



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Houma hurricane protection advances *Congress is next step for Morganza to the Gulf project*

NEW ORLEANS – Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, chief of engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers gave the green light Friday for a new \$680-million hurricane- and environmental-protection project in southeast Louisiana.

Brig. Gen. Edwin Arnold, president of the Mississippi River Commission, made the announcement Friday at the commission's public meeting in Houma.

General Flowers' recommendation to the secretary of the Army will allow submission of the report to Congress for authorization to construct the 72 miles of levees and the Houma Navigation Canal lock south of Houma.

"This project will provide vital protection to the people of this area from tidal and hurricane events," said Col. Peter J. Rowan, district engineer, New Orleans District. "Subsidence and saltwater intrusion have made the need for protection increasingly important."

The latest step is the climax of a feasibility study for the Morganza to the Gulf Hurricane Protection Project. Construction cost-sharing will be 65 percent federal and 35 Percent non-federal between the Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. The Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District will enter a cooperative agreement with the state of Louisiana to contribute a portion of the non-federal share and will be responsible to operate and maintain most of the project. The Corps of Engineers will operate and maintain gates on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Houma Navigation Canal lock.

Morganza to the Gulf would be Louisiana's sixth federal hurricane-protection project, and the second largest. The largest is the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project, at \$745 million. It was authorized in 1965, and has expanded to four parishes in the New Orleans area on the east bank of the Mississippi River with completion expected in 2013.

Construction of the Morganza project is expected to take 16 years. With hurricane protection nine to 15 feet above sea level, the new project would protect about 70,000 people in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes in an area of 1,400 square miles.

In the east, the Morganza project would begin at Larose, where it would tie into the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Project. On the west, Morganza would extend to the Bayou Black Ridge at U.S. 90.

A number of steps are being taken to protect the environment. The Corps of Engineers coordinated with a multi-agency team in the study phase to adapt the design to meet the goals of coastal restoration. Examples are many environmental water-control structures and the floodgates planned on Bayou Grand Caillou and Grand Bayou.

Locks and control structures provide hurricane protection where levees are intersected by waterways. The Houma Navigation Canal lock complex is under design and data collection is under way for several reaches of levee. Subject to Congressional authorization and appropriations, construction could begin in 2005.

Morganza to the Gulf feasibility report:

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/ED/MRT/Usace_no/mtog_index.htm

Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project fact sheet:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/response/HURPROJ.asp?prj=lkpon1>