

September 23, 2022

# Memo to the File

## Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries

### St. Louis Bay Living Shoreline Component

In 2015, the Deepwater Horizon NRDA Trustees approved the Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries Project, an Early Restoration project selected as part of the **2015 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Final Phase IV Early Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Final Phase IV RP/EA)**. This project included multiple components, one of which was the St. Louis Bay Living Shoreline Component, which, at the time of approval of the Final Phase IV RP/EA, was subject to engineering and design (E & D) prior to full implementation.

Prior to the commencement of E & D work, the St. Louis Bay Living Shoreline component was **cancelled** because some of the adjacent property may not have been owned by the State of Mississippi, as detailed in the 2018 Notice of Project Change for the Phase IV Early Restoration Project: Restoring Living Shorelines and Reefs in Mississippi Estuaries. A tidelands survey would have been necessary to address this uncertainty, and because the area in question was of considerable size, it was determined that moving forward with this Component at that time would have been cost prohibitive and therefore not feasible. However, the State of Mississippi is currently resolving ownership matters, and due to project changes including cancellation of several other project components, there is sufficient funding remaining in the project budget to proceed, and thus, the Mississippi TIG (MS TIG) has agreed that the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (Implementing Trustee) should now proceed with E & D of the St. Louis Bay Living Shoreline Component.

The Mississippi TIG has determined that conducting E & D for the St. Louis Bay Living Shoreline Component remains consistent with the original Oil Pollution Act (OPA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analyses conducted in the Final Phase IV RP/EA, and those analyses do not change when reincorporating the Component. Accordingly, no further analyses under OPA or NEPA are necessary at this time. Once E & D is complete, and prior to project construction, the MS TIG will re-evaluate the need for additional analyses under OPA and/or NEPA and will evaluate the budget to confirm that funding is available for construction based on the design.

