

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PROPOSED SITE MODIFICATIONS AT THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM
RESERVE'S WEST HACKBERRY RAW WATER INTAKE STRUCTURE SITE,
CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA

AGENCY: Department of Energy

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (Attachment A) in response to a proposal to modify the West Hackberry (WH) Raw Water Intake Structure (RWIS) located near Hackberry, Louisiana. The EA was prepared in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 40 CFR 1500-1508 and 10 CFR 1021-1022.

Based on the results of the EA and implementation of mitigation activities, the DOE has determined that the proposed action may result in short-term, direct environmental impacts to wetlands, biological and ecological resources, and water resources, with no potential long-term or permanent direct impacts to facility permits. However, as the EA indicates, there would not be a net increase in long-term, permanent, direct, indirect, secondary, or cumulative impacts to the environment as a result of the implementation of the proposed action as most impacts to the environment are short-term; while other potential impacts are predicated only on the occurrence of a facility accident, should one occur.

In summary, while a number of impacts were identified, the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not necessary and DOE is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The DOE will also implement accident and spill mitigation/response activities within the construction specifications for the project. Implementation will be by the construction subcontractor with direct oversight by the Construction Management contractor and verification by DOE.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY: The EA, FONSI, and MAP may be reviewed at [www.spr.doe.gov/Environmental Safety and Health](http://www.spr.doe.gov/Environmental%20Safety%20and%20Health). Copies of the documents may be obtained from:

U.S. Department of Energy
Strategic Petroleum Reserve Project Office
Reading Room/Library DOE
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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action is comprised of an overall modification of the WH RWIS site, including expansion of the existing site footprint and several other activities such as:

- Installation of additional perimeter lighting, fencing and adjustment to Closed Circuit Television (CCTV),
- Grading of additional adjoining property acquired for modification to the RWIS site,
- Installation of an additional jib crane at the RWIS to facilitate the handling of RWIS pumps and motors,
- Installation of additional bulkhead and crushed limestone in the westernmost portion of the area to additional property to be acquired adjoining the RWIS site,
- Installation of a process water well for construction and equipment wash down,
- Placement of new sheet pile and fill two feet in front of and parallel to the existing degraded sheet pile to protect south bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) from vessel wake erosion,
- Extension of existing pipes for the installation of a new scraper pig launcher, and
- Placement of new guard pilings to protect the modified piping.

The modification of the WH RWIS site will also be accompanied by land acquisition including fee-simple acquisition of approximately 0.2 hectare (ha) (0.51 acres) consisting of additional perimeter property along the existing fence line [addition of 4.9 m (16 ft) on the east side, addition of 22.3 m (73 ft) on the west side and addition of 3.4 m (11 ft) on the south side], additional frontage on the GIWW [addition of 2.7 m (9 ft)], and acquisition of temporary construction easement near the RWIS site, approximately 4.8 ha (12 acres). The EA has been prepared in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 40 CFR 1500-1508 and 10 CFR 1021 and includes information required by 10 CFR 1022.

ALTERNATIVES: Under the no action alternative, the WH facility would continue to operate as it is currently configured. The no action alternative does allow the WH facility to continue operations at its current facility capacity and inventory, though with degraded operational and maintenance flexibility.

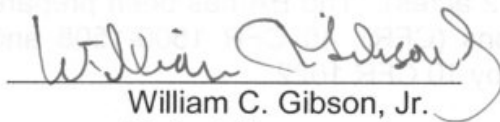
Other alternatives were considered but dismissed due to their potential of increasing the chances for a spill or release and because they are more dangerous and disruptive activities. They are discussed in section 2.3 of Attachment A.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: Short-term, direct environmental impacts to wetlands have been identified and outweigh the long term permanent impacts of the no action alternative. There will be negative short-term impacts without any irreversible affects. The proposed action to modify and upgrade the Raw Water Intake Structure (RWIS) site has potential direct, indirect or secondary, but no cumulative impacts associated with its implementation. These impacts are to wetlands, biological and ecological resources, and water resources. The impacts were analyzed and found to be minor in relation to the overall ongoing WH facility activities and do not represent a significant degradation to the environment. However, as the EA indicates, there would not be a net increase in long-term, permanent, direct, indirect, secondary, or cumulative impacts to the environment as a result of the implementation of the proposed action, as most impacts to the environment are short-term and/or predicated on the potential occurrence of a facility accident. Accident analyses conducted indicate that potential risks associated with implementation of the proposed action are not imminently dangerous to human health or the environment.

MITIGATION: Extensive accident, and spill mitigation and response activities will be defined within the construction specification for the project. Implementation will be by the construction subcontractor with direct oversight by the Construction Management contractor and verification by DOE.

DETERMINATION: Based on the analysis in DOE/SPR/EA-1523, the DOE has determined that the proposed action to modify and upgrade the Raw Water Intake Structure (RWIS) at the SPR West Hackberry facility does not constitute a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human or natural environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an EIS will not be required, and the DOE is issuing this FONSI.

Issued in New Orleans, this 10th day of November, 2005.


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