
 ACROSS NAVIGATION CHANNELS  
 HAVING LESS THAN 30' OF DEPTH  
 NOT TO SCALE

DESIGNED BY:	J.F.B.	PLOT SCALE:	PLOT DATE:	8/31/17
DRAWN BY:	J.F.B.	FILE NO.:	8/31/17	8/31/17
CHECKED BY:	J.F.B.	DATE, AUG 68:	REV. AUG 17:	17-4624739/2



REQUIRED PLAN OF PIPELINE CROSSING



REQUIRED CROSS SECTION OF PIPELINE CROSSING

TABULATION OF NAVIGATION CHANNELS AND PROJECT DIMENSIONS

NAME AND DESCRIPTION	DEPTH	WIDTH	TOP OF PIPE EL.	SIDE SLOPES
MISSISSIPPI RIVER:				
Baton Rouge to New Orleans	55	750	-80	SEE NOTE 3
New Orleans Harbor (-55' x 750' central channel) - UNDER REVIEW -	35	1500	-60	SEE NOTE 3
New Orleans Harbor to Head of Passes	55	750	-80	SEE NOTE 3
SWP, Head Passes, to Mi. 18.0 BHP	55	750	-80	1 on 3
SWP, Mi. 18.0 BHP to Mi. 20.0 BHP	55	600	-80	1 on 3
SWP, Mi. 20.0 BHP to -55' contour	55	600	-80	1 on 3
SP, Head of Passes to Mi. 13.5 BHP	30	450	-55	SEE NOTE 3
SP, Mi. 13.5 BHP to -30' contour	30	600	-55	SEE NOTE 3

NOTES:

- The theoretical channel section may be contained within the existing channel section. The pipeline will be placed 25 feet below the theoretical section, or 25 feet below the existing bed whichever provides the greater clearance. A minimum of 25 feet of cover will be provided on the channel slopes. All distances shown are normal to the centerline of the channel.
- The Associated Branch Pilots, Crescent River Port Pilots, New Orleans Steamship Association, and the New Orleans - Baton Rouge S/S Pilots Association recommend a minimum of 25' of cover over pipelines.
- Authorized channels are contained within existing cross sections of river.

Sheet 18

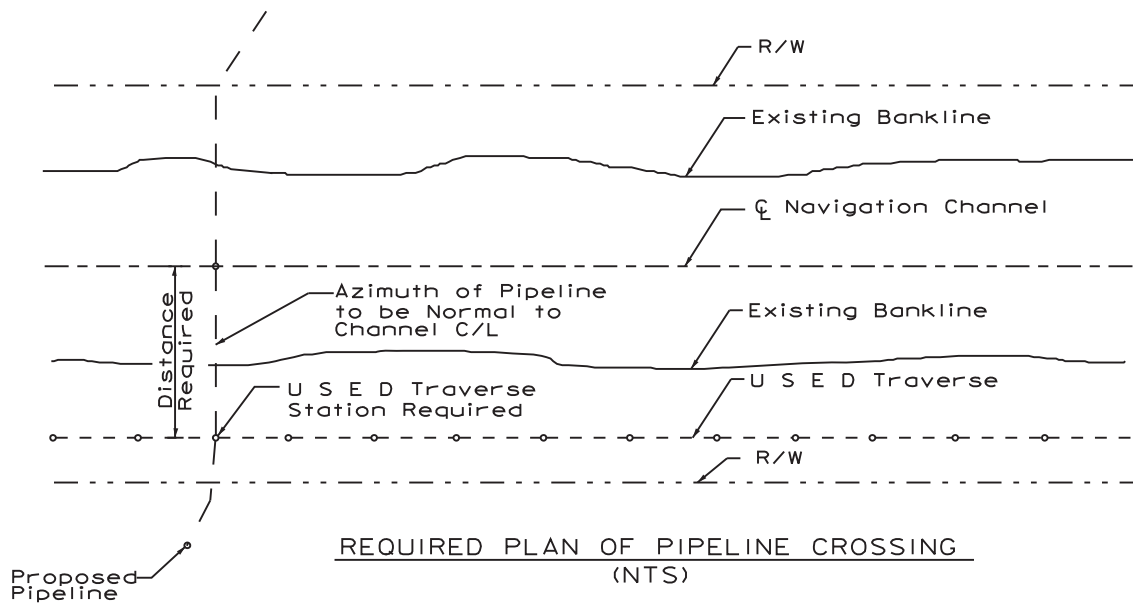
PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UTILITIES

Mississippi River

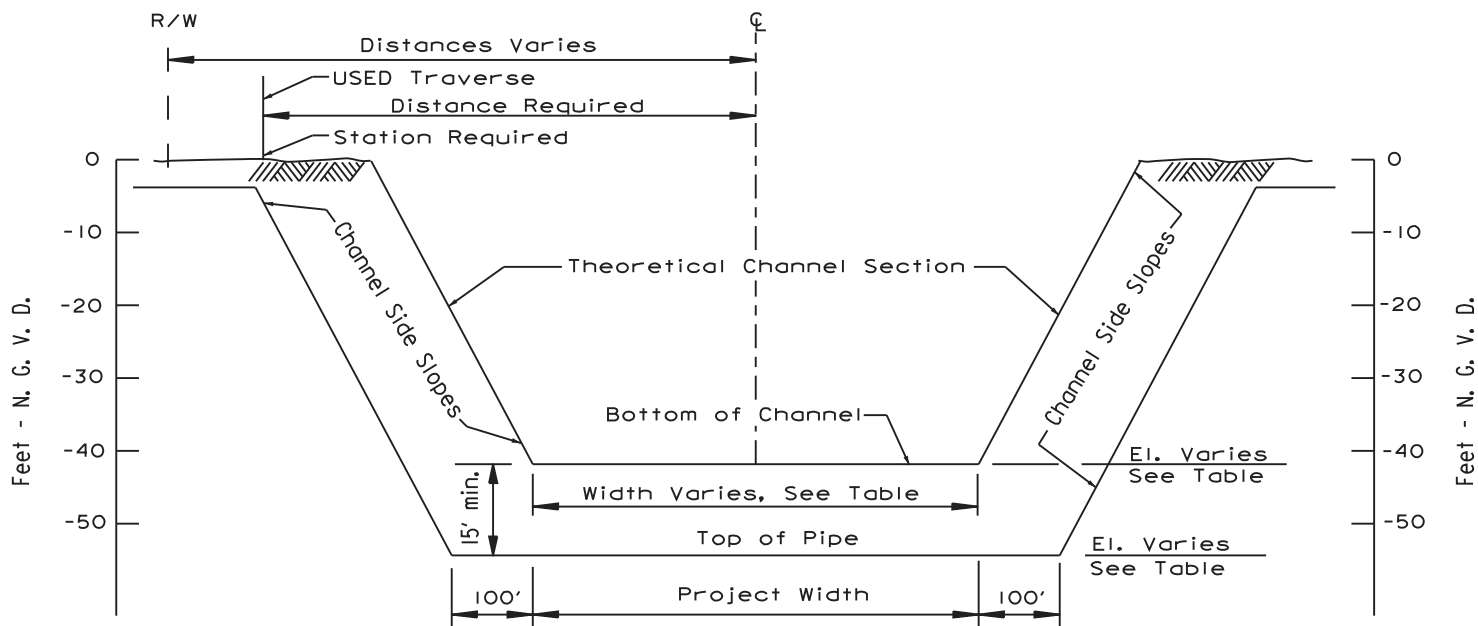
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS CORPS OF ENGINEERS



REQUIREMENTS REVISED AS PER MAY 2010 PUBLIC NOTICE



REQUIRED PLAN OF PIPELINE CROSSING  
(NTS)



REQUIRED CROSS SECTION OF PIPELINE CROSSING  
(NTS)

TABULATION OF PROJECT REACHES

NAME AND DESCRIPTION	DEPTH	WIDTH	TOP OF PIPE EL.	SIDE SLOPES
ATCHAFALAYA BASIN MAIN CHANNEL:				
Mi.54.5 to Mi.63.7	38	1250	-53	1 on 2.5
Mi.63.7 to Mi.67.8	39	1300	-54	1 on 2.5
Mi.67.8 to Mi.70.5	39	1300	-54	1 on 2.5
Mi.70.5 to Mi.76.0	40	1400	-55	1 on 2.5
Mi.76.0 to Mi.80.2	40	1400	-55	1 on 2.5
Mi.80.2 to Mi.81.6	40	1400	-55	1 on 2.5
Mi.81.6 to Mi.83.6	41	1450	-56	1 on 2.5
Mi.83.6 to Mi.85.1	42	1450	-57	1 on 2.5
Mi.85.1 to Mi.91.0	42	1500	-57	1 on 2.5
Mi.91.0 to Mi.96.0	42	1550	-57	1 on 2.5
Mi.96.0 to Mi.112.6	42	1550	-57	1 on 2.5

