Environmental Compliance Readiness

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Restoration Component

PROPOSAL TITLE

Gulf of Mexico Habitat Mapping and Water Quality Monitoring Network

LOCATION

Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas

SPONSOR(S)

Department of Commerce

TYPE OF FUNDING REQUESTED (Planning, Technical Assistance, Implementation):

Technical Assistance

REVIEWED BY:

John Ettinger

DATE:

February 13, 2015

If Planning and/or Technical Assistance

1. Does the submission identify environmental laws potentially applicable at the implementation stage:

(●) YES ( ) NO ( ) N/A

Comments

See below for a discussion of environmental compliance for this submission.

If Implementation

1. Status of compliance with environmental laws applicable to a Council decision to include the submission on the Funded Priority List:

The Council could consider separately approving funds for the portions of this submission which would not have environmental impacts (such as the proposed coordination and inventory). Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable laws would be needed before the Council could consider funding the portions of this submission which could have environmental impacts. Some of the implementation activities proposed in this submission may be eligible for a NEPA Categorical Exclusion. Further Council review of using a CE in this case would be needed, including review of any potential extraordinary circumstances. The sponsor has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and associated programmatic Endangered Species Act biological opinion which could address portions of the submission, pending further review. The Council could consider adopting this PEA if the Council determines that it adequately assesses the environmental effects of the proposed action. Additional review regarding compliance with other applicable environmental laws is also needed. NEPA and other applicable environmental laws would need to be addressed prior to consideration by the Council of whether or not to fund this submission.