



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

October 4, 2011

Operations Division
Regulatory Branch

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE MODIFIED CHARLESTON METHOD

On May 1, 2011, the New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers (CEMVN) Regulatory Branch began utilization of the "Modified Charleston Method" (MCM) to assess compensation requirements for adverse aquatic resource impacts associated with activities permitted under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The MCM is based on methodology developed by the Charleston District (RD-SOP-02-01, Standard Operating Procedure, Compensatory Mitigation; September 19, 2002). CEMVN Regulatory Branch, working with state and federal resource and regulatory agencies modified this approach to account for regional wetland type differences and incorporate provisions in 33 CFR Part 332, "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources".

In an effort to continually improve the MCM and its use in our regulatory program, CEMVN would like to solicit public comments regarding any additions, updates, corrections, or clarifications to the MCM. CEMVN would like to receive all comments by October 25, 2011.

To download the current version of the MCM, please visit the RIBITS website at: <https://rsgis.crrel.usace.army.mil/ribits/f?p=107:2:4246718493974341>, Select NEW ORLEANS in the USACE DISTRICT filter on the bottom left hand corner of the page, then click on ASSESSMENT TOOLS. You will find a link at the bottom of that page to the MCM 2010 Workbook and Guidebook.

Please contact Mr. Stephen Pfeffer at (504) 862-2227 (stephen.d.pfeffer@usace.army.mil) if you have any questions regarding information in this public notice.

Sincerely,

Dr. James A. Barlow, Jr.
Chief, Special Projects and Policy Team