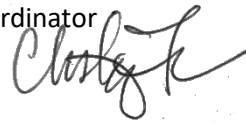




MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

FROM: Christy Fellas, DWH Environmental Compliance Coordinator
NOAA Restoration Center, Southeast Region 

DATE: December 28, 2021

SUBJECT: No Additional ESA or EFH Consultation Needed for Design Refinements
to the Lake Borgne Marsh Creation Project, LA TIG Restoration Plan #1.2

Based on my review of project materials including design updates (see attached) and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Protected Resource Division and Habitat Conservation Division in the South East Regional Office, the NOAA Restoration Center determined that design updates do not require re-initiation of consultation with NOAA.

Project elements have been refined and overall volume of dredge material is not increased, thus the refinement will not result in any discernible changes to the effects of the project to designated Essential Fish Habitat or species and habitats protected under the Endangered Species Act. The EFH and ESA consultations with NMFS were concluded in 2020 and can be found in the DWH administrative record. All BMPs and minimization measures in these consultations remain in effect for implementation.

Dredging Access

Two dredge pipeline access corridors were added between the borrow pits. The original action did not have access corridors between the borrow pits. Dredge Pipeline and Equipment Access Corridor (DPEAC) 8 was added to create 150' dredge access (7' cut) between Borrow Area (BA) 1 and BA2. DPEAC 9 was added to create a 150' dredge access (7' cut) between BA 2 and BA3. Adding these DPAECs will allow the contractor to exit the site in an emergency during low tide.

The additional dredge work will add 20 acres of dredging (original area was 1,043, new is 1,063) however volume of dredge material will not increase. Since the original borrow area volume estimates were higher than needed they were reduced in the US Army Corps of Engineers permit modification so that volume of material would not increase with the addition of the dredge pipeline corridors. Original and updated quantities are shown in the table below.

Borrow Area Quantities				
	Originally Proposed		2021 Update	
Borrow Area	Volume (MCY)	Area (Acres)	Volume (MCY)	Area (Acres)
1	10.13	628	9.88	654
2	6.59	275	6.16	272
3	4.42	140	4.11	137
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>21.14</i>	<i>1043</i>	<i>20.15</i>	<i>1063</i>



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910