

Construction is in a floodplain with a 100-year flood elevation of 12.0 feet above MSL. The bridge will be constructed below the 100-year flood elevation. In a letter from the St. Tammany Parish Floodplain Coordinator, the Floodplain Coordinator stated that the bridge will have little to no effect on the 100-year floodplain and he has no objections to the proposed project.

RELATED FACTORS: The Coast Guard, lead federal agency for the proposed project, has reviewed the applicant prepared environmental assessment. Based on the environmental assessment submitted with the application, the Coast Guard has tentatively determined that the proposed action will not have a significant impact on the environment for purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared as the final environmental document for the proposed project unless significant impacts are revealed by this public notification process. The environmental assessment is available for review at the address given above. Coast Guard permitting action is limited to the bridge and approaches.

Waterfront Developers, L. L. C. owns all of the land and water bottoms where the bridge will be constructed, and no additional right-of-way will be required. No relocations will be required for the project. No parkland, recreational areas, archaeological sites or wildlife refuges will be impacted by the project. No prime farmland will be taken and no significant effects on public utilities, fire protection or other emergency services are anticipated. Less than 0.05 acre of wetlands will be affected by the project. The applicant has applied for a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for use of the wetlands. The applicant will place approximately 60 yards of fill for the island approach of the bridge. The applicant has stated that there are no known threatened or endangered species in the project area.

The applicant has applied to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) for Water Quality Certification for the project in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The applicant must also apply to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for air quality consistency certification. The project is located within of the Louisiana Coastal Zone. However, as there are no state-owned bottoms involved with this project, the State of Louisiana, Department of Natural Resources has found this to be a matter of local concern and has forwarded the application to the St. Tammany Parish Coastal Management Program for review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Less than 0.05 acre of wetlands exist within the project area. However, since the project exists within tidally influenced waters, it may have an impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries. The Coast Guard's final determination, relative to the project impacts and the need for mitigation measures, is subject to review by and coordination with the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service.

Comments are solicited regarding the possible impacts this project may have on minority or low-income populations.