



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Decision Record signed for Individual Environmental Report 22 *Corps to begin real estate acquisition process*

NEW ORLEANS - The Decision Record for Individual Environmental Report (IER) 22, titled "Government Furnished Borrow Material #2, Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes," was signed Friday, May 30th by LTC Murray Starkel on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District commander, COL Alvin Lee.

"The environmental review of the five borrow sites under investigation in IER 22 is complete," said Soheila Holley, senior project manager of the Corps' borrow team. "Material from these sites will be used to construct levees and reduce risk to communities in Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes."

The approved sites include:

- Westbank F, located in Jefferson Parish
- Westbank I, located in Jefferson Parish
- Westbank N, located in Plaquemines Parish
- Brad Buras, located in Plaquemines Parish
- Tabony, located in Plaquemines Parish

Excavation of the approved sites may begin as early as Jan. 2009.

Clay material from the borrow areas identified in IER 22 meet the Corps' strict environmental requirements. Quality control testing of the material will continue throughout the excavation process and once again at levee construction sites. Portions of any approved site can be rejected if unsuitable material is found. The sites are expected to generate about five million cubic yards of clay for the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS).

The Corps needs more than 100 million cubic yards of suitable borrow material to complete the 100-year level of protection for the HSDRRS.

Numerous public meetings to discuss borrow sites under investigation in IER 22 were held in throughout the greater News Orleans area. Two meetings in particular, Feb. 12 and Apr. 24 at Holy Guardian Angels Catholic Church in Bridge City were held to discuss the borrow sites approved in IER 22. The 30-day public comment period was from Mar. 30 to Apr. 30, 2008.

Alternative arrangements allow the Corps to expedite the environmental process required of all federally funded projects while fully complying with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Details of the review involved in approving the sites are available in IER 22. A copy may be downloaded at www.nolaenvironmental.gov, or a physical copy can be sent upon request to mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil or by calling 504-862-1337.

Questions or comments concerning proposed hurricane and storm damage risk reduction projects should be addressed to:

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For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list, please visit the following Web site: www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

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