



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Houma Navigation Canal: Deepen it? How much?

Public invited to comment at public meeting in Houma, Wednesday, May 21

NEW ORLEANS – Should the 36.6-mile Houma Navigation Canal be deepened and if so, how much deeper than the 15-foot depth at present?

The public is invited to comment on this at a public meeting on Wednesday, May 21. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at Houma Municipal Auditorium, 800 Verret Street, Houma.

Deepening is being considered because the offshore-oil industry is moving to larger vessels that require deeper water. The offshore industry is the primary user of the canal, which links the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

“The canal’s depth is an issue important to America’s ability to compete in the offshore construction industry,” said Col. Peter J. Rowan, district engineer, New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “We are also working to balance environmental and economic needs.”

The re-evaluation study on deepening is being coordinated with the \$680-million Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection Project. The Morganza project has been approved by the Department of the Army and now requires authorization by Congress. In addition to a lock on the canal, the project would provide 74 miles of levees, control structures and environmental structures.

Public comments on deepening will help the Corps to shape the re-evaluation study, which will determine the depth to recommend.

Alternatives

Four alternatives will be considered in detail, in addition to no change:

- An 18-foot channel *with* and *without* the lock.
- A 20-foot channel *with* and *without* the lock.

The alternatives are tentative and may change depending on public comment and engineering studies.

Further information

Re-evaluation study: Project Manager Martha Lucore, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (PM-C), P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La., 70160-0267. Telephone 504-862-2057 and fax 504-862-1785. Martha.M.Lucore@mvn02.usace.army.mil

Environmental impact statement: Environmental Manager Nathan Dayan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, (PM-RS), P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La., 70160-0267. Telephone 504-862-2530 and fax 504-862-2572.
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The study and the environmental impact statement are scheduled to be available to the public in late 2003.

[Driving directions to public meeting](#)