

March 24, 2004

## AMENDED 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 (CFR) Part 1500, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the requested design change of the proposed project in Section 4, T24S-R20E to remove the Viguerie property from construction activity under the authority of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) of November 1990, House Document 646, 101<sup>st</sup> Congress (Public Law 101-646).

**Proposed Project:** Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation Project (TE-40/XTE-45a) in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

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

The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for this project (Fig.1) was issued for public notice on December 21, 2002. The 30-day comment period expired on January 21, 2003, and a Statement of Findings (SOF) was issued on February 28, 2003. Since the issuance of the SOF, it became necessary to change the proposed project due to an inability to reach a reclamation agreement with the property owners. The proposed project was altered to begin construction just west of the Viguerie property line of Lot 2 in Section 4, T24S-R20E, and continue westward to include a portion of Canal #19 (24" Poseidon Pipeline Texaco Phase 2). The overall project plan view is depicted in Figure 2.

*Habitat* (Fig.3). The proposed project area consists of 200 acres (ac) of open water and 147 ac of remnant beach and marsh. The existing habitat for the project footprint consists of zero ac of dune ( $\geq 5.0$  feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988 - NAVD), 28 ac of supra-tidal (2.0 to 4.9 feet), and 119 ac of intertidal (zero to 2.0 ft.). The proposed project would create 119 ac of dune habitat, 196 ac of intertidal marsh habitat and 32 ac of supra-tidal habitat. Creation of the intertidal marsh habitat will convert 155 ac of open water and 41 ac of existing marsh. Creation of the supra-tidal habitat will convert 18 ac of open water and 14 ac of intertidal marsh. Creation of the sand dune will convert 27 ac of open water, 64 acres of intertidal marsh and 28 ac of supra-tidal habitat. The original FNSI depicted a net gain of approximately 100 ac of intertidal habitat, a net loss of 254 ac of open water, and a net loss of 9 ac of supra-tidal marsh habitat. With the revised proposed project, there will be a net gain of approximately 77 ac of intertidal habitat, a net loss of 200 ac of open water, and a net gain of 4 ac of supra-tidal marsh habitat.

*Dredged Material* – approximately 3.6 million cubic yards (cy). The total quantity of material to be placed will be 3.6 million cy. This includes 3.1 million cy for the dune/marsh component and 500,000 cy for the unconfined disposal component (Figs 4-7). The proposed project will reduce the amount of dredged material by approximately 300,000 cy from the original estimate. A hydraulic dredge will be used to mine dredge material sediment from Little Pass Timbalier Borrow Area 2 (Fig.8).

*Sand Fencing* – (22,750 linear feet). Compared to the original FNSI, an additional 8,470 linear feet of sand fencing will be placed on the dune to capture and accumulate fine-grain sand that is transported by the wind (Fig.9).

**Finding.** The proposed change in the original project design has been determined to be consistent with the original determination that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not warranted and the original FNSI is herewith amended. The EPA has performed a review of the environmental information submitted with the request to amend the project design and has determined that the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

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 Amended FNSI and requests for review of the Administrative Record containing the information supporting this decision may be requested in writing from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Planning and Coordination (6EN-XP), 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202-2733, or by telephone at (214) 665-8150.

Responsible Official,

Rhonda Smith  
Acting Chief, Office of Planning and Coordination

Enclosures:

- Figure 1: Vicinity Map
- Figure 2: Overall Project Plan
- Figure 3: Marsh Types
- Figure 4: Typical Dune/Marsh Restoration Section
- Figure 5: Fill Area - Plan view
- Figure 6: Fill Area - Plan view
- Figure 7: Fill Area - Plan view
- Figure 8: Borrow Area Plan view - Little Pass Timbalier
- Figure 9: Typical Sand Fencing Layout