

Notice for Early Public Review of a Proposal to Support Activity in the 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will be submitting an application to HUD for the completion of a 60 acre fill project at the Port of Gulfport that was under construction at the time Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Completion of the project which was authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Permit MS96-02828-U) will involve the necessary work to prepare the remainder of the site for filling, place select fill material as shown in plans and specifications, install necessary drainage structures, and grade and surface the fill area in order to complete Phases I and II of the West Pier Container Storage Yard.

This notice is required by Section 2(a)(4) of Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management, and by Section 2(b) of Executive Order 11990 for the Protection of Wetlands, and is implemented by HUD Regulations found at 24 CFR 55.20(b) for the HUD action that is within and/or affects a floodplain or wetland.

The proposed site for this project is the western portion of the West Pier at the Port of Gulfport which is designated in the permit as Phase I and Phase II Container Storage Areas which encompass approximately 30 acres each. Geographically, the project area lies in Section 9, Township 8 South, Range 11 West, Harrison County, Mississippi.

Based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Flood Insurance Rate Map numbers 2852530076D and 2852530077D revised October 4, 2002, approximately 36 acres of the project site is located within a Zone VE and approximately 24 acres of the project site will be located in what is now classified as open water. No construction is anticipated within a designated floodway.

This notice with a request for comment was mailed to the Regional Office of FEMA and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Additional information may be obtained by contacting: Ms. Elizabeth Stanga, MDA Port of Gulfport Restoration - Team Leader at the Mississippi Development Authority, P.O. Box 849 Jackson, MS 39205.

Written comments must be received by the *MDA* at the following address on or before January 14, 2009: Mississippi Development Authority, P.O. Box 849 Jackson, MS 39205, Attention: Elizabeth Stanga, Port of Gulfport Restoration - Team Leader.

Date issued: December 29, 2008