



Coast-It Notes

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Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Greetings from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Office of Coastal Management.

The Office of Coastal Management offers an exemption determination of "No Direct and Significant Impact (NDSI)" to coastal resources (see LAC Title 43, Part I, Subpart 1, Chapter 7, Subchapter C, §723.B.1.a.vi. and B.8.b) for projects that meet certain criteria and abide by certain conditions. OCM has revised the list of activities that are deemed NDSI and is providing this [Policy Memorandum](#) to you for your use in project planning. The revisions include:


1. Section IV has been modified to increase length of barge facility from 350 feet to 400 feet and include the installation of "breaker barges" for water-based oil and gas drilling sites.
2. Section V has been modified to include "installation" of pilings in addition to removal and replacement.
3. Section VI has been modified to include small shoreline protection projects for residential sites.
4. Section VII has been modified to include "dredging to maintain access to existing facilities" in the Mississippi River.
5. Section XI has been added and involves maintenance activities of the state or local government on existing highways. This includes cleanout of ditches, resurfacing of roadways, and replacement of signage.
6. Section XII has been added and involves vegetative plantings.

All other criteria and provisions remain the same. Applicants are cautioned to carefully review all criteria and provisions when considering whether their projects qualify for this determination. To qualify for an NDSI determination, the applicant must acknowledge the need to call Louisiana One Call (if dredging, jetting, digging, excavating or installing pilings or bulkheads), the need to mark and light structures per US Coast Guard regulations (if installing structures in water) and the requirement to remove structures upon abandonment. Furthermore, the activity cannot take place within one-quarter mile of a barrier island; on a chenier, barrier beach, dune, salt dome or similar raised landform; or in vegetated wetlands. Projects located near other environmentally sensitive features such as bird rookeries, wildlife management areas, state wetlands restoration projects, Coastal Master Plan features, oyster leases, oyster seed grounds, scenic streams, etc. must have approval of the responsible oversight agency. To assist applicants, OCM recommends that a complete CUP application be submitted for projects occurring near sensitive features in order that this office can obtain the required approvals necessary for the determination.

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Coastit Notes is a publication of the Office of Coastal Management to inform permit applicants, the public and others of events and items that may impact them or their interaction with our office. This e-document is intended to improve customer service and awareness of OCM works and functions and includes announcements from all OCM divisions as issues arise.

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