US Army Corps of Engineers®

Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity
Teammate Update
September 29, 2010

Mission

We are committed to achieving the 100-year level of risk reduction in 2011 for the people of Orleans and St. Bernard parishes by constructing the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

The program also includes completing the permanent canal closures and pumps, the Grand Isle flood risk management project, Plaquemines Parish risk reduction projects, storm proofing and repair of existing pump stations.

Executive Summary

We are well on our way to implementing three big strategic improvements in the configuration of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System on the East Bank. Some slides are attached that highlight these strategic improvements.

The **first major strategic improvement** is to block five openings through which storm surge could penetrate into the heart of the city. The three temporary closure structures and pump stations at the mouths of the outfall canals are in place and operational, and prevent a 100-year storm surge from flowing two miles into the City at each of the three outfall canals. The contract for the permanent pump stations at the openings of the outfall canals is on schedule to be awarded in the Spring of 2011. The large Seabrook Gate structure is under construction and will close the fourth opening. The massive Lake Borgne Surge Barrier is also under construction and will close the fifth major opening. The Surge Barrier wall itself is complete, and work continues on the three gates.

The **second major strategic improvement** is to raise, strengthen and improve the existing floodwalls and levees, and ensure that for the first time ever, the City has a complete and integrated system that is designed and constructed to the same standards. This work is proceeding very well.

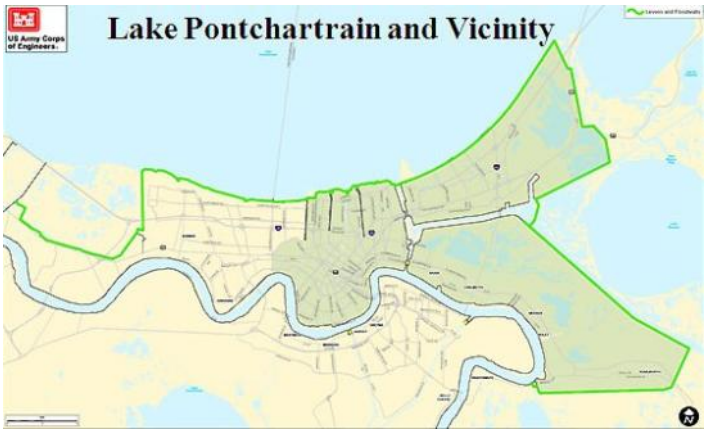
The **third major strategic improvement** is to make enhancements to the interior drainage system so that key pump stations can more effectively operate to evacuate rainwater. Repairs on 61 existing pump stations are nearly complete, and all repaired pump stations are operational. Five safe houses have been constructed, so pump operators can remain on site during a hurricane. Construction efforts to further storm proof pump stations continue.

Only eight months remain before the 2011 Hurricane Season and we still have some enormous mountains to move between now and then. Over the next eight months, we will focus our construction efforts on finishing up the work in New Orleans East, St. Bernard Parish and on the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal.

New Orleans East: Work includes the largest deep soil mixing project ever attempted in the Americas, and possibly the world. It will also include moving a Superdome's worth (4.9 million cubic yards) of clay, and placing it on the levees. Things are on schedule. Only weather can get in our way. We are maximizing every good construction day we have.

St. Bernard Parish: We are aggressively constructing 23 miles of T-wall (nearly two miles per month). The construction of the two sector gates at Bayou Dupre and Caernarvon is under way. Work continues virtually non-stop, and under nearly every weather condition. The $1.5 billion St. Bernard Wall is one of the largest components of the system. 28 Eiffel Towers worth of steel are being used in the floodwall construction.

Inner Harbor Navigation Canal: Construction of the sector gate at Seabrook has begun. The large sector gate on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, the barge gate on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the lift gate at Bayou Bienvenue are all under construction.



All contracts for perimeter work have been awarded, and there is nearly a continuous line of construction activity for well over 100 miles on the East Bank of the Mississippi River. We have two real estate actions remaining near the Seabrook Gate before the final construction options can be awarded. We expect these actions to be resolved in a few days with the property owner.

Plaquemines Parish: More than 130 miles of levees and floodwalls will be improved over the next four years. Due to the magnitude of this effort, we will continue to keep Parish leadership informed by means other than this update.

Grand Isle: The work on the Grand Isle dune is essentially complete.

We are committed to ensuring that the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity system can handle a 100-year storm surge event in 2011 even if there is a storm in May. We will wrap up projects through 2014.

1. St. Charles Parish - Protection & Restoration Office *$100 M construction value*

Approximately 30 percent of the 9.5 miles of St. Charles Parish's perimeter levees have been raised to the 100-year risk reduction elevations and the remainder is currently under construction. The final St. Charles Parish contract to be awarded is the 160-foot -long Shell Pipeline Floodwall; work is scheduled to begin on this contract in December 2010.

Bayou Trepagnier Complex

New T-walls at the Almeida and Walker Drainage Structures, as well as the Goodhope and Gulf South Floodwalls, are substantially complete. Work continues at the Bayou Trepagnier Complex, I-301 Floodwall, and the Illinois Central Railroad Gate with Temporary Flood Protection in place matching the preexisting protection elevations.

Currently, St. Charles Parish levee work is expected to be complete in Spring 2011 and structures and floodwalls are scheduled for completion by June 2011.

2. Jefferson Parish - Protection & Restoration Office *$500 M construction value*

Approximately 95 percent of the 9.1 miles of Jefferson Parish's perimeter levees have been raised to the 100-year risk reduction elevations with construction continuing on all five lakefront levee reaches. The final levee contract to be awarded - levee improvements north of the Louis Armstrong International New Orleans Airport - is projected for award in September 2010.

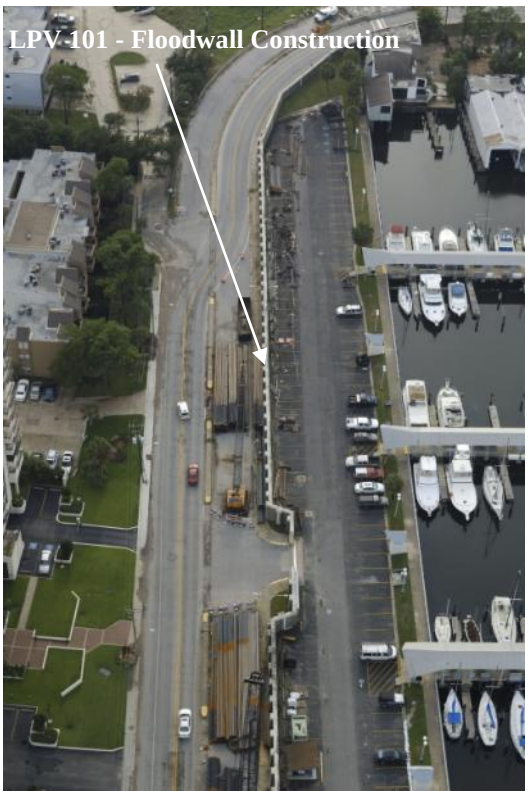
There are currently five structure contracts under construction. The breakwater at Bonnabel Pump Station is substantially complete. The breakwater at Duncan Pump Station is substantially complete. The floodgates and floodwalls at Bonnabel and Williams Boulevard are under construction. Work is also under way on fronting protection at the four pump stations in Jefferson Parish. The contract to improve risk reduction at the Causeway Boulevard peninsula was awarded, but is currently under a stop work order due to a GAO post-award protest.

Jefferson Parish Lakefront Levee Construction

There are two contracts to replace the West Return Floodwall; both have been awarded. However, the contract for the southern portion of the West Return Floodwall is currently under a stop work order due to a GAO post-award protest. There are two contracts to provide wave attenuation and foreshore protection for a large portion of the Jefferson Parish levee system on Lake Pontchartrain; one contract has been awarded and the other will be awarded in late September 2010.

Times-Picayune Two of three shoreline protection projects in East Jefferson are being protested

3. Orleans Metro (Main Supporting District - St. Louis) *$90 M - $100 M construction value*



The perimeter system is over 90 percent complete along the lakefront in Orleans Metro. All contracts in Orleans have been awarded and major construction of floodwalls and ramps between 17th Street and the Inner Harbor Navigation (Industrial) Canal continues. The floodwalls at Marconi and Lakeshore and West Bayou St. John are complete. Construction of the ramps at Rail Street and Lake Terrace will be under way this month.

Due to ongoing construction, the following road closures remain in place:

- *Franklin Avenue at Lakeshore Drive will remain closed through fall 2010;*
- *Lakeshore Drive at Camp Leroy Johnson Drive will remain closed through fall 2010;*
- *East and West Lakeshore Drive at Elysian Fields will remain closed through fall 2010;*
- *Canal Boulevard between Amethyst Street and Lakeshore Drive will remain closed through fall 2010;*

We do anticipate additional road closures; throughout the construction phase, we will continue to work with our partners at the City of New Orleans and Orleans Levee District to ensure public safety. If you have questions and / or concerns, please call our ***Construction Impacts Hotline: 877-427-0345***.

WWL-TV Could uncompleted lakefront levees fail in a hurricane?
WVUE-TV Lakefront utility issues still linger
Times - Picayune Corps of Engineers awards lakefront contract in New Orleans

4. New Orleans East (Main Supporting District - Memphis) *$800 M - $1 B construction value*

West of the Lakefront Airport (LPV 105.01), pile load tests are under way. Due to construction on this project, Downman Road north of Hayne Boulevard will remain closed through October 2010. The contractor is currently installing the temporary retaining structure for the floodgate across Downman Road. East of the Lakefront Airport (LPV 105.02), the contractor has begun to install H-piles and demolish the existing floodwall.

