

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

Revised Procedures for the Review of Federal Financial Assistance Awards for Consistency with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program

A number of federal and state agencies provide financial assistance to state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and individuals in Louisiana. As part of the award process, many of these agencies require the applicant to coordinate with the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management program. This coordination is generally intended to address one of two questions: concerns about awarding the financial assistance, or concerns about implementing the proposed project.

The Office of Coastal Management (OCM) is streamlining its financial assistance review procedure to ensure response to all requests in a timely and appropriate manner. Therefore, as of October 1, 2012, the coordination of applications for federal financial assistance should follow the procedures below, depending on the nature of the inquiry:

Consistency review for Federal Assistance

Federal regulations at 15 CFR §930.90 *et seq.* require state and local government bodies applying for federal financial assistance (grants, loans, guarantees, insurance, contractual arrangements, or other form of financial aid) to submit a request for Consistency review of that assistance to OCM. Since the inception of the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program in 1980, OCM has never found that financial assistance for a proposed project would be inconsistent with the state Coastal Zone Management program. The Office of Coastal Management has therefore issued a letter of general consistency concurrence, which serves as formal notification that, as of October 1, 2012, the granting of any financial assistance as defined at 15 CFR §930.91, is fully consistent with the Louisiana Coastal Resources Program. Federal agencies should not require applicants for financial assistance to seek OCM's approval for that assistance.

Request for Determination for project implementation

If the applicant is seeking comments on the need to obtain a Coastal Use Permit or other authorization from OCM, for projects in or near to the Louisiana Coastal Zone, a Request for Determination or Solicitation of Views should be submitted to OCM's Permits and Mitigation Division. Instructions and downloadable and online applications are located online at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=93>. In Step 3 of the application, the box for Request for Determination or Solicitation of Views should be checked. Questions regarding this process may be directed to the OCM Permits Section staff at (225) 342-7591 or 1-800-267-4019, or by mail at P.O. Box 44487, Baton Rouge, LA 70804.

Outside of the Coastal Zone

Projects which are clearly located outside of the Coastal Zone and are not likely to have an impact on coastal waters generally will not require coordination with the OCM. However, projects near the Coastal Zone boundary where there may be some doubt, or those which may involve discharges into waters that flow into the Coastal Zone, should be submitted to OCM for review. A map of the Coastal Zone boundary may be found at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/index.cfm?md=pagebuilder&tmp=home&pid=89&pnid=0&nid=39>.

Finally, OCM may find it necessary to change or rescind the provisions of this letter. Should this become necessary, OCM will publish a public notice in the Official State Journal (The Baton Rouge Advocate) and on the DNR web page, and attempt to contact all affected federal agencies directly.

Questions concerning these procedures should be addressed to Mr. Jeff Harris of the Consistency Section, at (225) 342-7949 or via e-mail to Jeff.Harris@LA.gov.