Draft Environmental Assessment

Denham Springs Housing Authority, Change of Location Project

FEMA-4277-DR-LA
Denham Springs, Livingston Parish, Louisiana
October 2023



U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VI Louisiana Integration and Recovery Office 1500 Main Street Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

1	TABLE OF CONTENTS Error! Bookmark not defin					
1	INT	RODUCTION	1			
	1.1	Rainfall Event	1			
	1.2	Project Authority	1			
	1.3	Background	2			
	1.4	General Site Description	7			
2	PUF	RPOSE AND NEED	7			
3	ALT	TERNATIVES	8			
	3.1	Overview of Alternatives	8			
	3.2	Alternative 1 - No Action	8			
	3.3	Alternative 2 – Reconstruct at Pre-Disaster Location	8			
		Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Facilities a ate Site (Preferred Alternative)				
4	AFF	FECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS	10			
	4.1.1 4.1.2 4.1.3	Existing Conditions.	1 1			
	4.2.1 4.2.2 4.2.3	Existing Conditions	13			
	4.3 4.3.1 4.3.2 4.3.3	Existing Conditions.	17 18			
	4.4 4.4.1 4.4.2 4.4.3	8	20 21			
	4.5 4.5.1 4.5.2 4.5.3		22			
	4.6 4.6.1 4.6.2 4.6.3		24 25			
		Noise	26			

	4.7.2 Existing Conditions	
4	4.8 Traffic	
4	 4.9 Cultural Resources 4.9.1 Regulatory Setting 4.9.2 Existing Conditions – Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties Environmental Consequences 	
4	4.10 Hazardous Materials 4.10.1 Regulatory Setting	36 37
4	4.11 Environmental Justice	39 40
5	CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES	43
6	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	45
7	CONCLUSIONS	46
8	AGENCY COORDINATION	47
9	LIST OF PREPARERS	48
10	REFERENCES	49
AP	PPENDICES	
Site	te Photographs	Appendix A
Co	onceptual Design Layout	Appendix B
Ag	gency Correspondence	Appendix C
Re	eports and Assesments	Appendix D
Pre	reliminary Jurisdictional Determination	Appendix E
Pu1	ublic Notice and Draft FONSI	Appendix G

TABLES

Table 1. Federally Listed Species Known to Occur in Livingston Parish				
Table 2. ACS 2016 - 2020 Summary Report (Source EPA EJSCREEN Tool)				
FIGURES				
Figure 1 – General location of the proposed project site Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 2 – Existing DSHA Administrative Building				
Figure 3 – Damaged Housing Building Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 4 – Interior of Damaged Housing Unit Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 5 – Interior of Damaged Housing Unit Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 6 – Proposed Relocation Site on U.S. 190 HighwayError! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 7 – Aerial view of Damaged Denham Springs Housing Authority Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 8 – Excerpt from Design Plans of the Proposed Construction				
Figure 9 – USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey for the Proposed DSHA New Construction Site 20				
Figure 10 – National Wetlands Inventory Map for New Construction Location Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 11 – NFHL FIRMette of the DSHA facility at Existing LocationError! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 12 – NFHL FIRMette for the Proposed DSHA New Construction Site. Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 13 – Estimated Annual Average Daily Traffic near Existing DSHA Location Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 14 – Estimated Annual Average Daily Traffic near Proposed DSHA Location Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 15 – USGS 1995 Denham Springs Topographic Quandrangle MapError! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 16 – Aerial Map Showing APE at Existing DSHA LocationError! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 17 – Aerial Map Showing APE at Proposed DSHA LocationError! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 18 – EPA Regulated Sites at Existing DSHA Location Error! Bookmark not defined.				
Figure 19 – EPA Regulated Sites at Proposed DSHA LocationError! Bookmark not defined.				

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APE Area of Potential Effects
BMP Best Management Practices

CAA Clean Air Act

CBRA Coastal Barrier Resources Act
CBRS Coastal Barrier Resources System
CEQ Council on Environmental Quality

CERCLA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

C.F.R. Code of Federal Regulations

CUP Coastal Use Permit
CWA Clean Water Act

CZMA Coastal Zone Management Act
dBA decibel, on the A-weighted Scale
DSHA Denham Springs Housing Authority
DHS U.S. Department of Homeland Security

DNL Day-Night Average Sound Level
DSHA Denham Springs Housing Authority

DoA U.S. Department of the Army Environmental Assessment

EC Elevation Certificate

EDMS Electronic Document Management System

EIS Environmental Impact Statement

E.O. Executive Order

ESA Endangered Species Act

FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIRM Flood Insurance Rate Map

FONSI Finding of No Significant Impact FPPA Farmland Protection Policy Act

HUD U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

LA GOHSEP Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

LADOTD Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development

LCRP Louisiana Coastal Resources Program

LFA Local Floodplain Administrator

LDEQ Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDNR Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

LPDES Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NAAQS National Ambient Air Quality Standards

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

NFHL National Flood Hazard Layer

NFIP National Flood Insurance Program NHPA National Historic Preservation Act NMFS National Marine Fisheries Service

NOx Nitrogen Oxide

NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

NRHP National Register of Historic Places

NWP Nation Wide Permit(s)

O₃ Ozone

PA Public Assistance

PCB Polychlorinated Biphenyl

P.L. Public Law

RCRA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

RHA Rivers and Harbors Act

SARA Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act

SFHA Special Flood Hazard Area

SHPO State Historic Preservation Office/Officer

SIP State Implementation Plan
TSCA Toxic Substances Control Act
USACE U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S.C. U.S. Code

USEPA U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

USFWS U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service VOC Volatile Organic Compound

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rainfall Event

During the Incident Period of August 11, 2016, to August 31, 2016, prolonged rainfall occurred over the state of Louisiana dropping unprecedented rain, exceeding 20 inches. The accumulation of the rainfall vastly exceeded the capacity of the gravity tribitutaries that serviced the Amite and Comite River watersheds in Livingston Parish. Due to the severity of the flooding event, on August 14, 2016 FEMA issued formal notice which declared that Livingston Parish, among others in Louisiana, was considered a major disaster area. Including among the many flooding casualities was the Denham Springs Housing Authority (Sub-Recipient).

The Sub-Recipient, Denham Springs Housing Authority (DSHA), suffered flood related damages to its facilities located at 600 Eugene Street in Denham Springs, LA. The entire housing complex suffered substantial damages during the August 2016 flood event. The excessive rain and flooding inundated the buildings and surrounding areas with up to 6 feet of floodwaters. The facility remained under water for multiple weeks, during which time mold began to rapidly grow in the buildings.

1.2 Project Authority

On August 14, 2016, President Barack Obama declared a major disaster for the state of Louisiana (FEMA-4277-DR-LA), authorizing the United States Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. This assistance is pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), Public Law (P.L.) 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to assist with funding the repair, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of public facilities damaged as a result of the declared disaster.

On January 29, 2013, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 was signed into law. The law authorized several significant changes to the means by which FEMA delivered disaster assistance under a variety of programs. Section 1102 of the Act revised the Stafford Act creating a new Section 428 that authorized the Administrator to establish and adopt alternative procedures for administering federal assistance under the Public Assistance program. Specific implementation procedures were released on December 19, 2013 and memorialized in the Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (PAAP) Pilot Program Guide for Permanent Work. The Sub-Recipient has requested disaster funding for an Alternate Procedures Project for the relocation and restoration of their facility.

In accordance with FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, this Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). (Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act 2005).

The purpose of this EA is to analyze potential environmental and cultural resource impacts of the proposed project. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

1.3 Background

The DSHA has submitted a formal request through the State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (LA GOHSEP) for funding under FEMA's PA Program for the replacement and relocation of the damaged DSHA facilities.

The current DSHA facilities are located at 600 Eugene Street, Denham Springs, Louisiana 70726 (Lat/Long: 30.477388, -90.954279). The DSHA facilities provided housing for elderly/disabled residents. It was comprised of 20 buildings, three (3) served as support buildings for the residential units (e.g., an administrative office/community building, a storage building, and a maintenance building), a 10 unit housing building, a 12 unit housing building, and 15 duplex housing buildings. DSHA has requested the use of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act's Public Assistance Alternative Procedure Pilot Program (Section 428) and requested funding to rebuild the entire DSHA complex outside of the flood zone. The original location is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), AE flood zone. At this location, Floodplain Management regulations would require DSHA to build the lowest floor at or above the level of the base flood. This would potentially create a facility not ideally suited for people with disabilities and elderly residents of Denham Springs.

The DSHA has requested to have the entire facility relocated to a new site which is outside of the SFHA. The new site is located on Florida Boulevard approximately 1.5 miles from the original DSHA location located at Lat/Long: 30.483039, -90.937535. This site for the new location is approximately +/- 29.5 acres in total; however, the new DSHA facility would be situated on 5 acres of land. The scope of work for the new facility includes construction of a single-story complex consisting of an administrative building and 20 housing buildings (to include one, two, three, and four bedroom individual housing units); concrete roads with parking spaces and sidewalks; and a detention pond and swale within an estimated five (5) acre parcel. This facility will provide housing for approximately 200 residents. Approximately 30% of the residents will be elderly. For the residents, approximately 35% will be "lower-middle class" with the remaining 65% being "poor."

Additional construction activities include demolition of the existing flooded buildings, landscape, and roadways at the original site. All demolition activities must be completed in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements.

Historical records show that the proposed site was previously utilized as a mobile home park. The mobile home park remained until the late 1990's. The proposed site is currently vacant and has been since 1999. In 2018, approximately 6.4 acres of the north west corner of the site was subdivided and developed for commercial use (Thompson Funeral Home). The remaining property is currently vacant (Figure 1).

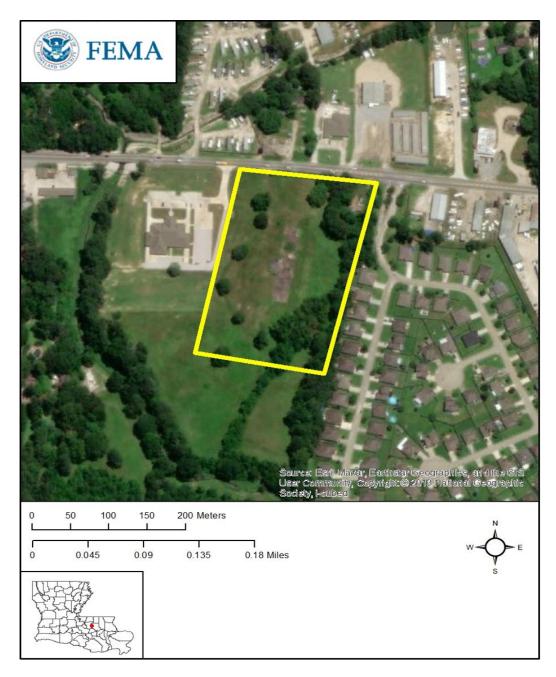


Figure 1 – Aerial image showing proposed relocation site at 30.483039°, -90.937535° on Florida Boulevard (Highway 190) in Denham Springs, Louisiana.



Figure 2 – Existing DSHA Administrative Building located at original facility location at 600 Eugene Street.



Figure 3 – Unoccupied/damaged housing building located at original facility location at 600 Eugene Street.



Figure 4 – Interior of damaged housing unit.



Figure 5 – Interior of damaged housing unit.



Figure 6 – Proposed location on U.S. 190 Highway.