NOTES:

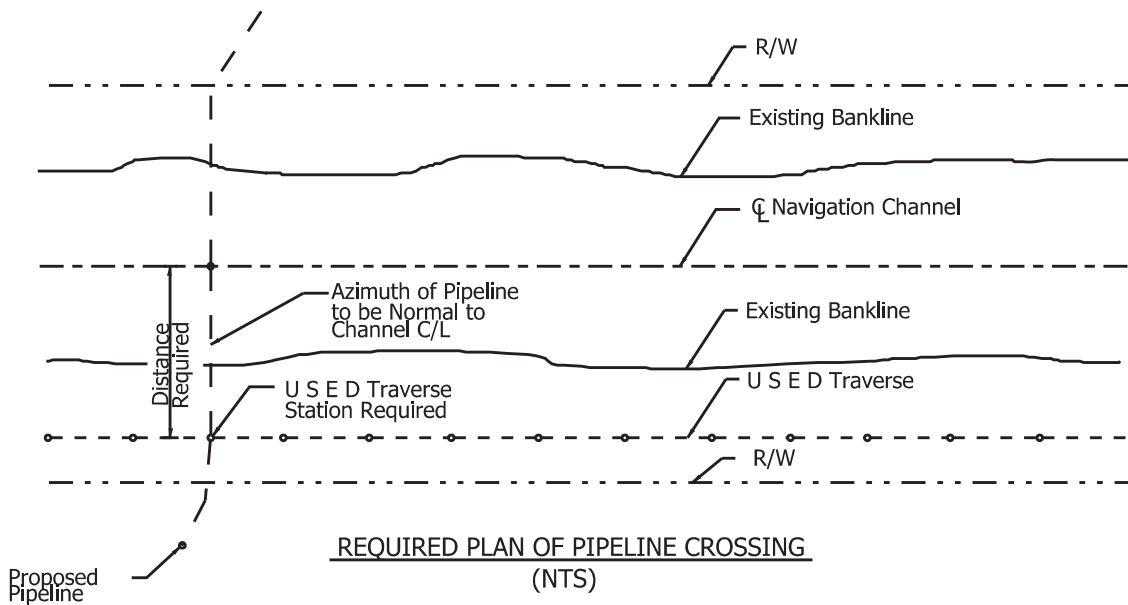
- The theoretical channel section may be contained within the existing channel section. The pipeline will be placed 15 feet below the theoretical section, or 10 feet below the existing bed whichever provides the greater clearance. A minimum of 15 feet of cover will be provided on the channel slopes. All distances shown are normal to the centerline of the channel.

Sheet 19

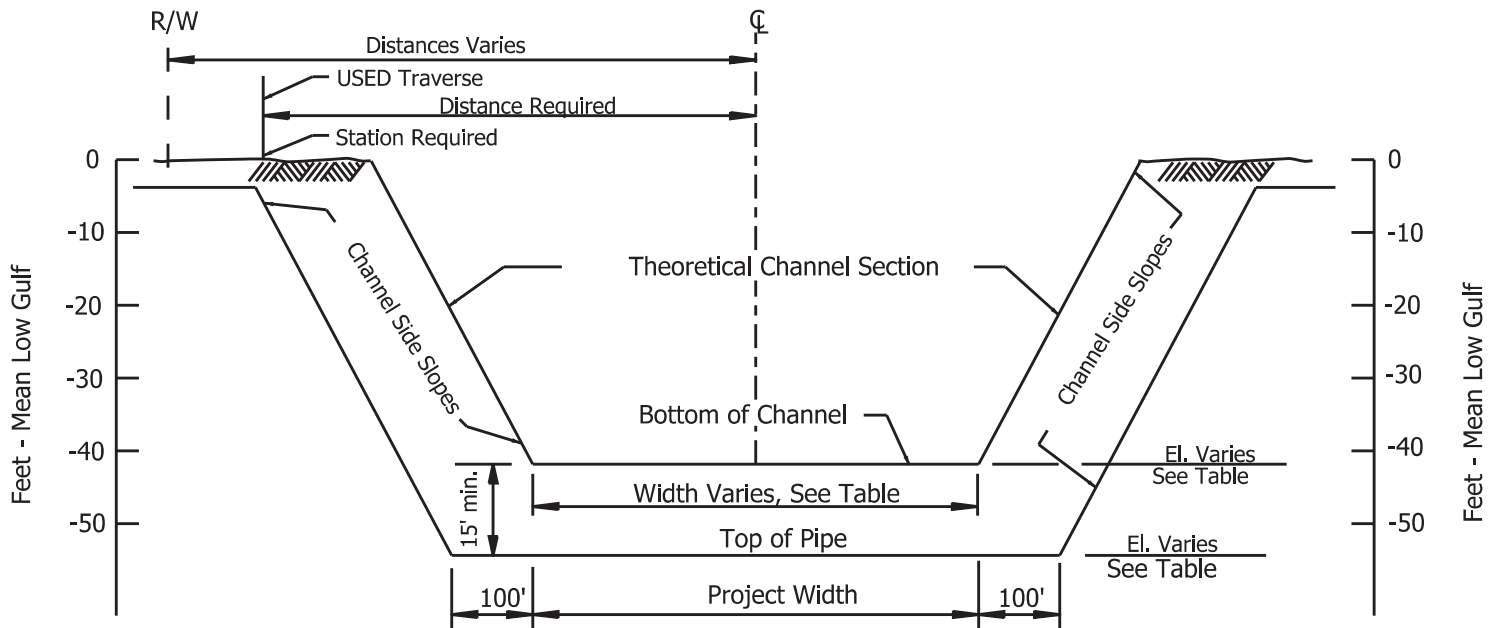
PERMIT REQUIREMENTS  
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UTILITIES  
BASED ON MAY 2010 CRITERIA

**Atchafalaya Basin  
Main Channel**

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS



**REQUIRED PLAN OF PIPELINE CROSSING**  
(NTS)



**REQUIRED CROSS SECTION OF PIPELINE CROSSING**  
(NTS)

**TABULATION OF PROJECT REACHES**

NAME AND DESCRIPTION	DEPTH	WIDTH	TOP OF PIPE EL.	SIDE SLOPES
<b>CALCASIEU RIVER:</b>				
Philips Bluff to Lake Charles (US Hwy 90, Mi.36.2)				
Mi.36.0 to Mi.34.1 (1,000' X 750' Turning Basin at Mi.35.7 to Mi.35.9)	35	250	-50	(b)
Clooney Island Loop	40	400	-55	1 on 3
Mi.34.1 to Mi.0 (2,000 x 350' Mooring Area at Mi. 30, Turning Basin at Mi.35.9)	40	400	-55	1 on 2.5(a)
Jetty Channel	40-42	400	-57	1 on 2.5
Jetty to -42' contour	42	800	-57	1 on 2.5
Barge Channel to Cameron via Upper Portion of Old River Bend	12	200	-27	1 on 2.5

**NOTES:**

- The theoretical channel section may be contained within the existing channel section. The pipeline will be placed 15 feet below the theoretical section, or 10 feet below the existing bed whichever provides the greater clearance. A minimum of 15 feet of cover will be provided on the channel slopes. All distances shown are normal to the centerline of the channel.

- (a) Side slopes are 1 on 3 between Mi.23.7 and 26.7, Mi.29.7 and 34.1  
 (b) Authorized channels are contained within existing cross sections of river.

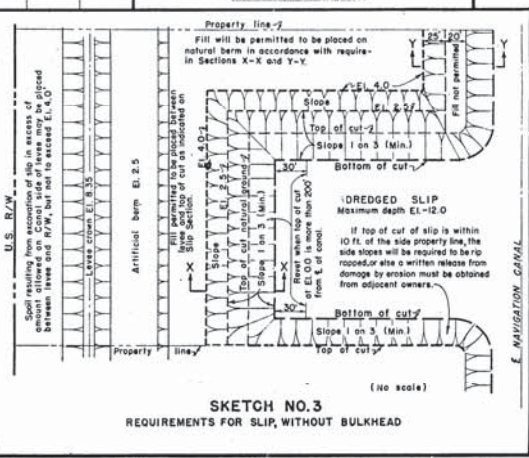
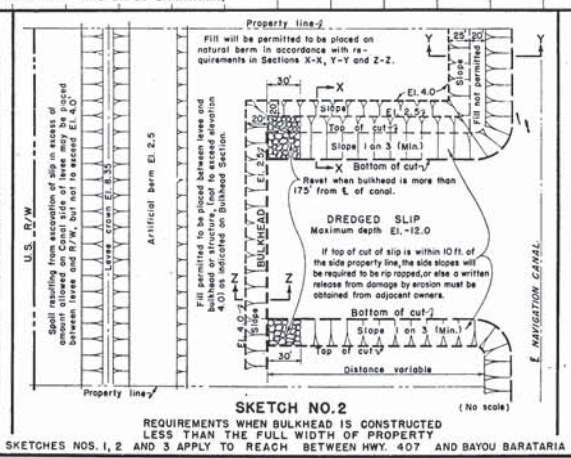
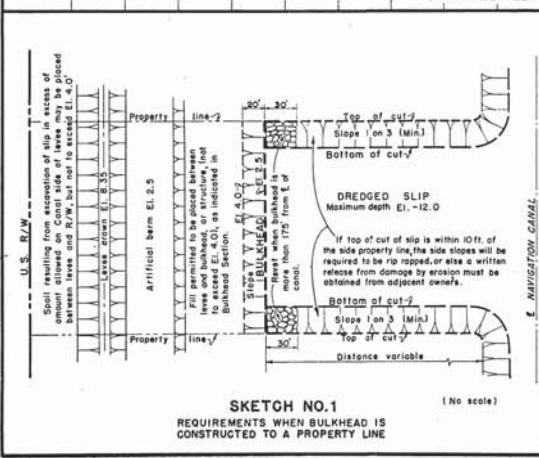
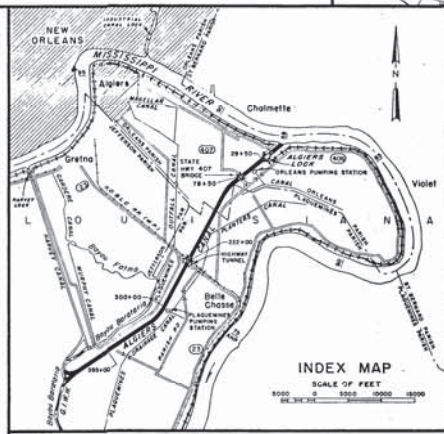
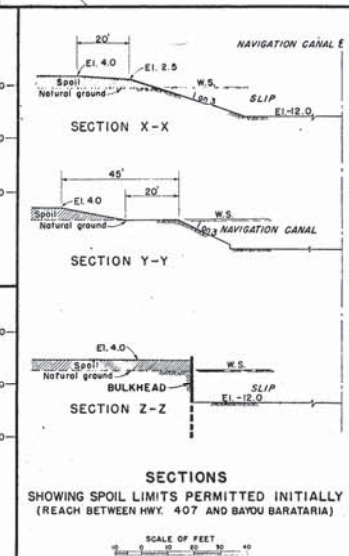
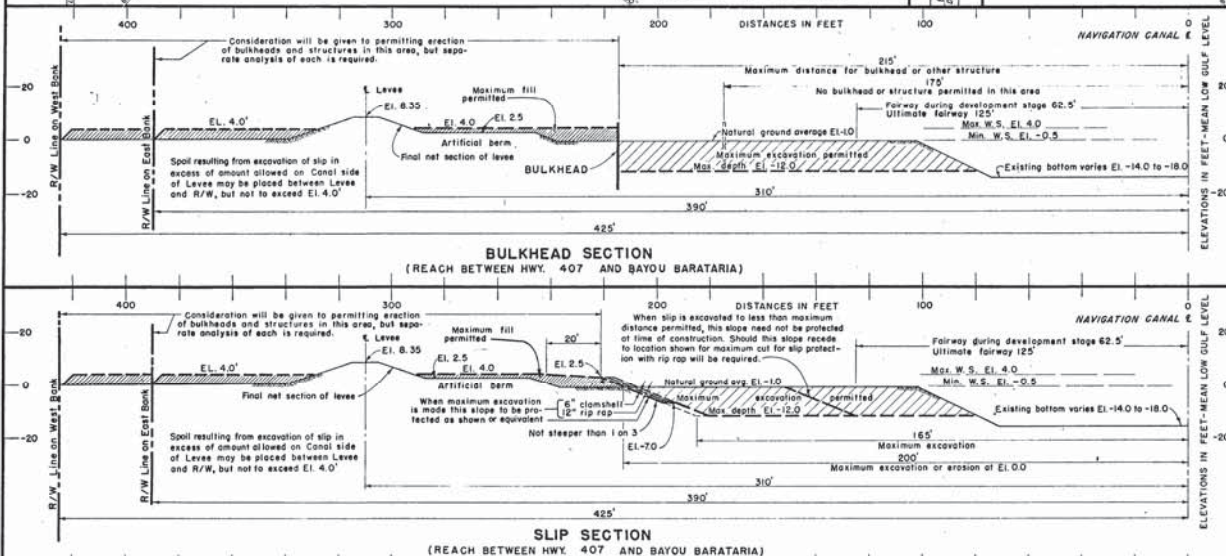
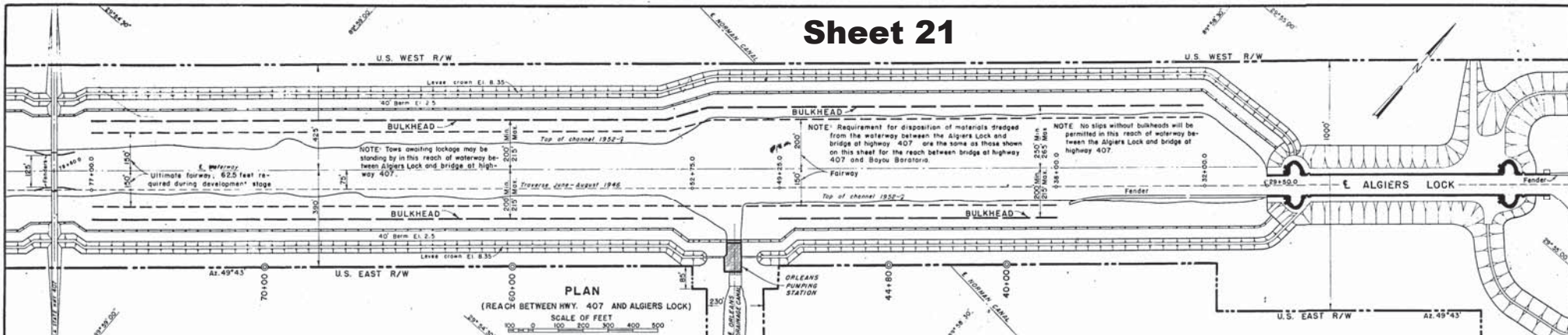
# Sheet 20

**PERMIT REQUIREMENTS  
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF UTILITIES  
FOR MAY 2010 CRITERIA**

## Calcasieu River

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, NEW ORLEANS  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

# Sheet 21



**GENERAL NOTES**

Requirements shown are based on soil conditions generally along navigation canal. Modification of the requirements hereon will be considered when soil conditions are materially better than those generally prevailing, provided engineering data, i.e., borings and computations, are furnished to permit the Government to check the proposed modifications.

The requirements are based upon an elevation of water in the canal not lower than EL +0.5 M.L.G. and no excavation of the navigation canal bank will be permitted until the water in the canal has been brought to this elevation.

Bulkheads or structures shall be designed for soils and other conditions of the specific location.

Construction of bulkheads, structures, slips, etc. beyond the limits shown hereon will be considered, but separate analysis of such will be required.

Excavated material shall be placed and remain within the U.S. R/W limits. Such material shall remain available for levee use unless it is being utilized by the property owner.

Applications for operations on the U.S. controlled R/W shall be accompanied by consent of the owner of the fee to the property over which operations are proposed.

No industrial operations shall be performed on the levee or within 10 feet of each levee toe.

MLG to NGVD -0.78'

ELEVATIONS IN FEET REFER TO MEAN LOW GULF LEVEL

REVISION	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
1	2-9-67	General Revisions	D.R.K.

**GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY  
ALGIERS LOCK AND CANAL**

**PERMIT REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTING  
BULKHEADS, STRUCTURES, SLIPS, ETC.,  
ALONG ALGIERS NAVIGATION CANAL**

SCALES AS SHOWN

CORPS OF ENGINEERS, U.S. ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, NEW ORLEANS, LA.  
FEBRUARY 1955 FILE NO. 2-17-20002



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P. O. BOX 60267

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

May 31, 2010

Operations Division  
Regulatory Branch

### **GENERAL CRITERIA FOR PIPELINE AND UTILITY LINE BURIAL IN WATERWAYS WITHIN THE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

To assist the general public in applying for Department of the Army permits, the following general criteria list burial depths for pipelines and other utility crossings in waterways within the New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers. Deviations from the stated criteria may occur on infrequent occasions should we find it necessary for a particular project and these burial depth criteria are subject to change at the discretion of the New Orleans District. The terms "pipeline" and "utility line" include petroleum lines, flow lines, gas lines, chemical lines, water lines, brine lines, power cables, telephone cables, television cables, and similar lines. These general criteria do not supersede the pipeline and utility line burial requirements of other federal, state or local government agencies, nor do they necessarily represent the general pipeline and utility line burial criteria of other Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers districts.

