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RE: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation letter to US Army Corps of Engineers regarding proposed Greenfield Louisiana grain elevator

On June 21, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation issued a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (New Orleans District), requesting a briefing on the Proposed Greenfield Louisiana Grain Terminal and outlining pertinent responsibilities when reviewing permit applications for the proposed development.

In their letter, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation noted that a cultural resource report of the proposed site was allegedly altered prior to its submission to the Army Corps of Engineers. The submitted report contradicted the author's opinion that an adverse effect would be detrimental to adjacent cultural resources. ACHP restated that all reports and actions must meet professional standards developed by the Secretary of the Interior.

The importance in considering Environmental Justice (EJ) issues was called out specifically:

"If the descendants of the formerly enslaved founders of this community stand to be the most impacted by the proposed undertaking, the issues frequently of concern under considerations of EJ converge with a federal agency's responsibility to take into account effects on historic properties."

This includes the "long-term and cumulative effects from the proposed industrial development if community members feel compelled to relocate in response to negative health and quality of life issues that appear likely as a result of the undertaking".

The ACHP is responsible for advising the President, Congress and the heads of other federal agencies. This shows that leaders at the highest level of our federal government are aware of the critical issues facing the survival of this important record of our country's history as well as the survival of the culture of generations of families who have occupied and worked this land, both before and after it was legal for them to own it.

Because of the great potential for detrimental effects from industrial intrusion, the Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation adds the "11 Mile Stretch of West St. John Parish" to the Louisiana's Most Endangered Places List and supports the designation of the area as a National Historic Landmark district.

Brian M. Davis
Executive Director
Louisiana Trust for Historic Preservation