1.4 General Site Description

Livingston Parish, covering approximately 703 square miles, is located in southeastern Louisiana. Livingston Parish is bounded on the west by East Baton Rouge Parish, on the southwest by Ascension Parish, on the south by St. John the Baptist Parish, on the east by Tangipahoa Parish, and on the north by St. Helena Parish. Flowing to the south and then east, the Amite River is a major natural drainage feature that separates Livingston Parish from East Baton Rouge and Ascension Parish. Approximately, 648 square miles (92%) of the parish is land and the remaining 55 square miles (8%) is water. Livingston Parish is primarily rural with the exception of the Cities of Denham Springs and Walker and several smaller towns located primarily along US Highway 190. The parish is entirely within the Mississippi River Delta, with a subtropical, humid climate typical of coastal regions along the Gulf of Mexico.

The city of Denham Springs is the largest area of commercial and residential development in Livingston Parish. The city is situated at the intersections of the east-west highways, US Highway 190 and Interstate 12 (I-12), with Louisiana Highway 16, the major north-south artery in western Livingston Parish. Based on the 2020 United States Census, there were 9,286 people 3,615 households, and 2,256 families residing in the city. Denham Springs has a humid subtropical climate with hot summers and mild winters. The city experiences moderate to heavy rainfall and is at risk of severe thunderstorms and high winds year around. The average winter temperature is 54°F and the average summer temperature is 79°F. Livingston Parish typically receives 63 inches of rainfall annually (Trahan 1989).

2 PURPOSE AND NEED

The objective of FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program is to provide assistance to state, tribal, and local governments, as well as certain private non-profits so that communities can respond to and recover from presidentially declared major disasters or emergencies. Catastrophic damage from severe storms and flooding has resulted in an extraordinary demand for housing assistance in communities within Livingston Parish, one of the hardest hit areas in Louisiana. The August 2016 prolonged rainfall resulted in catastrophic flooding. Thousands of homes and businesses were submerged and officials estimated that 75 percent of homes in Livingston Parish were a total loss. Many rivers and waterways, particularly the Amite and Comite rivers, reached record levels, and rainfall exceeded 20 inches in multiple parishes.

The historic flooding of August 2016 severly damaged all of the DSHA buildings. The mission of the DSHA is to provide affordable housing to low and moderate-income residents and to assist them in becoming self-sufficient. The purpose ad need of this proposal is to assist DSHA in providing affordable housing opportunities for low-income, disabled, and elderly tenants, and constituents of Livingston Parish outside of the SFHA.

3 ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Overview of Alternatives

The NEPA process consists of an evaluation of the environmental effects of a federal undertaking, including its Alternatives. Three (3) Alternatives have been considered including 1) the "No Action" Alternative, 2) The "Reconstruction at the Pre-Disaster Location" Alternative, and 3) the "Preferred Action Alternative" which is the Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Authority Facilities to an alternate location.

3.2 Alternative 1 - No Action

Under the "No Action" alternative, there would be no reconstruction of the damaged housing buildings. "No Action" would abandon the substantially damaged and unusable buildings at the 600 Eugene Street location. The vacant properties would be a hazard, a blight on the neighborhood, a potential source of liability and violation of local ordinances. Furthermore, no action would forego the opportunity to provide affordable housing in an area of high opportunity. This alternative does not meet the purpose and need, but will continue to be evaluated throughout this EA and serve as a baseline comparison of impacts from other action alternatives.

3.3 Alternative 2 – Reconstruct at Pre-Disaster Location

After an extensive evaluation of the structures at the original DSHA location, the structures were determined to be substantially damaged. They are also located in the SFHA. All buildings and facilities must be brought into compliance with the currently adopted NFIP standards and FEMA's floodplain management regulation. Demolishing the existing structures and rebuilding on the original site location was evaluated; however, in order to rebuild at the location the finished floor evelation for building would need to be set approximately 8 feet above the existing site elevation or floodproofed, as necessary to meet building code requirements. The resulting facility would not be ideally suited for people with disabilities and elderly residents it would serve. This alternative would also include demolishing the existing flooded buildings, landscape, and roadways. All activities must be completed in accordance with local, state, and federal requirements. All existing above-grade improvements would be removed as part of the site demolition. Due to use of heavy machinery during construction, the access road will not be useable. This alternative is located in a SFHA and the floodplain management requirements would require construction standards not ideally suited for people with disabilities and elderly residents of Denham Springs. Therefore, this alternative does not meet the purpose and need and is eliminated from further consideration.



Figure 7 – Aerial view of the damaged Denham Springs Housing Authority.

3.4 Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Facilities at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

This Preferred Alternative meets the objectives of the Denham Springs Housing Authority to address the overwhelming need for affordable housing by providing to its residents high quality, safe and decent affordable housing in areas that provide access to the necessary tools to achieve economic sustainability. This Alternative would involve the demolition and relocation of the DSHA facilities 1.5 miles from the original location. The proposed site is outside of the 100-year flood plain and contains ample room for the housing development and provides access to a main highway (U.S. Highway 190). The scope of work for the new facility includes construction of a single-story complex consisting of an administrative building, maintenance building, and 18 housing buildings (to include one, two, three, and four bedroom individual housing units); concrete roads with parking spaces and sidewalks; and a detention pond and swale within an estimated five (5) acre parcel. The new buildings will be constructed to the local and state building code requirements, with generally the same interior and exterior design as the units at the original location (Figure 8).



Figure 8 – Excerpt from design plans showing the extent of the proposed construction on Florida Boulevard in Denham Springs, Louisiana.

4 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS

4.1 Geology, Soils, and Topography

4.1.1 Regulatory Setting

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (P.L. 97-98, §§ 1539-1549; 7 U.S.C. 4201, et seq.) was enacted in 1981 and is intended to minimize the impact federal actions have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. This law assures that, to the extent possible, federal programs and policies are administered in a way that is compatible with state and local farmland protection policies and programs. In order to implement the FPPA, federal agencies are required to develop and review their policies and procedures every two (2) years. The FPPA does

not authorize the federal government to regulate the use of private or non-federal land or, in any way, affect the property rights of owners.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for protecting significant agricultural lands from irreversible conversions that result in the loss of essential food or environmental resources. For purposes of the FPPA, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance. Prime farmland is characterized as land with the best physical and chemical characteristics for production of food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops (USDA 2013). Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not currently have to be used for cropland; it can also be forest land, pastureland, or other land, but not water or built-up land.

4.1.2 Existing Conditions

Livingston Parish lies in the Gulf Coastal Plain of the United States and the geology consists of Quaternary (Pleistocene and Holocene) units. These are deposits of clays, sandy clays, silt, sand and gravel that can be found throughout the Parish (USGS, 2014). Most of Livingston Parish is covered by the Pleistocene Prairie Terraces. These are overlain by Loess on the western edge of the Parish but mainly to the west of the Amite River. The Holocene alluvium consists of narrow deposits from the many surface water streams that flow across the parish (Natalbany, Tickfaw and Amite Rivers and their tributaries Hog Branch, Blood River, Colyell Creek and Little Natalbany River) (USDA, SCS and LAES, 1991). At depth is the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale, which is part of a Cretaceous formation yielding oil and natural gas (Mineral Web 2016).

Surface elevations vary across the parish from 0-110 feet, with the highest point located in the northern part of the parish and the lowest point on the shore of Lake Maurita's in the southeast part of the parish. The Denham Springs and Baton Rouge Faults pass through Livingston Parish in an east-west direction. These faults are active but not seismic, which means they gradually move but do not cause detectable earthquakes (LGS 2001, 2008). These faults create a disparity in elevation along areas to the south of the faults (i.e., the downthrown). The overall topography of the parish slopes generally from the north (high) to the southeast (sea level at Lake Maurepas).

USDA Web Soil Survey (accessed in February 2023) indicates that the majority (62.6%) of the soil at the proposed site located on U.S. Highway 190 consists of the following prime farmland soil: Satsuma silt loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes (Sa; 40.7%). The Satsuma silt loam (Sa), are somewhat poorly drained soil with no frequency of flooding or ponding, non-hydric Group D soil that is found in ridges on stream terraces landform and originates from Loess.

The remainder of the project area (37.4%) consists of the following non-prime farmland soil: Gilbert-Brimstone silt loams, occasionally flooded (Ge; 31.8%). The Gilbert-Brimstone are poorly drained, hydric soil of Group C/D that are found in depressions and originate from loamy fluviomarine deposits of Late Pleistocene age. [USDA 2023, NRCS 2023]. (*Figure 09* - web soil survey for proposed site property).

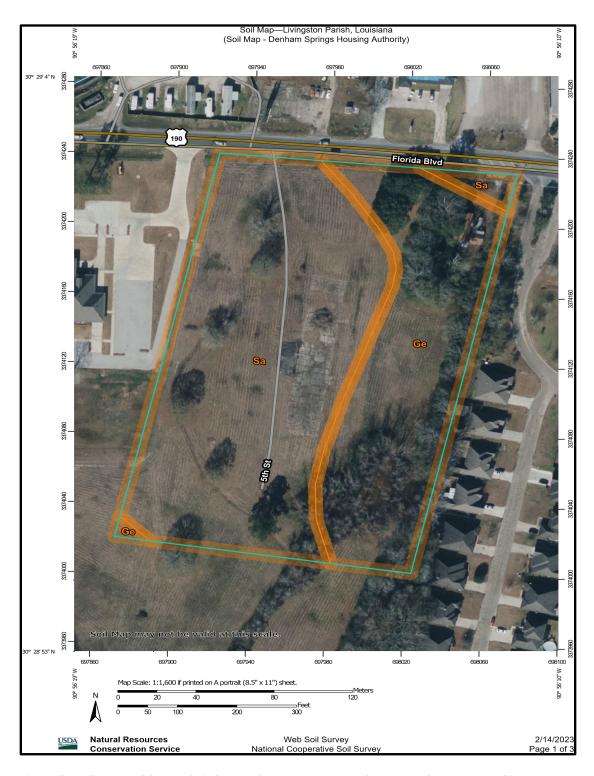


Figure 9 – USDA NRCS Web Soil Survey for the Proposed DSHA New Construction Site.

4.1.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would have no significant impacts on prime farmland, unique farmland, farmland of statewide or local importance, or other important geologic resources.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Facilities at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

None of the the soil at the proposed location construction site can be considered as prime farmland soil, as the proposed site is located in an urban area that is not being used for the production of food, feed, forage, fiber, or oilseed crops. In its January 27, 2023, letter, the NRCS stated that the proposed construction areas where work will be performed are in incorporated/urban areas and therefore are exempt from the rules and regulations of the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA)-Subtitle I of Title XV, Section 1539-1549 (Appendix C). Furthermore the project will have no impacts to NRCS works in the vicinity.

In addition, the preferred alternative of demolishing the damaged buildings would have no negative impacts on farmlands. No other significant impacts to geologic resources resulting from Alternative 3 are anticipated.

4.2 Wetlands and Waters of the United States

4.2.1 Regulatory Setting

Wetlands have important ecological functions and are biologically diverse. They assimilate nutrients in surrounding surface waters, remove suspended solids and pollutants from stormwater, and protect shorelines from wind and wave action and storm-generated forces. Actions that would impact wetlands would require review under several regulatory programs.

The United States Army Corps Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, pursuant to Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Wetlands are identified as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, or that under normal hydrologic conditions do or would support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. The USACE also regulates the building of structures in waters of the U.S. pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA). Executive Order (E.O.) 11990, Protection of Wetlands, directs federal agencies to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the values of wetlands for federally funded projects. FEMA regulations for complying with E.O. 11990 are codified at 44 C.F.R. Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulates discharges to waters of the United States through permits issued under Section 402 of the CWA, entitled the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which authorizes and sets forth standards for state

administered permitting programs regulating the discharge of pollutants into navigable waters within each state's jurisdiction. On August 27, 1996, USEPA Region VI delegated the authority to administer the NPDES program for matters within the jurisdiction of the State of Louisiana. Having assumed NPDES responsibilities, Louisiana directly issues NPDES permits and has primary enforcement responsibility for facilities located within the State, with certain exceptions such as Indian Country Lands. Louisiana administers the NPDES Program and surface water discharge permitting system under the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) program.

The LPDES requires permits for the discharge of pollutants/wastewater from any point source into waters of the State. Per the CWA, the term "point source" is defined as "any discernible, confined, and discrete conveyance such as a pipe or a ditch." Prior to assumption of the program, permittees were required to hold both a valid state and federal permit. Today, all point source discharges of pollutants to waters in the state of Louisiana are subject to a LPDES permit issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ). Additionally, the LDEQ requires a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for land disturbing activities greater than 1 acre. For land disturbing activities greater than 5 acres the LDEQ requires: 1) a SWPPP 2) a Notice of Intent and 3) a Notice of Completion.

Section 303(d) of the CWA requires states to develop a list of impaired waters. Water is considered impaired if the current quality does not meet the numeric or narrative criteria in a water quality standard, or the designated use described by that state is not achieved. Section 303(d)(2) requires that states submit and USEPA approve or disapprove lists of waters for which existing technologybased pollution controls are not stringent enough to attain or maintain state water quality standards, and for which Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) must be prepared (40 C.F.R. §130.7). Total maximum daily loads are pollution budgets designed to identify necessary reductions of pollutant loads to the impaired waters so that the appropriate water quality standards are met, including designated uses like fishing or swimming and water quality criteria for parameters such as dissolved oxygen and water clarity. The regulations require states to identify water quality limited waters still requiring TMDLs every two years. The lists of waters still needing TMDLs must also include priority rankings and must identify the waters targeted for TMDL development during the next two years (40 C.F.R. § 130.7). Types of impairments may include, for example, impaired primary contact use (e.g., swimming, water skiing), mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in fish tissue, impaired fish consumption use, low dissolved oxygen, copper, phosphorus, manganese, excessive siltation, physical-habitat alterations, and total suspended solids which impair aquatic life use.

FEMA is required to engage in the 8-step decision-making process to ensure that proposed activities are consistent with EO 11990 and to evaluate the potential effects of an action on wetlands. The 8-step process includes using minimization measures when a project affecting a wetland is the only practicable alternative. Minimization measures include avoidance techniques such as establishing wetland buffer zones to avoid converting or filling wetlands and obtaining and complying with NPDES permits. Recipients and sub-receipients are responsible for obtaining any applicable NPDES permits and meeting permit conditions. In addition to complying with 44 C.F.R. Part 9, the recipient or sub-recipient must obtain the applicable CWA Section 404 permit prior to the initiation of the project if it will affect jurisdictional wetlands. The recipient or sub-recipient must coordinate with USACE to determine whether any of the Nation Wide Permits (NWPs) or a Regional General Permit

apply or whether an Individual Permit is required. Proposed projects that require an Individual Permit will require close coordination between the recipient or sub-recipient, FEMA and USACE. The recipient or sub-recipient is required to comply with all conditions of the 404 general or individual permit, which may include compensation measures, such as wetlands banking, for any loss of wetlands.

4.2.2 Existing Conditions

In Livingston Parish, wetlands generally occur along the natural floodplains of the Amite River and its tributaries as freshwater forested/shrub wetlands. Amite River flood plains and associated wetland dominates areas in the southern Livingston Parish. Wetlands are also widely present in flat, poorly drained areas in northern Livingston Parish. According to the current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) mapper (see Figure 10), there are no existing wetlands within the new construction site (USFWS, 2023). There are no navigable waters at either of the sites (existing and proposed locations).

D & S Environmental Services personnel conducted an on-site field investigation on April 3, 2023 to determine the extent and location of any jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the U.S. During the site visit no primary and secondary wetland hydrology indicators such as high water table, saturation, sediment deposits, and oxidized rhizospheres along living roots were not observed at the project site. The dominate vegetation on the project site consists of mostly upland, non-hydrophytic grasses.

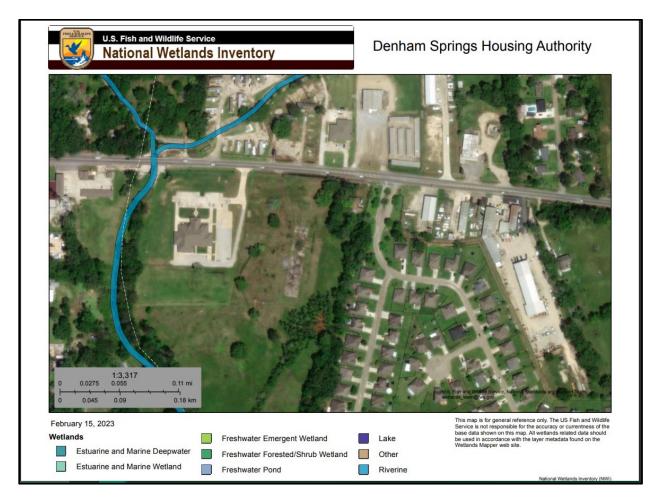


Figure 10 – National Wetlands Inventory Map for New Construction Location on Florida Boulevard (U.S. Highway 190).

4.2.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would have no impact on wetlands or other waters of the U.S. and would not require permits under § 404 of the CWA or § 10 of the RHA.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Facilities at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

A preliminary jurisdictional determination (JD) dated June 28, 2023, the USACE determined that part of the property contains wetlands and non-wetland waters that may be subject to Corps' jurisdiction. The approximate limits of the wetlands are 0.08 acre and non-wetland waters are 0.23 acre (Appendix C). An 8-Step Decision Making Process was conducted to document the presence of wetlands and non-wetlands on site and to consider the impacts to wetlands and non-wetland waters should deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. be required. A Department of the Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act will be required

prior to the deposition or redistribution of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. (see Appendix E)

If the project results in a discharge to offsite waters of the state, an LPDES permit may be required in accordance with the CWA and Title 33 of the Louisiana Clean Water Code. For example, if the project results in a new discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater. In addition, proposed construction activities may require an LDPES stormwater permit, but there is an existing general permit (LAR200000) for construction activities between one (1) and five (5) acres.

In order to minimize indirect impacts (erosion, sedimentation, dust, and other construction-related disturbances) to waters of the state or well defined drainage areas surrounding the site, the contractor should implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that meet LDEQ's permitting specifications for stormwater and also include the following into the daily construction routine: silt screens, barriers (e.g., hay bales), berms/dikes, and or fences to be placed as and where needed. Fencing should be placed to mark staging areas for storage of construction equipment and supplies, as well as for sites where maintenance/repair operations occur.

4.3 Floodplains

4.3.1 Regulatory Setting

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, requires federal agencies to avoid direct or indirect support or development within or affecting the 1% annual-chance Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) (i.e., 100-year floodplain) whenever there is a practicable Alternative (for "Critical Actions", within the 0.2% annual chance SFHA, i.e., the 500-year floodplain). FEMA uses the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to determine the flood hazard zone for the proposed project location. FEMA's regulations for complying with E.O. 11988 are codified in 44 C.F.R. Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

Section 9.6, 44 C.F.R., details an eight-step process that decision-makers must use when considering projects either located within the floodplain or with the potential to affect the floodplain. The 8-step process: assesses the action with regard to human susceptibility to flood harm and impacts to wetlands; analyzes principle flood problems, risks from flooding, history of flood loss, and existing flood protection measures; and includes public notice and opportunity for the public to have early and meaningful participation in decision-making and alternative selection. If impacts cannot be avoided, the 8-step process includes requirements to incorporate measures to minimize and mitigate potential risks from flooding and impacts to wetlands as appropriate (see Appendix D).

Under 44 C.F.R. Part 9, FEMA is required to avoid activities in a floodplain unless it is the only practicable alternative. If undertaking a proposed project in the floodplain is the only practicable alternative, then FEMA must minimize the impacts to the floodplain and the impacts from floods to the facility or structure. Minimization techniques apply to the location of structures, facilities, equipment and building contents in floodplain areas. This could include elevating facilities or structures above the base flood elevation. Minimization techniques may include flood-proofing

structures or facilities. Some of these facilities may be considered "critical actions" under this analysis because the risk of flooding might be too great. In such cases, the base flood elevation or standard for flood-proofing is the 500-year flood event.

4.3.2 Existing Conditions

Approximately 75% of the total land area in Livingston Parish is in the 100-year floodplain. The parish is bound in all directions, except for the northern and northeastern boundaries, by bodies of water. The Amite River forms the western border and is a tributary to Lake Maurepas. The Blind River and Lake Maurepas collectively form the southern border. The Natalbany River, which drains into Lake Maurepas, forms the southern half of the eastern border. The principal source of flooding in the parish is generally attributed to headwater overflow of the Amite River, Colyell Creek, Middle Colyell Creek, Grays Creek, Millers Canal, Blind River, and Blood River; also, backwater overflows occur along the lower portions of the Colton Creek, Grays Creek, Long Slash Branch, Beavery Creek, Bayou Barbary, Allen Bayou, Colyell Creek, Blood River, and Blind River.

Historically, Livingston Parish has experienced significant flooding due to 16 major flood events which occurred between 1990 and 2020 (SDMI, 2021). Based on previous flood events, the risk of flooding varies with the topography. Riverine flooding and excess stormwater primarily affect the low-lying areas (i.e., the unincorporated areas) in the parish, and flood depths of up to five feet can be expected. The incorporated areas of Denham Springs, Walker, Livingston, Port Vincent, and French Settlement can expect flood depths from three to five feet, while the incorporated areas of Albany, Killian, and Springfield can expect flood levels up to three feet.

4.3.3 Environmental Consequences

Practicable Alternatives to locating the proposed action in the floodplain were identified and evaluated. Various practicability factors were considered including feasibility, social concerns, hazard reduction, mitigation costs, and environmental impacts.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 1 was reviewed for possible impacts associated with occupancy or modification to a floodplain. The City of Denham Springs enrolled in the NFIP on October 15, 1981. Based on FIRM panel number 22063C0205E dated April 3, 2012, the DSHA facility is located entirely in Zone AE, area of 100-year flooding (i.e., 1% annual chance of flooding). The BFE is 44 feet.

Per 44 C.F.R. § 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through its participation in the NFIP. The "No Action" Alternative would have no additional adverse impacts to the floodplain. However, the DHSA facility would remain susceptible to the 1% annual chance of flooding because the existing foundation is not elevated to the FEMA approved BFE. In addition, access to the location would be restricted in the event of a flood and would adversely affect the ability to evacuate. Thus, Alternative 1 does not meet the purpose and need of the project.

The National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) FIRMette, accessed on February 23, 2023 (at https://msc.fema.gov/portal), of the DSHA facility at its current location is shown in Figure 11.

