

Addendum to the Final Independent External Peer Review Report for the West Bank and Vicinity, Louisiana Coastal Storm Risk Management Project Draft General Reevaluation Report

Prepared by
Battelle Memorial Institute

Prepared for
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Risk Management Center
Huntington District

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

EC	Engineer Circular
GRR	General Reevaluation Report
IEPR	Independent External Peer Review
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
WBV	West Bank and Vicinity

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is an addendum to the Final Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) Report for the West Bank and Vicinity, Louisiana, Coastal Storm Risk Management Project Draft General Reevaluation Report (hereinafter: WBV Draft GRR IEPR) submitted on February 17, 2020, by Battelle. It was prepared to document activities associated with the IEPR Panel's review of the public comments on the WBV Draft GRR.

This addendum briefly details the IEPR process followed for this public comment review. At the end of the process, the Panel determined that the public comments raised no additional scientific or technical concerns that required a Final Panel Comment.

2. METHODS

This section summarizes the activities associated with the review of the public and agency comments conducted for this project.

Battelle received electronic versions of the public comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on February 10, 2020. The PDF file supplied by USACE contained 56 pages of comment letters from various state and Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and members of the general public.

In accordance with procedures described in the Department of the Army, USACE, Engineer Circular (EC) *Review Policy for Civil Works* (EC 1165-2-217)¹, Battelle focused the IEPR Panel's public comment review on assessing scientific and technical issues pertaining to the assumptions, data, methods, and models used in the project.

Each panel member was asked to independently determine whether the public comments contained any additional scientific or technical concerns about the project that were not previously identified, and that should be addressed by USACE in the WBV Draft GRR project documents. The Panel was charged with focusing on discipline-specific scientific and technical issues and not policy-related comments, per EC 1165-2-217.

The WBV Draft GRR IEPR panel members received the public and agency comments from Battelle on February 12, 2020. The panel members reviewed comment letters from state and Federal agencies as well as emails, letters, and comment cards from a variety of companies, non-profit organizations, and members of the general public.

The panel members were required to answer one charge question about the public comments:

- 1. Do the public comments raise any additional discipline-specific technical concerns with regard to the overall report?**

¹ USACE (2018). Water Resources Policies and Authorities: Review Policy for Civil Works. Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-217. Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. February 20.

The panel members submitted responses to this charge question, and Battelle reviewed those responses to identify any issues, areas of potential conflict, and other overall impressions. Each panel member's individual comments were shared with the full Panel. Battelle then discussed and confirmed via email whether any of their identified issues should be carried forward as Final Panel Comments.

Based on the Panel's review, most of the public comments fell into the category of general support or opposition. Issues raised in the remaining public comments did not identify any additional discipline-specific technical concerns beyond those documented in the February 17, 2020, Final IEPR Report; therefore, no additional Final Panel Comments were required.

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It can be done