# **DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS**

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Project Number	Project Proposals
DEMO-01	Artificial Seagrass Bed Shoreline Protection & Sediment Trapping
DEMO-02	Use of Bioengineering Techniques to Strengthen Previously Stabilized Shorelines & Banks
DEMO-03	Stabilized Red Mud (SRM) Diversion Berms
DEMO-04	Stabilized Soil Shorelines

# **DEMO-01**

# Artificial Seagrass Bed Shoreline Protection & Sediment Trapping

# **DEMO-02**

Use of Bioengineering Techniques to Strengthen Previously Stabilized Shorelines & Banks

### PPL23 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET

February 5, 2013

### **Demonstration Project Name:**

Use of Bioengineering Techniques to Strengthen Previously Stabilized Shorelines and Banks

### **Coast 2050 Strategy(ies):**

- Protect shorelines,
- Maintain land bridges,
- Maintain shoreline integrity.

### **Potential Demonstration Project Location(s):**

Coastwide

### **Problem:**

What problem will the demonstration project try to solve?

The demonstration project would use natural materials to enhance the ability of protected and natural shoreline to absorb wave energy and attempt to protect existing shoreline features, using the abilities of nature to heal itself. The demonstration project would help reduce shoreline retreat along bay and lake areas that have experienced excessive amounts of erosion and would also have the intent to offset increased rates of land loss to wetlands that become exposed due the loss of protective shorelines features.

What evidence is there for the nature and scope of the problem in the project area? Historically Louisiana's coastal shoreline, bays, and lake rims have experience high levels of retreat and land loss. The approach to repairing these areas have utilized heavy, hard engineering methods that eventually settle into the substrate, which has not achieved the goal and even presented additional hazards. Repair of these areas using sturdy but lighter, living materials and non-living natural materials will encourage self-repair with the goal of enhancing the native plant community. With no specific area identified it is difficult to quantify the exact amount of that loss or retreat the project would attempt to offset. Shoreline erosion rates have been measured in excess of 30 feet per year in areas across the Louisiana coast. The need for stabilization in critical areas was noted in all four Coast 2050 regions.

### **Goals:**

What does the demonstration project hope to accomplish?

The proposed demonstration project would stabilize existing shoreline features and attenuate shoreline retreat and potentially enhance interior marshes and also provide a natural substrate for plant propagation and an accretion platform. The methodology would re-establish/jump start the plant community whose root systems forms the webbing that strengthens rock stabilized banks and shorelines as well as natural sediments and peat at and around the shorelines. Surface portions of the plants absorb wave and precipitation energy that would otherwise impact surface soils. Finally, identifying just the right woody plants that are most efficient at performing these services is an essential goal, so that parishes and others who wish to inexpensively stabilize soils will have a palette of species with which to work.

### **Proposed Solution:**

Describe demonstration project features in as much detail as possible.

Use of Bioengineering Techniques (using mostly live cuttings of unrooted woody plants) to Strengthen Previously Stabilized Shorelines and Banks project is a multi-faceted shoreline protection and restoration demonstration effort to provide land bridge and marsh protection, restoration, and enhancement system that would absorb and deflect wave energy, protect and enhance vegetation, protect and create emergent marsh and woody shrub/forested wetlands, trap sediment and provide nursery, foraging and escape cover habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species.

- 1. The species and forms of woody plants used as stabilization and protection materials have a variety of application possibilities that can be adjusted to best suit the problem area to restore and enhance the strength of shorelines, land bridges and marshes in different types of coastal environments.
- 2. We may use coir material to wrap unvegetated soils/slopes but the intent is to plant slopes that are already stabilized by rock OR not stabilized to observe the performance of established woody growth. We will establish slopes with a few identified fast-growing species and then within 2 years live stake areas of the bank with other species where the first attempt was not successful, or where there is an opportunity to introduce diversity in the plant community. After a slope is covered by fast growing woody vegetation, like *Salix nigra* (black willow) we will go back to re-vegetate with a more slow growing species, like *Taxodium* or *Cephalanthus* or another appropriate species with characteristics that would favor strong and extensive rooting ability in that particular hydrologic setting. When used as a method of shoreline enhancement; it is cheaper than rock and could be considered a compromise between "hard" and "soft" shoreline protection methods.
- 3. A staggered terrace-like orientation can break up wave action, reducing turbidity and allow sediment time to settle, potentially accreting and creating emergent marsh.
- 4. The use of native woody materials obtained from naturally growing vegetation close to the restoration site allows the use of native plants and provides a relatively inexpensive source of plant materials.
- 5. We do not anticipate the need for building a rock-protected slope or shoreline. We anticipate using rock protected shorelines/banks and unprotected shorelines and banks to plant with woody plant cuttings (stakes, whips, poles, mattressing) and compare these to rock protected and unprotected banks that have not been planted.

The demonstration would include the selection of 4 diverse application sites (rock with plantings, rock without plantings, natural soils with plantings, natural soils without plantings) for treatment. Each treatment would include 3 replicate 1000-foot sections for a total project installation of 12,000 linear feet. Project effectiveness would be monitored and evaluated after construction according to the CWPPRA workgroups' recommendation for this product in Phase 0. The conceptual treatment is shown in the attached PowerPoint presentation.

# **Project Benefits:**

Describe demonstration project benefits in as much detail as possible. The proposed project would:

- 1. Absorb and deflect wave energy;
- 2. Strengthen rock protected slopes and shorelines;
- 3. Protect and enhance existing or planted shoreline vegetation;
- 4. Allow ingress and egress of aquatic species;
- 5. Collect sediment by reducing wave energy;
- 6. Protect and stabilize land bridges;
- 7. Reduce interior marsh loss.

## **Project Costs:**

The estimated construction cost including 25% contingency is \$1,685,109.

### **Preparer(s) of Fact Sheet:**

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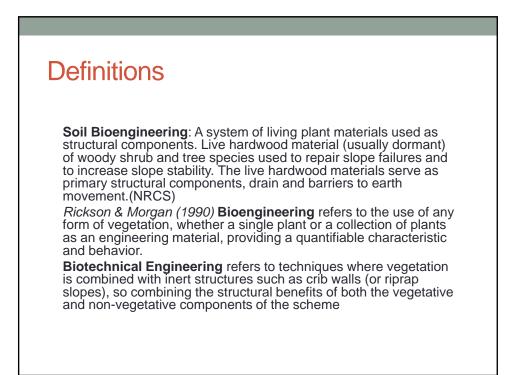
Demo Project Name: Use of Bioengineering Techniques to Strengthen Previously Stabilized Shorelines and Banks

# Revision of PPL 22 Bioengineering of Banks and Shorelines Demo

- Presented in 2011, 2012
- Supported by USEPA
- Revisions after discussions with NRCS, and Researchers at University of Louisiana

# Stated Requirements for Demo Projects

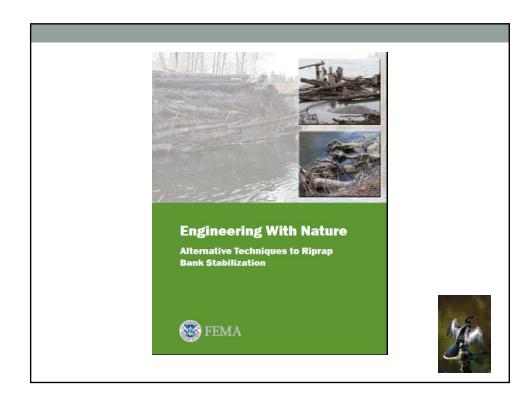
- Innovative-Not routine in LA but not experimental
- Applicability or Transferability Freshwater and intermediate, and possibly estuarine locations
- Potential Cost-Effectiveness Used as a means to improve the longevity of rock protected shorelines, but ability to exibit cost effectiveness in Louisiana needs demonstration
- Potential Environmental Benefits Above and Beyond
- Recognized Need for the Information to be Acquired: Bioengineering techniques have not been widely applied in the Southeast
- Potential for Technological Advancement if proven successful, these techniques could improve current practices.



# Questions

- Can vegetation be used to alleviate landscape instability?
- Is it possible that a more holistic approach could be the answer to a multidisciplinary question?
- Can successful application of biotechnical methods elsewhere in the world be adapted to Louisiana & it's dire circumstances?
- Can broadly applicable questions be answered through this demo project?



