U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

for

Proposed Port Freeport Channel Widening
Brazoria County, Texas

November 2006

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE PROPOSED PORT FREEPORT CHANNEL WIDENING
BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

The responsible lead agency for the permit action is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (USACE), under the authority of Section 404 (33 U.S.C. 1344) of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 (33 U.S.C. 403) of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuary Act (33 U.S.C 1413).

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was prepared as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to present an evaluation of potential impacts of the Brazos Harbor Navigation District's (Brazoria County) proposed Port Freeport Channel Widening. The proposed project includes widening portions of the Freeport Harbor Jetty Channel and all of the Freeport Harbor Entrance Channel. The DEIS addresses the potential impacts of the proposed project on the human environment, as identified during the public interest review, including placement of dredged material. All factors that may be relevant to the proposed project were considered. Among those factors are: dredged material management, air quality, shoreline erosion, economics, general environmental concerns, historic resources, protected species, navigation, recreation, water and sediment quality, energy needs, safety, hazardous materials, and, in general, the welfare of the people. The DEIS provides relevant information to the public and the USACE on the potential impacts of the proposed project. The public response to the findings of the DEIS will be addressed in the Final EIS. The Final EIS will be an informational document used by the USACE in its decision to grant or deny the permit, which will be described in the Record of Decision (ROD).

Comments on this DEIS must be postmarked by:

January 9, 2007
Date

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DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PORT FREEPORT CHANNEL WIDENING BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550

October 2006

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

°F	degrees Fahrenheit
ANS	aquatic nuisance species
ARI	American Rice Inc.
BA	Biological Assessment
BG	block group
BO	Biological Opinion
BRHND	Brazos River Harbor Navigation District
BU	beneficial use
BWM	ballast water management
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAR	Center for Archaeological Research
CCC	Coastal Coordination Council
CEPRA	Coastal Erosion Protection and Response Act
CEQ	President's Council on Environmental Quality
cfs	cubic feet per second
CO	carbon monoxide
CT	census tract
cy	cubic yards
dB	decibels
dBA	A-weighted sound level
DMMP	Dredged Material Management Plan
DMPA	Dredged Material Placement Area
DO	dissolved oxygen
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
DOT/FAA	Department of Transportation/Federal Aviation Administration
EFH	essential fish habitat
EH&A	Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc., now PBS&J
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EJ	Environmental Justice
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERL	effects range low
ERM	effects range medium
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FERC	U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FH-EC	Freeport Harbor-Entrance Channel
FM	Farm-to-Market Road
Freeport LNG	Freeport LNG Development, L.P.

Freeport LNG Project	Freeport LNG Import Terminal Project
ft	feet/foot
Fugro	Fugro Consultants, Inc.
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GIWW	Gulf Intracoastal Waterway
GLO	Texas General Land Office
GMFMC	Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council
gpm	gallon-per-minute
GSMFC	Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission
HDR/SMA	HDR/Shiner, Moseley & Associates, Inc.
HGA	Houston-Galveston Area
HTRW	hazardous, toxic, and radioactive waste
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
Hz	frequency of a sound corresponding to the human sensation of pitch and measured in Hertz
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
L_{eq}	equivalent sound level
LOA	length over all
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
mcy	million cubic yards
mcy/yr	million cubic yards per year
mg/kg	milligram per kilogram
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MLT	mean low tide
MPN/dL	Most Probable Number/deciliter
MPRSA	Marine Protection and Sanctuaries Act
msl	mean sea level
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NBIC	National Ballast Information Clearinghouse
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center
NDD	Natural Diversity Database
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFRAP	No Further Remedial Action Planned
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO	nitric oxide
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NO_3	nitrate radical
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NO_X	nitrogen oxide
NPS	National Park Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetland Inventory

NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
O_3	ozone
ODMDS	Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site
PA	Placement Area
Pb	lead
PM_{10}	particulate matter with particle diameters of 10 microns or less
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter with diameters of 2.5 microns or less
PST	petroleum storage tanks
RIA	Regional Implementation Agreement
SAV	submerged aquatic vegetation
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SH	State Highway
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SPP	suspended particulate phase
SPR	Strategic Petroleum Reserve
SSA	sole source aquifers
TAMU	Texas A&M University
TARL	Texas Archeological Research Laboratory
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (formerly the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission)
TCMP	Texas Coastal Management Program
TCWC	Texas Colonial Waterbird Census
TDH	Texas Department of Health
THC	Texas Historical Commission
THM	Texas Historic Markers
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TNRCC	Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (now the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)
TPDES	Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
tpy	tons per year
TSDC	Texas State Data Center
TWC	Texas Workforce Commission
TWDB	Texas Water Development Board
TWQS	Texas Surface Water Quality Standards
UCPA	Upland Confined Placement Area
UPRR	Union Pacific Railroad
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard

USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VLCC	very large crude carriers
VOC	volatile organic compounds
W/B	channel width (W) versus the maximum vessel beam (B) allowed to transit the channel
WQC	water quality discrete criteria