#### **1. GULF OF MEXICO**

a. Open Waters: In areas where the water depth is 200 feet or greater, the line may be placed on the seabed floor. In waters less than 200 feet deep, burial will be at least 3 feet below the mud line (Top of pipe will be a minimum of 3 feet below the existing mud line. With jetting of pipelines it is understood that there may be a depression in the mud line over the pipeline immediately after installation, but the depression will soon be naturally filled with bottom material to establish the required 3 feet of cover.)

b. Fairways and Anchorages: In designated anchorages and fairways in areas where the water depth is 200 feet or greater, the line may be placed on the sea bed floor. In waters less than 200 feet, burial will be at least 10 feet below the mud line. Crossings of fairways should be perpendicular or near perpendicular to the fairway.

c. Gulf of Mexico Beaches: New pipeline and utility line crossings of Gulf of Mexico beaches in New Orleans District will be directionally bored. The purpose of the general rule is to maintain the integrity of barrier islands and beaches that protect the fragile coast line and to address the tendency of beaches to recede, thereby exposing existing pipelines to the surf zone. The directional bore length is to be decided on a case-by-case basis and would include consideration of impacts to the beach or island habitat, areas of previously disturbed beaches, adjacent water impacts, engineering feasibility, and cost considerations.



## 2. MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET

In the Mississippi River up to Baton Rouge and in the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, pipelines and utility lines will be buried at least 25 feet below the mud line or 25 feet below the authorized channel depth, whichever gives the greater clearance. Burial depths on the side slopes will also be 25 feet below the mud line or authorized channel slope.

### 3A. FEDERAL CHANNELS HAVING LESS THAN 30-FOOT DEPTH

Burial depths on federally maintained navigation channels with a bottom depth of less than -30 feet MLG are to be at least 15 feet below the authorized project depth or 4 feet below the mud line, whichever gives the greater clearance, and extend at this depth at minimum 100 feet\* beyond the project width on both sides. (0.0 feet MLG = -0.78 feet mean sea level or NGVD.) See Enclosure 1 titled "P/L Burial Depths for Federal Project Waterways (other than the Mississippi River)" for more information.

### 3B. FEDERAL CHANNELS HAVING 30-FOOT OR GREATER DEPTH

Burial depths on federally maintained navigation channels with a bottom depth at or greater than -30 feet MLG are to be at least 15 feet below the authorized project depth or 10 feet below the mud line, whichever gives the greater clearance, and extend at this depth at minimum 100 feet\* beyond the project width on both sides. See Enclosure 1 titled "P/L Burial Depths for Federal Project Waterways (other than the Mississippi River)" for more information.

\* If the extension of the minimum burial depth to include a width of 100 feet minimum on both sides of the defined project width is not practicable, you may, on a case by case basis, request variance to this requirement. All such variance requests and justifications for said variances must be included in your permit application and drawings and should strive to meet the following criteria:

Extended coverage on either side of the defined project width dimension should be no less than 20% of the authorized width, or no less than 20 feet, whichever is greater. For example:

Bottom Width	Required Extension on Both Sides of Project Channel
400'	80'
250'	50'
125'	25'
100'	20'
Less than 100'	20'

#### **4. NON-FEDERALLY MAINTAINED WATERWAYS AND OPEN WATER AREAS**

Except for flowlines and activities in the Gulf of Mexico, pipelines and utility lines are to be buried at least 4 feet below the mud line. This policy would be applicable to most rivers, bayous, canals, lakes, bays, etc.

#### **5. FLOWLINES**

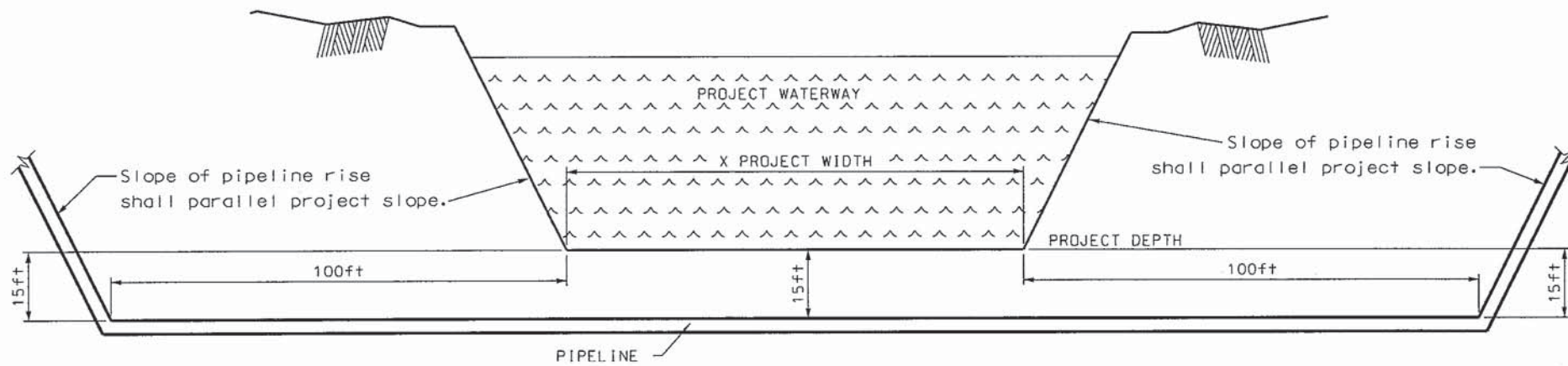
Flowlines are generally the small diameter lines that are used in oil and gas exploration and production and carry petroleum, brine, gas, and similar products between oil and gas wells, gathering stations, production platforms, and similar facilities in established oil and gas fields, or at exploration sites. Flowlines are to be buried at least 3 feet below the mud line in open waters. Flowlines in marsh areas may be placed on the marsh surface and/or on support structures in lieu of burial.

The above burial criteria define the minimum burial depths, however, greater burial depth is allowed. Reburial of older lines is considered maintenance under the terms of the original permits and under the terms on nationwide permit number 3. Replacement of an existing line with a new parallel line is not considered maintenance if the older line is not removed. In areas where line cover has been reduced or lost to erosion, our general policy is to have the line reburied to conform to the minimum burial depth criteria. We will, however, consider formal requests, on a case-by-case basis, for approval to cover the line with grout bags, riprap, or similar materials, or other methods to protect the lines in instances where we find burial impractical.

Operators who propose to lay new pipelines or utility crossings, or perform work on existing lines, across general navigation channels are requested to notify the U.S. Coast Guard so that a Notice to Mariners, if required, may be prepared. Notification, with a copy of your permit approval and drawings, should be mailed to the U.S. Coast Guard, Sector New Orleans Command Center, 201 Hammond Highway, Metairie, Louisiana 70005, about 1 month before you plan to start work. Telephone inquiries can be directed to (504) 846-5923.

Pete J. Serio  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosure



P/L BURIAL DEPTHS FOR  
 FEDERAL PROJECT WATERWAYS  
 (OTHER THAN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER)

ENCLOSURE 1

NOTE: SEE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION ON PAGE 2 UNDER 3A AND 3B FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## **APPENDIX C**

**Threatened and Endangered Species by Parish within  
the Geographical Boundary of the New Orleans District**

**ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND CANDIDATE SPECIES OCCURRING IN PARISHES  
EITHER PARTIALLY OR COMPLETELY WITHIN THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES  
OF THE NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT**

E=Endangered T=Threatened P=Proposed C=Candidate CH=Critical Habitat\*

<u>PARISH†/SPECIES</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<b><u>ALLEN</u></b>			
Chaff-seed, American	Known	Plant	E
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>ASCENSION</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Mussel, Alabama Heelsplitter	Known	Mollusk	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>AVOUELLES</u></b>			
Bat, Northern Long-eared	Possible	Mammal	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>BEAUREGARD</u></b>			
Chaff-seed, American	Known	Plant	E
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>CALCASIEU</u></b>			
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>CAMERON</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Plover, Piping	Known	Bird	T, CH
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Possible	Fish	T
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>CONCORDIA</u></b>			
Bat, Northern Long-eared	Possible	Mammal	T
Mussel, Fat Pocketbook Pearly	Known	Mollusk	E
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
Tern, Interior Least	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>EAST BATON ROUGE</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Mussel, Alabama Heelsplitter	Known	Mollusk	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>EAST FELICIANA</u></b>			
Mussel, Alabama Heelsplitter	Known	Mollusk	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Possible	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>EVANGELINE</u></b>			
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E

<u>PARISH<sup>†</sup>/SPECIES</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<b><u>IBERIA</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Possible	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>IBERVILLE</u></b>			
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Possible	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>JEFFERSON</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Plover, Piping	Known	Bird	T, CH
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T, CH
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>LAFOURCHE</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Plover, Piping	Known	Bird	T, CH
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Possible	Fish	T
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>LIVINGSTON</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Mussel, Alabama Heelsplitter	Known	Mollusk	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>NATCHITOCHE</u></b>			
Bat, Northern Long-eared	Possible	Mammal	T
Snake, Louisiana Pine	Known	Reptile	C
Sturgeon, Pallid	Possible	Fish	E
Tern, Interior Least	Known	Bird	E
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>ORLEANS</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T, CH
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E

<u>PARISH<sup>†</sup>/SPECIES</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<b><u>PLAQUEMINES</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Plover, Piping	Known	Bird	T, CH
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>POINTE COUPEE</u></b>			
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>RAPIDES</u></b>			
Bat, Northern Long-eared	Possible	Mammal	T
Mussel, Louisiana Pearlshell	Known	Mollusk	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Possible	Fish	E
Tern, Interior Least	Possible	Bird	E
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>ST. BERNARD</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Plover, Piping	Known	Bird	T, CH
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T, CH
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>ST. CHARLES</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>ST. HELENA</u></b>			
Mussel, Alabama Heelsplitter	Known	Mollusk	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
<b><u>ST. JAMES</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Mussel, Alabama Heelsplitter	Possible	Mollusk	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>ST. LANDRY</u></b>			
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E

<u>PARISH<sup>†</sup>/SPECIES</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<b><u>ST. MARTIN</u></b>			
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>ST. MARY</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Plover, Piping	Known	Bird	T, CH
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Possible	Fish	T
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>ST. TAMMANY</u></b>			
Frog, Dusky Gopher	Known	Amphibian	CH
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Mussel, Alabama Heelsplitter	Known	Mollusk	T
Quillwort, Louisiana	Known	Plant	E
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T, CH
Tortoise, Gopher	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Ringed Map	Known	Reptile	T
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>TANGIPAHOA</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T
Tortoise, Gopher	Known	Reptile	T
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E
<b><u>TERREBONNE</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Plover, Piping	Known	Bird	T, CH
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Possible	Fish	T
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>VERMILION</u></b>			
Manatee, West Indian	Seasonal	Mammal	E
Crane, Whooping	Known	Bird	NEP
Plover, Piping	Known	Bird	T, CH
Knot, Red	Seasonal	Bird	T
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Possible	Fish	T
Turtle, Green Sea	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Hawksbill Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Kemp's Ridley Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Leatherback Sea	Known	Reptile	E
Turtle, Loggerhead Sea	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>VERNON</u></b>			
Snake, Louisiana Pine	Known	Reptile	C
Woodpecker, Red-cockaded	Known	Bird	E



<u>PARISH†/SPECIES</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE</u>	<u>GROUP</u>	<u>STATUS</u>
<b><u>WASHINGTON</u></b>			
Mussel, Alabama Heelsplitter	Known	Mollusk	T
Quillwort, Louisiana	Known	Plant	E
Sturgeon, Atlantic	Known	Fish	T, CH
Tortoise, Gopher	Known	Reptile	T
Turtle, Ringed Map	Known	Reptile	T
<b><u>WEST BATON ROUGE</u></b>			
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E
<b><u>WEST FELICIANA</u></b>			
Sturgeon, Pallid	Known	Fish	E

\*Endangered – any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

\*Threatened – any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

\*Proposed – any species which is proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

\*Candidate – plant and animal taxa considered for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Species. These are taxa for which the Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions.

\*Critical Habitat – for listed species consists of: (1) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act, on which are found those physical or biological features (constituent elements) (a) essential to the conservation of the species and (b) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

\*Non-Essential Experimental Population – A reintroduced population believed not to be essential for the survival of the species, but important for its full recovery and eventual removal from the endangered and threatened list. These populations are treated as "threatened" species except that the ESA's section 7 consultation regulations (requiring consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reduce adverse impacts from Federal actions) do not apply (except where the species occurs within National Parks or National Wildlife Refuges) and critical habitat cannot be designated.

†If a Parish is not listed here, there are no known occurrences of a threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, or their critical habitat, for that Parish.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN LOUISIANA AND GENERAL LOCATIONS AND HABITATS****MAMMALS**

Bat, Northern Long-eared  
(*Myotis septentrionalis*)

Manatee, West Indian  
(*Trichechus manatus*)

Panther, Florida  
(*Felis concolor coryi*)

Whale, finback  
(*Balaenoptera physalus*)

Whale, humpback  
(*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

Whale, right  
(*Eubalaena glacialis*)

Whale, sei  
(*Balaenoptera borealis*)

Whale, sperm  
(*Physeter catodon*)

Wolf, red  
(*Canis rufus*)

**STATUS**

Threatened

Endangered

Endangered<sup>1</sup>

Endangered

Endangered<sup>2</sup>Endangered<sup>2</sup>Endangered<sup>2</sup>Endangered<sup>2</sup>Endangered<sup>1</sup>**GENERAL DISTRIBUTION IN LOUISIANA**

Bossier, Grant, LaSalle, Ouachita, Rapides, Richland, Union, and Winn Parishes; possible in Avoyelles, Bienville, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Clairborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Jackson, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Red River, Tensas, Webster and West Carroll Parishes

Lake Pontchartrain & tributaries on Northshore; rare along Gulf coast

Entire state

Coastal waters

Coastal waters

Coastal waters

Coastal waters

Coastal waters

Cameron &amp; Calcasieu Parishes

**BIRDS**

Crane, Whooping  
(*Grus Americana*)

Curlew, Eskimo  
(*Numenius borealis*)

Knot, Red  
(*Calidris canutus rufa*)

Plover, piping  
(*Charadrius melodus*)

Tern, interior least  
(*Sterna antillarum*)

Warbler, Bachman's  
(*Vermivora bachmanii*)

Woodpecker, ivory-billed  
(*Campephilus principalis*)

Woodpecker, red-cockaded  
(*Picoides borealis*)

Non-Essential Experimental Population White Lake Management area, Vermilion Parish

Endangered<sup>1</sup> Entire state

Threatened Coast

Threatened Coast

Endangered Mississippi River, north of Baton Rouge; Red River, north of Colfax

Endangered<sup>3</sup> Entire stateEndangered<sup>1</sup> Entire state

Endangered Entire state (pine forests)

**REPTILES**

Alligator, American  
(*Alligator mississippiensis*)

Snake, Louisiana pine  
(*Pituophis ruthveni*)

Tortoise, gopher  
(*Gopherus polyphemus*)

Turtle, Kemp's (Atlantic) ridley sea  
(*Lepidochelys kempii*)

Turtle, green sea  
(*Chelonia mydas*)

Turtle, hawksbill sea  
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Turtle, leatherback sea  
(*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Turtle, loggerhead sea

Threatened (S/A)<sup>4</sup> Entire state

Candidate Bienville, Natchitoches, Sabine, &amp; Vernon Parishes

Threatened Washington, St. Tammany, &amp; Tangipahoa Parishes

Endangered<sup>5</sup> Coastal watersThreatened<sup>5</sup> Coastal watersEndangered<sup>5</sup> Coastal watersEndangered<sup>5</sup> Coastal watersThreatened<sup>5</sup> Coastal waters

