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Environmental Checklist

Route _____   Parish: _____

C.S. _____ Begin Log mile _____ End Log mile _____

ADJACENT LAND USE: _____

Any property owned by a Native American Tribe?
(Y or N or Unknown) If so, which Tribe? _____

Any property enrolled into the Wetland Reserve Program?
(Y or N or Unknown) If so, give the location _____

Are there any other known wetlands in the area?
(Y or N) If so, give the location _____

Community Elements: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any (if the answer is yes, list names and locations):
(Y or N) Cemeteries _____

(Y or N) Churches _____

(Y or N) Schools _____

(Y or N) Public Facilities (i.e., fire station, library, etc.) _____

(Y or N) Community water well/supply _____

Section 4(f) issue: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any (if the answer is yes, list names and locations):
(Y or N) Public recreation areas _____

(Y or N) Public parks _____

(Y or N) Wildlife Refuges _____

(Y or N) Historic Sites _____

Is the project impacting, or adjacent to, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places?
(Y or N) **Is the project within a historic district or a national landmark district?** (Y or N) If the answer is yes to either question, list names and locations below:

_____

_____

Do <u>you know</u> of any threatened or endangered species in the area? (Y or N)
If so, list species and location. _____

_____

Does the project impact or adjacent to a stream protected by the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act? (Y or N) If yes, name the stream. _____

Are there any Significant Trees as defined by EDSM I.1.1.21 within proposed ROW? (Y or N) If so, where? _____

What year was the existing bridge built? _____

Are any waterways impacted by the project considered navigable? (Y or N) If unknown, state so, list the waterways: _____

_____

Hazardous Material: Have you checked the following DEQ and EPA databases for potential problems? (If the answer is yes, list names and locations.)
    (Y or N) Leaking Underground Storage Tanks _____

    (Y or N) CERCLIS _____

    (Y or N) ERNS _____

    (Y or N) Enforcement and Compliance History _____

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Underground Storage Tanks (UST): Are there any Gasoline Stations or other facilities that may have UST on or adjacent to the project? (Y or N) _____
If so, give the name and location: _____

Any chemical plants, refineries or landfills adjacent to the project? (Y or N) **Any large manufacturing facilities adjacent to the project?** (Y or N) **Dry Cleaners?** (Y or N) If yes to any, give names and locations: _____
_____

Oil/Gas wells: Have you checked DNR database for registered oil and gas wells? (Y or N) List the type and location of wells being impacted by the project. _____
_____

Are there any possible residential or commercial relocations/displacements? (Y or N)
How many? _____

Do you know of any sensitive community or cultural issues related to the project? (Y or N)
If so, explain _____

Is the project area population minority or low income? (Y or N) _____

What type of detour/closures could be used on the job? _____
_____

Did you notice anything of environmental concern during your site/windshield survey of the area? If so, explain below.
_____

_____
Point of Contact

_____
Phone Number

_____
Date

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General Explanation:

To adequately consider projects in Stage 0, some consideration must be given to the human and natural environment which will be impacted by the project. The Environmental Checklist was designed knowing that some environmental issues may surface later in the process. This checklist was designed to obtain basic information, which is readily accessible by reviewing public databases and by visiting the site. It is recognized that some information may be more accessible than other information. Some items on the checklist may be more important than others depending on the type of project. It is recommended that the individual completing the checklist do their best to answer the questions accurately. Feel free to comment or write any explanatory comments at the end of the checklist.

The Databases:

To assist in gathering public information, the previous sheet includes web addresses for some of the databases that need to be consulted to complete the checklist. As of February 2011, these addresses were accurate.

Note that you will not have access to the location of any threatened or endangered (T&E) species. The web address lists only the threatened or endangered species in Louisiana by Parish. It will generally describe their habitat and other information. If you know of any species in the project area, please state so, but you will not be able to confirm it yourself. If you feel this may be an issue, please contact the Environmental Section. We have biologist on staff who can confirm the presence of a species.