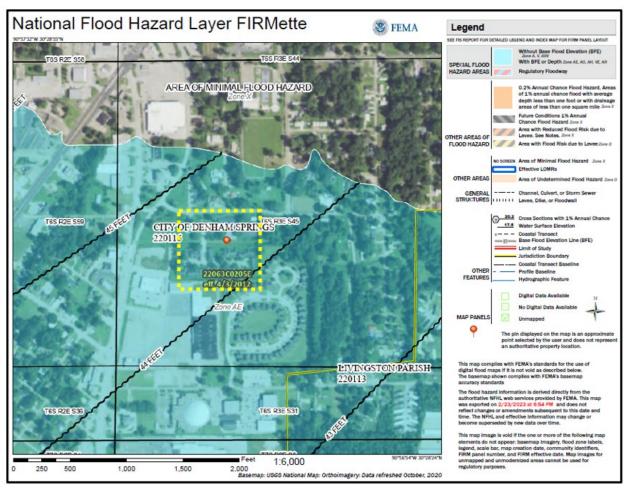


Figure 11 – NFHL FIRMette of the DSHA facility at its current location (Lat/Long: 30.477507, -90.953673).

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Authority Facilities at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative

Alternative 3 was reviewed for possible impacts associated with occupancy or modification to a floodplain. The enrollment date in the NFIP for City of Denham Springs is October 15, 1981. Based on FIRM panel numbers 22063C0205E and 22063C0210E dated April 3, 2012, the proposed construction site is located in unshaded Zone X, outside the 500-year floodplain (i.e., area of minimal flood hazard). Based on FIRM panel number 22063C0205E dated April 3, 2012, DSHA's original facilities are located entirely in Zone AE, area of 100-year flooding (i.e., 1% annual chance of flooding). As such, the proposed alternative location was determined to be the most practicable as the entire site is located outside the SFHA. DSHA is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator to ensure compliance with any local codes and NFIP requirements.

The NFHL FIRMette, accessed on February 21, 2023 (at https://msc.fema.gov/portal), of the DSHA facility at its proposed location is shown in Figure 12.

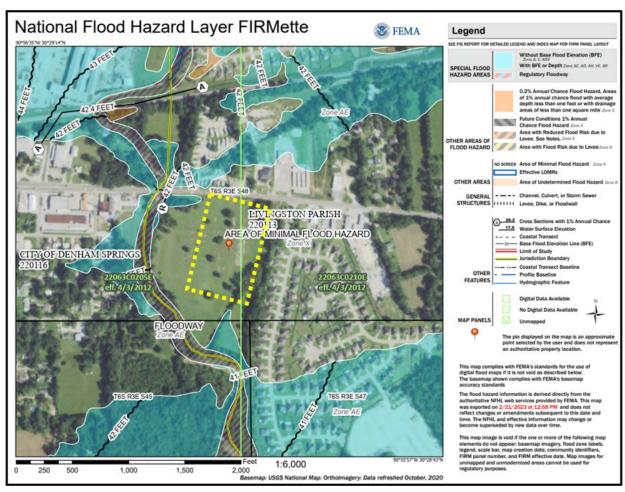


Figure 12 - NFHL FIRMette for the Proposed DSHA New Construction Site (Lat/Long: 30.482972, -90.937788).

4.4 Coastal Resources

4.4.1 Regulatory Setting

4.4.1.1 Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.) is administered by the Department of Commerce's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It applies to all coastal states and to all states that border the Great Lakes. The CZMA was established to help prevent any additional loss of living marine resources, wildlife, and nutrient-enriched areas; alterations in ecological systems; and decreases in undeveloped areas available for public use. The CZMA gives states the authority to determine whether activities of governmental agencies are consistent with federally-approved coastal zone management programs. Each state coastal zone management program must include provisions protecting coastal natural resources, fish, and wildlife; managing development along coastal shorelines; providing public access to the coast for recreational purposes; and incorporating public and local coordination for decision-making in coastal areas. This voluntary federal-state

partnership addresses coastal development, water quality, shoreline erosion, public access, protection of natural resources, energy facility siting, and coastal hazards.

The Federal Consistency provision, contained in § 307 of the CZMA, allows affected states to review federal activities to ensure that they are consistent with the state's coastal zone management program. This provision also applies to non-federal programs and activities that use federal funding and that require federal authorization. Any activities that may have an effect on any land or water use or on any natural resources in the coastal zone must conform to the enforceable policies of the approved state coastal zone management program. NOAA's regulations in 15 C.F.R. Part 930 provide the procedures for arriving at or obtaining a consistency determination.

The CZMA requires that coastal states develop a State Coastal Zone Management Plan or program and that any federal agency conducting or supporting activities affecting the coastal zone conduct or support those activities in a manner consistent with the approved state plan or program. To comply with the CZMA, a federal agency must identify activities that would affect the coastal zone, including development projects, and review the state coastal zone management plan to determine whether a proposed activity would be consistent with the plan.

4.4.1.2 Louisiana State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978

Pursuant to the CZMA, the State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978 (R.S. 49:214.21 et seq. Act 1978, No. 361) is the state of Louisiana's legislation creating the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program (LCRP). The LCRP establishes policy for activities including construction in the coastal zone, defines and updates the coastal zone boundary, and creates regulatory processes. The LCRP is under the authority of the LDNR OCM. If a proposed action is within the Coastal Zone boundary, OCM will review the eligibility of the project concurrently with its review by other federal agencies (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service). The mechanism employed to review these projects is the Coastal Use Permit (CUP). Per the CZMA, all proposed federal projects within the coastal zone must undergo a Consistency Determination by OCM for that project's consistency with the state's Coastal Resources Program (i.e., LCRP) (LDNR 2016).

4.4.1.3 Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 (16 U.S.C. § 3501 et seq.), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), was enacted to protect sensitive and vulnerable barrier islands found along the U.S. Atlantic, Gulf, and Great Lakes coastlines. The CBRA established the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), which is composed of undeveloped coastal barrier islands, including those in the Great Lakes. With limited exceptions, areas contained within a CBRS are ineligible for direct or indirect federal funds that might support or promote coastal development, thereby discouraging development in coastal areas.

4.4.2 Existing Conditions

The project site is located entirely outside the Louisiana Coastal Zone and any regulated CBRA unit. None of the evaluated alternatives involves relocation to the coastal zone or a CBRS unit.

4.4.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would entail no undertaking and therefore, would have no impact on a coastal zone or a CBRS unit.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Authority Facilities at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

All Alternative 3 actions will take place outside the Coastal Zone and any CBRS unit, therefore CZMA and CBRA requirements do not apply.

4.5 Federally Protected Species, Critical Habitats, and Other Biological Resources

4.5.1 Regulatory Setting

4.5.1.1 Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) prohibits the taking of listed, threatened, and endangered species unless specifically authorized by permit from the USFWS or the NMFS. "Take" is defined in 16 U.S.C. 1532 (19) as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct." "Harm" is further defined to include significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering (50 C.F.R. § 17.3) (Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants 1975).

Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires the lead federal agency to consult with either the USFWS or the NMFS, depending on which agency has jurisdiction over the federally listed species in question, when a federally funded project either may have the potential to adversely affect a federally listed species, or a federal action occurs within or may have the potential to impact designated critical habitat. The lead agency must consult with the USFWS, the NMFS, or both (Agencies) as appropriate and will determine if a biological assessment is necessary to identify potentially adverse effects to federally listed species, their critical habitat, or both. If a biological assessment is required, it will be followed by a biological opinion from the USFWS, the NMFS, or both depending on the jurisdiction of the federally listed species identified in the biological assessment. If the impacts of a proposed federal project are considered negligible to federally listed species, the lead agency may instead prepare a letter to the Agencies with a "May Affect, but Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination requesting the relevant agency's concurrence. This EA serves to identify potential impacts and meet the ESA § 7 requirement by ascertaining the risks of the proposed action and Alternatives to known federally listed species and their critical habitat, as well as providing a means for consultation with the Agencies.

4.5.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Unless otherwise permitted by regulation, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-712) prohibits pursuing; hunting; taking; capturing; killing; attempting to take, capture, or kill;

possessing; offering for sale; selling; offering to purchase; purchasing; delivering for shipment; shipping; causing to be shipped; delivering for transportation; transporting; causing to be transported; carrying or causing to be carried by any means whatever; receiving for shipment, transportation, or carriage; or exporting; at any time or in any manner, any migratory bird or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird, that is included on the list of protected bird species (General Provisions; Revised List of Migratory Birds 2013). The USFWS is responsible for enforcing the provisions of this Act.

4.5.2 Existing Conditions

As of the latest updated USFWS threatened and endangered list for Livingston Parish, dated February 27, 2023, one (1) mammal species, the West Indian manatee, two (2) reptile species Alligator snapping turtle and Gopher Tortoise, one (1) clam species, Inflated Heelsplitter, one (1) fish species, the Atlantic Gulf sturgeon (Gulf Subspecies), and (1) bird species, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, are federally listed as threatened or endangered and are known to occur in select waterways and lands within Livingston Parish (see Table 1). The proposed project site is located within the Mississippi Flyway (Mississippi Flyway Council).

Table 1 – Federally Listed Species Known to Occur in Livingston Parish.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	Habitat Requirements	Critical Habitat	Impact* / Rationale
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	Picoides borealis	Endangered	Mature pine forests. Longleaf pines.	Alternative 3 - No	None/There is no suitable habitat at the Alternative 3 site.
Alligator Snapping Turtle	Macrochelys temminckii	Proposed Threatened	Wherever found	Alternative 3 - No	None/There is no suitable habitat at the Alternative 3 site.
Atlantic Gulf sturgeon (Gulf Subspecies)	Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi	Threatened	Anadramous fish species that spends most of its life in freshwater habitats and spawns in estuarine bays. Found in a variety of substrate areas based on age class of species.	Alternative 3 - No	None/There is no suitable habitat at the Alternative 3 site.
West Indian manatee	Trichechus manatus	Threatened	Found in marine, estuarine, and freshwater environments with a strong preference for warm and well-vegetated waters.	Alternative 3 - No	None/There is no suitable habitat at the Alternative 3 site.
Inflated Heelsplitter	Potamilus inflatus	Threatened	Wherever found	Alternative 3 - No	None/There is no suitable habitat at the Alternative 3 site

Common	Scientific	Federal	Habitat	Critical	Impact* / Rationale
Name	Name	Status	Requirements	Habitat	
Gopher Tortoise	Gopherus polyphemus	Proposed Threatened	Wherever found	Alternative 3 - No	None/There is no suitable habitat at the Alternative 3 site

Note: Data accessed February 15, 2023 from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) Project Review and Guidance for Other Federal Trust Resources Online Application hosted by the Louisiana Ecological Services Field Office of the USFWS (https://www.fws.gov/southeast/lafayette/project-review/).

4.5.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would entail no undertaking and, therefore, would have no impact on species federally listed as threatened or endangered, migratory birds, or federally listed critical habitats.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Facilities at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

Relocation and new construction of the housing facilities would have no effect on biological resources. The proposed site existing vegetation is not considered critical habitat and none provides suitable habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species found in Livingston Parish. One of the species of concern in Livingston Parish is the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) (*Picoides borealis*). Per the USFWS Louisiana Ecological Services Office ESA Project Review and Guidance for Other Federal Trust Resources Report dated August 14, 2023 (IPaC Record Locator Number 381-130342523) (Appendix C), the proposed project is outside the critical habitat and would have no effect on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*). There are no critical habitats within the project area under the Louisiana Ecological Services Office's jurisdiction.

In a letter dated February 3, 2023, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) stated that "no impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or critical habitats are anticipated for the proposed project" and "no state or federal wildlife refuges, wildlife management areas, or scenic streams are known to occur at the specified site within Louisiana's boundaries".

4.6 Air Quality

4.6.1 Regulatory Setting

4.6.1.1 Clean Air Act of 1970 (Including 1977 and 1990 Amendments)

The Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.) is the federal law that regulates air emissions from stationary and mobile sources. This law tasks the USEPA, among its other responsibilities, with establishing primary and secondary air quality standards. Primary air quality standards protect the public's health, including the health of "sensitive populations, such as people with asthma, children, and older adults." Secondary air quality standards protect the public's welfare by

promoting ecosystem health, preventing decreased visibility, and reducing damage to crops and buildings. The USEPA also has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the following six (6) criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), lead (Pb), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ground-level ozone (O₃), particulate matter (less than 10 micrometers [PM₁₀] and less than 2.5 micrometers [PM_{2.5}]), and sulfur dioxide (SO₂).

In addition, the USEPA regulates hazardous air pollutants, such as asbestos, under the "air toxics" provisions of the CAA. Section 112 of the CAA established the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and required the USEPA to develop and enforce regulations to protect the public from exposure to airborne contaminants that are known to be hazardous to human health. Major health effects associated with asbestos include lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis (USEPA 2016a).

Under the 1990 amendments to the CAA, the USEPA may delegate its regulatory authority to any state which has developed an approved State Implementation Plan (SIP) for carrying out the mandates of the CAA. The State of Louisiana's initial SIP was approved on July 5, 2011, and its CAA implementing regulations are codified in Title 33.III of the Louisiana Environmental Regulatory Code. The SIP has been revised several times since its original approval.

According to 40 C.F.R. § 93.150(a), "No department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government shall engage in, support in any way or provide financial assistance for, license or permit, or approve any activity which does not conform to an applicable implementation plan." In addition, 40 C.F.R. § 93.150(b) states, "A Federal agency must make a determination that a Federal action conforms to the applicable implementation plan in accordance with the requirements of this subpart before the action is taken." As a result, when FEMA provides financial assistance for a project, such as the one currently under review in this EA, the CAA requires a General Conformity determination whenever the project site is located in a "non-attainment area" for any one (1) of the six (6) criteria pollutants (Revisions to the General Conformity Regulations 2010).

4.6.2 Existing Conditions

Effective March 21, 2017, Livingston Parish was designated by EPA as an ozone attainment area with a maintenance plan under the 8-hour standard (81 FR 95051, December 27, 2016). As part of the ozone maintenance area, federal activities proposed in Livingston Parish may be subject to the State's general conformity regulations as promulgated under LAC 33:III.Chapter 14, Subchapter A, *Determining Conformity of General Federal Actions to State or Federal Implementation Plans*. As a result, a general conformity applicability determination is required for FEMA-funded projects within this parish. Pursuant to both 40 C.F.R. § 93.153(b) and Title 33:III.1405.B.1, the applicable rate and *de minimis* threshold for volatile organic compound (VOC) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions is 100 tons per year.

4.6.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would involve no undertaking and, therefore, would cause no shortor long- term impacts to air quality and no general conformity applicability determination would be required.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA Housing Authority Facilites at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

In an August 25, 2023 email, LDEQ stated, "Currently, Livingston Parish is classified as a maintenance area with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. However, since your general conformity determination shows that the proposed VOC and NOx emissions will be less than the de minimis levels, the Department has no objections to implementation of this project" (Appendix C). The sub-recipient provided a detailed list of equipment and vehicles proposed for use in project, which were used to calculate the estimated quantity of VOC and NOx emissions.

This alternative potentially includes short-term impacts to air quality resulting from construction activities. Particulate emissions from the generation of fugitive dust during project construction would likely be increased temporarily in the immediate project vicinity. Other emission sources on site could include internal combustion engines from work vehicles, air compressors, or other types of construction equipment. These effects would be localized and of short duration.

To reduce potential short term effects to air quality from construction-related activities, the contractor would be responsible for using BMPs to reduce fugitive dust generation and diesel emissions. Emissions from the burning of fuel by internal combustion engines could temporarily increase the levels of some of the criteria pollutants, in cluding CO₂, NO_x, O₃, and PM₁₀, and non-criteria pollutants such as VOCs. To reduce these emissions, running times for fuel-burning equipment should be kept to a minimum and engines should be properly maintained.

4.7 Noise

4.7.1 Regulatory Setting

Noise is commonly defined as unwanted or unwelcome sound and most commonly measured in decibels (dBA) on the A-weighted scale (i.e., the scale most similar to the range of sounds that the human ear can hear). The Day-Night Average Sound Level (DNL) is an average measure of sound over a 24-hour period. The DNL descriptor is accepted by federal agencies as a standard for estimating sound impacts and establishing guidelines for compatible land uses. Sound is federally regulated by the Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.), which charges the USEPA with preparing guidelines for acceptable ambient noise levels. USEPA guidelines, and those of many other federal agencies, state that outdoor sound levels in excess of 55 dBA DNL are "normally unacceptable" for noise-sensitive land uses including residences, schools, places of worship, or hospitals (USEPA 1974). The Noise Control Act, however, only charges

implementation of noise standards to those federal agencies that operate noise-producing facilities or equipment.

Within Livingston Parish, the noise control program is administered through the combined efforts of the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office and Livingston Parish Department of Public Works. The rules concerning the noise can be found in the Livingston Parish Council Code of Ordinances, Chapter 5.5, Article II, § § 11-17. Concerning construction noise, it is unlawful to operate power equipment between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on weekdays, and between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. on weekends. However, installation and maintenance of public and private utilities as well as construction activities for which a permit has been issues are limited to work during the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in zoned residential areas (Section 5.5-13h). During these hours, none of the noise produced by machinery <5 horsepower shall exceed levels of 75dBA. Machinery over five horsepower shall not exceed 82 dBA.

4.7.2 Existing Conditions

Average acceptable day-night sound pressure levels fall in a range between 50 dB in quiet suburban areas to 70 dB in very noisy urban areas (USEPA 1974). The day-night sound level is a cumulative metric that accounts for the total sound energy occurring over a 24-hour period, with nighttime noise (occurring from 10 pm to 7 am) more heavily weighted to reflect community sensitivity during nighttime hours. Seventy-five (75) dB is generally considered unacceptable in urban areas with 85 dB being unacceptable in industrial areas (Housing and Urban Development [HUD]). The existing DSHA site is immediately adjacent to LA 3002, a four-lane divided highway.

4.7.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under the "No Action" Alternative there would be no short- or long-term impact to noise levels because no construction or demolition would occur.

Relocation and New Construction of the DSHA New Housing Authority Development at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

Under this alternative, construction activities would result in short-term increases in noise during the construction period. Equipment and machinery utilized on the project site is required to meet all local, state, and federal noise regulations. Following completion of construction activities, operations at the new site is not expected to result in any significant increases in noise levels. DSHA should monitor noise generators and highway generated noise to ensure residents are not adversely impacted. Corrective action must be implemented if noise levels exceed the permissible level.

4.8 Traffic

4.8.1 Regulatory Setting

Roads play a major role in the management of traffic, particularly in densely-populated urban areas such as Denham Springs. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LADOTD) is responsible for maintaining public transportation, state highways, interstate highways under state jurisdiction, and bridges located within the state of Louisiana. These duties include the planning, design, and building of new highways in addition to the maintenance and upgrading of current highways. Roads not part of any highway system usually fall under the jurisdiction of and are maintained by applicable local government entities; however, the LADOTD is responsible for assuring that all local agency federal-aid projects comply with all applicable federal and state requirements (LADOTD 2016).

4.8.2 Existing Conditions

The existing DSHA housing site is surrounded by residential properties and commercial development and the amount of traffic on South Range Avenue has steady increased with the development of Denham Springs' business district. Estimated Annual Average Daily Traffic Routine Traffic Counts were conducted by LADOTD at a local level (Parish) at a location along South Range Avenue about 0.2 mile north of the existing DSHA site. The counts generally show that South Range Avenue had 21, 070 vehicles per day in 2022, the latest year for which figures are available (see Figure 13; LADOTD 2023).

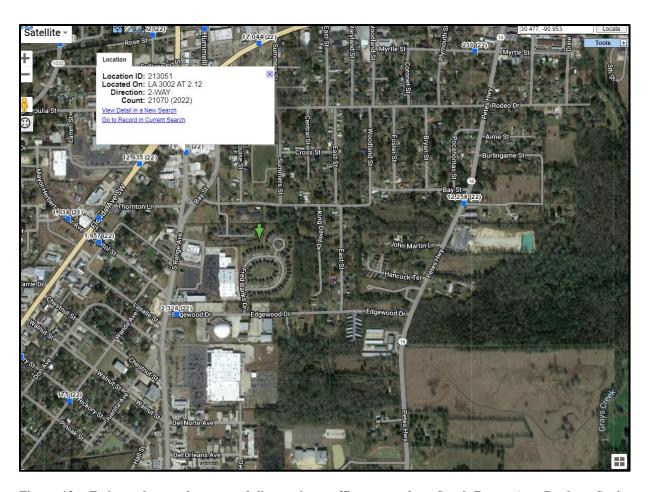


Figure 13 – Estimated annual average daily routine traffic counts along South Range Ave, Denham Springs, near the existing DSHA location.

The proposed site for the DSHA is easily accessible and located 1.5 miles northeast from the original DSHA location. It is located along U.S. Highway 190, a major two-lane divided road. Estimated Annual Average Daily Traffic Routine Traffic Counts were conducted by LADOTD at a local level (Parish) at one location along U.S. Highway 190 about .14 mile north of the site. The counts show that U.S. Highway 190 had traffic counts of 17,150 vehicles per day in 2022; much lower than South Range Ave (see Figure 14; LADOTD 2023).

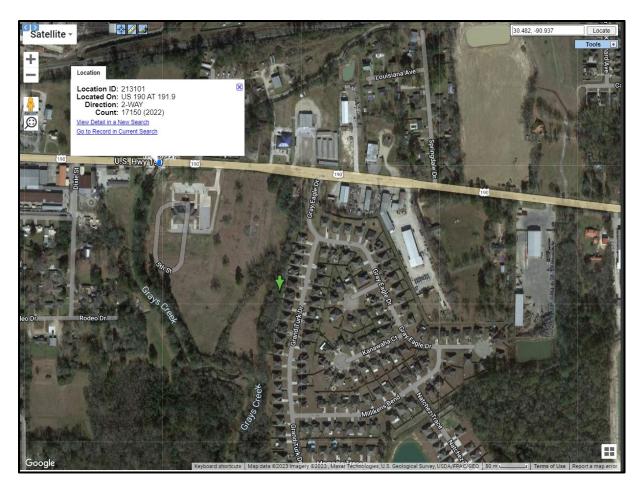


Figure 14 – Estimated annual average daily routine traffic counts along U.S. 190 Highway, Denham Springs, near the proposed DSHA location.

4.8.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the "No Action" Alternative would not adversely affect the site traffic patterns as no construction would occur.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DHSA Housing Authority Development at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative

Under the Preferred Action alternative, a temporary increase in traffic during preliminary construction activities and during construction of the new facility would be expected. Once construction of the new facility components has been completed, traffic would be expected to return to normal. Only minimal long-term effects, if any, on current traffic patterns would likely occur. DHSA is responsible for coordinating with LADOTD to secure appropriate permits and approvals for tieing in to the existing highway.

During construction, the contractor would be expected to take all reasonable precautions to control site access. All activities would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with OSHA work zone traffic safety requirements. The contractor would post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize foreseeable potential public safety concerns. Proper signs and barriers would be in place prior to the initiation of construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of the upcoming work and traffic pattern changes (e.g., detours or lanes dedicated for construction equipment egress).

As a result, no significant permanent traffic impacts would be expected as a result of the proposed operation and future use of the site under Alternative 3.

4.9 Cultural Resources

4.9.1 Regulatory Setting

Consideration of impacts on cultural and historic resources is mandated under Section 101(b)4 of the NEPA, as implemented by 40 CFR Part 1501-1508 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to consider affects undertakings could potentially have on historic properties.

FEMA has chosen to address potential impacts to historic properties through the NHPA's Section 106 consultation process as implemented through 36 CFR Part 800. Requirements for this includes determining if proposed actions or alternatives could potentially affect significant or historic properties defined as archaeological sites, historic districts, standing structures, or other historic resources either listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or determined to be eligible for listing and when such properties are identified by federal agencies, attempts are made to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects proposed actions can have on historic properties.

In order to fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities, FEMA initiated consultation for this project in two Areas of Potential Effect (APEs A and B) in Denham Springs in accordance with the *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, and Participating Tribes, executed on December 21, 2016 (Figure 1). The APEs consist of property at 600 Eugene Street (APE A) where 20 structures were initially proposed to be repaired or mitigated and later, demolished and rebuilt and the property at 30.483039, -90.937535 (center point) on Florida Boulevard (Highway 190) (APE B) is where a new housing facility is proposed to be constructed.*

4.9.2 Existing Conditions – Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties

The property 600 Eugene Street (APE A) shown in Figure 2 measures approximately 6.3 acres containing 15 duplexes, a 10-unit multifamily building, a 12-unit multifamily building, an office building, and a maintenance building built between 1968 and 1969 and a more modern storage building. FEMA originally identified the property as being eligible for funding for permanent repairs and potential mitigation and determined it was "Not Eligible" for listing on the National

Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in a letter submitted to the SHPO on December 13, 2017 and SHPO concurrence with the determination was received on December 22, 2017.

As it was later determined that the facility would be demolished and the structures would be rebuilt at a higher elevation, FEMA consulted with the SHPO for the change in the scope of the proposed work in a letter with a "No Historic Properties" determination on December 31, 2018 and SHPO concurrence with the determination was received on January 16, 2019.

The Denham Springs Housing Authority requested that the facility be rebuilt at a new location on Florida Boulevard (Highway 190) after recognizing that the present location was in an AE flood

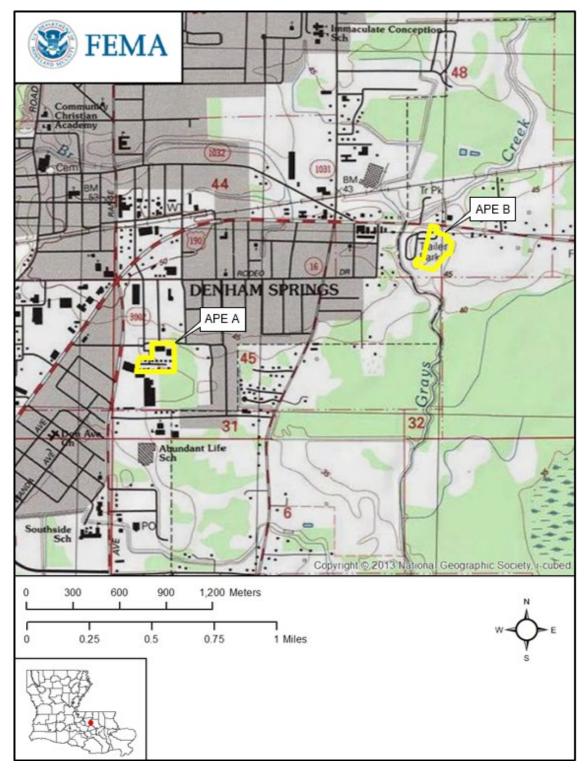


Figure 15. Excerpt from the USGS 1995 Denham Springs 7.5 Minute Series topographic quadrangle map showing locations of APE A at 600 Eugene Street and APE B at 30.482972, -90.937788 on Florida Boulevard (Highway 190) in Denham Springs (Scale 1:24,000).

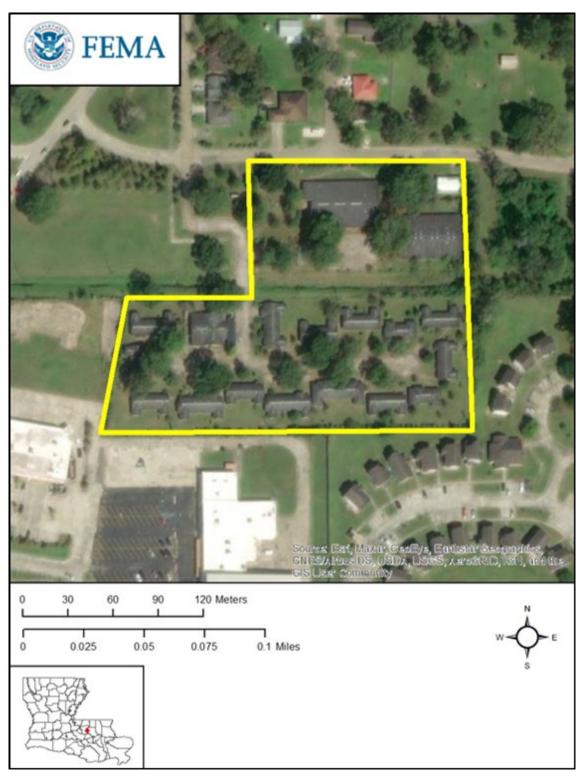


Figure 16. Aerial image showing the APE at APE A at 600 Eugene Street in Denham Springs (Scale 1:12,000).

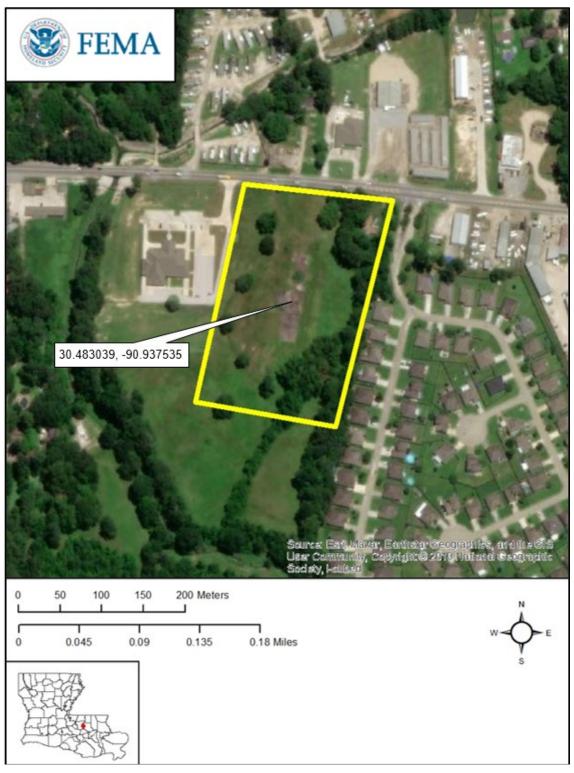


Figure 17. Aerial image showing the APE at APE B (30.482972, -90.937788) on Florida Boulevard (Highway 190) in Denham Springs (Scale 1:12,000).

zone and elevating the structures would not be accessible for elderly and people with disabilities residing in the structures.

Alternative 1 – No Action

Implementation of the "No Action" Alternative would not adversely effect historic properties or cultural resources.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DHSA Housing Authority Development at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

The most practical undertaking for residents of the facility will entail constructing 20 single-story administrative and housing buildings with one, two, three, and four bedroom units; concrete roads with parking spaces and sidewalks; and a detention pond and swale within an estimated five acre area on Florida Boulevard (Highway 190) (APE B) as shown in Figure 3.

The sub-recipient provided FEMA with results of a Phase I archaeological survey conducted in APE B in a report titled *Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of 8.6 Acres (3.5 Hectares) near Denham Springs, Livingston Parish, Louisiana* (McMains and Shuman 2022). The survey of 8.6 acres was done on May 19, 2022. No artifacts or features were identified in thirty-one shovel tests excavated in the area and a circa 1940 single story residence considered ineligible for listing on the NRHP was identified in the 0.5 acre northeastern corner of the archaeological APE. SHPO concurred with Dr. Malcolm Shuman's determination that no historic properties listed on the NRHP or eligible for listing would be affected by the proposed construction on June 28, 2022.

FEMA consulted on the proposed construction with the SHPO and Tribes sharing an interest in the area including Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Kialegee Tribal Town, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana on August 4, 2022 with a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected." The SHPO concurred with the determination on August 12, 2022 and tribal concurrence was received from the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians on September 2, 2022, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma on September 6, 2022, and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma on September 26, 2022.

4.10 Hazardous Materials

4.10.1 Regulatory Setting

The management of hazardous materials is regulated under various federal and state environmental and transportation laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA); the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know provisions of the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act; and the Louisiana Voluntary Investigation and Remedial Action statute. The purpose of the regulatory requirements set forth under these laws is to ensure the protection of human health and the environment through proper management

(identification, use, storage, treatment, transport, and disposal) of these materials. Some of the laws provide for the investigation and cleanup of sites already contaminated by releases of hazardous materials, wastes, or substances.

The TSCA (codified at 15 U.S.C., Ch. 53), authorizes the USEPA to protect the public from "unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment" by regulating the introduction, manufacture, importation, sale, use, and disposal of specific new or already existing chemicals. "New Chemicals" are defined as "any chemical substance which is not included in the chemical substance list compiled and published under [TSCA] § 8(b)." Existing chemicals include any chemical currently listed under § 8(b), including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), asbestos, radon, lead-based paint, chlorofluorocarbons, dioxin, and hexavalent chromium.

TSCA Subchapter I, "Control of Toxic Substances" (§§ 2601-2629), regulates the disposal of PCB-containing products, sets limits for PCB levels present within the environment, and authorizes the remediation of sites contaminated with PCBs. Subchapter II, "Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response" (§§ 2641-2656), authorizes the USEPA to impose requirements for asbestos abatement in schools and requires accreditation of those who inspect asbestos-containing materials. Subchapter IV, "Lead Exposure Reduction" (§§ 2681-2692), requires the USEPA to identify sources of lead contamination in the environment, to regulate the amounts of lead allowed in products, and to establish state programs that monitor and reduce lead exposure.

4.10.2 Existing Conditions

USEPA database searches for the existing and proposed project areas and vicinity reveal that a number of hazardous waste sites are located along South Range Road and U.S. Highway 190. Four (4) of these sites are located within 0.5 miles of the Alternative 2 site (South Range Road). Two (2) of these sites are located within 0.5 miles of the Alternative 3 site (U.S. Highway 190) (Figures 18 and 19).

The LDEQ's Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) database was also reviewed for e Alternative 3 location. There no records for hazardous waste management and disposal, solid waste disposal, leaking underground storage tank, or enforcement issues for either location.

There are no recorded oil or gas wells on the Alternative 3 site (LDEQ 2015a, 2015b; USEPA 2015b, 2015c).

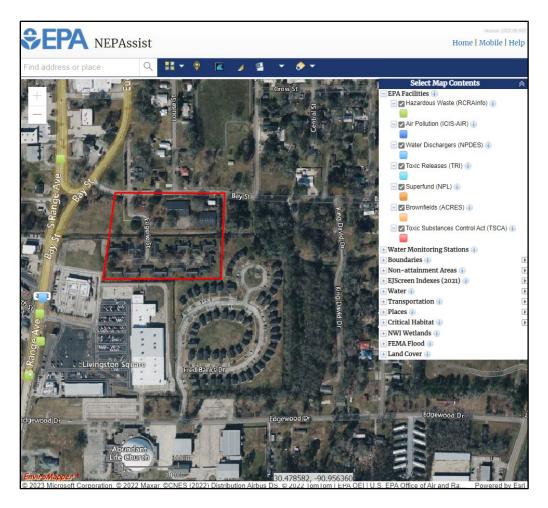


Figure 18 - Map showing EPA regulated sites at existing DSHA location (NEPAssist, 2023).

4.10.3 Environmental Consequences

Alternative 1 – No Action

Under this alternative, there would be no action taken. Thus, there would be no disturbance of any hazardous materials or the creation of any additional hazards to human health.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DHSA Housing Authority Development at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

Under this action alternative, as with all construction activities, there is a possibility of encountering hazardous materials or suspected hazardous materials during construction activities.

During excavation and construction activities, the contractor would be expected to take all reasonable precautions to control unauthorized site access. All activities involving the use of hazardous materials would be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with OSHA safety requirements. Should unanticipated hazardous materials or suspected hazardous materials (such

as buried waste drums) be encountered, the construction contractor would stop work immediately and notify the LDEQ. Work would remained stopped until LDEQ personnel could access the site and if necessary, remove hazardous materials.

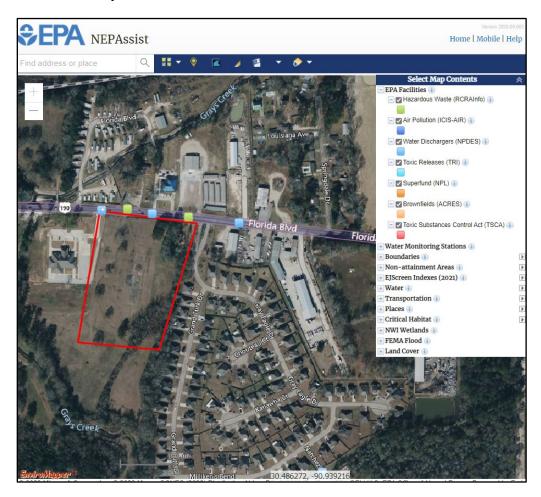


Figure 19 - Map showing EPA regulated sites at new proposed DSHA location (NEPAssist, 2023).

4.11 Environmental Justice

4.11.1 Regulatory Setting

E.O. 12898, entitled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," was signed on 11 February 1994 (U.S. President. 1994). The E.O. directs federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high adverse human health, environmental, economic, and social effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority and/or low-income populations.

4.11.2 Existing Conditions

According to the United States Census Bureau 2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimate Data Profile Parish the total population of Denham Springs, Louisiana 70726 was 9,192. The 2020 demographic estimates for Denham Springs were 11% Black or African American, 82% White, 9% Hispanic, 0% American Indian and Alaska Native, 0% Asian and 3% some other race. For the 2021 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey estimated the median household income at \$71,910 (Table 2).

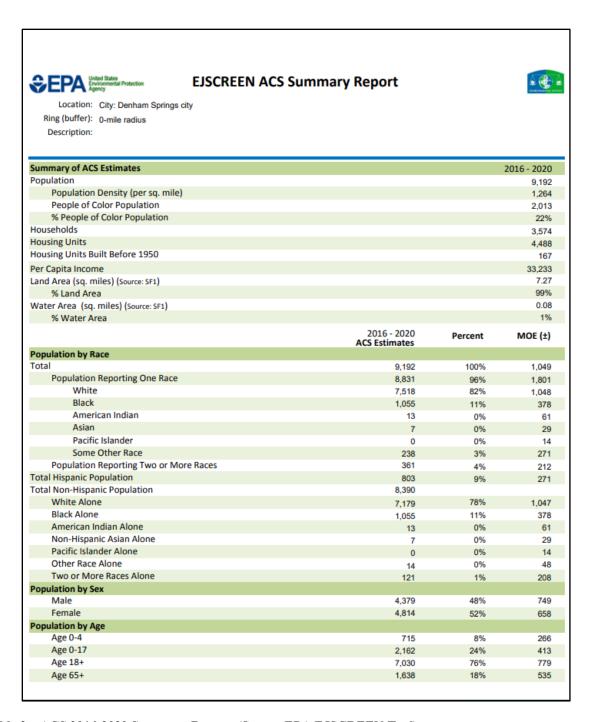


Table 2 – ACS 2016-2020 Summary Report (Source EPA EJSCREEN Tool).

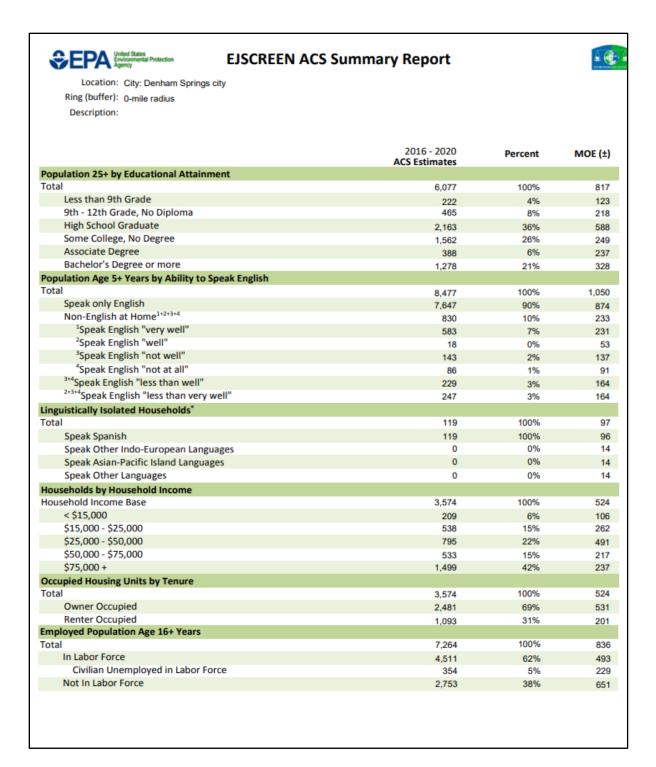


Table 2 – ACS 2016-2020 Summary Report (Source EPA EJSCREEN Tool).

4.11.3 Environmental Consequences

In compliance with E.O. 12898, the following key questions were addressed with regard to potential Environmental Justice concerns:

- Is there an impact caused by the proposed action? No
- Is the impact adverse? No
- Is the impact disproportionate? No
- Has an action been undertaken without considerable input by the affected low-income and/or minority community? No

Alternative 1 – No Action

The "No Action" Alternative would not involve the implementation of a federal program, policy, or activity. As a result, the community would be left without resilient affordable housing stock in areas at lower risk for flooding and in areas of higher opportunity which potentially could result in impacts to low-income or minority populations.

Alternative 3 – Relocation and New Construction of the DHSA Housing Authority Development at an Alternate Site (Preferred Alternative)

Implementation of Alternative 3 would have no disproportionately high adverse human health, economic, or social effects on minority or low-income populations as specified in E.O. 12898. In addition, input from the affected community (to include any low-income and/or minoritites) will be solicited through the public notice process prior to finalization of this EA.

5 CONDITIONS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Based upon the studies, reviews, and consultations undertaken in this EA, several conditions must be met and mitigation measures taken by the Sub-recipient prior to and during project implementation:

- 1. The Sub-recipient must follow all applicable local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and requirements and obtain and comply with all required permits and approvals prior to initiating work.
- 2. If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The sub-recipient shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The sub-recipient shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.

- 3. If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the sub-recipient shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The sub-recipient shall inform their Public Assistance (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The sub-recipient will not proceed with work until FEMA EHP completes consultation with the SHPO, and others as appropriate.
- 4. Sub-recipient must comply with all local, state, and federal requirements related to sediment control, disposal of solid waste, control and containment of spills, and discharge of surface runoff and/or stormwater from the site.
- 5. If the project results in a discharge to waters of the State, an LPDES permit may be required in accordance with the Clean Water Act and the Louisiana Clean Water Code. If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater. In order to minimize indirect impacts (erosion, sedimentation, dust, and other construction-related disturbances) to nearby waters of the U.S. and surrounding drainage areas, the contractor must ensure compliance with all local, state, and federal requirements related to sediment control, disposal of solid waste, control and containment of spills, and discharge of surface runoff and stormwater from the site. All documentation pertaining to these activities and Sub-recipient compliance with any conditions should be forwarded to LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
- 6. All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that the sub-recipient contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
- 7. Per 44 C.F.R. § 9.11(d)(6), no project should be built to a floodplain management standard that is less protective than what the community has adopted in local ordinances through their participation in the NFIP. Per 44 C.F.R. § 9.11(d)(9), for the replacement of building contents, materials, and equipment, where possible disaster-proofing of the building and/or elimination of such future losses should occur by relocation of those building contents, materials, and equipment outside or above the base floodplain. The Sub-recipient is required to coordinate with the local floodplain administrator regarding floodplain permit(s) prior to the start of any activities. All coordination pertaining to these activities and Sub-recipient compliance with any conditions must be documented and copies forwarded to the LA GOHSEP and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.
- 8. In order for to comply with FEMA floodplain requirements and to eligible for project funding, after construction of the proposed project and prior to FEMA project close-out, additional verification will be needed to ensure that proper coordination occurred regarding work within the floodplain. The following documentation will be required:

- a. A copy of the Post-Construction Elevation Certificate (EC) signed/sealed by licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect as well as the local floodplain administrator (LFA); or
- b. If the post-construction EC is not signed by the local Floodplain Administrator, then a Certificate of Occupancy signed by the LFA or a letter from the local Floodplain Administrator stating the structure was built in compliance with the local floodplain ordinance.
- 9. All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
- 10. If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

6 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public is invited to comment on the proposed action. The draft EA and draft FONSI were available for review at the City of Denham Springs Office of Planning and Development at 116 North Range Avenue, Denham Springs, Louisiana 70726 (hours of operation are Monday – Thursday 7:00 am – 5:30 pm, Friday – Sunday closed) and the Denham Springs – Walker Library at 8101 U.S. Highway 190, Denham Springs, Louisiana 70726 (hours of operation are Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 9:00 pm, Friday and Saturday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, closed on Sunday). A display ad was published in *The Livingston Parish News*, the paper of record for Livingston Parish, on Thursday October 26, 2023; Thursday, November 2, 2023; Thursday, November 9, 2023; and in *The Advocate* on Thursday October 26, 2023; Friday, October 27, 2023; Monday, October 30, 2023. The documents were available for download from FEMA's website and the Denham Spring Housing Authority website at http://www.denhamspringshousingauthority.org/. There was thirty (30) day comment period, beginning on Thursday October 26, 2023 and concluding on Monday, November 27, 2023.

