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Telephone contact with Jeff Knight, 601-833-9598, Williford, Gearhart, and Knight, Brookhaven, MS. Williford, Gearhart, and Knight are engineers and surveyors, and are consultants to the Claiborne Co. Board of Supervisors. Jeff is the Claiborne Co. highway engineer.

Questions about two highway projects mentioned in Grand Gulf ER and mentioned in 2.5.2.10 of the draft EIS.

1. Bald Hill Road is scheduled for reconstruction from Grand Gulf Road to Hadley Road (Port Road) to accommodate commercial traffic.”

Update: This project was completed. The road was reconstructed and realigned to take out the sharpness of some of the curves. This is part of the state aid section of the road. The road south of Port Road back toward Oil Mill Road was washed out at Bayou Pierre and was closed for some time. The U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service produced the money to realign the road to make it “passable” but left a lot of potholes. The plan now is to remove the remaining black top (scarifying) and turn the road in that section back to gradable gravel.

The road is important for emergency evacuation from the GGNS area.

2. Project #3 is the extension of Highway 18 toward Grand Gulf. It was “in the early planning states” at the time of the ER.

Update: Locally, this project is known as the “Port Connector” project. It would go directly west from Highway 61 at the spot Highway 18 now ends, crosses behind Watson Elementary School, cross Oil Mill Road, and then roughly parallel Oil Mill Road on the west side to near where Oil Mill Road and Grand Gulf Road intersect. It would provide more direct access to the Grand Gulf site from the south (and from Port Gibson). The environmental impact statement is finished. They have started early right-of-way acquisition. There was a \$10M earmark in the federal highway bill for this project, so they have most of the money. Construction completed by early to mid-2007.