



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118-3651

March 5, 2021

Operations Division
Regulatory Branch

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of the Draft Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion Project Environmental Impact Statement and Public Meetings

Asunto: Aviso de Disponibilidad del Proyecto de Declaración de Impacto Ambiental del Desvío de Sedimentos de Barataria Media y Reuniones Públicas

CHỦ ĐỀ: Thông Báo Phát Hành Dự Thảo Đánh Giá Tác Động Môi Trường Của Dự Án Chuyển Dòng Trầm Tích Ở Vùng Giữa Lưu Vực Barataria và Các Cuộc Họp Với Người Dân

PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER: MVN-2012-2806-EOO (Section 10/404)
2013-0634 (Section 408)

APPLICANT: Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

SUMMARY: The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA or Applicant) submitted a Permit Application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District (CEMVN) for a Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 United States Code [USC] 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 USC 1344) (collectively referred to as "Section 10/404") and submitted a Section 408 Permission Request Letter (33 USC 408) to construct, maintain, and operate the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximately 60.7 miles above "Head of Passes" in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CEMVN has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed MBSD Project and a range of reasonable alternatives, including No Action, on the natural and human environment. The Draft EIS will be used to inform CEMVN's decisions regarding CPRA's permit application and permission request and may inform the decisions of other agencies that will review the proposed MBSD Project as part of their regulatory or permit processes. The information in the Draft EIS will help decision makers, public officials, and citizens to understand the potential environmental impacts of the proposed MBSD Project and its alternatives before decisions regarding the proposed MBSD Project are made.

In addition to informing the CEMVN decisions, the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) has prepared a Draft Phase II Restoration Plan #3.2: Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (Draft Restoration Plan) that evaluates granting funding to construct the proposed MBSD Project. The proposal to adopt a final restoration plan to fund construction of the MBSD Project is a separate major Federal action requiring NEPA review by the LA TIG. The LA TIG has cooperated in preparing the Draft EIS, and intends, after independent review, to adopt the EIS to satisfy its NEPA obligations for the Restoration Plan. The LA TIG will issue a separate public Federal Register notice and related information on its website and elsewhere announcing the availability of its Draft Restoration Plan.

All interested persons and organizations are encouraged to review the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan and to submit any comments regarding the proposed MBSD Project, the Draft EIS, and/or Draft Restoration Plan as explained below. Comments will be considered as part of CEMVN's and LA TIG's decision-making processes.

The Draft EIS and supporting documents are available on the Project website at: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>, or upon request. The Draft Restoration Plan and supporting documents are available at: <https://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana>. Hard copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan may also be viewed at the locations noted at the end of this notice. Individuals wishing to view hard copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan should contact the locations regarding viewing hours and COVID-19 restrictions.

The 60-day public review and comment period for the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan will begin on March 5, 2021 and end on May 4, 2021. All comments submitted electronically or by mail via the U.S. Postal Service on or before May 4, 2021 will be considered.

PUBLIC MEETINGS: CEMVN and LA TIG will jointly conduct three Public Meetings to solicit comments on the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan; however, due to COVID-19 safety precautions, these meetings will be virtual. Parties interested in participating in the NEPA process and who would like to learn more about the proposed MBSD Project and/or provide comments on the Draft EIS and/or Draft Restoration Plan are encouraged to participate in one of the following WebEx virtual meetings:

Tuesday
April 6, 2021

9 a.m. CDT

Wednesday
April 7, 2021

1 p.m. CDT

Thursday
April 8, 2021

6 p.m. CDT

Instructions on how to access the virtual meetings by computer or telephone will be provided on the CEMVN's Project webpage approximately two weeks prior to the first meeting.

MEETING FORMAT: Each Public Meeting is scheduled for three hours. Meetings will consist of a brief introduction, pre-recorded presentations by LA TIG, CPRA, and CEMVN, followed by a public oral comment period. The meetings will be transcribed and included in the record.

The Public Meetings will follow the agenda below:

Introduction: Approximately 10-minutes. Welcome message, meeting format, and agenda will be outlined.

Presentations: Approximately 45-minutes (pre-recorded). CEMVN will open the presentation by notifying the public how to comment on the MBSD Draft EIS. Then, CPRA will provide an update on the MBSD design, followed by a presentation by the LA TIG which will present information concerning their ongoing restoration planning efforts and the Draft Restoration Plan. Lastly, CEMVN will provide details about how to navigate and review the contents of the MBSD Draft EIS before the public oral comment session begins.

Oral Comments: Participants will have the opportunity to provide oral comments via the WebEx virtual platform. Each participant will be allowed three minutes to make their comment to accommodate all attendees. Commenters are not limited to one three-minute comment. Once a three-minute oral comment is completed, commenters may re-enter the

WebEx queue to make additional comments. Attendees may ask questions during the three-minute comment; CEMVN and NOAA will only respond with information on the sections of the Draft EIS and/or Draft Restoration Plan that best addresses their question.