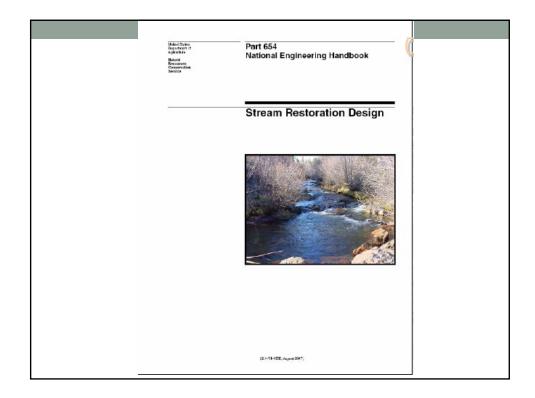


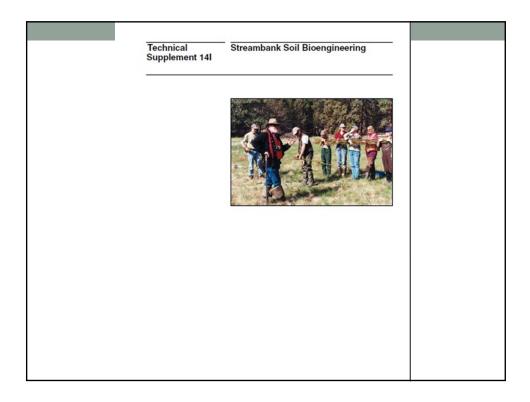


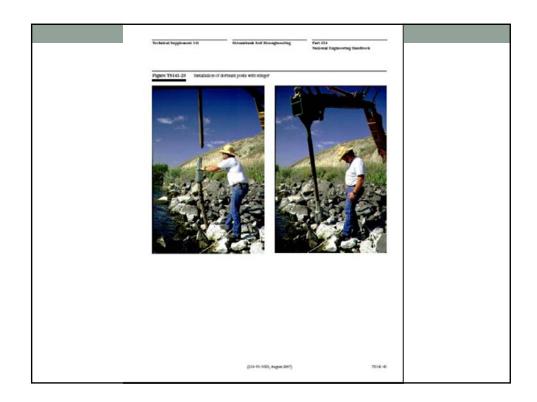
Riprap, or hard armoring, is the traditional response to controlling and minimizing erosion along shorelines or riverbanks. As demonstrated by past multiple disasters in Washington State, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided funding assistance for the repair to these riprap facilities.\*1 The very nature of having to repair these facilities counters the popular engineering belief that riprap is the best solution for mitigating stream bank erosion.

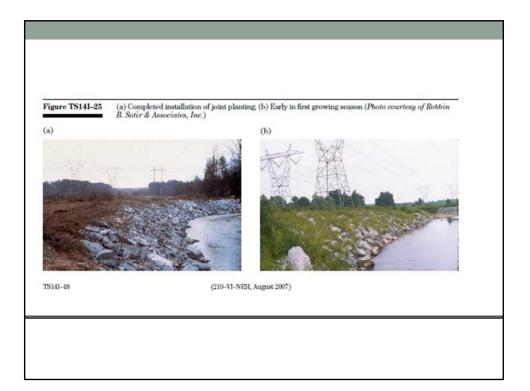


US Army Corps of Engineers Waterway Experiment	Technical Report EL-97-8 April 1997	
Station Environmental Impact Research Program Bioengineering for Streambank Erosion Control		
Report 1 Guidelines by Hollis H. Allen, James R. Leech		
Approved For Public Release; Distribution is Unlimited.		
Prepared for Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	elp)	1 Alexandre