Major construction on the Citrus Lakefront Levee (LPV 106) continues with sheet pile installation from Jahncke Pump Station to west of Lincoln Beach. The contractor has begun to pour pile caps on placed sheet piles from east of Lincoln Beach to Paris Road and drive batter piles for the T-wall at Paris Road.

At Lincoln Beach (LPV 107), the contractor is continuing to drive sheet pile and has started to place concrete batter piles. The existing floodwall will remain intact until the new T-wall is installed.

From Paris Road to South Point (LPV 108), work is 99 percent complete. The contractor is cutting grass this week and continuing to repair ruts and place seed on bald spot areas. Once the seeding operation is complete, a final inspection will be scheduled. Between South Point and the CSX Railroad crossing (LPV 109), the contractor is continuing to install wick drains and place stone and clay embankment on all reaches. Construction of the gates at US 11 and US 90 will begin following this hurricane season and be complete by June 2011.

LPV 111 - Levee Construction (Deep Soil Mixing)

Between the CSX Railroad crossing and Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier (LPV 111), work is progressing on all project features including Deep Soil Mixing (DSM), which is now more than 30 percent complete. Currently, there are eight DSM rigs working. The floodwall construction at Pump Station 15 is on hold until the end of hurricane season, but the wall that was demolished has been rebuilt to the 100-year level.

This month, we provided a construction update to the Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission with a focus on risk reduction features in New Orleans East.

New Orleans East Construction Update - Public Meeting - Tuesday, October 26, 2010,
St. Maria Goretti Church, 7300 Crowder Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70127

Times-Picayune - Part of Downman Road closing

5. St. Bernard Parish (Main Supporting District - St. Paul) *$1 B - $1.5 B construction value*

Major construction on the Bayou Dupre Floodgate (LPV 144) is ongoing. The first sector gate pipe pile was installed this month, and over 50 of the 140 total have been driven to date.

LPV 145 - Floodwall Construction

Major construction is progressing well between Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou Dupre (LPV 145). The contractor has completed 140 out of 608 total monoliths. More than 65 percent of the H-pile installation has been completed.

Work also continues between Bayou Dupre and Highway 46 (LPV 146). There will be a total of 8 cranes driving H-pile by the end of this week. The contractor has completed the wick drain and clay installation for the emergency bypass road along LA 46.

LPV 146 - Floodwall Construction

Construction of the Highway 46 floodgates (LPV 147) is well under way. The contractor is completing H-pile installation, forming and placing rebar for the T-wall monoliths. The first base slab was poured on 15 September.

Between Verret and Caernarvon (LPV 148.02), the contractor has placed about 2,573 feet of sheet pile and driven 254 H-piles. On average, the H-pile production rate is 15 piles per day. The temporary access road is 90 percent complete.

Construction is under way at Caernarvon (LPV 149). The construction access roads should be complete in early October. Sheet pile operations are scheduled to begin this week.

We hosted a media tour of the St. Bernard Parish floodwall construction on 14 July. Several media outlets joined representatives from the St. Bernard Parish Council, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and the St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce on a tour of LPV 145.

WVUE-TV Corps Shows off Stretch of St. Bernard Floodwall
WDSU-TV Coverage Corps of Engineers Touts St. Bernard Floodwall Project
Times-Picayune Steel piling's defense causes concern
Times-Picayune Commission to look at pilings' rust risk
Times-Picayune St. Bernard work to linger
Times-Picayune Fewer levee projects to be reviewed by experts
Times-Picayune Engineers to look at rust issues
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Corrosion Fact Sheet on Pages 17 and 18

6. Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (Corps-wide Support)

On 14 August, we briefed the Lower 9th Ward Neighborhood Empowerment Network Association (NENA) about progress to date on the IHNC Surge Barrier, the Seabrook Floodgate Complex and improvements made to the interior walls along the IHNC corridor.

a. Surge Barrier *$1.3 B construction value*

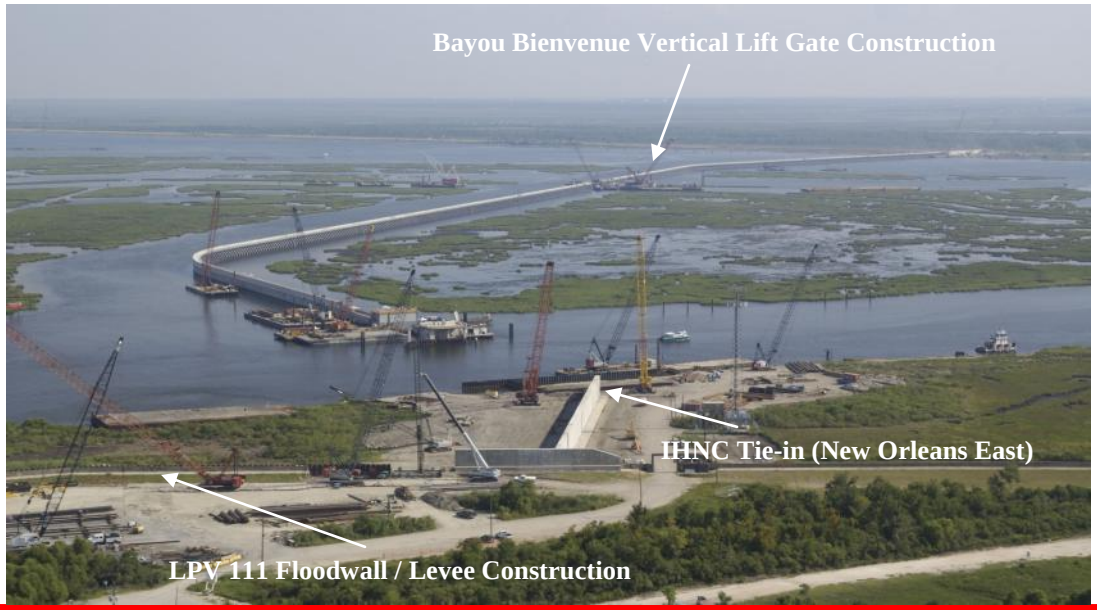
The team continues to make significant progress each day. On 16 August, we reached a significant milestone with the opening of the new Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) barge gate to all marine traffic. The main navigation channel simultaneously closed for approximately one year to accommodate the installation of the future sector gate.

The last small section of parapet wall is complete; all of the braced wall is at its final elevation of 26 feet. About 94 percent of the entire structure is now at the 100-year elevation, leaving only the Bayou Bienvenue gate, the sector gate and the three monoliths of the northern T-wall to complete.

We expect to make the first of three sill castings in the cofferdam at Bayou Bienvenue this week. Approximately 30 percent of the sheet pile is in place for the GIWW sector gate. Assembly of the vertical lift gate for Bayou Bienvenue and the sector gate for the GIWW continues in Delcambre, La.

As of 17 September, the overall design of the entire structure is 96 percent complete.

WWL-TV Corps: 100-year storm protection coming next year



b. Floodwall Remediation < *$25M construction value*

Currently, we are in the design phase of the restoration work for the interior walls along the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. We are developing a supplement to the Individual Environmental Report 11, which will be released for public review early next month.

Levees and Floodwalls (IERS 11.b Tier 2) Public Meeting
Wednesday, October 13, 2010
St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church, Parish Hall, 5010 Piety Dr., New Orleans, LA 70126

c. Seabrook Floodgate Complex *$155 M construction value*

The contractor is scheduled to begin closing the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, or Industrial Canal, this week. To ensure public safety during construction, all marine traffic will be restricted from the area beginning at the north end of Slip 6 to the Ted Hickey Bridge. The pile load test crew is mobilizing to begin operations this week as well.

On 9 August, we presented to the Seabrook Neighborhood Association at Gentilly Terrace Elementary School. The presentation focused on the IHNC Surge Barrier, the Seabrook Floodgate Complex, remediation along the IHNC, as well as levee and floodwall work in Orleans Metro.

7. Existing Pump Station Repairs (Main Supporting District - Chicago) *$80 M construction value*

There are 73 non-federal pump stations in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines parishes. We have been involved in repairs to 61 of those pump stations. We have the pumps operational and are close to completing the final station in our repair program, Elaine Pump Station in New Orleans East.

The overall Pump Station Repair Program is approximately 99% complete. All pump station repairs will be complete in 2010.

Pump Test at Elaine Pump Station

8. Storm Proofing (Main Supporting District - Chicago) *$225 M construction value*

We continue work on wrapping up the storm proofing program in Jefferson Parish (15 projects): two are beyond available funding, two are in design, one is in preconstruction, seven are under construction and three are complete.

Storm proofing also continues in Orleans Parish (18 projects): eight are beyond available funding, one is in design, three are in the proposal / bidding stage, four are under construction and two are complete. The overall Storm Proofing Program is approximately 33 percent complete.

Our goal is to have all storm proofing complete in 2011.

Pile driving at Pump Station 6 in Orleans Parish

Times-Picayune N.O. S&WB to steel power plant
Times-Picayune Corps of Engineers to storm proof more pump stations in Jefferson and New Orleans
Times-Picayune Hurricane Upgrades for pump stations may run out of money

9. Permanent Canal Closures & Pumps (Main Supporting District - Portland)
$695 M construction value

Earlier this month, we conducted one-on-one sessions with the short-listed firms that were identified in the Request for Proposal (RFP) Phase I. The RFP Phase II proposals are due by 15 November. Evaluations of those proposals will begin on 16 November and conclude on 21 December. Oral presentations are scheduled from 17 - 21 January, 2011. We remain on schedule to award the design-build contract in April 2011.

