

Mr. Wright

LMVPD-P (LMV 23 Mar 81) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, LA, and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project

DA, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MS 39180

23 JUL 81

TO: Commander, New Orleans District

1. I concur in your views and support in concept your recommendation to pursue Option 3. I am unalterably convinced that we must establish and deliberately follow a "fast-track" schedule for completing the reevaluation studies and construction of this project. However, I am not presently convinced that our reevaluation studies and analyses are completed in sufficient depth and detail either to set aside all scheduled biological transport studies or to "select," in any final sense of this word, the high-level plan of protection. I firmly believe that the reevaluation of project alternatives using all presently available data including, but not limited to, the information from Phase I studies by Louisiana State University (LSU) and the University of New Orleans (UNO) is the critical minimum of additional study needed for final plan selection. I also believe that termination of all biological transport studies prior to final plan selection would be premature. Therefore, I have concluded that you should proceed with further study in accordance with the instructions given in the following paragraphs and the comments given at Inclosure 5.

2. You should prepare a notice of intent to supplement the subject EIS for publication in the Federal Register in accordance with ER 200-2-1. This should be accomplished prior to holding the public meeting, which is discussed in para 3c of 1st Indorsement and should be an integral part of the EIS "scoping" process discussed in ER 200-2-2. Also, you should prepare a Plan of Study (POS) summarizing your analysis of the work required to prepare and process a Phase I GDM incorporating the EIS supplement.

3. Your analysis of the work required should be based on the precept that the reevaluation of project alternatives will be completed using all presently available data, including the information and interpretation from relevant studies by the Waterways Experiment Station, from Phase I of studies by LSU and UNO, from previous studies of Lake Pontchartrain by LSU and various agencies, and from relevant studies at other passes along the Gulf Coast. This work effort should be conducted on a "fast-track" schedule, with a target-completion objective of 12-15 months. It should be designed with LMVD staff assistance and coordinated with Dr. Cronin with a view to performing Phase II of studies by LSU and UNO, or their equivalent, as a parallel work effort so that pertinent results therefrom will be available for timely verification of final plan selection and, if necessary, for further impact assessment by a Blue Ribbon Committee.

4. A conference with my staff should be scheduled as the first step in preparation of the POS. Supplemental information, as follows, should be furnished at least 15 days prior to the date scheduled for the conference.

a. A firm estimate of the time and costs to reactivate and complete Contract No. DACW-29-80-C-0056 with LSU. This estimate should include all

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costs of contract modifications necessary and appropriate to make the LSU contract compatible with the UNO contract, including modification thereof outlined in letter, LMNPD-C, dated 13 March 1981, subject: Authority to Negotiate Modification No. 2 to Contract No. DACW 29-80-C-0109.

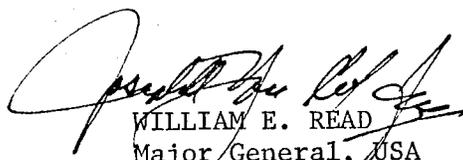
b. An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of terminating the LSU contract and further modifying the UNO contract to incorporate Phase II of the studies presently contracted with LSU.

c. An assessment of the feasibility and advisability of terminating both the LSU and UNO contracts and completing the Phase II studies through another source.

d. A firm estimate of the time and costs for all required data analysis following Phase II of studies by LSU and UNO, to include estimates for a Blue Ribbon Committee assessment of the environmental effects of barriers in the Chef Menteur and Rigolets passes.

5. The POS should be completed within 60 days and submitted for my review and approval. It should be in the format of Inclosure 4 and must contain all specified items of input to provide sufficient information for POS approval. The planning procedures established for stage 3 plan formulation under the Phase I Advanced Engineering and Design (AE&D) Program should be followed from approval of the POS through submittal of the Phase I GDM.

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WILLIAM E. READ
Major General, USA
Commanding

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