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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VI
1600 PATTERSON
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201

October 1, 1975

Colonel Early J. Rush, III
District Engineer
New Orleans District
Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

Dear Colonel Rush:

The Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed your plans for placement of dredged material for the Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project, as described in your Public Notice dated November 29, 1974, and your Statement of Findings dated August 22, 1975.

Your disposal plans for the Chalmette, New Orleans East, and the Barrier Units are approved, on the condition that the St. Charles portion of the project be eliminated completely. Although the project will have adverse effects on wetlands in the New Orleans East and Chalmette Units, these areas have been at least partially leveed for some time. The St. Charles area, however, has not been leveed and we believe that destruction of these wetlands is not warranted. We also make the following recommendations on the disposal of dredged material:

1. To the maximum extent feasible, tidal interchange should be allowed into the New Orleans East area until developed areas are threatened.
2. The Seabrook Lock should be constructed as soon as possible in order to reduce salt water intrusion into Lake Pontchartrain.

We appreciate the opportunity to review your dredged material disposal plans, and we will be happy to discuss these comments further if you so desire.

Sincerely yours,

John C. White
John C. White
Regional Administrator

8 OCT 1975

cc: Vance Hughes, Attorney
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water Planning & Standards (WH-551)
Room 737 East Towers
Washington, D. C. 20460