DISPOSITION FORM

For use of this form, see AR 340-15, the proponent agency is TAGCEN.

REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL	SUBJECT
LMVPD-P	Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity - Restudy and Revision of Environmental Impact Statement

TO MG William E. Read FROM Act C/Plng Div DATE 8 Oct 80 CMT 1

Robbins/ea/5835

1. A status report for the Quarter ending 30 September 1980 is inclosed for information.

2. The report indicates a slippage of 19 months in the study schedule approved 23 March 1979. This is an increase of 9 months in the slippage reported for the quarter ending 30 June 1980. The additional slippage is indicated to be due primarily to delays in completing Phase I (baseline and characterizations) studies of nutrient and toxic substance chemistry, which are being performed under contract by the University of New Orleans. The delays are attributed to difficulties encountered in sample collecting, delays in equipment delivery, and equipment failures.

3. Phase II studies of nutrient chemistry and of biological and hydrological transport, according to the status report, can probably be initiated by the University of New Orleans and Louisiana State University, respectively, in November 1980. These studies would be synchronized and should provide for one full year of field sampling followed by preparation of a report, which would require about 5 months to complete. A report on the contract studies is currently scheduled for completion in April 1981 - 6 months beyond November 1980. Therefore, the obvious slippage is only 11 months (17 months minus 6 months), and the New Orleans District has been asked to furnish a more complete explanation of the reported 19 months slippage. A follow-up report will be furnished.

1 Incl
as

GENE H. HILL

CF:
COL Cannon
Mr. Resta
Mr. Holland
Dr. Gardner

DA FORM 1 FEB 62 2496 REPLACES DD FORM 96, WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

Mr. Ramsdell
Mr. Robinson

Date Prepared 30 Sep 80

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN, LOUISIANA AND VICINITY
EIS RESTUDY-STATUS REPORT
For the Period of 1 July - 30 September 1980

1. Reference currently approved study schedule (Incl 1).

2. Discussion of major work items is keyed to inclosure 1.

a. Engineering Studies-

(1) Design and Cost Estimates--Pertinent replacement costs and construction schedules were completed in Mar 80.

(2) Reanalysis of Flooding Potential--Preproject and existing conditions are proceeding on schedule in accordance with the revised time table furnished in the 1 January - 31 March 1980 report. Completion of this study item is anticipated by 5 October 1980. (Last date was 30 Sep 80)
(Last date was 15 Oct)

(3) WES Model Studies--We now estimate that the WES modeling effort will be completed by 15 Dec 80. This constitutes a 2-month slip in the schedule furnished in our 10 July 1980 report. Technical difficulties coupled with a change in computer system is the cause for the slip in schedule.

b. Environmental Studies-

(1) LSU Baseline Contract--Review of final report was completed 7 August 1980. There have been some delays in printing of the report, principally because of its large size. Distribution copies will be available by 15 October 1980. (Last date 30 July 80)

(2) Barrier Transport Contracts--Louisiana State University (LSU) phase I studies concerning the biological and hydrological transport have been completed and reviewed by the Corps and Technical Advisory Group (TAG). A Preliminary scope for phase II studies were prepared and submitted for TAG review. The TAG comments on the preliminary scope were completed and received 19 September 1980. The review comments are presently being incorporated into the finalized phase II scope. This scope should be completed within the next 2 weeks and will be sent for LSU proposal as soon as district approval is granted. The level of approval for the Government Cost Estimate will depend on the estimate amount and therefore the time involved in obtaining this approval is presently unknown.

Provided LSU produces a timely proposal response, negotiations for phase II studies may begin by late October and a mid-November initiation of phase II studies is foreseen.

The University of New Orleans (UNO) phase I studies concerning nutrient and toxic substance chemistry are presently behind schedule due to difficulties in

sample collecting, delay in equipment delivery and equipment failure. Their phase I report on nutrient chemistry is expected by the end of September.

This report must then be reviewed by the Corps and TAG before progressing to phase II. However, due to the previously mentioned equipment problems, the phase I report on toxic substance chemistry will not be completed until mid-October at the earliest and this is contingient on whether the instrument supplier replaces the malfunctioning unit in a timely manner.

This delay further magnifies the synchrony problem between the biological (LSU) and chemical (UNO) portions of the phase II contract. However, UNO has indicated that if we can shorten the time between phase I review and negotiations for phase II they could synchronize phase II nutrient chemistry with LSU, they could begin no earlier than mid-November 1980. Depending on the time required for equipment replacement the toxic substance chemistry can probably be brought into synchrony during the course of phase II.

Therefore, in lieu of accruing further delay cost from LSU, the nutrient portion of the UNO contract will be synchronized with LSU for phase II work. It is important that the nutrients be synchronized with the biology and hydrology to determine accurate transport estimates. The toxic substance chemistry, on the other hand, is being collected for baseline and characterization purposes; thus, the importance of its synchrony with the transport data is not as essential.

Employing this approach, the LSU and UNO contracts will have slipped their originally anticipated start dates by 11 and 14 months, respectively. This would impact the original schedule by a total of 19 months. Under this schedule transport studies should be completed by September 1982.

(3) Preparation of DEIS--Presuming no further delays as well as a timely review of phase I by WES and TAG, preparation of the DEIS should begin by January 1983.

c. Economic Reanalysis--Current efforts primarily consist of finalizing collection of baseline-type data. Population and land-use forecasts are nearing completion. Computations of existing and future inundation reduction benefits should begin early in the next quarter. Previous problems with the economics study contractor have been mostly resolved.

3. Discussion of Other Items--A comparison of alternatives, for plan formulation purposes, has been accomplished. These investigations indicate that a "High-Level," or "Levees Only," type of plan is more economically feasible and less environmentally damaging (based strictly on direct construction impacts) than a plan incorporating the barrier features of the authorized plan. The data supporting these conclusions are currently undergoing district review.

4. General Discussion--At present, the currently approved study schedule has slipped 19 months, due to delays in the Barrier Contract, which is now critical to our study efforts. This would result in a Final EIS being filed with EPA in December 1983 rather than the currently approved May 1982 submission date. However, if an early decision were to be made that the authorized plan is not the most viable plan, then the critical study path could be dictated by the time required to process the report recommending the change in plans.