

2ND (FINAL) FLOODPLAIN NOTICE

Date: December 14, 2010

To: All Interested Parties

From: Daron Wilson
Director of PMO Office
Disaster Recovery
Mississippi Development Authority

Subject: Notice of Proposal to Build in a 100-Year Floodplain Required by Executive Order 11988, Entitled "Flood Plain Management"

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) purposes to provide federal funds from HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Disaster Recovery Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport (Port) which will use those funds for construction of a 24-Acre Fill, New Tenant Terminals and Infrastructure project. The project will involve the necessary work to fill the final 24 acres of Mississippi Sound water bottoms authorized by Department of the Army Permit (MS96-02828-U), fill the West Pier to +25.0 feet to make the port facilities resistant to storm surge, and construct new tenant terminal facilities and infrastructure. The proposed project is located on Port property and Mississippi Sound water bottoms.

Because the property is located in the 100-year floodplain of the northern margin of the Mississippi Sound, this notice is required by the above Executive Order and HUD Environmental Regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, for CDBG projects and activities.

A Notice of Early Public Review for this project was published in the Sun Herald newspaper on August 31, 2010 and disseminated to other interested parties and regulatory agencies.

The entire Port is located within the 100-year floodplain and there are no reasonable or practicable alternatives to constructing the proposed project within the 100-year floodplain. The proposed 24-Acre Fill, New Tenant Terminals and Infrastructure project is a functionally dependent land use since it must be located adjacent to the Gulfport Harbor Federal Navigation Channel to meet its intended purpose. The Port did consider various alternatives to the proposed project. The Port considered alternative off-site locations for container storage but determined that off-site container storage is not efficient and is too costly. Other alternatives considered included constructing new terminal facilities at the existing +10 feet elevation of the West Pier and various terminal configurations for the new tenant terminals at elevation +25'±.

The No Action Alternative was also considered. Under the No Action Alternative, the 24-Acre Fill, New Tenant Terminals and Infrastructure project would not be constructed and the tenants would continue to operate in facilities repaired or reconstructed at elevation +10 feet after Hurricane Katrina. Containers would be stored at the existing locations and/or on a new container storage yard located on the 60-acre fill site currently under construction. The existing facilities and containers would remain vulnerable to hurricanes. Containers that are stored at elevation +10 feet must be relocated off the Port to higher ground approximately three days in advance of an approaching tropical storm. This extremely time consuming and costly process would continue under the No Action Alternative.

Mitigation measures will continue to be implemented as required by Permit MS96-02828-U. Best Management Practices will also be used to minimize adverse impacts of storm water runoff during construction and operation of the proposed project.

The proposed project will elevate key facilities and the tenant's container storage yards at elevation +25'±, above the 100-year floodplain which will eliminate the need to evacuate during hurricane events. To further reduce the risk of container movement during severe tropical weather, a lashing system will be put in place to secure materials on the Port. These actions will help to mitigate damage caused by containers and other debris being washed or blown into downtown Gulfport during future hurricanes.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Mr. Daron Wilson at the address below or emailing disasterrecoverycomments@mississippi.org.

Mississippi Development Authority

Attention: Daron Wilson

P.O. Box 849

Jackson, MS 39205

601-359-3449

Written comments must be received by the Mississippi Development Authority at the above address on or before December 21, 2010.