



US Army Corps  
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New Orleans District

# News Release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Atchafalaya Basin gets 11-day extension on extra water** *Again responding to governor's concern to alleviate poor water quality*

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has extended for 11 days the increased diversion of Mississippi River flows into the Atchafalaya Basin in response to another request from Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster to aid water quality.

The extension was approved by Brig. Gen. Edwin J. Arnold, division engineer of the Corps' Mississippi Valley Division in Vicksburg, Miss.

The Atchafalaya River's share of "latitude flow" will remain at 32 percent until the Mississippi crests at Red River Landing, just below the Old River Control Structures on or around June 3. Old River Control regulates the Atchafalaya-Mississippi relationship.

Latitude flow is the combined flow of the Mississippi and Red rivers at the latitude of Old River. By law, the flows must average 70 percent for the Mississippi and 30 percent for the Atchafalaya over a year's time.

The Atchafalaya River is expected to crest at 18.7 feet at Butte La Rose, a key measuring point for water spreading out into the Atchafalaya Basin. The increase to 32 percent is expected to account for 0.8 feet of that crest. The increase at the crest will add about 45,000 cubic feet per second to the Atchafalaya's flow. The Butte La Rose crest is expected at about the same time as the Red River Landing crest on the Mississippi.

A two-week increase to 32 percent, granted in response to an earlier request by Gov. Foster, had expired May 23.

After June 3, the Corps will gradually return the Atchafalaya's share to 30 percent of latitude flow. Later, to compensate for increased flows into the Atchafalaya, the Mississippi's share of water volume will be increased to keep the full-year average at 70-30.

**Old River Control on Web:** <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/oldriver/oldriver.htm>