Why is this information important?

Land Use? Indicator of biological issues such as T&E species or wetlands.

Tribal Land Ownership? Tells us whether coordination with tribal nations will be required.

WRP properties? Farmland that is converted back into wetlands. The Federal government has a permanent easement which cannot be expropriated by the State. Program is operated through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service).

Community Elements? DOTD would like to limit adverse impacts to communities. Also, public facilities may be costly to relocate.

Section 4(f) issues? USDOT agencies are required by law to avoid certain properties, unless a prudent or feasible alternative is not available.

Historic Properties? Tells us if we have a Section 106 issue on the project. (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) See http://www.achp.gov/work106.html for more details.

Scenic Streams? Scenic streams require a permit and may require restricted construction activities.

Significant Trees? Need coordination and can be important to community.

Age of Bridge? Section 106 may apply. Bridges over 50 years old are evaluated to determine if they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Navigability? If navigable, will require an assessment of present and future navigation needs and US Coast Guard permit.

Hazardous Material? Don't want to purchase property if contaminated. Also, a safety issue for construction workers if right-of-way is contaminated.

Oil and Gas Wells? Expensive if project hits a well.

Relocations? Important to community. Real Estate costs can be substantial depending on location of project. Can result in organized opposition to a project.

Sensitive Issues? Identification of sensitive issues early greatly assists project team in designing public involvement plan.

Minority/Low Income Populations? Executive Order requires Federal Agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority or low income populations. (Often referred to as Environmental Justice)

Detours? The detour route may have as many or more impacts. Should be looked at with project. May be unacceptable to the public.

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Louisiana Governor's Office of Indian Affairs:
http://www.indianaffairs.com/tribes.htm

Louisiana Wetlands Reserve Program:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/states/la.html

Community Water Well/Supply
http://sonris.com/default.htm

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries – Wildlife Refuges
http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/refuges
http://www.fws.gov/refuges/profiles/ByState.cfm?state=LA
http://www.fws.gov/refuges/refugelocatormaps/Louisiana.html

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – National Wetlands Inventory:
http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/

Louisiana State Historic Sites:
http://www.crt.state.la.us/parks/ihistoricsiteslisting.aspx

National Register of Historic Places (Louisiana):
http://nrhp.focus.nps.gov/natreghome.do?searchtype=natreghome
http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/la/state.html

National Historic Landmarks Program:
http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/

Threatened and Endangered Species Databases:
http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program

Louisiana Scenic Rivers:
http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/scenic-rivers
http://media.wlf.state.la.us/experience/scenicrivers/louisiananaturalandscenicriversdescriptions/
http://www.legis.state.la.us/lss/lss.asp?doc=104995

Significant Tree Policy (EDSM I.1.1.21)
http://notes1/ppmemos.nsf
(Live Oak, Red Oak, White Oak, Magnolia or Cypress, aesthetically important, 18" or greater in diameter at breast height and has form that separates it from surrounding or that which may be considered historic.)

CERCLIS (Superfund Sites):
http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/
http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/cerclis/cerclis_query.html

ERNS - Emergency Response Notification System - Database of oil and hazardous substances spill reports: http://www.epa.gov/region4/r4data/erns/index.htm

Enforcement & Compliance History (ECHO)
http://www.epa-echo.gov/echo/

DEQ – Underground Storage Tank Program Information:
http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2674/Default.aspx
Leaking Underground Storage Tanks:
http://www.deq.state.la.us/portal/tabid/79/Default.aspx

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SONRIS – Oil and Gas Well Information & Water Well Information
http://sonris.com/default.htm

Environmental Justice (minority & low income)
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/ej2000.htm

Demographics
http://www.census.gov/

FHWA's Environmental Website
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/index.htm

Additional Databases Checked

_____

_____

_____

Other Comments:

_____

_____

_____