Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

FOR THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST, SEE THE STAGE 0 MANUAL.

C.S. ______________________  Parish ______________________
Route ______________________  Begin Log mile _________  End Log mile __________

ADJACENT LAND USE:
____________________________________________________

Any property owned by a Native American Tribe?
(Y or N or Unknown) If so, which Tribe? ____________________________

Any property enrolled into the Wetland Reserve Program?
(Y or N or Unknown) If so, give the location ____________________________

Community Elements: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any:
(Y or N) Cemeteries ____________________________________________
(Y or N) Churches ____________________________________________
(Y or N) Schools _____________________________________________
(Y or N) Public Facilities (i.e., fire station, library, etc.) _______________
(Y or N) Community water well/supply ______________________________

Section 4(f) issue: Is the project impacting or adjacent to any:
(Y or N) Public recreation areas _________________________________
(Y or N) Public parks __________________________________________
(Y or N) Wildlife Refuges _______________________________________
(Y or N) Historic Sites _________________________________________

Is the project impacting, or adjacent to, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places? (Y or N)
Is the project within a historic district or a national landmark district? (Y or N) If the answer is yes to either question, list names and locations below:
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

Do you know of any threatened or endangered species in the area? (Y or N)
If so, which species? ________________________________________________

Does the project impact a stream protected by the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act? (Y or N)
If yes, name the stream. ______________________________________________

Are there any Significant Trees as defined by EDSM I.1.1.21 within proposed ROW? (Y or N)
If so, where? _________________________________________________________

What year was the existing bridge built? ________________________________

Are any waterways impacted by the project considered navigable? (Y or N)
If unknown, state so, list the waterways: _________________________________

Hazardous Material: Have you checked the following DEQ and EPA databases for potential problems?
(Y or N) Leaking Underground Storage Tanks ___________________________
(Y or N) CERCLIS _________________________________________________
(Y or N) ERNS _____________________________________________________
(Y or N) Enforcement and Compliance History __________________________
If found site, give the name and location: ________________________________

Underground Storage Tanks (UST): Are there any Gasoline Stations or other facilities that may have UST on or adjacent to the project? (Y or N)
If so, give the name and location: ______________________________________

Chapter 4: Stage 0 Standard Operating Procedure
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Any chemical plants, refineries or landfills adjacent to the project? (Y or N) Any large manufacturing facilities adjacent to the project? (Y or N) Dry Cleaners? (Y or N) If yes to any, give names and locations: ____________________________________________

Oil/Gas wells: Have you checked DNR database for registered oil and gas wells? (Y or N) List the type and location of wells being impacted by the project.

________________________________________

Are there any possible residential or commercial relocations/displacements? (Y or N) How many? ____________________________________________

Do you know of any sensitive community issues related to the project? (Y or N) If so, explain ____________________________________________

Is the project area population minority or low income? (Y or N) __________________________

What type of detour/closures could be used on the job? ____________________________________________

Did you notice anything of concern during your site/windshield survey of the area? If so, explain below.

__________________________________________

Point of Contact
__________________________________________

Phone Number
__________________________________________

Date
__________________________________________
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Threatened and Endangered Species Information
http://www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/index.asp?cn=lawlf&pid=693

LA Wildlife Refuge Information
http://www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/page57.asp

Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act (R.S. 56:1840-1856)
http://www.wlf.state.la.us/apps/netgear/index.asp?cn=lawlf&pid=1175
  Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers (R.S. 56:1847)
  Louisiana Historic and Scenic Rivers (R.S. 56:1856)

Significant Tree Policy (EDSM I.1.1.21)
EDSM can be found on DOTD’s intranet site:  http://ladotnet/
(Live Oak, Red Oak, White Oak, Magnolia or Cypress, aesthetically important, 18” or greater in diameter at breast height and has form separates it from surrounding or considered historic.)

LA Historic Sites and Districts
http://www.crt.state.la.us/nhl2/searchby.asp

Hazardous Waste Site Information
http://www.deq.state.la.us/remediation/lust.htm
http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/cursites/index.htm
http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/la.htm
http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/wdbcgi/wdbcgi.exe/WWWUSER/WEBDB.foia_query.show_parms
http://www.epa.gov/echo

DNR Oil & Gas Well Information
http://sonris-www.dnr.state.la.us/www_root/sonris_portal_1.htm (Use the GIS interactive map)

Environmental Justice (minority & low income)

Demographics
http://www.state.la.us/census/index.htm
http://www.census.gov/

Water wells
http://www.dotd.state.la.us/intermodal/wells/home.asp

FHWA’s Environmental Website (Just a good reference for understanding NEPA)
http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/index.htm

Additional Databases Checked
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Other Comments:
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

General Explanation:
Stage 0 Environmental Checklist

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To adequately consider projects in Stage 0, some consideration must be given to the human and natural environment which will be impacted by the project. The Environmental Checklist was designed knowing that some environmental issues may surface later in the process. This checklist was designed to obtain basic information, which is readily accessible by reviewing public databases and by visiting the site. It is recognized that some information may be more accessible than other information. Some items on the checklist may be more important than others depending on the type of project. It is recommended that the individual completing the checklist do their best to answer the questions accurately. Feel free to comment or write any explanatory comments at the end of the checklist.

The Databases:

To assist in gathering public information, page 4-12 gives web addresses for some of the databases that need to be consulted to complete the checklist. As of July 2005, these addresses were accurate.

Note that you will not have access to the location of any threatened or endangered (T&E) species. The web address list only the threatened or endangered species in Louisiana. It will generally describe their habitat and other information. If you know of any species in the project area, please state so, but you will not be able to confirm it yourself. If you feel this may be an issue, please contact the Environmental Section. We have biologist on staff who can confirm the presence of a species.

Why is this information important?

Land Use? Indicator of biological issues such as T&E species or wetlands.

Ownership? Tells us whether coordination with tribal nations will be required.

WRP properties? Farmland that is converted back into wetlands. The Federal government has a permanent easement which cannot be expropriated by the State. Program is operated through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service).

Community Elements? DOTD would like to limit adverse impacts to communities. Also, public facilities may be costly to relocate.

Section 4(f) issues? USDOT agencies are required by law to avoid certain properties, unless a prudent or feasible alternative is not available.

Historic Properties? Tells us if we have a Section 106 issue on the project. (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) See http://www.achp.gov/work106.html for more details.

Scenic Streams? Scenic streams require a permit and may require restricted construction activities.

Significant Trees? Need coordination and can be important to community.

Age of Bridge? Section 106 may apply. Bridges over 50 years old are evaluated to determine if they are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Navigability? If navigable, will require an assessment of present and future navigation needs and US Coast Guard permit.

Hazardous Material? Don't want to purchase property if contaminated. Also, a safety issue for construction workers if right-of-way is contaminated.

Oil and Gas Wells? Expensive if project hits a well.

Relocations? Important to community. Real Estate costs can be substantial depending on location of project. Can result in organized opposition to a project.

Sensitive Issues? Identification of sensitive issues early greatly assists project team in designing public involvement plan.

Minority/Low Income Populations? Executive Order requires Federal Agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority or low income populations. (often referred to as Environmental Justice)

Detours? The detour route may have as many or more impacts. Should be looked at with project. May be unacceptable to the public.