

MAY 25 2000 8:13AM USCOE ESTN EVAL SEC

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 50267

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

FILEREPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

MAY 11 2000

Operations Division
Eastern Evaluation SectionSUBJECT: Regulatory Authority Within the Larose to Golden Meadow
Hurricane Protection LeveeLafourche Parish Council
Post Office Drawer 5548
Thibodaux, Louisiana 70302

Gentlemen:

This is in regard to your letter, dated April 27, 2000, to Dr. David Vigh concerning the Corps of Engineers' regulatory authority within the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection levee.

Individuals, companies or agencies are required to obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to beginning any work that discharges fill material into waters of the United States or that may impact navigational interests. The wetlands and waterways within the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Levee remain within the jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers and permits are required for the deposition of fill material and structures in wetlands and waterways. Permitting requirements are the same whether within or outside the hurricane protection system. The only difference is that once we determine that a permit can be issued for an individual action, we will not require compensatory mitigation for impacts to wetland functions. The Corps of Engineers mitigated for the direct impacts to wetlands caused through implementation of the hurricane protection levee and the associated secondary development of wetlands within the system. Since the loss of wetland functions has been mitigated, we will not require that they be mitigated a second time.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr: James Barlow of this office at (504) 862-2250.

Sincerely,

Ronald J. Ventola
Chief, Regulatory Branch*RJD*
Duke
OD-SE*RJD*
for Ventola
OD-S