( <i>Caretta caretta</i> ) Turtle, ringed map (=sawback) ( <i>Graptemys oculifera</i> )	Threatened	Pearl & Bogue Chitto Rivers
<b><u>FISH</u></b>		
Sawfish, Smalltooth ( <i>Pristis pectinata</i> )	Endangered <sup>2</sup>	Gulf of Mexico: Texas to Florida
Sturgeon, Atlantic ( <i>Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotoi</i> )	Threatened <sup>5</sup>	Pearl River & Lake Pontchartrain tributaries
Sturgeon, pallid ( <i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i> )	Endangered	Mississippi River & tributaries
Sturgeon, Shovelnose ( <i>Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus</i> )	Threatened (S/A) <sup>6</sup>	Mississippi River & tributaries
<b><u>INVERTEBRATES</u></b>		
Mussel, Alabama heelsplitter (=inflated) ( <i>Potamilus inflatus</i> )	Threatened	Amite River, possible in Pearl River
Mussel, fat pocketbook pearly ( <i>Potamilus capax</i> )	Endangered	Mississippi River
Mussel, Louisiana pearlshell ( <i>Margaritifera hembeli</i> )	Threatened	Bayous Boeuf, Rapides, & Rigolette drainages Rapides & Grant Parishes
Mussel, pink mucket pearly ( <i>Lampsilis abrupta</i> )	Endangered	Bayou Bartholomew
Mussel, rabbitsfoot ( <i>Quadrula cylindrica</i> )	Threatened	Bayou Bartholomew
<b><u>PLANTS</u></b>		
American chaff-seed ( <i>Schwalbea americana</i> )	Endangered	Allen & Beauregard Parishes
Earth fruit ( <i>Geocarpon minimum</i> )	Threatened	Caddo, DeSoto, & Winn Parishes; possible in Bienville, Caldwell, Morehouse, & Sabine Parishes
Louisiana quillwort ( <i>Isoetes louisianensis</i> )	Endangered	Washington & St. Tammany Parishes
<b><u>AMPHIBIANS</u></b>		
Frog, Dusky Gopher ( <i>Rana sevosa</i> )	Endangered	St. Tammany Parish Critical Habitat

<sup>1</sup>The Florida panther, red wolf, Eskimo curlew, and ivory-billed woodpecker are presumed to be extinct in the state.

<sup>2</sup>The National Marine Fisheries Service, St. Petersburg, Florida, has consultation authority for these species.

<sup>3</sup>There has been no confirmed Bachman's Warbler U.S. nesting ground sighting since the mid-1960s, however, several sightings of the species have occurred on wintering grounds during the last decade. This species may be extirpated in Louisiana.

<sup>4</sup>For law enforcement purposes the alligators in Louisiana are classified as "Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance." They are biologically neither endangered nor threatened. Regulated harvest is permitted under State law. September 21, 1998.

<sup>5</sup>The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service share consultation authority for these species.

<sup>6</sup>For law enforcement purposes shovelnose sturgeon are classified as "Threatened due to Similarity of Appearance" wherever they coexist with the endangered pallid sturgeon. They are biologically neither endangered nor threatened but this designation extends the ESA take prohibitions to shovelnose sturgeon, shovelnose-pallid sturgeon hybrids and their roe when associated with a commercial fishing activity.

## **APPENDIX D**

### **Public Notice of Proposed Programmatic EA**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
7400 LEAKE AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

May 9, 2017

Regional Planning and  
Environmental Division South  
Environmental Compliance Branch

**TO INTERESTED PARTIES**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408**  
**AND THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**  
**PERMISSIONS TO ALTER US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS**  
**CATEGORICAL PERMISSIONS**

The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District, is responsible for issuing public notices and permissions pursuant to Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, codified as 33 USC 408 (Section 408). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to grant permission for the alteration or occupation or use of a USACE project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project. This public notice addresses categorical permissions, which are types of actions that would neither individually nor cumulatively cause more than minor impacts to the environment or the engineering integrity of a USACE project. The New Orleans District is proposing to designate various types of actions as categorical permissions. Once designated, these actions will be given an abbreviated and expedited environmental review for National Environmental Policy Act compliance under the USACE's Section 408 review procedures as detailed in Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-216. Designation of an action as a categorical permission does not alter the engineering or real estate review or the internal agency technical review of a Section 408 request, nor does it affect the separate review and permitting process under the USACE Section 10/404/103 regulatory program. The USACE's Section 408 compliance review only applies to proposed actions, or the parts of proposed actions, that would occur within the lands and real property interests identified and acquired for USACE projects and to lands available for USACE projects under the navigation servitude.

The current procedural guidance requires USACE districts to make diligent efforts to involve the public in the decision-making process for all requests that could alter a USACE project. For the purposes of Section 408 Categorical Permission determinations, this public notice will serve as the method of advising interested parties of the New Orleans District's proposal to designate certain actions as categorical permissions. The New Orleans District will prepare a programmatic environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act to address the environmental effects of various types of actions proposed as categorical permissions. The District Commander would then decide if the signing of a finding of no significant

impact is appropriate to designate specific categorical permissions. Concurrent with the preparation of the environmental assessment, the New Orleans District will assess the actions proposed as categorical permissions for their potential to adversely alter or affect USACE projects from engineering and functional perspective.

The following proposed alternatives will be evaluated in the programmatic environmental assessment. These actions are preliminarily expected to have insignificant to minor adverse environmental effects to lands within USACE project boundaries, and they are not expected to cause adverse engineering or operational issues with USACE projects as long as there are constructed according to engineering criteria developed by the New Orleans District. Installation, repair, replacement, modifications or removal of these items would be included.

Alternative 1 – No categorical permissions (No-Action)

No action is defined as not designating any categorical permissions, and obtaining the NEPA compliance for each request individually by application of a categorical exclusion under ER 200-2-2, preparation of an EA and signing of a FONSI, or preparation of an EIS and signing of a record of decision. All requests to alter USACE projects would be evaluated on a case-by- case basis to determine if the alteration would impair the usefulness of the USACE project or be injurious to the public interest. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need of developing categorical permissions to simplify the Section 408 review process as described in EC 1165-2-216.

Alternative 2 – Categorical permission for pipeline crossings of levees, floodwalls, navigation channels, and dredged material disposal areas, including horizontal directional drills, open cuts, ramp-overs, and floodwall penetrations

This alternative would establish a categorical exclusion for pipeline crossings of levees, floodwalls, and navigation channels, and actions that are similar in nature. This alternative does not apply to requests for new, long distance pipelines crossing multiple USACE navigation and flood risk reduction projects. The alternative would apply to the large number of requests the New Orleans District receives for pipelines connecting industrial facilities located along navigation channels to docks and wharves where products are loaded or unloaded from barges and ships. Common requests include new pipelines, additional pipelines using existing pipe racks, and replacement pipelines. Often, the requests include both a pipeline crossing of a levee/floodwall and a dock or wharf along the adjacent navigation channel. Occasionally, a short access road or levee ramp may also be proposed to provide access to the pipeline corridor between the levee and the river. Minor access roads are categorically excluded in Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2.

A large variety of industrial chemicals, are transported in these pipelines, although requests for pipelines to carry cooling water, drainage water, and drinking water are

also received. Most requests of this type are for pipelines associated with facilities located along major shipping channels, especially the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and Venice, Louisiana, and along the Calcasieu River and Pass project in southwest Louisiana. There are hundreds of pipeline crossings of the Mississippi River Levees downstream from Baton Rouge. Requests for this type of action along the Mississippi River would typically alter three Federal navigation projects; the Mississippi River Levees, the Mississippi River Channel Stabilization project, and the Mississippi River Ship Channel project. The area of effect considered in the Section 408 review is normally from the landside toe of the Mississippi River levee to the end of the dock or wharf in the Mississippi River.

Other requests under this alternative are for horizontal directional drills beneath USACE projects. Several requests have been received to replace a portion of an existing pipeline beneath a navigation channel due to unsafe conditions of the existing pipeline. Conditions requiring a horizontal direction drill may include corrosion of the existing pipeline, exposure of the pipeline due to scour and erosion of the channel, or proactive replacement at the end of pipeline's service life. Usually, the entrance and exit points for the directional drills are outside of the USACE project boundary and there is no surface disturbance or expression of the work within the USACE project. Horizontal directional drills for new pipeline crossings are also included in this alternative.

Alternative 3 - Categorical permission for utility lines including fiber optic, water, natural gas, and electricity, both aerial and underground, including associated structures and support poles

This alternative would establish a categorical permission for utility lines including fiber optic, water, waste water natural gas, and electricity, both aerial and underground, including associated structures and support poles, and actions that are similar in nature. The New Orleans District receives a large number for requests for installation and replacement of utility lines. Typically, the requests are for crossing of a levee or floodwall, and less commonly, the crossing of a navigation channel. Horizontal directional drilling is the most commonly requested method for the placement of fiber optic, water and natural gas lines. Usually, the entrance and exit points for the directional drills are outside of the USACE project boundary and there is no surface disturbance or expression of the work within the USACE project. Large-diameter water lines, such as those used for municipal water supply, sewage treatment intakes and discharges, industrial equipment cooling typically use the ramp-over method or the bridge-over method for crossing levees. For crossing floodwalls, either the bridge-over or penetration method is typically used. Aerial placement on poles or towers is the most commonly requested method for installing electrical lines. This categorical exclusion is applicable to electrical lines for residential, commercial, and industrial uses, but is not meant for long distance, high voltage transmission lines affecting multiple USACE projects, or for proposals requiring new corridors through USACE project lands.

