DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

January 23, 1985

Planning Division
Plan Formulation Branch

Mr. James T. B. Tripp, Counsel
Mr. David Hoskins, Staff Scientist
Environmental Defense Fund
444 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

Dear Messrs. Tripp and Hoskins:

I refer to your letter of January 8, 1985, expressing your views on the Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project - Reevaluation Study and Mitigation Proposal.

It appears that your main concern involves the basic assumption of the future without project conditions of the New Orleans East area which was previously expressed in Mr. Hoskins' letter of March 6, 1984, in response to the Draft Main Report and Supplement to the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Final Reevaluation Report and EIS clearly state the Corps' basic assumptions regarding the future without project conditions for the entire project area. Although the report does not fully accommodate your desires, the recommendation in the report was made with knowledge of the concerns which you express. Most environmental interests consider the recommended High Level Plan to be more acceptable than the Barrier Plan. It should be noted that the recommended plan includes a major change in the originally authorized levee alignment in St. Charles Parish so that 26,000 acres of wetlands are now excluded from the area to be provided hurricane protection.

My predecessor and I contend that the recommended plan is the best plan to maximize net economic benefits while also protecting the most significant environmental resources of the area.

I appreciate your concern and comments on this project.

Sincerely,

Eugene S. Witherspoon

Eugene S. Witherspoon
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer