Environmental Compliance Readiness

Bucket 2 – Council Selected Restoration Component

PROPOSAL TITLE

Abandoned Oil and Gas Well Plugging and Site Reclamation

LOCATION

Louisiana and Texas

SPONSOR(S)

Department of the Interior

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

Planning, Technical Assistance and Implementation

REVIEWED BY:

John Ettinger

DATE:

January 24, 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

A range of environmental laws could apply to the proposed activity, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Magnuson-Stevens Act, Clean Water Act and more. The Council could consider funding the planning and technical assistance portion of this submission separately from the implementation portion. NEPA and other applicable environmental laws would need to be addressed prior to consideration by the Council of whether or not to fund the implementation portion of 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:

A number of the activities proposed in this submission are covered by existing NEPA documents (including Environmental Assessments and one Environmental Impact Statement). These or some subset of these NEPA documents could potentially be adopted by the Council. Only the elements of this submission covered within such NEPA documents could potentially be eligible for implementation funding at this time. Additional environmental compliance review by the Council would be needed prior to adopting such documents. Specifically, the Council would need to further review the status of compliance with other applicable laws and ensure no further assessment of environmental effects is needed. The Council and/or the sponsor could also consider developing a programmatic NEPA document (possibly a Programmatic Environmental Assessment) to cover the proposed program. Under that scenario, subsequent, project- or activity-specific NEPA compliance would be needed prior to implementation of specific components of the overall program. Compliance with other applicable environmental laws would also be needed. The extensive existing NEPA documentation associated with this submission could help expedite efforts to address any outstanding environmental compliance requirements.