



## Commander's note

Last Friday, I assumed command of the United States Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District. In light of the many unique challenges currently facing South Louisiana, being selected for this position is an honor, as well as a tremendous opportunity. I know that the former commander, Col. Alvin Lee, has set the bar very high and that expectations of the district and myself are great. I promise that as the 61st New Orleans District commander I will do everything possible to successfully deliver our mission.

The New Orleans District covers 30,000 square miles of southern Louisiana. Prior to assuming command, I traveled much of this area. During this time, I was able to put places to names, seeing up close many of the issues I had been studying for the last several months. While on the ground, I learned that the

culture and accents of South Louisiana are as diverse as the topography.

However, it also became very clear that despite the diversity, the needs of the people throughout the region are remarkably similar. The entire region, from Lake Charles to New Orleans, is intrinsically tied to their waterways. The unique cultures and ways of life for the communities of Dulac and Pecan Island are both under threat from marsh and coastal land loss. Flood and storm risk reduction is as important to the residents of Morgan City as to those living in Chalmette.

Thankfully, I have a great team to help me execute our mission. Over the last several years, the talent, dedication and production of Team New Orleans has become known throughout the Corps of Engineers. Their progress is unprecedented. They have

led the efforts of the Corps' number one domestic priority of providing greater New Orleans with 100-year storm surge risk reduction by June 1, 2011, while continuing to maintain safe and reliable navigation in an area of responsibility that includes five of the nation's top ports and two of the nation's three busiest inland waterways.

Additionally, they are paving the path forward in coastal protection and ecosystem restoration, executing more than \$200 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contracts, and processing emergency permit requests for the Deepwater Horizon oil discharge response.

Yet, the team also understands that addressing the complex needs and concerns of South Louisiana takes the coordination and cooperation of us all. Mission success in South Louisiana

requires a comprehensive approach and strong partnerships among all federal, state, local and private stakeholders.

The team and I understand that to build a strong partnership, you must first commit to being a great partner. Internally, we are committed to working with great integrity, treating each day as a day for improvement. Externally, we will treat all with the dignity and respect they deserve while maintaining a high level of response. No region's concerns will be considered greater than any others, and all efforts to communicate will be heard.

I think it is a fair assumption that we want to do everything possible to provide the families of southern Louisiana with a better tomorrow. To do so, we must take action today and the level of action needed can only come through close

cooperation among all of our partners.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome to New Orleans. I look forward to working closely with all of you. I am confident that together we will accomplish great things for the men and women of South Louisiana and the nation.

## Building Strong

Col. Ed Fleming





## Jefferson Parish pump station fronting protection construction to begin

The first phase of the \$174 million construction contract to provide fronting protection at the Duncan, Elmwood, Suburban, and Bonnabel pump stations is slated to begin in August 2010.

The contract was awarded to Odebrecht Construction Inc., who will begin with the Elmwood and Suburban pump stations.

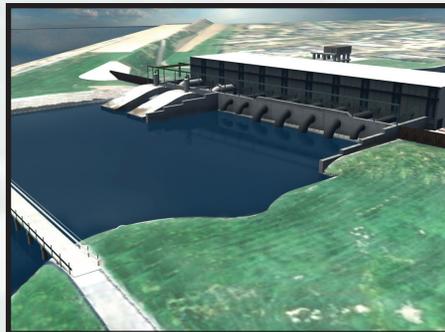
T-walls will be constructed in front of the pump stations and will tie into the existing levees on either side. The pump discharge tubes will be extended through the floodwall and valves or gates will also be constructed to prevent any water from backflowing through the pumps. Construction at Elmwood and Suburban pump stations will also include improvements to the existing breakwaters. By knocking down waves associated with storm surges, the breakwaters, working in tandem with the fronting protection, will provide a 100-year level of risk reduction when complete in hurricane season 2011.

At Duncan and Bonnabel pump stations, separate contracts have already been awarded to construct new breakwaters to create a 100-year level of risk reduction in the interim and

are scheduled to be complete before the peak of the 2010 hurricane season.

Completion of the fronting protection at all four stations is scheduled for summer 2013.

*Artist's rendering of a pump station without fronting protection (top) and the same pump station with 100-year level of risk reduction (below)*



## Deepwater Horizon emergency permit request update

Deepwater Horizon emergency permit requests status as of July 29, 2010:

- Received: 54 (including 11 modifications to existing permits)
- Issued: 44 (20 on same day, 15 in 1 day, 3 in 2 days, 2 in 3 days, 1 in 4 days, 1 in 5 days, 1 in 9 days, 1 in 15 days)
- Denied: 2\*\*
- Pending: 2
- Withdrawn: 6

*\*\*Denied under NOD-20 Emergency Permit only. The applicant has the option of applying for a permit under normal procedures.*

For a status update on each permit, and to review the permit applications and supporting documentation, visit <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/mvnoil-spill.asp>.

To obtain an NOD-20 emergency work permit, applicants must provide the following information by telephone, e-mail, or fax:

1. Description of the proposed work and brief statement of the emergency situation
2. Location of the proposed work (a map or latitude and longitude)
3. Name, address, telephone, and e-mail contact information for the applicant

This information can be forwarded to either:

Pete J. Serio, Chief, Regulatory Branch  
(504) 862-2255 (office)  
(504) 715-1897 (after business hours)  
Email: [Pete.J.Serio@usace.army.mil](mailto:Pete.J.Serio@usace.army.mil)

or

Martin Mayer, Chief, Central Evaluation Section  
(504) 862-2276 (Office)  
(504) 256-7659 (after business hours)  
Email: [Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Martin.S.Mayer@usace.army.mil)

While e-mail is preferred, requests may also be faxed to (504) 862-2289 or (504) 862-2574.

Within 30 days of approval, the permittee must provide a restoration plan to restore the impacted site. Should it be in public interest to maintain the authorized work, the permittee must also apply for a Department of the Army permit within 30 days of approval.

To review the full terms and conditions of NOD-20, visit our Regulatory website at:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/ops/regulatory/NOD-20.pdf>