Alternative 4 - Categorical permission for bulk material conveyor systems

This alternative would establish a categorical permission for bulk material conveyor systems, including associated support structures, and actions that are similar in nature. The New Orleans District has received several requests for bulk product conveyor systems along the Mississippi River. Types of materials that are moved with the conveyors include coal, grain, bauxite (aluminum ore), fertilizer, and various other manufactured products. These systems allow materials to be transferred between ships and barges on a navigation channel and nearby storage facilities or industrial plants. There are normally docks or wharves associated with the conveyor systems. Along the Mississippi River, a levee and paved road typically run parallel to the river bank. In such situations, the conveyor system crosses the levee and road overhead, supported on steel structures, with sufficient clearance provided for vehicles to travel along the crown of the levee for levee maintenance and inspection. The area of review for the Section 408 request is normally from the land-side toe of the levee to the outer edge of the dock, wharf, or associated mooring pilings.

Alternative 5 - Categorical permission for culverts, drainage pipes, and drainage ditches

This alternative would establish a categorical permission for culverts, drainage pipes, and drainage ditches, and actions that are similar in nature. The New Orleans District has not processed any Section 408 requests for this type of activity, however it is likely that such requests will occur on lands associated with USACE flood risk reduction and navigation projects.

Alternative 6 - Categorical permission for vehicle and pedestrian bridges

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include construction, replacement, modification, or removal of vehicle or pedestrian bridges, or actions that are similar in nature. The New Orleans District has received two requests for bridge projects. One request is for a new bridge across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway where no bridge currently exists. The other request is for demolition of an existing, historically-significant bridge and replacement with a new bridge. Neither of these requests would qualify for a categorical permission under this alternative because of extraordinary circumstances associated with them. The first example has a large scope and impacts that require consideration, while the second example has impacts to a significant cultural resource and possible issues with disturbance of existing contaminated soils and sediments. The requests under this alternative that would be covered under this alternative include primarily bridge replacements, bridge maintenance, modifications, and removals with no extraordinary conditions. The New Orleans District has not received any such requests, but anticipates receiving such requests because of the large number of bridges crossing USACE navigation and flood risk reduction projects in south Louisiana.



Alternative 7 - Categorical permission for bank stabilization and erosion control features

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include bank stabilization and erosion control features, or actions that are similar in nature. The surface soils and sediments that make up coastal Louisiana is mostly alluvial sediment carried downstream by the Mississippi and other rivers and reworked since the last Ice Age. This material is generally highly erodible and bank and shoreline erosion is an all too common problem along navigation channels and natural waterways. The most common method for addressing shoreline erosion is armoring bank lines and shorelines with quarry stone. Another common method is placing quarry stone a short distance out from the shoreline to form a dike, often referred to as a foreshore dike. This method is used when geotechnical and other conditions, such as expected wave energy allow, and when avoidance of direct impacts the shoreline is a priority. In some documented cases, enough suspended sediment has been captured in the stilled water behind such dikes that the shoreline naturally extends itself out to the foreshore dike. Other materials that may be used for shoreline erosion is articulated concrete mattress, poured concrete, broken concrete (rip-rap), and earthen material excavated from nearby areas or hauled from remote locations. Dredging to provide access for barges is sometimes necessary. Bulkheads are not included in this alternative since they are primarily designed to allow vessels to moor adjacent to developed land.

Alternative 8 - Categorical permission for bulkheads, docks, wharfs, mooring pilings and dolphins

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for bulkheads, docks, wharves, and mooring pilings and dolphins (piling clusters), or actions that are similar in nature. The New Orleans District receives numerous Section 408 requests for the types of actions included in this alternative. Requests for new construction and repair, modification, expansion, and removal of existing structures are all common. It is common for these actions to be combined with actions covered under other alternatives, such as pipelines and bulk product conveyors. These types of actions are usually located along the major navigation channels in New Orleans District, including the Calcasieu River, Atchafalaya River, Mississippi River, and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. These actions always include the installation of pilings. Steel, treated wood, and pre-stressed concrete are the materials typically used for load-bearing pilings. Sheet pilings used for constructing bulkheads are usually constructed of these same materials, or occasionally vinyl or manufactured composite material.

Alternative 9 - Categorical permission for barge fleeting operations in channels with existing barge fleeting operations

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include barge fleeting operations in channels with existing barge fleeting operations, or actions that are similar in nature. Barge fleeting is a common practice along navigation channels, especially near facilities where large numbers of barges are loaded and

unloaded, such as grain elevators, refineries, and chemical plants. Barge fleeting is the temporary mooring and storage of barges while awaiting loading, unloading, or transport elsewhere. There are dozens of permitted barge fleeting operations in the Mississippi River within the New Orleans District, and the District has received several requests for new fleeting operations and expansion or modification of existing operations. Permitted barge fleeting also occurs on other navigation channels within the New Orleans District, although to a much lesser degree. Depending on the location of the fleeting operation, barges can be tied to pilings, dolphins (piling clusters), mooring buoys anchored to the channel bottom, or anchors embedded in the channel bank. The primary concerns expressed about barge fleeting by interested parties in response to Section 408 public notices have been related to navigation safety. The location of barge fleeting and the responsibility of the operators to securely moor their barges have been the main concerns. Any Section 408 requests for barge fleeting that generate substantive navigation safety concerns would not be processed via a categorical permission under this alternative. Safety concerns would be considered an extraordinary circumstance, requiring a more detailed NEPA analysis, and potentially denial of the request.

#### Alternative 10 - Categorical permission for cattle guards and fences

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include cattle guards and fences, or actions that are similar in nature. Actions that could be considered similar in nature include typical ranching features, including stock pens, corrals, watering troughs, hay barns, etc. These types of activities are normally not allowed on USACE fee-owned properties, but are allowed on lands where the USACE or the non-Federal project sponsor holds an easement. The underlying landowner or their lessee is allowed to conduct normal ranching operations as long as those operations do not conflict with the USACE project's authorized purposes. The New Orleans District has received a small number of requests that could be covered under this alternative.

#### Alternative 11 - Categorical permission for trails, signage, lighting, and other similar operational, recreational, and decorative features

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include trails, signage, lighting, and other similar operational, recreational, and decorative features, or actions that are similar in nature. The New Orleans District has received a small number of requests that could be covered under this alternative, specifically trails on levee crowns and associated signage.

#### Alternative 12 - Categorical permission for seismic surveys and soil investigations, including borings, piezometers, and inclinometers

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for alterations that include seismic surveys or geotechnical investigations including geotechnical borings, installation of piezometers and inclinometers, or actions that are similar in nature.

These types of activities normally have a very small and temporary footprint. Any permissions granted for such activities would require filling of any holes with earthen material or grout. Construction activities for borings usually involve the use of truck-mounted drill rigs. Any spoil material from these activities would be graded onto nearby lands, used for other project purposes, or disposed of offsite.

#### Alternative 13 - Levee ramps and crossings

This alternative would result in a categorical permission for levee ramps and crossings for pedestrians or vehicles, and access roads or actions that are similar in nature. The New Orleans District has received several requests for levee ramps, and requests that include levee ramps. Only ramps proposed to be constructed with earthen material, and those that conform to the standard engineering criteria would be considered under this alternative. Structural ramps would require a more detailed environmental review. Ramps that are seldom used are sometimes built with no surfacing other than earth, whereas often-used ramps are usually surfaced with crushed limestone or gravel, or paved with asphalt. Access roads may be included in requests for ramps. Minor access roads are categorically excluded in ER 200-2-2.

#### Alternative 14 - Categorical permission for alterations that meet engineering requirements and environmental conditions

This alternative would result in categorical permissions for Alternatives 2 through 13. Categorical permissions would only be applied to requests when it has been determined that the alterations would not impair the usefulness of the USACE project (engineering requirements) or be injurious to the public interest (environmental conditions). Proposed alterations may include one or more of the activities described for these alternatives. This alternative would meet the purpose and need of efficiently processing Section 408 requests in most situations because it would provide NEPA compliance for the types of proposed alterations that are frequently requested and typically only result in no more than minor environmental impacts.

Upon completion of the programmatic environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, and upon completion of engineering reviews, requests for Section 408 permissions to alter USACE projects would be evaluated to determine if they fit under one or more of the categories in the list above. Those that fit into one or more of the categories would be examined to determine if any extraordinary circumstances are present that would disqualify the request from qualifying for a categorical permission. The request would be further examined to determine if any site-specific special conditions may apply to minimize effects on the environment or to the USACE project. Upon inclusion of applicable special conditions, the Section 408 permission would be granted. If the request for Section 408 permission does not fit into one of the categorical permission categories, an environmental assessment would be prepared for proposed actions expected to have less than significant impacts, or an environmental

impact statement will be prepared for proposed actions expected to cause significant impacts.

Please provide comments within 30 days of the date of this notice. Comments and questions may be addressed to Mr. Richard Boe at (504) 862-1505, or by email at [richard.e.boe@usace.army.mil](mailto:richard.e.boe@usace.army.mil), or by postal mail to Mr. Boe at the address on the letterhead.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marshall K. Harper". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marshall K. Harper  
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

## **APPENDIX E**

### **SECTION 408 NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE**

# Section 408 Requests - Environmental Assessment Checklist Impacts Analysis

Cat Ex	File Number	ESA Sec 7*	MSFCMA	CZMA	HTRW	CWA Sec. 401	CWA Sec. 404(b)(1)	CAA NAAQS	Prime and Unique Farmlands	Sec 106 NHPA	Tribal coordination; date	EO 11988, flood plain management	EO 12898, minorities/low-income effect	Other impacts**
N	04-0455	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	NA	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Historic Properties	Not needed	NE	NE	Fisheries; Benthic Communities; Navigation
N	14-0752	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Issued	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Yes; 7/21/15	NE	NE	NA
N	14-2121	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	No EFH	Permit Issued	None present	Cert. Issued	Permit Issued: MVN-2014-02121-CM	In attainment	NE	No Historic Properties Affected	Yes: 7/8/2016	NE	NE	Wetlands
N	14-524	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	NA	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Historic Properties	Not needed	NE	NE	Wetlands; Benthic Communities
N	14-901	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	No EFH	NA	None present	Cert. Issued	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Historic Properties	Not needed	NE	NE	Wetlands
N	15-0433	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	No EFH	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Issued	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Historic Properties	Yes; 5/8/17	NE	NE	Wildlife; Wetlands; Benthic Communities
N	15-1383	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Issued	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Historic Properties	Not needed	NE	NE	NA
N	15-393	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	NA
Y	15-461	NE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NA	NA	NA
N	15-599	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	NA	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Benthic Communities
N	15-649	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	No EFH	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	NA	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Wetlands
N	15-685	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Benthic Communities
N	15-849	Note: FONSI based on FEMA EA	<b>FEMA is project lead federal agency</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
N	15-857	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	No EFH	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	NA	NA	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	NA
N	15-883	NE	No EFH	Permit issued	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Yes; 10/12/16	NE	NE	Wildlife; Wetlands; Vehicular Traffic; Recreational
N	16-0096	NE	No EFH	NA	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Yes; 7/22/16	NE	NE	NA
N	16-0135	NE	No EFH	NA	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	NA
N	16-0162	NE	No EFH	NA	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	NA
N	16-167	NE	No EFH	NA	None present	NA	NA	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Unique Uplands

Abbreviations/Acronyms	
CAA NAAQS	Clean Air Act National Ambient Air Quality Standards
Cert.	Certification
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EO	Executive Order
HTRW	Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Wastes
MSFC	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
Mod.	Modification
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MPRSA	Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act
NE	No effect
NA	Not applicable
NLAA*	Not likely to adversely affect

\* "NLAA" determinations for projects made pursuant to this key require no further consultation with the Louisiana Ecological Services Office.  
 \*\* See Environmental Compliance Package for details.

## Section 408 Requests - Environmental Assessment Checklist Impacts Analysis

Cat Ex	File Number	ESA Sec 7*	MSFCMA	CZMA	HTRW	CWA Sec. 401	CWA Sec. 404(b)(1)	CAA NAAQS	Prime and Unique Farmlands	Sec 106 NHPA	Tribal coordination; date	EO 11988, flood plain management	EO 12898, minorities/low-income effect	Other impacts**
Y	16-0221	NE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NA	NA	NA
Y	16-0226	NE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NA	NA	NA
N	16-0404	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	No EFH	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	NA	No	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Benthic Communities
Y	16-0620	NE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Not needed	NA	NA	NA
N	16-0710	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Wildlife; Wetlands; Benthic Communities
N	16-0965	NE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No Potential to Cause Effect	NA	NA	NA	NA
N	16-107	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Issued	None present	Cert. Issued	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties	Yes; 10/25/16	NE	NE	Wetlands
N	16-147	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	No EFH	Permit Issued	None present	Cert. Issued	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Yes; 4/4/16	NE	NE	NA
N	16-167	NE	No EFH	NA	None present	NA	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Unique Uplands
N	16-398	NE	No EFH	NA	None present	Cert. Issued	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Yes; 10/18/16	NE	NE	NA
Y	16-569	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NA	NA	NA
N	16-734	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Benthic Communities
N	16-738	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Required; Included under Sec. 404/10	None present	Cert. Required and included (Sec. 404/10)	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Potential to Cause Effect	Not needed	NE	NE	Benthic Communities
N	o2-3266	NLAA; No Critical Habitat or Adverse Mod.	EFH present; NE	Permit Issued	None present	Cert. Issued	Pending compliance with Regulatory	In attainment	NE	No Historic Properties	Not needed	NE	NE	Wildlife; Fisheries; Wetlands; Benthic Communities

**Section 408 Categorical Permissions Alternatives (See Programmatic EA 556)**

- Alt 1 No Categorical Permissions
- Alt 2 Categorical Permission for Pipeline Crossings Including Horizontal Directional Drills, Open Cuts, Ramp-Overs, and Floodwall Penetrations
- Alt 3 Categorical Permission for Utility Lines Including Fiber Optic, Water, Natural Gas, and Electricity, Both Aerial and Underground, Including Associated Structures and Support Poles
- Alt 4 Categorical Permission for Bulk Material Conveyor Systems
- Alt 5 Categorical Permission for Culverts, Drainage Pipes, and Drainage Ditches
- Alt 6 Categorical Permission for Vehicle and Pedestrian Bridges
- Alt 7 Categorical Permission for Bank Stabilization and Erosion Control Features
- Alt 8 Categorical Permission for Bulkheads, Docks, Wharfs, Mooring Pilings and Dolphins
- Alt 9 Categorical Permission for Barge Fleeting Operations in Channels with Existing Barge Fleeting Operations
- Alt 10 Categorical Permission for Cattle Guards, Fences, and other Ranching Activities on Easement Lands
- Alt 11 Categorical Permission for Trails, Signage, Lighting, and Other Similar Operational, Recreational, and Decorative Features
- Alt 12 Categorical Permission for Soil Investigations and Seismic Surveys, Including Borings, Piezometers, and Inclometers
- Alt 13 Categorical Permission for Levee Ramps and Crossings



## Section 408 Requests - Environmental Assessment Checklist Categorical Permission Type

Alternatives Considered	Preferred Alternative (EA 556)	File Number	Activity
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	2	14-0752	Natural Gas Pipeline
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	2	14-2121	Maurepas Pipelines
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	2	14-901	16" Pipeline to transport water from Valero to MS River
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	2	15-393	Shell Pipeline new Zydeco Houston-Houma 22-inch pipeline
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	2	15-883	2 - 12" Pipelines
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	2	16-0162	Horizontal Drill 16" Pipeline Under Bayou Plaquemine
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	2	16-0569	20" pipeline with modifications to pipe bent footers
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	2	16-398	10" RGP Pipeline
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	3	15-461	Fiber optic cable under MRL
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	3	15-846	Relocation of Utility Line for Corps Project
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	3	16-0096	West Baton Rouge Parish Gas Line
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	4	14-524	Dry Bulk Conveying System
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	5	15-1383	4" Flowline
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	5	16-0221	840' drain line
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	5	16-569	Replace effluent pipe
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	7	04-0455	Dredging, Use Disposal Areas
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	7	16-0404	Maintenance dredging
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	15-0433	Dock facility
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	15-599	Mooring dolphin replacement
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	15-649	boat dock
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	15-685	Ship Dock with Mooring and Breasting Dolphins
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	15-857	Mooring piles
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	16-0135	Ship Dock with 4-pile breasting dolphin
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	16-0965	Pier
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	16-107	Menthanol Ship Dock and Water Intake
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	16-147	Dock Modifications
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	16-167	10 Concrete Piles (Deadmen) in batture
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	16-710	boat dock
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	16-710	Walkway and boat dock
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	16-738	Dock Expansion, Dredging
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	8	o2-3266	Dock and Dredging at LNG Facility
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	11	16-0620	Multi-use recreational trail
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	11	16-734	turn sheave, walkway removal
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	13	15-849	Boat Ramp
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	10	16-0226	Ramp
• Alt 1 No Action • Alt 2 - 13 Action	9	16-167	