**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70160-0267

August 27, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF
Operations Division
Special Projects and Policy Team

SUBJECT: MVN 2012-012553 MB

Mr. Frankie Savoy
Fourth Louisiana Resource, LLC
412 N. Fourth Street, Suite 300
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

Dear Mr. Savoy:

This is in regard to your request for approval to construct and operate a compensatory mitigation bank, Grand Swamp Mitigation Bank, in Section 101, T5S-R10E, Sections 18 & 97, T5S-R11E, approximately 3 miles south-southeasterly from New Roads, Louisiana, in Pointe Coupee Parish. We have considered the information provided in the mitigation banking prospectus and jurisdictional determination request, and comments received in response to the public notice advertisement.

The proposed 254.8-acre roughly rectangular mitigation bank comprises primarily pasturelands with small inclusions of bottomland forest in an area referred to colloquially as "the Island". The topography of the site is a ridge and swale complex formed by the historic meandering of the Mississippi River. Ditches and drains have been constructed to facilitate surface drainage. An un-named Parish drainage canal borders the extreme northwestern corner of the site. Three at-grade roads and three rights-of-way cross the subject property at various locations and in differing configurations. Soils are mapped by NRCS as Dundee-Alligator complex with slopes ranging to 5%. According to published information, Dundee soils constitute approximately 50% of this mapping unit and are classified as non-hydric, while Alligator soils comprise approximately 40% of the mapping unit. The remaining percentage (up to 15%) of the complex contains Bruin (non-hydric) and Sharkey (hydric) soils. The Dundee and Bruin soils are in convex positions of the ridges with the Alligator and Sharkey soils in the lower swales.

CEMVN requests clarification of information contained in the Prospectus. Related to distribution of soils on the project site referenced in Section 3.2 of the Prospectus and Figure 10, what parameters were identified to define the sampling grid placement and specifically, what parameters will be sampled? Has this sampling been completed, and, if so what were the results? What was the historic flow pattern on the project site? Does the hydrologic restoration plan restore historic surface flow or is it designed to only increase on-site retention times? Is it necessary to retain all easements/encumbrances on the subject project site? Each of these easements

individually and cumulatively will affect anticipated benefits. How does the overall restoration plan fit into the landscape positioning of the project site? This information is important to determine the ability of the site restoration plan to provide appropriate compensatory mitigation for Department of the Army permits and quantify potential benefits to be obtained from the site restoration plan. Attached are comments received from the public notice advertisement. We look forward to continuing to work with you on preparing a mutually agreeable mitigation work plan.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter or wish to schedule a meeting to discuss our position, please contact Brian W. Breaux of this office at (504) 862-1938.

Sincerely,

for

Martin S. Mayer
Chief, Regulatory Branch

cc (via electronic mail):

Mrs. Patti Holland, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mr. Raul Gutierrez, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Richard Hartman, National Marine Fisheries Service
Ms. Kelley Templet, LA DNR, Office of Coastal Management
Mr. Kyle Balkum LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries