



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

News Release

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Algiers Canal Levee getting interim lift to 7½ feet

N.O.-area work to be complete by start of hurricane season

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is giving the Algiers Canal Levee a speeded-up lift to at least 7½ feet that is scheduled to be completed by June 1, the first day of the hurricane season.

About 20 percent of the work is complete on the canal, which is a 7-mile segment of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in the West Bank of metropolitan New Orleans. Two Corps of Engineers work crews began placing earth on the levee Friday. A private contractor will begin the final portion in March.

“We are accelerating planned hurricane-protection improvements in areas of risk that were identified last fall by Tropical Storm Isidore and Hurricane Lili,” said Col. Peter J. Rowan, district engineer, New Orleans District.

In the event, the water in October stopped short of overtopping the levee, which was five to six feet above sea level. The Algiers Canal links the Mississippi River at the Algiers Lock with the Harvey Canal and the route to Morgan City.

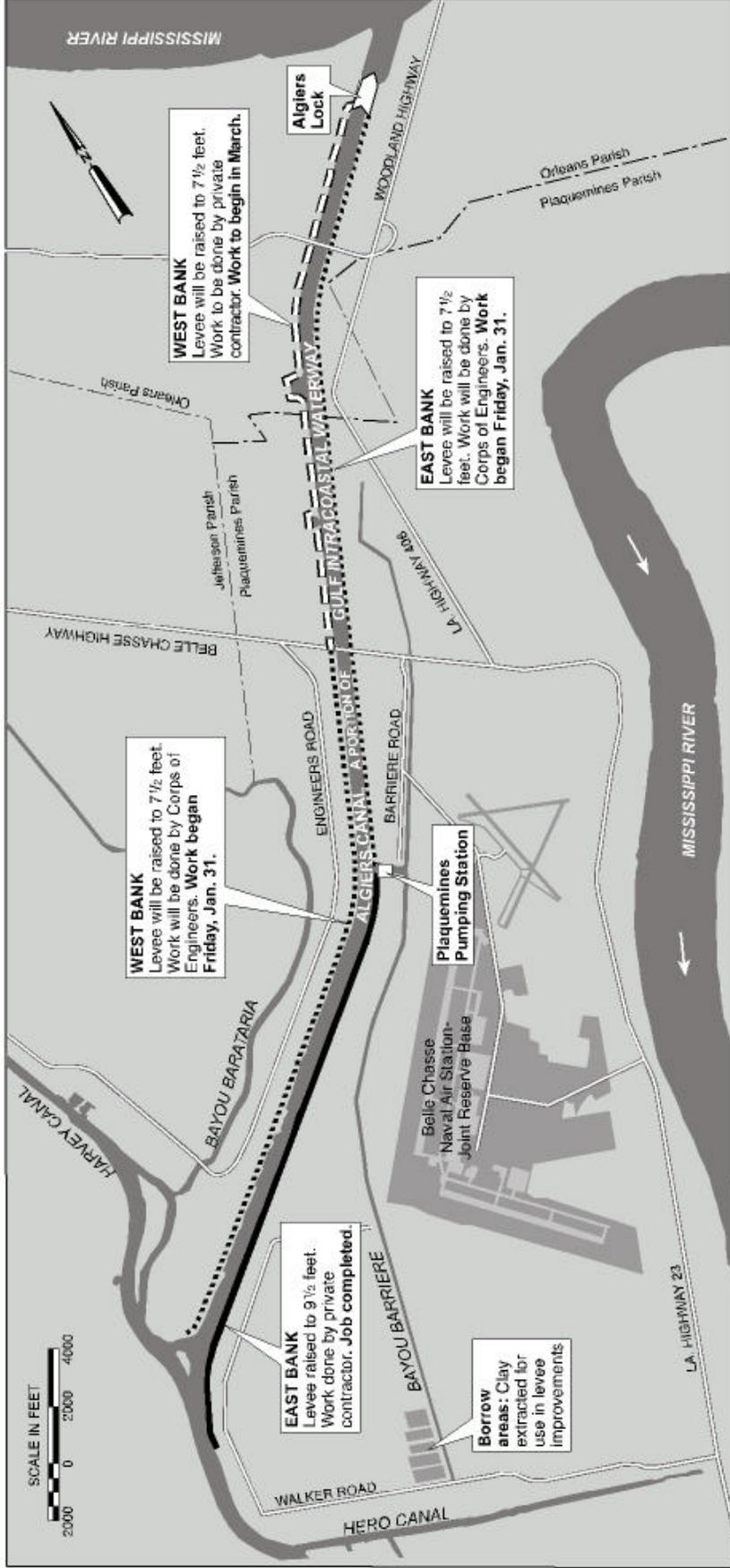
One stretch of levee has been completed to 9½ feet, on the east bank from Plaquemines Parish Pump Station No. 1 to the canal’s southern end. Eventually all 14 miles of the Algiers Canal Levee will be raised to 9½ feet for hurricane protection.

Meanwhile, the two Corps work crews have begun work to raise portions of the levee to interim protection of 7 ½ feet, one crew on each bank. A government contractor beginning in March will raise a final segment, on the canal’s west bank. All 14 miles will be raised to at least 7½ feet by June 1.

Hurricane & Emergency page: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/response/index.asp>
Scroll down to Hurricane Protection Projects and select “West Bank New Orleans Area.”

Attachment: map of Algiers Canal Levee work. See page 2.

Algiers Canal Levee Improvements Interim Improvements by June 1



Interim protection will be raised to at least 7 1/2 feet by June 1, the beginning of hurricane season. Eventually all levees will be raised to 9 1/2 feet.