A copy of the Public Notice is attached in Appendix G.

7 CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this EA conclude that the proposed action at the proposed site would result in no significant adverse impacts to the natural and human environment, including geology, groundwater, floodplains, public health and safety, traffic, hazardous materials, socioeconomic and biological resources, environmental justice, or cultural resources.

During project construction, short-term impacts to soils, surface water, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated and conditions have been incorporated to mitigate and minimize the effects (see Section 6, Conditions and Mitigation Measures). No long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from the proposed project. Therefore, FEMA finds the proposed action meets the requirements for a FONSI under NEPA and the preparation of an EIS will not be required.

8 AGENCY COORDINATION

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office

Tribal Historic Preservation Office and/or Cultural Offices

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

National Marine Fisheries Service

National Resources Conservation Service

9 LIST OF PREPARERS

Tiffany Spann-Winfield – Deputy Environmental/Historic Presevation Program Lead, FEMA, Louisiana Integration and Recovery Office

Shalise A. Hadden – Environmental Protection Specialist, FEMA, Louisiana Integration and Recovery Office

Alicia M. Oliver – Environmental Protection Specialist, FEMA, Louisiana Integration and Recovery Office

Maria M. Tavaszi – Environmental and Historical Protection Specialist, FEMA, Louisiana Integration and Recovery Office

10 REFERENCES

- Clean Air Act of 1970. Statutes at large. 1970. Vol. 84, secs. 1-16, 1676; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-84/pdf/STATUTE-84-Pg1676.pdf. Amended: Clean Air Act Amendments of 1977. Statutes at large. 1977. Vol. 91, secs. 1-406, 685; http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-91/pdf/STATUTE-91-Pg685.pdf. Amended: Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. 1990. Vol. 104, secs. 101-1101, 2399; http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-104/pdf/STATUTE-104-Pg2399.pdf; Internet; accessed 25 September 2019.
- Clean Water Act of 1977. Statutes at large. 1977. Vol. 91, secs. 1-78, 1566; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-91/pdf/STATUTE-91-Pg1566.pdf. Original: Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Statutes at large. 1972. Vol. 86, secs. 1-13, 816; http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-86/pdf/STATUTE-86-Pg816.pdf. Amended: Water Quality Act. Statutes at large. 1987. Vol. 101, secs. 1-525, 7; http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-101/pdf/STATUTE-101-Pg7.pdf; Internet; accessed 4 October 2019.
- Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. Statutes at large. 1972. Vol. 86, secs. 301-315, 1280; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-86/pdf/STATUTE-86-Pg1280.pdf; Internet; accessed 25 September 2019.
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Statutes at large. 1980. Vol. 94, secs. 101-308, 2767; as amended through 31 December 2002; available from http://www.epw.senate.gov/cercla.pdf; Internet; accessed 25 September 2019.
- Council on Environmental Quality. 2007. Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act. Executive Office of the President. Washington, DC: GPO; available from http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/nepapub/nepa_documents/RedDont/G-CEQ-ConsidCumul Effects.pdf; Internet; accessed 25 September 2019.
- Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. 1975. 17 C.F.R. §§ 1-108. Federal Register 40 (26 September): 44415 ff.
- Endangered Species Act of 1973. Statutes at large. 1973. Vol. 87, secs. 1-17, 884; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-87/pdf/STATUTE-87-Pg884.pdf; Internet; 14 August 2019.
- Environmental Considerations. 1980. 44 C.F.R. §§ 10. Federal Register 45 (18 June): 41142 ff. Amended 2009. Federal Register 74 (3 April): 15328-15357; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-04-03/pdf/E9-6920.pdf; Internet; accessed 26 August 2019.
- Farmland Protection Policy Act. Statutes at large. 1981. Vol. 95, secs. 1539-1549, 1341; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-95/pdf/STATUTE-95-Pg1213.pdf. Amended 1985. Statutes at large, Vol. 99, sec. 1255, 1518;

- http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-99/pdf/STATUTE-99-Pg1354.pdf; Internet; accessed 4 September 2019.
- Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. 1980. 44 C.F.R. §§ 9. Federal Register 45 (9 September): 59526 ff. Amended 2009. Federal Register 74 (3 April): 15328-15357; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2009-04-03/pdf/E9-6920.pdf; Internet; accessed 23 February 2023.
- Frazier, D. E., 1967. Recent deltaic deposits of the Mississippi: their development and chronology: Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies Transactions, v. 27, p. 287-315.
- General Provisions; Revised List of Migratory Birds. 2013. 50 C.F.R. §§ 10 and 21. Federal Register 78 (1 November): 65844-65864; available from http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/Regulations Policies/mbta/MBTA%20LIst%20of%20Brds%20Final%20Rule.pdf; Internet; accessed 23 August 2019.
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. 2019. Electronic Document Management System (EDMS). Database on-line; available from http://edms.deq.louisiana.gov/; Internet; accessed 22 August 2019.
- Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. 2014. LaDOTD website; available from http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov/; Internet; accessed 2 March 2023.
- Lousiana Department of Transportation and Development. LaDOTD Estimated Annual Average Daily Traffic Routine Traffic Counts interactive mapper. 2019. LaDOTD website; available from http://www.apps.dotd.la.gov/engineering/tatv/; Internet; accessed 2 March 2023.
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. 2019. Rare Animals of Louisiana: Red-cockaded of Louisiana, Picoides borealis. Available online from http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/fact_sheet_animal/32284-Picoides%20borealis/picoides_borealis.pdf. [Accessed 01 October 2019].
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Statutes at large. 1918. Vol. 40, 755, as amended; summary available from https://www.fws.gov/laws/lawsdigest/migtrea.html; Internet; accessed 6 January 2015.
- Mississippi Flyway Council. n.d. The Mississippi Flyway; available from http://mississippi.flyways.us/; Internet; accessed 20 September 2019.
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Statutes at large. 1970. Vol. 83, secs. 1-207, 852; http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-83/pdf/STATUTE-83available from Amended 1975. Statutes at large, Vol. 89, sec. 102, 424; Pg852.pdf. http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-89/pdf/STATUTE-89-Pg424.pdf; Internet; accessed 12 September 2019.

- National Historic Preservation Act. Statutes at large. 1966. Vol. 80, secs. 1-205, 915; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-80/pdf/STATUTE-80-Pg915.pdf. Amended 2006. Statutes at large, Vol. 120, secs. 1 and 216, 3367; http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-120/pdf/STATUTE-120-Pg3367.pdf; Internet; accessed 2 October 2019.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Climate Data Online; available from https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/; Accessed 01 November 2019.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Essential Fish Habitat Mapper; available from https://www.habitat.noaa.gov/protection/efh/efhmapper/index.html; Accessed 23 September 2019.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. What are pelagic fish?; available from https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/pelagic.html; accessed 23 September 2019.
- Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. 2005. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500-1508. Original edition, Federal Register 45 (28 August 1980): 57488-57514; available from http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/NEPA-40C.F.R.1500 1508.pdf; Internet; accessed 17 September 2019.
- Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers. 1986. 33 C.F.R. §§ 320-330. Federal Register 51 (13 November): 41206-41260; available from http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Portals/12/documents/regulatory/pdf/FRs/FR13nov86.pdf; Internet; accessed 5 November 2019.
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Statutes at large. 1976. Vol. 90, secs. 1-4, 2795; as amended through 31 December 2002 available from http://www.epw.senate.gov/rcra.pdf; Internet; accessed 5 November 2019.
- Revisions to the General Conformity Regulations. 2010. 40 C.F.R. §§ 51 and 93. Federal Register 75 (5 April): 17254-17279; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2010-04-05/pdf/2010-7047.pdf; Internet; accessed 4 November 2019.
- Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Statutes at large. 1899. Vol. 30, secs. 1-22, 1121.
- State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act of 1978. Louisiana State Legislature. 1978. No. 361, R.S. 49, sec. 214.21; available from http://www.legis.la.gov/Legis/Law.aspx?d=103626; Internet; accessed 17 November 2014
- Toxic Substances Control Act. Statutes at large. 1976. Vol. 90, secs. 1-31, 2003; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-90/pdf/STATUTE-90-Pg2003.pdf; Internet; accessed 2 October 2019.

- Transportation Safety Act of 1974. Statutes at large. 1974. Vol. 88, secs. 101-309, 2156; available from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/STATUTE-100/pdf/STATUTE-100-Pg1613.pdf; Internet; accessed 30 September 2019.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2013. National soil survey handbook, title 430-VI. Natural Resources Conservation Service; available from http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/nedc/training/soil/?cid=nrcs142p2_054242; Internet; accessed 20 September 2019.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. 2019. Web Soil Survey. Natural Resources Conservation Service; available from http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx; Internet; accessed 29 August 2019.
- U.S. Department of Commerce. 2016. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau compiled and extrapolated by Enforcement and Compliance History Online. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; available from http://echo.epa.gov/; Internet; accessed 29 August 2019.
- U.S. Department of Commerce. 2016. American FactFinder: Median household income in the past 12 months (in 2016 inflation-adjusted dollars). U.S. Census Bureau; available from http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_12_5YR_B19013&prodType=table; Internet; accessed 23 September 2019.
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security. 2019. Effective Flood Insurance Rate Map. Map number: 22063C0205E (03 April 2012). FEMA; available from https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home; accessed 29 October 2019.
- U.S. Department of the Interior. 2019. National Wetlands Inventory Wetland Mapper. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; available from http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html; Internet; accessed 24 September 2019.
- U. S. Department of the Interior. 2019a. Coastal Barrier Resources Act. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; available from http://www.fws.gov/CBRA/; Internet; accessed 18 October 2019.
- U.S. Department of the Interior. 2019b. Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Species of Louisiana. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; available from http://www.fws.gov/lafayette/pdf/ LA_T&E_Species_List.pdf; Internet; accessed 20 September 2019.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2008. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act- Compensatory Mitigation; available from https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/compensatory-mitigation; Internet; accessed 16 September 2019.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1974. EPA Identifies Noise Levels Affecting Health and Welfare; available from http://www2.epa.gov/aboutepa/epa-identifies-noise-levels-affecting-health-and-welfare/; Internet; accessed 25 September 2019.

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2019a. Envirofacts Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Search; available from http://www.epa.gov/enviro/facts/tri/search.html; Internet, accessed 23 September 2019.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2019b. NEPAssist; available from http://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/entry.aspx; Internet; accessed 23 September 2019.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2019c. The Green Book nonattainment areas for criteria pollutants; available from http://www.epa.gov/oaqps001/greenbk/; Internet; accessed on 27 August 2019.
- U.S. President. 1977a. Executive Order. Floodplain Management, Executive Order 11988. Federal Register 42 (25 May): 26951; available from http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1438-20490-9495/eo11988.pdf; Internet; accessed 12 September 2019.
- U.S. President. 1977b. Executive Order. Protection of Wetlands, Executive Order 11990. Federal Register 42 (25 May): 26961; available from http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/11990.html; Internet; accessed 5 September 2019.
- U.S. President. 1994. Executive Order. Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, Executive Order 12898. Federal Register 59 (16 February): 7629; available from http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf; Internet; accessed 16 September 2019.