

News Release

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May 6, 2009

Corps releases document with proposed locations for Permanent Pumps at the outfall canals

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a report detailing locations for permanent canal closures and pumps on Monday, May 4, 2009, for a 30-day public review.

Individual Environmental Report (IER), 5 titled "Outfall Canal Closure Structure, Orleans and Jefferson Parishes," evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed locations for the new permanent pump stations and closure structures at or near the mouths of the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue Canals.

The proposed action is to build three permanent gates and pump stations at the three outfall canals, as authorized and funded by Congress. The new pumps will operate in series with the existing Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) pump stations. Demolition and removal of the existing Interim Closure Structures (ICS) would be required once construction of the new pump stations and closures structures is completed.

The Corps will hold a public meeting on the proposed locations within IER 5 on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at St. Dominic's Church, 6363 Memphis Street, New Orleans, LA 70124 Open house begins at 6:00 p.m. Presentation and discussion begins at 7:00 p.m.

The projects within IER 5 would reduce impacts from a storm event that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year, the same level of risk reduction provided by the ICS. This will reduce risk to communities in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes such as Bucktown, Metairie, Lakeview, Lakeshore, Lake Vista, Mid City and Gentilly.

The Corps is utilizing the design-build process for these structures. During the design phase of the project, the Corps will engage the public for input and comment for each pump station.

Written or verbal comments on IER 5 must be submitted to the Corps by midnight Wednesday, June 3, 2009. Comments received during the public review period will become part of the official record.

Questions or comments concerning Individual Environmental Reports or the Corps' environmental process may be addressed to:

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For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list please visit the following web site: www.nolaenvironmental.gov.