WWL-TV Corps to award pump contracts next spring

10. Outfall Canals > *$60 M construction value*

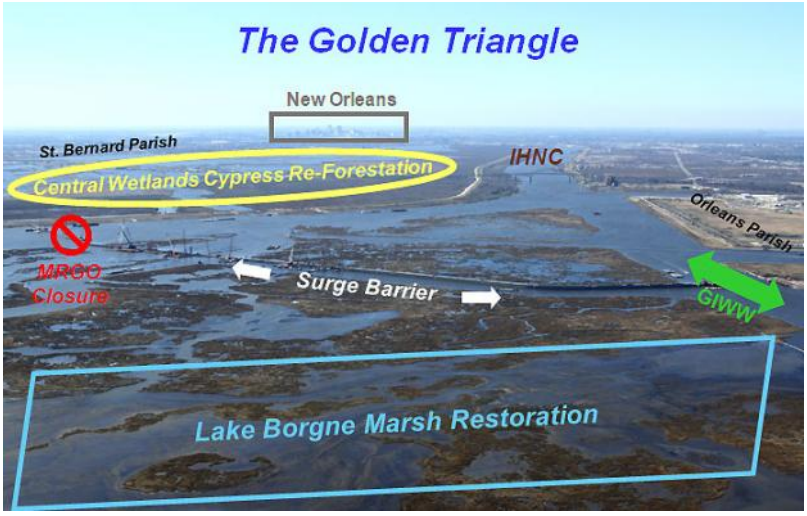
The construction of the Interim Closure Structures and temporary pump stations effectively removed the outfall canal walls as part of the primary hurricane storm surge system. Since construction of the walls along the three canals in the mid-1990s, they have performed well in removing rainwater from the city, including the record rainfall events in May 1995 and December 2009. Since 2005, $35.6 million in repairs and improvements were made to the London Avenue Canal and $25.7 million in repairs and improvements were made to the 17th Street Canal.

We recently released a draft environmental report, "Draft Environmental Report (IER) 27, Outfall Canal Remediation on the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue Canals," that outlines the proposed action for remediation of floodwalls along the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue outfall canals. The work is necessary to reduce seepage and increase stability, as well as to ensure that the canal walls can support the requirements of the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans in removing rain water from the city. All remediation work would be conducted within the existing right of way.

We also held a public meeting on 16 September at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church to provide an overview of the work proposed in IER 27 and to receive comments from the public. Written or verbal comments on IER 27 must be submitted to the Corps by midnight on Friday, October 1, 2010.

Times-Picayune Levee Authority Hires Engineers | Corps rejects firms findings | Review of floodwall plans to be costly | Levee districts to spend $300,000 to review Army... | Corps of Engineers making plans to strengthen floodwalls and levees | Corps to detail plans to shore up canals

11. Lake Pontchartrain Coastal Zone (Basin) Coastal Protection & Restoration



Planning is under way to create marsh and re-establish cypress forests in the Lake Pontchartrain Coastal Zone (Basin) to mitigate for construction of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

MRGO ecosystem restoration delayed...

View Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Video

As partiers bicker, the coastline washes away: A letter to the editor

Robert A. Sinkler
Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Commander, Hurricane Protection Office
Mississippi Valley Division

Recent Visitors to East Bank Construction Sites

U. S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey, Mrs. Casey and Mississippi Valley Division Commander MG Walsh visit the IHNC Surge Barrier

John Paul Woodley, former Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, visits the IHNC Surge Barrier

Mike Parker, former Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, visits the IHNC Surge Barrier

St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce visit to LPV 145 in St. Bernard Parish

Baton Rouge Foundation visit to the IHNC Surge Barrier

Levees.org founder Sandy Rosenthal visits the IHNC Surge Barrier

Recent Visitors to East Bank Construction Sites

Rheina Theile, Office of Management and Budget, visits the IHNC Surge Barrier

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East visits future site of the Seabrook Floodgate Complex

Louisiana Emergency Planning Committee visits the IHNC Surge Barrier

Office of Coastal Protection & Restoration Operations Division visits the IHNC Surge Barrier

Rick Mertens, Office of Management and Budget, visits the IHNC Surge Barrier

Congressman Melancon staffer Chris DeBosier visits the IHNC Surge Barrier

Recent Visitors to East Bank Construction Sites

LCA Science Board members visit LPV 145 in St. Bernard Parish

Students from Radboud University (Netherlands) visit the IHNC Surge Barrier

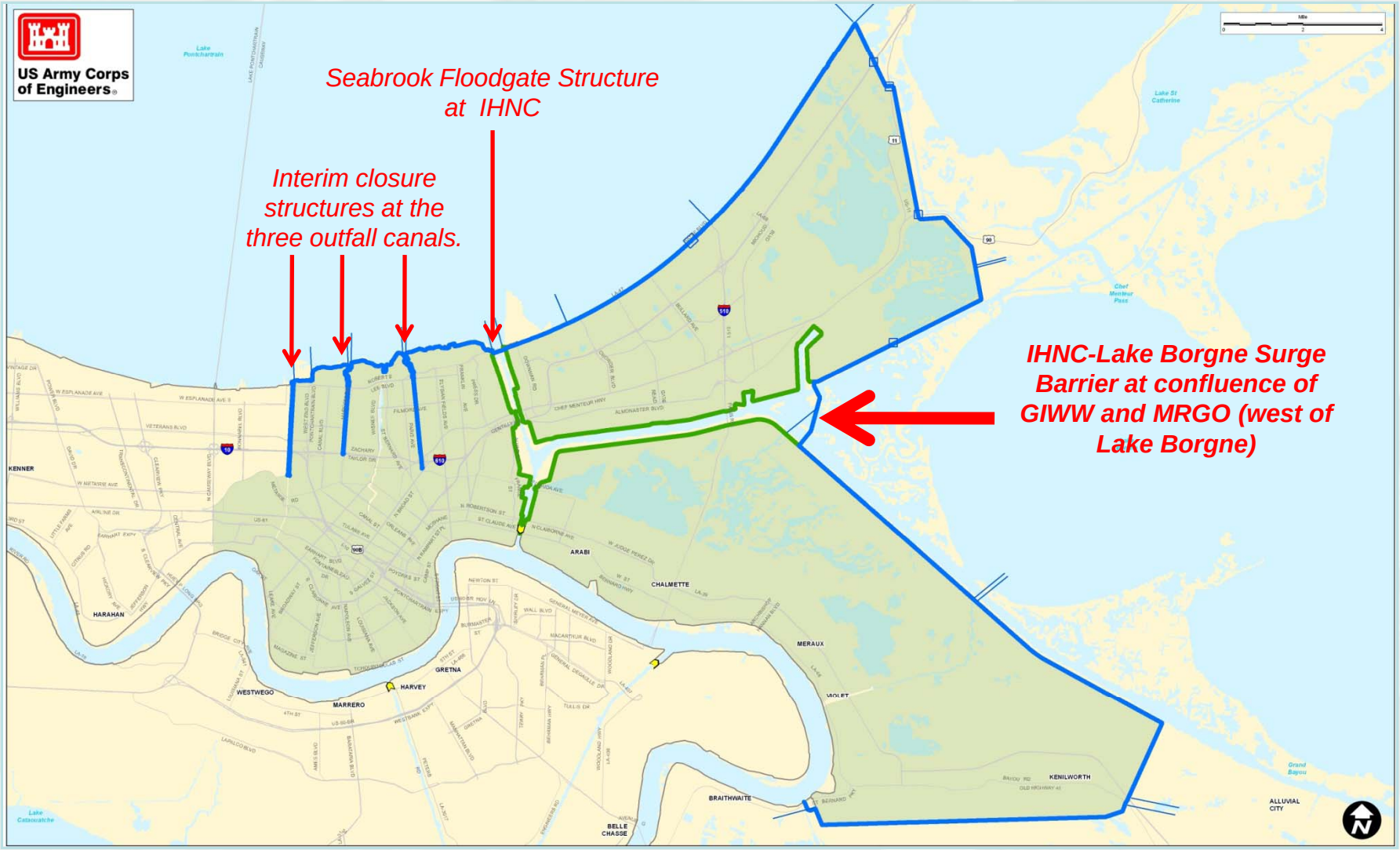
St. Bernard Parish Neighborhood Association visit to LPV 145 in St. Bernard Parish

Center for Biological Diversity and Men's Journal visit the IHNC Surge Barrier

JCH Development visits the IHNC Surge Barrier at the request of Councilwoman Stacy Head

St. Bernard East Neighborhood Association visit to LPV 145 in St. Bernard Parish

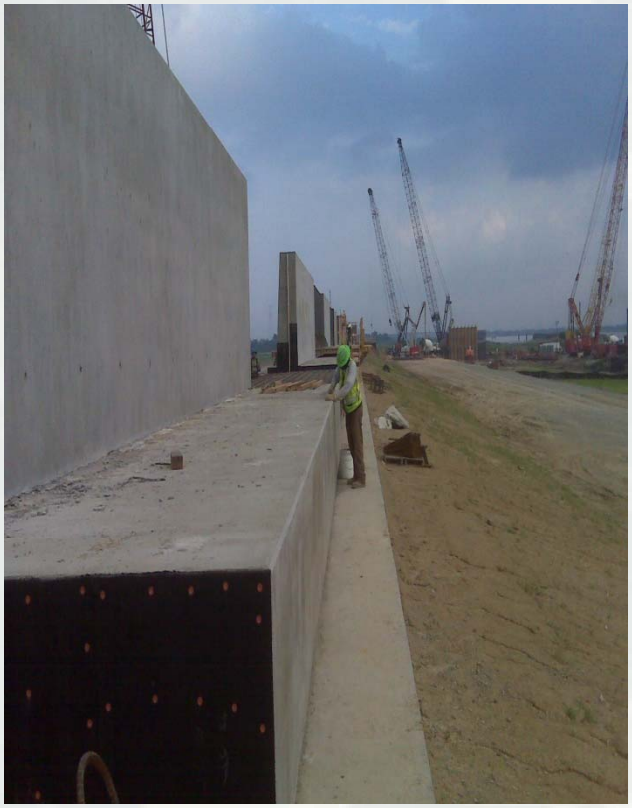
First Strategic Improvement



Block 100-year storm surge avenues into the city.

Second Strategic Improvement

New Orleans East



St. Bernard Parish

Orleans Metro

Raise & Strengthen Levees and Floodwalls throughout the system.

Third Strategic Improvement

Repair 61 pump stations.

Storm proof 49 pump stations.

Construct 5 safe houses.

Repair and storm proof key pump stations.

August 2010 Media Clippings

HSDRRS Overview

The New York Times

- http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/24/us/24levee.html?_r=2&src=mv
- IHNC, WCC, ICS

Army Media Center

- http://www.dvidshub.net/video/93244/new-orleans-aerial-footage
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzDSpi9h58Y
- IHNC, LPV 111, WCC, ICS

National Public Radio

- http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129466743
- ICS, IHNC

Associated Press

- http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gXUh265j76zf8hFaymiXyBZjwbXgD9HRV6QG0
- IHNC, St. Bernard

Agence France-Presse (AFP)

- http://loadtest.story.news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100826/ts_afp/uskatrinahurricaneanniversaryconstruction_20100826180846
- No specific projects mentioned/shown

Reuters

- http://www.reuters.com/news/video/story?videoId=145870364&videoChannel=1
- ICS, IHNC, WCC, LPV 101.02

CBS The Early Show

- http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/08/27/earlyshow/main6810589.shtml
- IHNC, ICS

CBS Evening News

- http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/08/27/eveningnews/main6812399.shtml
- IHNC, St. Bernard, Storm proofing, WCC

USA Today

- http://projects.usatoday.com/news/katrina/#/prologue/epigraph/a-perfect-hurricane
- IHNC, WCC, LPV 111, Seabrook, ICS, interior IHNC wall improvements

Wall Street Journal

- http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704147804575455680073243318.html
- IHNC, ICS, St. Bernard, coastal restoration

Engineering News-Record

- http://enr.ecnext.com/coms2/article_inen100901SurgeBusters-1

Christian Science Monitor

- http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2010/0829/Would-New-Orleans-levees-hold-for-a-second-Katrina/(page)/2
- No specific projects mentioned/shown.

Czech National Television

- http://www.ceskatelevize.cz/ivysilani/210411000100830-udalosti/obsah/124901-new-orleans-se-ohlizi-za-katrinou/
- IHNC, St. Bernard

WDSU-TV

- http://www.wdsu.com/video/24776668/detail.html

IHNC Surge Barrier

NBC News – (begins at 04:56 mark)

- http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619/#38872580

Univision (begins at 2:24 mark)

- http://www.univision.com/content/video.jhtml?cid=2515997&channelName=Videos&_requestid=164781

Al Jazeera

- http://english.aljazeera.net/video/2010828181638566624.html

CNN

- http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/08/24/katrina.nola.levees/index.html

Fox News

- http://video.foxnews.com/v/4322715/new-orleans-great-wall/

Outfall Canals

PBS "Need to Know"

- http://www.pbs.org/wnet/need-to-know/environment/unnatural-disaster/3171/

CORROSION

Updated September 2010

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

The Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System

Public safety is the Corps of Engineers' top priority. Congress has fully authorized and funded the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for southeast Louisiana. The HSDRRS includes five parishes and consists of 350 miles of levees and floodwalls; 73 non-Federal pumping stations; 3 canal closure structures with pumps; and 4 gated outlets.

Inhibiting Corrosion

Corrosion is an important design consideration for all HSDRRS projects. Inhibiting corrosion ensures the stability and resiliency of the 100-year risk reduction system.

USACE uses several accepted measures to inhibit or compensate for corrosion. They include:

- Over-sized cross section of piles (additional steel thickness) for corrosion allowance.
- Coating with Coal Tar Epoxy or other coatings.
- Application of a polyethylene sleeve.
- Zinc Coating.
- Electro-chemical (cathodic) protection.
- Casting in cement, mortar or concrete.
- Stainless Steel or other corrosion-resistant alloys.

Over-sized cross section of piles – St. Bernard Parish

Different measures to inhibit corrosion are being used for various projects within the system, depending on the project design, soil conditions, location and construction materials.

The use of additional-steel-thickness for steel pile foundations is an accepted engineering method that inhibits corrosion. This method has other advantages: it is "jobsite-ready", i.e., it requires no additional treatment before it is delivered immediately to the job site and it provides additional structural steel and strength. The purchase of extra steel saves valuable time and helps the Corps provide the 100-year level of risk reduction prior to the 2011 hurricane season.

Coating with Coal Tar Epoxy – St. Bernard Parish

USACE Guidance on Oversized Steel: *In some cases, an oversized sheet pile section may be specified to provide for the anticipated loss of section resulting from corrosion (EM 1110-2-2504, Design of Sheet Pile Walls.)* This construction policy is consistent with other federal and state agencies, as well as with private industry design guidelines.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – TEAM NEW ORLEANS
Hurricane Protection Office, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118
http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil
Visit the following links to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr:
http://www.facebook.com/people/New-Orleans-District/100000017439096
http://twitter.com/teamneworleans
http://www.flickr.com/photos/37671998@N05/

Polyethelene Sleeve – Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier

Electro-Chemical (Cathodic Protection) – Bayou St. John Sector Gate in Orleans Parish

Casting in Cement – St. Bernard Parish

More than 100,000 tons of additional steel is being used in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System to compensate for potential corrosion.

Stainless Steel Latching Pin – Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Barge at Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier

Galvanized Steel Rail - Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier

US Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter *September 23, 2010*

SPECIAL ISSUE

Corps Letter to the Editor

in response to Sept. 19 Times-Picayune editorial

Times-Picayune
Attn: Editor
3800 Howard Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70125

Dear Editor:

The editorial in Sunday's Times Picayune brought up several differences in understanding I would like to address.

Upon completion of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), the Greater New Orleans area will have the best perimeter defense in its history. Extensive modeling, lessons learned, collaboration, risk informed processes and external peer review have enhanced the Corps' design criteria and on-the-ground construction. Scientific and engineering rigor underpins all the HSDRRS work.

The HSDRRS is being accomplished in a relatively short time, as nearly $15 billion has been funded up front for this essential construction. In comparison, the Corps of Engineers normal national civil works construction program is about $2 billion annually. The Corps has a duty to be stewards of the taxpayer's money, and a professional project management and engineering responsibility to provide a safe workplace, care for the environment, stay within budget, deliver on schedule, and maintain quality. Quality, schedule and budget are ALL important for public safety.

Through continual and rigorous analysis, and careful program management, we have determined that the HSDRRS and the authorized work in the Southeast Louisiana (SELA) project can be executed within current funds. Reprogramming is necessary from time to time to assure the funds are in the right places at the right times.

Floodwalls and transitions between floodwalls and levees are armored during initial construction; over 420 locations have been armored to date. The final levee lift must be completed before levees are armored for resiliency. The Corps is testing a variety of armoring materials including grasses, turf reinforced mats and stabilized soils using one of the world's largest wave overtopping simulators at Colorado State University.

Corrosion is an important design consideration for all HSDRRS projects. The Corps uses several measures to inhibit or compensate for corrosion, depending on the project design and environmental factors, all of which are consistent with accepted engineering principles and practices of other federal and state agencies, and private industry. The purchase of additional-steel-thickness for steel pile foundations does provide extra strength, while compensating for the potential of future corrosion.

Continued on page 2

The Seabrook Gate Complex is on schedule. Features will be in place by June 2011 to defend against storm surge. The cost of building Seabrook will be accomplished within the funds on hand.

The GIWW West Closure Complex, another state-of-the art engineering effort, is now over 95% designed and 40% constructed. This very complex project is successful due to careful engineering and collaboration with our partners.

One of the lessons learned from Katrina that we must never forget is that flood risk reduction can only be accomplished as a system: levees, floodwalls, gates, pump stations, and other features stretch across Parish boundaries and need to work together. It also means effective partnerships between federal, state, local governances and all stakeholders are needed to deliver the complete system. It is our duty and responsibility to make decisions considering the comprehensive system, to ensure public safety, and serve the citizens of Greater New Orleans and Southeast Louisiana.

Sincerely,

Karen Durham-Aguilera, P.E.SES
Director, Task Force Hope
Mississippi Valley Division

St. Bernard floodwall construction

Contact Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Task Force Hope
(504) 862-1836

New Orleans District
(504) 862-2201

Hurricane Protection Office
(504) 862-1708

The *Status Report Newsletter* supports the information program for Task Force Hope and its stakeholders. It also serves as the primary tool for accurately transmitting the Corps' hurricane risk reduction efforts to stakeholders.

This is an online publication that is open to public distribution.

This issue and past issues can be found at:
http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps

Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at:
b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil

The Status Report Newsletter is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.

US Army Corps of Engineers

Status Report Newsletter
Task Force Hope
Strategic Communications
7400 Leake Ave., Room #388
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 862-1949