

Commander's Desk

District, partners continue work toward common goals

On the heels of an extremely successful year, the Corps has hit the ground running in 2013.

Recently, we held our regular Non-Government Organizations partnership meeting at the district, during which we updated attendees on the status of various permit applications, the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System's Comprehensive Environmental Document, and the Morganza to the Gulf Environmental Impact Statement and Post Authorization Change Report. Participants also provided insight into topics of particular importance to their organizations.

It is this type of communication that not only strengthens relationships among our stakeholders, but also serves to benefit the greater New Orleans area as we work together toward common goals.

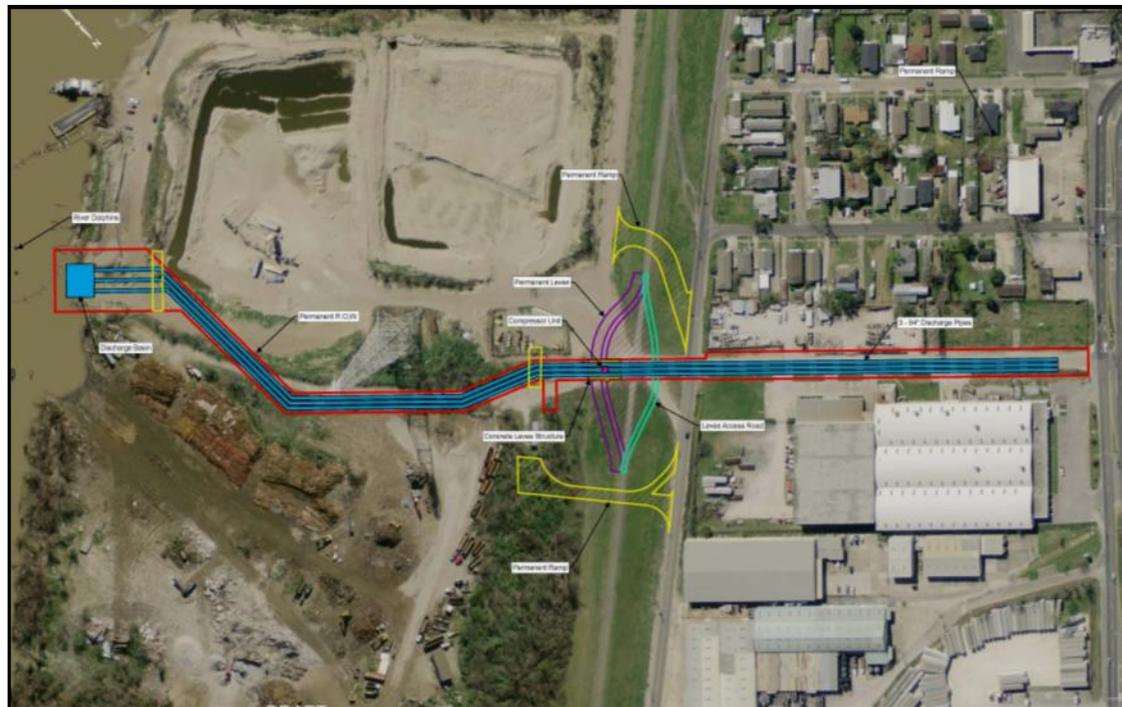
The District is also preparing for a potentially large permit workload in the near future as a result of deepwater horizon oil spill criminal and civil settlements, which would provide funding for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and BP-related projects. It is important to the Corps that those applying for permits understand the process.

We continue to maintain the deep draft navigation channel in the Mississippi River and Southwest Pass via dredging operations. One contract hopper dredge is currently working and additional dredges will be needed based on river shoaling throughout the high-water season. The \$23 million dredging contract we awarded in September to restore access in the Head of Passes disposal site is expected to be complete by the end of March. The dredge is removing 8-million cubic yards of material and placing all material beneficially in the Delta National Wildlife Refuge north of Pass a Loutre.

SELA is also in full swing as we awarded a contract to build the discharge structure for the Harahan Pump to River on the east bank of Jefferson Parish, the second of five contracts for this project.

All said, it's been a great start to the new year as we work with our local, state and federal stakeholders, and other partners in reducing storm and hurricane risk in Louisiana.

- Col. Ed Fleming
Commander,
New Orleans District



Corps awards east bank Jefferson Parish drainage contract

A contract to construct the discharge structure for the Harahan Pump to River project on the east bank of Jefferson Parish was awarded early this month.

The project is part of the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Damage Risk Reduction Project (SELA). When complete, the project will reduce the risk of damages from a 10-year rainfall event, which is a storm that has a 10 percent chance of happening in a given year and equates to approximately 9 inches of rain over a 24-hour period for our area.

On March 4, the Corps awarded a \$24.3 million contract to Louisiana-based B & K Construction. The approximately 30-month contract calls for constructing more than 2,000 feet of three 84-inch diameter pipes between Jefferson Highway and the Mississippi River. The pipes will run underground along Powerline Drive from Jefferson Highway to

Riverside Drive and then up and over the Mississippi River levee. The pipes will then be placed underground in the batture area to the river bank. A notice to proceed should be issued by late March and construction should be completed in late 2015 / early 2016.

This is the second of five remaining projects to complete the entire Harahan Pump to River project. The design of the remaining three project elements will be completed by the end of 2013; all construction on the Harahan Pump to the River project will be substantially complete by 2017.

A large portion of the work to improve major drainage canals and pump stations on both the east and west banks of Jefferson Parish is already complete. A total of fifty four SELA contracts have been awarded to date with work completed on forty five of those projects. All scheduled SELA work in Jefferson Parish should be substantially finished in late 2017 or early 2018.



US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Stakeholder Update
BUILDING STRONG®

Project mitigation a focus for USACE, New Orleans District



Above and right: Mike Brown and Steve Roberts plant saplings as part of the Corps' mitigation efforts for the Comite River Diversion Project.



Photos by G. A. Volb/USACE

Above: Steve Roberts provides an overview of Comite River Diversion Project mitigation efforts, while Mike Brown, plants saplings.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District is committed to its Comite River Diversion Project mitigation efforts in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The effort, according to Environmental Engineer Steve Roberts, focuses on reforestation of bottomland hardwood species.

“To date, 75 acres of mitigation lands have been acquired,” said Roberts. “Approximately half of that is currently high quality bottomland hardwoods and will be preserved. The remaining 38 acres has been reforested with about 10 native bottomland hardwood species at a density of over 500 trees per acre.”

Roberts said that, depending on the successful establishment in reforested areas, initial mitigation efforts could conclude within 10 years. However, some level of mortality is to be expected with mitigation, and subsequent rounds of planting and management are included in the plans.