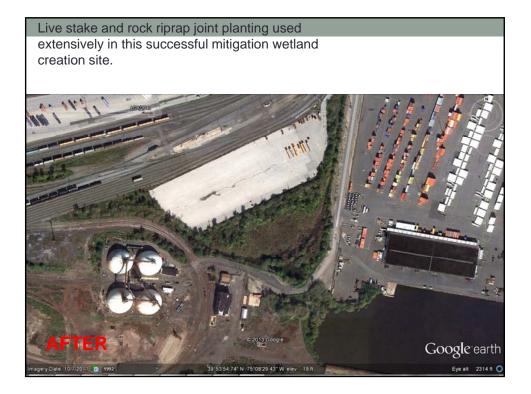










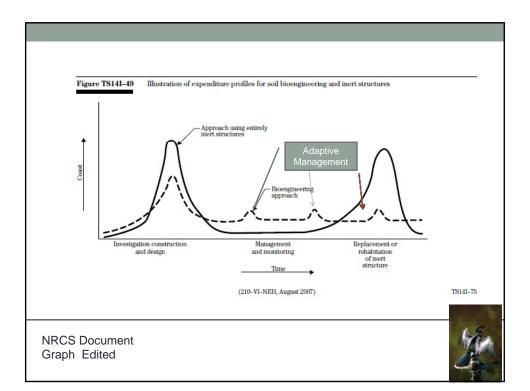






# Current Benefit to Achieve: Detail

- Vegetation is self regenerating, dynamic, adaptable and therefore more sustainable over time
- Woody vegetation biomass absorbs wave and precipitation energy better than herbaceous plants
- Woody vegetation root network increases the tensile strength of the rock and soils
- Native woody vegetation provides habitat and allochthanous materials for invertebrates
- Native woody vegetation develops methods to adapt to their surroundings, developing methods to stay at optimal elevations—buttressing, surface roots



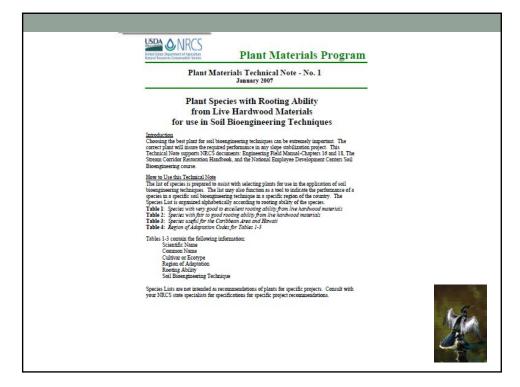


Table I. Species mi	the warry good to or	cellent rooting abilit	from line hand	and mater	
Table 1: Species wi	tti vely good to ere	cellent rooting aomit	y from five natur	wood materi	aus
			Region of	Rooting	
Scientific Name	Common Name	Cultivar or Ecotype	Adaptation	Ability	Soil Bioengineering Technique
other the second	Columna	Culture of acting a	transpoort.		fascines, live stakes, brush matthess, brush lavering, live
Oemleria cerasiformis	Indian plum	local collections	9	very good	cuttings
e contesta ce. argenera	indian pr	Inclus collection	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 8. 9.	141) 8	cump
Populus balsamifera	balsam poplar	local collections	0, A	very good	live stakes, poles, live cuttings
Populus balsamifera					
ssp trichocarpa	black cottonwood	local collections	4, 8, 9, 0, A	very good	live stakes, poles, live cuttings
Populus deltoides	eastern cottonwood	local collections	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	very good	live stakes, poles, live cuttings
Salix alaxensis	feltleaf willow	local collections	A	very good	live stakes, poles, live cuttings
			1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,		
Salix amygdaloides	peachleaf willow	local collections	8,9	very good	live stakes, poles, posts, live cuttings
Salix barclayi	Barclay's willow	local collections	A	very good	live stakes, poles, posts, live cuttings
					fascines, live stakes, poles, brush mattress, brush
Salix boothii	booth willow	local collections	7, 8, 9, 0	excellent	layering, live cuttings
	barren ground		1000	22231232	
Salix brachycarpa	willow	local collections	A	very good	live stakes, poles, posts, live cuttings
			Introduced 1, 2,		fascines, live stakes, brush mattress, brush layering, live
Salix cottetii	dwarf willow	Bankers	3	very good	cuttings
Salix discolor	pussy willow	local collections	1, 2, 3, 4, 9	very good	fascines, live stakes, poles, brush layering, live cuttings
	Drummond's willow		2000		fascines, live stakes, poles, brush mattress, brush
Salix drummondiana	Missouri River	local collections	7, 8, 9, 0	very good	layering, live cuttings
Salix eriocephala	Missoun Kiver willow	local collections	7.8.9.0	very good	fascines, live stakes, poles, brush layering, live cuttings
Salix eriocephala spp.	Wilson	IDeal concentrations	·, v, z, v	Very good	fascines, live stakes, poles, brush navering, live cuttings
ligulifolia	erect willow	Placer	9.0*	excellent	lavering, live cuttings
ngunyona	northwest sandbar		-,-	Carcinen.	fascines, live stakes, poles, brush mattress, brush
Salix sessilifolia Nutt.	willow	Multnomah	9*	excellent	lavering, live cuttings
Suns Les	northwest sandbar		· · · ·		fascines, live stakes, poles, brush mattress, brush
Salix sessilifolia Nutt.	willow	local collections	9	very good	layering, live cuttings
		2			fascines, live stakes, poles, brush mattress, brush
Salix geyeriana	Geyer's willow	local collections	7, 8, 9, 0	very good	layering, live cuttings
Salix gooddingii	Goodding's willow	local collections	6, 7, 8, 0	very good	live stakes, poles, posts, live cuttings
					fascines, live stakes, poles, brush mattress, brush
Salix hookeriana	hooker willow	Clatsop	9.0*	excellent	layering, live cuttings

