

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project
Canal Realignment and Pumping Station Borrow Area
Prairie County, Arkansas

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, Memphis District, will implement two modifications to project designs for the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project (GPADP), as presented in the general reevaluation report (GRR) and final environmental impact statement (EIS) that were circulated for public review in 1999. A subsequent environmental assessment was prepared and circulated for public review in 2004 that detailed project design modifications needed to increase project efficiency. During detailed project design for the pumping station and main canal, the need for two additional project modifications was identified.

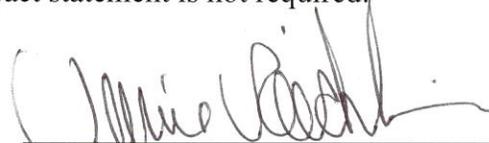
The additional modifications include realigning two sections of the main canal (totaling 3.8 miles) and utilizing a 7-acre site located north of the Grand Prairie pumping station as a temporary borrow and storage site. The canal realignments are necessary to increase project efficiency and reduce impacts to farming operations. An on-site, temporary borrow area is needed for construction of the pumping station in case high water levels in the White River delay inlet channel construction, preventing the material excavated during inlet channel construction from being used at the pump station site. If river conditions permit timely excavation of the inlet channel, this 7-acre site will only be utilized as a temporary storage area for the excavated material until it is needed for construction of the pumping station.

By letter dated February 24, 2010, the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred that the three archeological sites located within the canal realignment were not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and that no additional archeological work would be required for this portion of the project. No cultural resources were found within the 7-acre borrow/storage site. The SHPO has requested that borrow excavations be monitored by a professional archeologist. The Memphis District will honor the SHPO request. All project design changes have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. No impacts would occur to threatened or endangered species as a result of project modifications. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requested to review the mitigation plan for the borrow site impacts to farmed wetlands once it is completed. Development of the site specific mitigation plan will be coordinated with the interagency project team which includes EPA. The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality issued a state water quality certification on September 3, 2010.

Based on a review of the analysis performed in the environmental assessment, the Grand Prairie GRR and EIS, and supporting documentation, I have determined the proposed action is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required.

9/9/10

Date


Vernie L. Reichling
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer