



## Commander's Desk

### Corps continues to make repairs and river improvements

The economies of 15 states are directly linked to the Mississippi River. Ensuring the navigational capacity of the river continues to be a critical mission, with four of the Nation's top 15 ports located on this economic superhighway between Baton Rouge and the Gulf of Mexico. Maintaining the channel to project dimensions while operating within the allocated budget is also one of our biggest challenges during these difficult financial times.

Maintaining the Mississippi River deep-draft navigation channel is the Corps' single largest dredging project. Seven dredges are currently operating in concert to restore the channel to its pre-flood dimensions. We expect to complete this task by the end of the fiscal year, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

The very water that makes the Mississippi River a valuable resource, however, also makes it one of our Nation's greatest natural threats. At this time last year, our attention was focused on the rising Mississippi River. Throughout the 2011 flood, the Missis-

issippi River and Tributaries system performed as designed. When the waters finally receded, we had not experienced any major flooding in South Louisiana despite passing the highest recorded river levels in history.

The MR&T has prevented approximately \$575 billion in damages over its lifespan and has proven to be one of our Nation's most valuable infrastructural components. The system, however, experienced significant damage from being subjected to the river's pressure for so long. The damage must be repaired so that the system will be able to defend against the next high water event.

As part of Operation Watershed-Recovery, repairs to the most critical areas are already under way, including the levee sections at Duncan Point and the Baton Rouge Riverfront. These sections were identified as the New Orleans District's top priorities, as they defend more than 400,000 residents and nearly 200,000 structures. With the help of our partners, the Lake Pontchartrain Levee District and the Louisiana Department of Transpor-

tation and Development, construction is ongoing and will be completed by this summer. Our mission is to have the entire MR&T system repaired to pre-2011 conditions or better by spring 2013.

The Corps is committed to maximizing the resources of the Mississippi River while simultaneously reducing its risks. Through our Operation Watershed-Recovery efforts, the MR&T will once again be ready to absorb the damages that otherwise would be incurred by the residents and businesses within the world's third largest watershed. And through our dredging operations, efficient navigation will continue across the Nation's busiest waterway.

### Essays!

Col. Ed Fleming

## Mississippi River & Tributaries Emergency supplemental funding supports critical repair projects

The New Orleans District continues making repairs to the Mississippi River and Tributaries system following the historic 2011 flood, and an additional \$487 million in supplemental funding will go a long way to support the completion of the most critical projects in an expedited timeframe.

The funds, which were provided through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2011, will be added to what had already been reprogrammed to complete the MR&T repair work. A total of \$545 million will be used to repair 45 projects within the New Orleans District's area of responsibility.

The money specifically allocated from the emergency supplemental will be distributed for the following projects:

- 13 Mississippi River levees and flood control structures repair projects for a total of \$247 million;
- 14 channel improvement projects for a total of \$39.3 million;
- 5 dredging operation projects for a total of \$142.4 million;
- 13 operations and maintenance projects for a total of \$58.3 million.

Work on the highest priority of these 45 projects is either under way or nearing completion. The New Orleans District's goal is to complete as much of the work as possible this year; however, some projects will extend into 2013.

Of the 45 projects, six are already complete. These include scour repair at Greenville Bend near Westwego, scour repair at Avondale (two separate projects), scour repair at Port Allen, repair of damaged slope paving at Jackson Barracks, and installation of a sheet pile cut-off at Chalmette.

Work at Duncan Point in Baton Rouge is progressing well. The Duncan Point repair project is the highest priority MR&T repair project in the New Orleans District, and the ninth highest priority for the entire Mississippi Valley Division. Construction began there in October 2011 and work consists of constructing a seepage berm and widening the levee slope on the protected side. Additional work includes relocation of River Road at that location. Work is scheduled to be complete in August 2012.

Other high-priority projects that are in progress include the first phase of scour repair at Third District (downtown New Orleans), the third phase of flood-side berm repair at Baton Rouge Front (downtown Baton Rouge) and deep draft dredging of the Mississippi River from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Corps concluded its Phase I flood fight procedures on April 11. This is the third time since spring 2011 that the Corps has initiated flood fight inspections. The Corps, along with its partners at the local levee districts, began inspecting the east bank levees between Baton Rouge and Bohemia and the west bank levees between Donaldsonville and Venice on March 27, when river levels topped 11 feet at the Carrollton gauge. There was no significant damage to the MR&T system during this recent flood fight.



Crews are constructing a seepage berm at Duncan Point

## Public meeting calendar

The Corps and the state of Louisiana are hosting six public scoping meetings this month to initiate the Louisiana Coastal Area Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study, which will identify and evaluate a combination of large-scale river management scenarios and coastal restoration features to address long-term sustainability of the Lower Mississippi River Delta.

All meetings begin with an open house at 6 p.m., followed by a presentation and formal comment submission period at 6:30 p.m.

Continue to the next page to see meeting dates and locations.



The Corps and the state of Louisiana will hold six joint public meetings this month



US Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District

Stakeholder Update  
BUILDING STRONG®



## Hurricane Risk Reduction

### All gates are in at Seabrook

The Seabrook Floodgate Complex, the last major Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System project, is now one major step closer to reaching the finish line. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Alberici Constructors, the prime construction contractor for the Seabrook project, installed the two sector gate leafs in mid March. With this installation, all gates at the complex are now in place.

The Seabrook Floodgate Complex is a \$165 million project located on the north end of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (also known locally as the Industrial Canal) near Lake Pontchartrain. The complex consists of a navigable 95-foot-wide sector gate and two non-navigable 50-foot-wide vertical lift gates on either side of the sector gate. In addition, floodwalls extend on either end of the channel and tie into the lakefront perimeter system in Orleans Parish.

The cofferdam is in the process of being removed with comple-

tion scheduled for mid April. Currently the gates can be manually closed if conditions warrant. The installation of the gates' electrical and mechanical controls will be complete in mid June.

It took the Corps and Alberici two days to install the sector gate leafs. The west leaf was installed first on March 15. The east leaf was then placed two days later on March 17. Each leaf is 34 feet tall and weighs 220 tons.

With all gates installed, the next major milestone is completing the project and reopening the IHNC at Seabrook to navigation in late June. The channel has been closed to all vessels since construction began in the fall of 2010.

In addition to the gates and floodwall tie-ins, the Seabrook Floodgate Complex

consists of a railroad gate on the western side of the structure and a new ramp on the eastern side at Hayne Boulevard. These features and the floodwall tie-ins are already substantially complete.

When complete, the Seabrook Floodgate Complex will work in tandem with the 1.8-mile-long IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier to reduce risk from a storm surge that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year, or a 100-year storm surge, generated in the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Borgne and Lake Pontchartrain entering New Orleans East, metro New Orleans, Gentilly, the Ninth Ward and St. Bernard Parish. Like Seabrook, the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier can currently defend against a 100-year storm.



*Crews install the west sector gate leaf*

## Personnel

### Real Estate team wins national award

Several New Orleans-based U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employees recently took home a national award for supporting the real estate work associated with the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

Members of the Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction New Orleans Management Team won the Real Estate Achievement Award at the National Real Estate Conference, held in Seattle on March 12-15, 2012. Linda Labure, Janet Cruppi, Todd Klock, Deanna Walker and Judi Guiterrez were recipients of the prestigious award.

"The team worked tirelessly with the state of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (the local sponsor) and other agencies to provide the necessary real estate for the HSDRRS, and this award is a testament to their excellent work," said Col. Edward Fleming, commander of the New Orleans District. "The Greater New Orleans area now has the best risk reduction in its history thanks in large part to the work of this team."

"This award is a great honor, and it speaks to the caliber of the team and the hard work and dedication of

its members," added Col. Jeffrey Eckstein, commander of the Vicksburg District, which oversees the regional Real Estate division, including the New Orleans District's Real Estate office. "The work by the team was essential in delivering the 100-year risk reduction system in just five years."

The team was recognized for successfully delivering more than 3,000 rights of entry, licenses and permits for the HSDRRS, for a total acquisition value of more than \$48 million. The team used creative contracting methods, worked closely with the local sponsor and utilized regional assets to ensure mission execution.

The National Real Estate Achievement Award is given to the Corps team or individual who has demonstrated outstanding project achievement, with a nod toward the team or individual who facilitates communication across functional, geographical or other boundaries and leverages diverse knowledge and skills. Award recipients must have made unique and outstanding contributions to furthering or maintaining the Corps' competitive advantage and professional reputation through studies, analyses or mission support for clients. A real estate

team at Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C., evaluates the nominees and selects a winner, with final approval by the Corps' Director of Real Estate, Mr. Scott Whiteford.

"It's been such a fulfilling experience to give back to my hometown and provide the city of New Orleans and surrounding parishes with a reliable and strengthened system," said Linda Labure, chief of the Corps' New Orleans District's Real Estate branch and a member of the award-winning team. "We share this award with everyone who had a hand in providing enhanced risk reduction for the Greater New Orleans area in a short amount of time. We could not have accomplished this historic feat without the expertise of our regional real estate team, the assistance of the non-federal sponsor and the cooperation of our stakeholders."



*Real Estate team members with their awards*

## Public meeting calendar

*Continued from previous page...*

Tuesday, April 10  
La. Department of Natural Resources  
La Salle Building  
LaBelle Room  
617 N. 3rd Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Thursday, April 12  
Port of New Orleans Auditorium  
1350 Port of New Orleans Place  
New Orleans, LA 70160

Tuesday, April 17  
Larose Civic Center  
307 East 5th Street  
Larose, LA 70373

Thursday, April 19  
Boothville-Venice Elementary School  
#1 Oiler Drive  
Boothville, LA 70038

Tuesday, April 24  
Waveland Civic Center  
335 Coleman Avenue  
Waveland, MS 39576

Thursday, April 26  
St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers  
8201 W. Judge Perez Drive  
Chalmette, LA 70043