# Current Problem to Address:

# Big Picture

- Lack of habitat value of current methods of stabilizing shorelines and banks
- Need to stabilize rock and heavy structures from moving/subsiding on organic and unconsolidated soils
- Need to restore habitat value and encourage native plant succession along the shoreline
- Need to strengthen inner "honeycomb" portions of the inner marsh complex for greater resilience against storms forming an inner core "line of defense"
- Improve understanding of the value of bioengineering techniques in Louisiana within habitat types that could potentially greatly benefit with its successful application

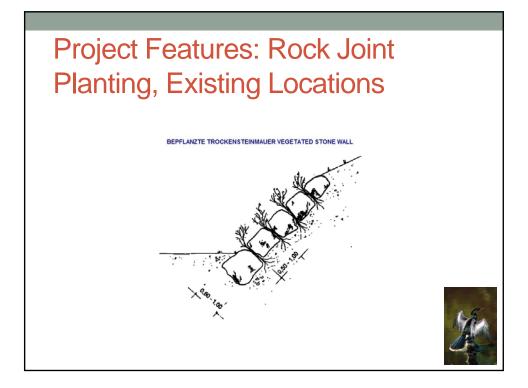


- Increase longevity of rock stabilized shorelines and banks
- Improve tensile strength of the soil/rock matrix with the deeper root systems of some woody plants
- Improve cohesiveness of soils with plants that produce broad surface root systems
- Develop list of native tree and shrub species that can be used in future applications
  - Native
  - · Forms adventitious roots
  - Roots from cuttings
  - Provides nursery conditions for other native species
  - · Estuarine to Freshwater habitats; organic or silty soils



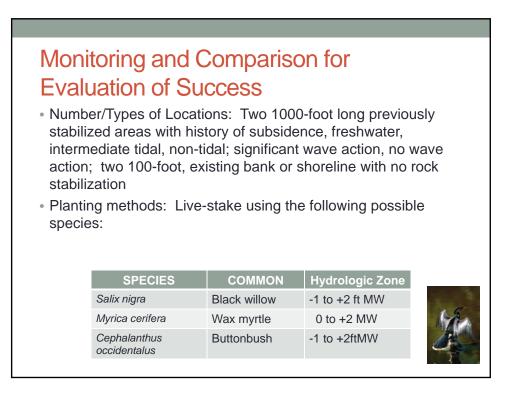
# **Possible Location**

- No location currently selected
- Any location with newly placed or previously placed rock that is currently or potentially experiencing subsidence.
- Shoreline areas recently stabilized with rock in and near Jean LaFitte/Lake Salvador could be used
- Other locations including intermediate habitats, with possible estuarine habitat
- Current or newly completed projects of any type, including toe of levee banks.



# Project Features: Proposed Scenarios

- Use Salix nigra, Myrica cerifera, Cephalanthus and later propagules of Avicennia germinans and Taxodium, etc.
- Utilize NRCS list of plants to select additional plants in the agricultural zone (9)
- Utilize appropriate species currently growing in and near the locations (native/adapted)
- Joint plant existing rock protected shorelines and banks in fresh and intermediate areas
- Plant unprotected peat and soil banks to provide comparisons
- Work closely with research community (U of Louisiana) to monitor success



# Monitoring and Comparison for Evaluation of Success

 Measure success in various hydrologic zones using the following comparison:

- Mortality
- Size
- % Cover
- Volunteering Species
- Sediment depth
- Root biomass/extent (where possible)





# **DEMO-03**

# Stabilized Red Mud (SRM) Diversion Berms

# **PPL23 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

January 31, 2013

## Demonstration Project Name: Stabilized Red Mud (SRM) Diversion Berms

#### Coast 2050 Strategy(ies):

Diversions and Riverine Discharge; Management of Diversion Outfall for Wetland Benefits

### **Potential Demonstration Project Location(s):**

Region 1

### **Problem:**

Salt water intrusion of marshes and/or swamps is exposing thousands of acres of interior pristine Wetlands to severe ecological change. In many occurrences, there are signs indicating loss of the freshwater ecosystem.

There is clear cut evidence that there are many dying swamps and Wetlands prevalent in Southern Louisiana. Two main such wetlands include the Maurepas Swamp and LaBranche Wetlands located within the Pontchartrain Basin. Both are affected by high tide and storm surges.

### **Goals:**

Diversion outfalls should be managed to optimize freshwater, sediment and nutrient input into marshes and/or swamps, while minimizing the impact to wetlands. This strategy would utilize fresh water from rivers to benefit wetland habitats by channeling the fresh water between bermed diversions comprised of stabilized material. Riverine discharges would be introduced directly into wetlands in this manner to re-establish marshes and/or swamps, while improving water quality.

#### **Proposed Solution:**

Noranda Alumina, formerly Kaiser Aluminum in Gramercy, Louisiana, is the site of approximately 800-acres of red mud lakes. Current regulations allow Noranda to beneficially use dried red mud for mud lake levees. However, the unit weight of red mud due to the presence of iron oxides, requires a rather large levee footprint to distribute the weight. Red mud stabilized with blended reagents forms a chemical reaction that bonds red mud particles together, consumes up to 32 moles of water in the process, and increases the compressive strength of the material to greater than 20-pounds per square inch.

Noranda is in the process of applying for a Beneficial Use Determination (BUD) with respect to utilizing SRM for applications like bermed diversions. Chemical and geotechnical data have been archived from two demonstration pilot projects, and the data is being submitted to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) along with in-depth assessment of risks.

Once a BUD has been issued (expected by July 2013), SRM can be used in lieu of clay for diversion berms. Although SRM weighs as much as clay soil, SRM gains strength through

continual curing, thus allowing for steeper slopes to be constructed to minimize impact to wetlands. SRM has non-dispersive qualities, is low in erodibility, low in permeability, and remains stable even in submersed conditions that are typical of wetlands such as swamps and marsh. SRM is an ideal substitute for imported clay or clay mined from the proposed footprint of a diversion channel. Organic soil stripped in a proposed footprint of a diversion channel can be reused as topsoil cover over SRM to establish vegetative growth, while not having an extremely low flow-line that would require excessive pumping of fresh water into wetlands. The concept of using SRM bermed channels at or just below grade is very similar to how rice farmers irrigate and flood their fields.

SRM is installed much like clay, except that it is generally placed in thicker lifts without use of vibratory compactive effort. Static compaction is the recommended approach to consolidating the SRM.

# **Project Benefits:**

Benefits related to using SRM are:

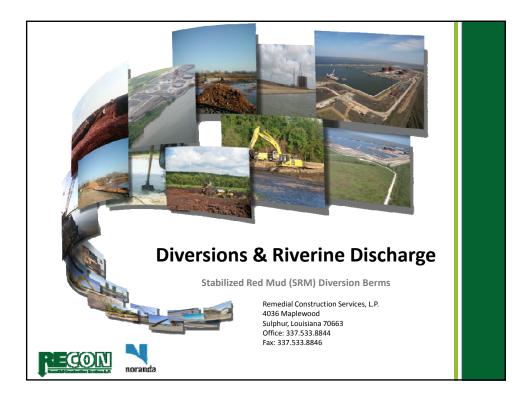
- 1. Meets EPA green initiatives;
- 2. Beneficial use of a by-product;
- 3. Superior material compared to clay;
- 4. Lower resistance to erosion;
- 5. Decreased permeability;
- 6. Increased strengths (3 to 5 times higher than clay);
- 7. Can withstand a hurricane storm surge;
- 8. Its economic value; and
- 9. Its long-lasing, enhanced structural integrity.

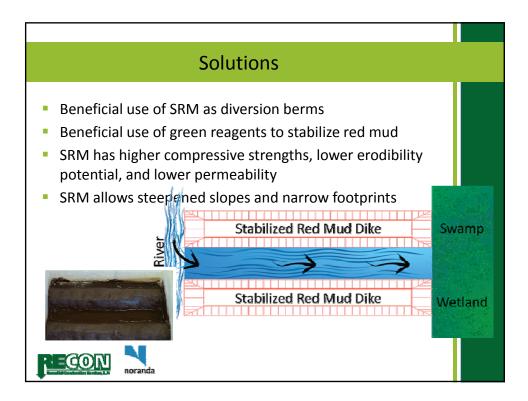
# **Project Costs:**

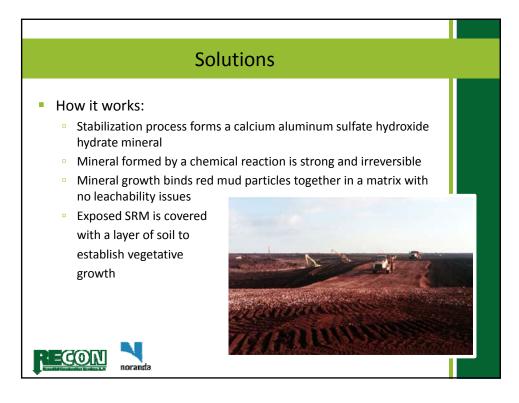
The estimated construction cost for a segment of SRM diversion berms is less than \$2,000,000.

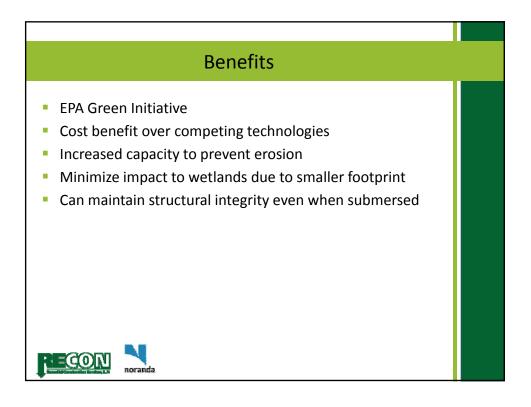
# **Preparer(s) of documents:**

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#### **PPL23 DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

January 31, 2013

### **Demonstration Project Name: Stabilized Soil Shorelines**

#### **Coast 2050 Strategy(ies):**

Maintain Gulf, Bay and Lake shorelines.

#### **Potential Demonstration Project Location(s):**

Region 2 (or Coastwide)

### **Problem:**

Excessive erosion of Gulf, bay and lake shorelines expose thousands of acres of interior marshes to increased erosion rates and severe ecological change. In addition, the loss of wetlands resulting from the direct effects of wave action is magnified over open bodies of water where distances are great. Highly organic interior marshes have limited options for restoration because of poor soil conditions.

Shoreline erosion rates have been measured in excess of 30 feet per year in areas across the Louisiana coast. A large portion of coastline will not support rip-rap and require non-rock shoreline protection. The need for stabilization in critical areas was noted in all four Coast 2050 regions.

#### **Goals:**

The proposed demonstration project would greatly minimize or prevent continued erosion, enhance interior marsh shorelines and maintain exchange and interface with estuarine systems. Additionally, some accretion may likely occur and build emergent marsh.

#### **Proposed Solution:**

Stabilization may take place in-situ by blending in reagents that create mineral growth that is not susceptible to rehydration, or if the shoreline soils consist mainly of organic matter such as root matter and peat, importing lightweight, non-rock pre-stabilized materials, such as dredge spoils, would be distributed along eroding shorelines. The stabilized materials will not rehydrate and change back to an unstable, low-strength state. If wave action, similar to that along the Gulf, is causing stabilization along the shoreline to be counter-productive, or if sloughing is a deterrent due to a steep grade, then it may be more beneficial to excavate a trench along the shoreline and fill the trench with a lightweight stabilized material. In the latter case, shoreline between the stabilized material filled trench and open water will eventually erode away, exposing the trench-filled stabilized material that would serve to protect the remaining coastline.

Generally, placing stabilized dredge spoils along a bay or lake shoreline can take place from a deck barge with bin walls. First, a dredge spoil disposal area or excessively wet clay soil must be amended using a reagent blend that promotes structural mineral growth. Once the stabilized product has fully cured, it will be excavated similar to a borrow pit and loaded into dump trucks. The dump trucks would travel to the dock, back onto the barge via a ramp, and then dump the material on the back end of the barge to the front. It is highly recommended that stabilized material remain in the largest size possible without breaking the material up any more than the excavator did loading it. Stabilized material would likely vary in particle size from 2', down to fines. The fines would serve useful in filling the voids of the larger stabilized particle sizes. A low-draft tug boat is recommended to push the barge to the shoreline requiring protection, and a long-reach excavator positioned on the barge would be used to off-load material. This method of

shoreline protection is the least invasive to wetlands since most all of the protection is along the eroding face of the shoreline and weighs much less than rip-rap rock.

If deemed necessary due to extreme wave action or steep banks, trenches can be excavated on the bank of the shoreline adjacent and parallel to the open water using marsh excavators. Stabilized dredge spoils can be deposited in the trench and trench spoils can then be deposited back over the stabilized dredge spoils to fill any remaining voids and to allow re-establishment of vegetative growth. If shoreline soils are not too organic, rooted or peaty in nature, it is possible that reagents can be injected in-situ to structurally improve the native soils. In the event shorelines contain mainly organic, rooted matter caused by previous erosion, then a dry blend of reagents that consumes vast amounts of water can be injected in a saltwater-filled trench until the reagent forms a self-hardening solidified mass that is lightweight, yet reach compressive strengths of over 4.5 tons per square foot within a few days. This structural material would withstand the constant beating of wave action or periodic storm surge much like the stabilized dikes that surround and protect a multi-billion dollar LNG facility has proven so in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

Various reagent blends that create sustainable mineral growth that are not susceptible to rehydration should be demonstrated in separate reaches in order to provide multiple solutions to shoreline protection.

## **Project Benefits:**

The proposed project would:

- 1. Meet EPA Green Initiatives;
- 2. Have a cost benefit over other non-rock erosion control technologies;
- 3. Absorb and deflect wave energy;
- 4. Protect and enhance existing or planted shoreline vegetation;
- 5. Allow ingress and egress of aquatic species;
- 6. Trap sediment while reducing wave energy; and
- 7. Reduce interior marsh loss.

### **Project Costs:**

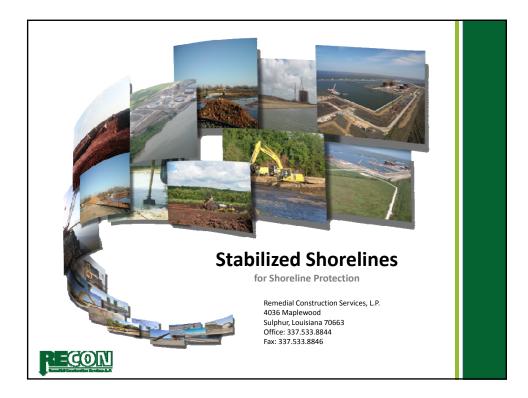
The cost to perform at least four (4) options of shoreline protection using stabilized or prestabilized materials is \$2,000,000; approximately \$500,000 per reach.

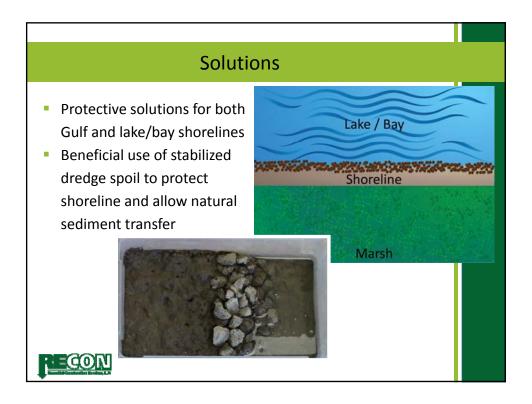
### **Preparer(s) of documents:**

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# **DEMO-04**

**Stabilized Soil Shorelines** 



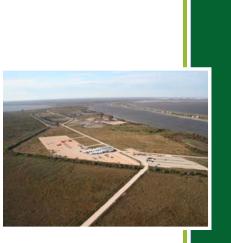




Benefits			
<ul> <li>EPA Green Initiative</li> <li>Cost benefit over competing technologies</li> <li>Absorb and deflect wave energy</li> <li>Protect and enhance existing or planted shoreline vegetation</li> <li>Allow ingress and egress of aquatic species</li> <li>Collect sediment by reducing wave energy</li> <li>Reduce interior marsh loss</li> </ul>			

# Experience

- 8MM cubic yards of stabilization
- Shoreline restoration
- Dike construction
- Sediment and erosion control
- Beneficial use of dredge spoils
- Multi-billion dollar facility protected from hurricane Ike and Rita storm surge



CON