



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

October 31, 2013

Mr. John Fiorentino
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
MVN-PDC-CEC
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) #517 titled Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico, Louisiana, Designation of Additional Disposal Areas for Head of Passes, Southwest Pass, and South Pass. The proposed action will designate additional disposal areas for the placement and beneficial use of dredged material removed during maintenance dredging of the main stem Mississippi River. The dredged material will be placed in the West Bay of the Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area and the Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

- If dredged material placement on submerged aquatic vegetation, marsh, or existing wetlands cannot be avoided, it is recommended that no more than six inches of material be placed. EPA recommends that compensatory mitigation or remediation take place for any dredged material placement within existing wetlands greater than six inches.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments for the Draft EA. Please send the Final EA to my attention. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, do not hesitate to call me at 214-665-8006, or contact Keith Hayden of my staff, at 214-665-2133 or hayden.keith@epa.gov for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Smith", is written over the typed name.

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Office of Planning
and Coordination