DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
BAYOU METO BASIN, ARKANSAS
POST-GENERAL REEVALUATION DESIGN CHANGES

As required by the Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (33 CFR Part 230), the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) proposes modifications to the general reevaluation report (GRR) and final environmental impact statement (EIS) that were circulated for public review in December 2006, as completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District.

The proposed realignment of the section of Canal 1000 would reduce BLH impacts by 2.6 acres, and the additional ROW for bridge construction would not result in the loss of any additional wildlife habitat due to their locations within agricultural fields or within existing road ROWs. The disturbance of less than 0.1 acres of wooded riparian area on Scott Bayou would eliminate minimal terrestrial wildlife habitat and impact some aquatic habitat. However, more than 50% of the terrestrial area would be allowed to naturally re-vegetate and most of the aquatic habitat disturbance would be short-term. Since the proposed project modifications would result in an overall decrease in terrestrial habitat impact and only a minor, short-term impact to aquatic habitat, no compensatory mitigation is required.

A 404(b)(1) evaluation was completed during the general reevaluation and presented in the EIS. Discussions with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) determined that the proposed project features discussed in this EA do not require additional water quality certification due to the very limited impacts and the fact that the drainage fix only redirects the drainage flow from the existing route into culverts. The proposed drainage fix and associated impacts discussed in this environmental assessment are covered by Nationwide Permit 18; therefore, no additional analysis or mitigation is required.

The cultural resources survey previously conducted for the project's final EIS and GRR covered the project footprint as envisioned at that time. An archeological survey was undertaken of the proposed Canal 1000 realignment and no significant cultural or archeological sites were discovered. USACE archeologists surveyed the proposed ROW for the drainage fix and found no significant cultural or archeological sites within the area. The results of these surveys will be coordinated for cultural resources inventory, evaluation, and protection (as applicable) under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and the 2009 signed Programmatic Agreement.

Because the proposed bridge construction ROW additions are exceptionally close to the ROW previously surveyed (negative for cultural resources), there would not be a need for further cultural studies at those locations. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), the District Archaeologist has determined that these proposed bridge ROW modifications have no potential to cause effects on historic properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Thus, no further section 106 consultation is required.

No impacts would occur to threatened or endangered species as a result of project modifications. All project design changes have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as the project interagency team and other interested parties. No additional mitigation would be required as a result of the project modifications. (*Note- the coordination is ongoing during the public review period, but will be resolved prior to the signing of the FONSI.*)

This office has assessed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed action. Based on this assessment, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, a review of the comments made on this EA, and the implementation of the environmental design commitments listed above, a determination has been made that the proposed action would have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Date	Jeffrey A. Anderson Colonel, Corps of Engineers District Commander