



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

DEC 20 2007

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

To All Interested Agencies and Public Groups:

In accordance with the environmental review guidelines of the Council on Environmental Quality at 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 1500, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has performed an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the following proposed action under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) of November 1990, House Document 646, 101st Congress (Public Law 101-646).

Project Name: Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System (BA-39).

Sponsors: U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

<u>Total Estimated Funding</u>	\$ 28,881,365.00
Phase 1 (Engineering and Design Funding)	\$ 2,731,221.00
Phase 2 (Construction ¹ Funding)	\$ 26,150,144.00

Location: The proposed project is located in Plaquemines and Jefferson Parishes, Louisiana approximately 3.7 miles northwest of Myrtle Grove and 1.4 miles west of Ironton within the Barataria Basin, Coast 2050 Region 2, in the East Central Louisiana Coastal USGS Cataloging Unit (08090301) and the subsegment of Wilkinson Canal and Wilkinson Bayou (020904). The marsh creation sites are centered at approximate coordinates of 29° 38' 59" north latitude and 90° 0' 57" west longitude, and 29°39' 4" north latitude and 90° 0' 26" west longitude. The proposed sediment borrow site 2, is located west of the Mississippi River navigation canal between river miles 63.4 and 65.0.

Proposed Action: The proposed project would create approximately 493 acres of sustainable marsh using sediment from the Mississippi River. The sediment would be transported by pipeline into the project area consisting of 448 acres (ac) of open water and 45 ac of remnant brackish marsh in the vicinity of Bayou Dupont. The proposed project would rebuild about 493 ac of marsh platform in two cells. Cell 1 consists of 295 ac of open water/broken marsh, and Cell 2 consists of 198 ac of open water/remnant brackish marsh. The project area would be enhanced through the addition of sediment pumped from the Mississippi River and deposited to a

¹ Phase 2, construction of the project, includes project and contract management, supervision and inspection, post-construction biological monitoring, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRRR), and the purchase of real estate.

height of approximately +2.0 feet (ft) NAVD88 to allow for settling and compaction to intertidal marsh elevation. The preferred project location has the advantage of 23,915 ft of existing low dikes surrounding the two cells that will be enhanced to serve as containment for the sediment.

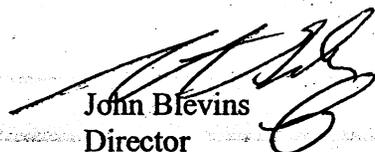
CWPPRA provides federal funds for planning and implementing projects that create, protect, restore and enhance wetlands in coastal Louisiana. Under CWPPRA, the project cost must be shared between the federal sponsoring agency and the State of Louisiana. Pursuant to approval of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan, the federal government will provide 85 percent of the project cost and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) would provide the remaining 15 percent non-federal share. Phase 1 funding for the proposed Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System Project was approved for funding on January 16, 2003, and is included on the CWPPRA 12th Priority Project List.

The proposed Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System Project is part of and consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force, and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority Region 2 ecosystem strategy to help stabilize the Barataria Basin Landbridge and protect freshwater marsh of the upper basin from increased marine/tidal influence. Construction of the recommended action is authorized as soon as compliance with the appropriate environmental laws and regulations is achieved and the project plans and specifications are complete.

Finding: On the basis of the EA for the proposed project, EPA Region 6 has determined that the proposed project is not a major Federal action significantly or adversely affecting the quality of the human environment, and that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted. Comments regarding this preliminary decision not to prepare an EIS may be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Planning and Coordination (6EN-XP), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733.

This preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will become final after the 30-day comment period expires if no new information is provided to alter this finding. No administrative action will be taken on this decision during the 30-day comment period. Copies of the EA and requests for review of the Administrative Record containing the information supporting this decision may be requested in writing at the above address, or by telephone at (214) 665-8150.

Responsible Official,



John Blevins
Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division