



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0103



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

17 MAY 1993

Ms. Martha G. Prothro
Acting Assistant Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear *Ms. Prothro* Prothro:

Thank you for your letter of March 23, 1993, in which you requested higher level review of issues related to a permit application being considered by the Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District. The project, which was proposed by the John M. Smyth Company and the Roman Catholic Church, involved the construction of control structures for the purposes of waterfowl and marsh management within approximately 3,100 acres south of Morgan City, Louisiana. Your request was made pursuant to Part IV of the 1992 Section 404(q) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Department of the Army and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

On March 31, 1993, the applicants withdrew their permit application. As a result, we have determined that additional evaluation by this office is not warranted at this time. We will advise EPA in the event the applicants request the district to reinstate review of the project in the future. If such a request is received, the Corps will determine if the project has been modified and the EPA will be provided an opportunity to review the project prior to the district reaching a final decision. At that time, the EPA will have the option of reinstating the review under Part IV of the MOA.

As part of your request for our review, you recommended completion of a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) initiated by the district for coastal marsh management within Louisiana. We understand that EPA has initiated discussions with the district to explore funding mechanisms that will facilitate completion of the EIS. We wish to express our appreciation and to encourage you to continue your efforts to facilitate completion of the EIS for marsh management activities within coastal Louisiana. We have encouraged the New Orleans District to do the same.

Your continued interest in our Regulatory Program is appreciated. Should you have any questions or comments concerning the Point au Fer Island permit elevation, or the program in general, do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Michael Davis, my Assistant for Regulatory Affairs, at (703) 695-1376.

Sincerely,



G. Edward Dickey
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

Cf: CRC
SACW (Read, File, Sign)
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