

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE REPAIR/ENHANCEMENT OF ACCESS  
TO REMOTE PIPELINE VALVE STATIONS WEST HACKBERRY, CALCASIEU AND  
CAMERON PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

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US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

DOE/EA-2040

DECEMBER 2016

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
PROPOSED REPAIR/ENHANCEMENT OF ACCESS TO  
REMOTE PIPELINE VALVE STATIONS  
WEST HACKBERRY, CALCASIEU AND CAMERON PARISHES, LOUISIANA**

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**Agency:** US Department of Energy

**Action:** Finding of No Significant Impact

**Summary:** The US Department of Energy (DOE) Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in response to a proposal to repair and enhance access to four valve stations of the West Hackberry (WH) facility. The EA was prepared in accordance with Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Parts 1500-1508, the US Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures at 10 CFR Part 1021, Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements at 10 CFR Part 1022, and the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) Project Management Office NEPA Implementation Plan approved in 2010.

Based on the findings of the EA and through implementation of mitigation measures, the DOE has determined that the proposed action will not cause a significant effect on the human environment. Direct impacts to aquatic and other ecological resources, air and water quality, and the floodplain were determined to be short-term and minor. An Environmental Impact Statement is not deemed necessary and the DOE is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**Public Availability:** The EA and FONSI may be reviewed at <http://energy.gov/nepa/downloads/ea-2040-draft-environmental-assessment>. Copies may also be obtained from:

US Department of Energy  
Strategic Petroleum Reserve Project Office  
Reading Room/Library DOE  
900 Commerce Road, East  
New Orleans, LA 70123  
Contact: Kristen Frischhertz  
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**Description of the Proposed Actions:** In order to improve access to four valve stations for the SPR-WH pipeline located in southwestern Louisiana. The proposed actions include constructing boat landings and elevated walkways for Valve Stations WH-2, WH-4, and WH-5, which are accessed via the south bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). Existing footpaths for WH-6, accessed from the east bank of the Sabine River, and WH-2 are proposed to be resurfaced as needed. New walking paths at WH-4 and WH-5 are also proposed.

Access improvements will require the construction of timber pilings to support the elevated walkways and boat landings at WH-2, WH-4, and WH-5; removal of a davit crane at WH-2; and acquisition of new perpetual access right of way (ROW) for WH-2 (boat landing only), WH-4, WH-5, and WH-6.

**Alternatives:** The No Action Alternative would allow continued access to the valve stations without any improvements. Maintenance activities would continue to be performed as needed, but this alternative would not improve safety for personnel and property, reduce costs and increase the efficiency of maintenance operations at the valve stations, or ensure future access to the SPR-WH Valve Stations.

Two other alternatives were considered: upgrading the existing facilities without any new construction, and constructing elevated walkways to the valve sites instead of replacing the at-grade footpaths. Both of these alternatives were dismissed, the first because it would not improve safety for personnel and property, and the second because the high cost would not be offset by a reduction in impacts to wetlands, other waters, and other natural habitats.

**Environmental Impacts:** Direct and permanent impacts to protected resources from the proposed project are limited to fill in less than 0.05 acre of wetlands and potential permanent impacts to waters of the US from boat landings, timber piles, and other fill. Construction activities have the potential to cause temporary effects on water quality, migratory birds (from noise), submerged aquatic vegetation, essential fish habitat, navigation, and air quality. The proposed project would have a negligible effect on the base floodplain and is designed to withstand impacts from flooding, but climate change may have a negative effect on the proposed project in the future. No relocations or impacts to real estate values would be caused by the acquisition of perpetual access ROW. The proposed project will cause a beneficial effect on public health and worker safety and reduce the probability of releases of hazardous materials into the environment.

**Mitigation:** Appropriate best management practices (BMP), such as dust suppression, heavy equipment maintenance, and erosion control measures will be implemented during construction to avoid impacts to air and water quality. These measures will also address impacts to aquatic resources as specified in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Construction plans and permits will stipulate what BMPs will be implemented and how hazardous and non-hazardous waste will be handled and disposed of. A spill response plan will

be required of all DOE contractors to ensure that hazardous waste is not released into the environment.

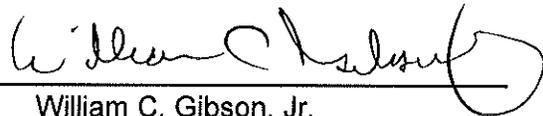
If work is planned for the nesting season, generally September through March, then a survey of the project area by a qualified biologist will be conducted following procedures prescribed by USFWS prior to the construction start date.

Aids to navigation will be implemented on the boat landings to ensure that the proposed actions do not interfere with navigation in the GIWW.

Other mitigation measures, if any, will be assessed during the permitting phase of the project and implemented as required prior to initiation of the proposed actions.

**Determination:** Based on the analysis in DOE EA-2040 (attached), the DOE has determined that the proposed actions to improve access to four valve sites within the SPR-WH pipeline does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human or natural environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an EIS will not be required and the DOE is issuing this FONSI.

Issued in New Orleans, this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2016.



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