HOW TO PROVIDE DRAFT EIS AND DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN COMMENTS: In addition to the oral comment period during the Public Meetings, interested parties are encouraged to comment on the proposed MBSD Draft EIS, and Draft Restoration Plan, and may do so at any time during the public review and comment period time-frame as follows:

- Submit comments **electronically** at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/MBSD>
- Submit **written comments** by mail to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
Attn: CEMVN-ODR-E, MVN-2012-2806-EOO
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118
- Submit oral comments via the **toll-free phone number** at: 866-211-9205

You only need to submit your comment via one of these methods. All comments submitted will be reviewed by both the CEMVN and the LA TIG. Instructions for submitting your official comments can also be found on the Project webpage under “Ways to Submit Draft EIS Comments.” All comments made during the comment period time-frame as described above will become part of the record.

TRANSLATION OPPORTUNITIES: All pre-recorded public meeting presentations are in English, but will be available on CEMVN’s Project webpage in English, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Khmer (Cambodian).

Oportunidades de Traducción: Todas las presentaciones previamente grabadas estarán en Inglés, pero están disponibles en Vietnamita, Español e Inglés en la página web del Proyecto CEMVN: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>

HỖ TRỢ THÔNG DỊCH: Tất cả các bản trình bày được ghi âm trước bằng tiếng Anh, tuy nhiên chúng sẽ được đăng tải trên trang nói về Dự Án của Công Binh Lục Quân Hoa Kỳ (CEMVN) bằng tiếng Anh, tiếng Việt và tiếng Tây Ban Nha tại địa chỉ: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>

Anyone requiring translation in other languages should contact Ricky Boyett at ricky.d.boyett@usace.army.mil or 504-862-1524.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Interested parties unable to participate in the virtual Public Meetings can access the pre-recorded presentations, the MBSD Draft EIS, a link to the Draft Restoration Plan, and additional information on the proposed MBSD Project on CEMVN’s Project webpage at: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>.

Martin S. Mayer
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Hard copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan may also be viewed at the following locations. Individuals wishing to view hard copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan should contact the locations regarding viewing hours and COVID-19 restrictions.

Lafitte Library
4917 City Park Drive
Lafitte, LA 70067
(504) 689-5097

Port Sulphur Library
139 Civic Drive
Port Sulphur, LA 70083
(337) 527-7200

West Bank Regional Library
2751 Manhattan Blvd.
Harvey, LA 70058
(504) 364-2660

Buras Library
35572 Highway 11
Buras, LA 70041
(504) 564-0944

East New Orleans Regional Library
5641 Read Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70127
(504) 596-0200

South Lafourche Library
16241 East Main Street
Cut Off, LA 70345
(985) 632-7140

Belle Chasse Library
8442 Highway 23
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
(504) 394-3570

St. Charles Parish Library
Paradis Branch
307 Audubon St,
Paradis, LA 70080
(985) 758-1868

Hard copies of the Draft EIS Executive Summary with electronic copies of the Draft EIS and appendices on a USB and the Draft Restoration Plan will be available at the following locations. Individuals wishing to view copies of the Draft EIS and Draft Restoration Plan should contact the locations regarding viewing hours and COVID-19 restrictions.

St. Tammany Parish Library
310 W. 21st Ave.
Covington, LA 70433
(985) 893-6280

Jefferson Parish Library
East Bank Regional Library
4747 W. Napoleon Ave.
Metairie, LA 70001
(504) 838-1190

Terrebonne Parish Library
151 Library Dr.
Houma, LA 70360
(985) 876-5861

Alex P. Allain Library
206 Iberia St.
Franklin, LA 70538
(337) 828-5364

New Orleans Public Library
219 Loyola Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112
(504) 596-2570
East Baton Rouge Parish Library
7711 Goodwood Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
(225) 231-3750

Vermilion Parish Library
405 E. Victor St.
Abbeville, LA 70510
(337) 893-2674

Iberia Parish Library
445 E. Main St.
New Iberia, LA 70560
(337) 364-7024

Calcasieu Parish Public Library
Central Branch
301 W. Claude St.
Lake Charles, LA 70605
(337) 721-7116

LSU Ag Center, Southwest Region
1105 West Port St.
Abbeville, LA 70510
(337) 898-4335

St. Bernard Parish Library
2600 Palmisano Blvd.
Chalmette, LA 70043
(504) 279-0448

St. Martin Parish Library
201 Porter St.
St. Martinville, LA 70582
(337) 394-2207

Martha Sowell Utley Memorial
Library
705 W. 5th St.
Thibodaux, LA 70301
(985) 447-4119