



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Contact: Julie Morgan, 504-862-2037
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Corps announces dates of upcoming Individual Environmental Report public meetings

NEW ORLEANS - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, has scheduled the next series of public meetings designed to discuss environmental compliance efforts and construction updates on the proposed 100-year Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction System in the New Orleans metropolitan area.

“Holding public meetings and incorporating public feedback into the Individual Environmental Reports are an integral component of the alternative arrangements the US Army Corps of Engineers has implemented under the National Environmental Policy Act,” said Gib Owen, chief of the Corps’ Ecological Planning and Restoration Section. “The IERs are designed to allow improvements to the region’s hurricane protection system by 2011.”

Alternative arrangements allow the Corps to group together projects based on their (1) complexity, (2) impacts, both human and natural, and (3) location. Grouping projects into IERs allows the Corps to expedite the environmental process required of all federally funded projects. IERs fully comply with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act and do not circumvent the process in any way.

All of the following meetings begin at 6 p.m. with an open house staffed by Corps project managers, who will be available to answer questions. Project presentations begin at 7 p.m. and will be followed by a discussion period.

Meeting dates are as follows:

Jan. 15, 2008

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church, 329 S. Jaime Blvd., Avondale.
Meeting presentation will discuss Harvey to Westwego Levee, Lake Cataouatche Levee, Western Terminus Levee and Company Canal Floodwall as covered in IERs 14, 15, 16, 17 as well as the potential areas from which borrow materials may be obtained.

Jan. 17, 2008

N.P. Trist Middle School, 1 Pirates Cove, Meraux.

Meeting presentation will discuss Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou Dupre Control Structures, Caernarvon Floodwall, Chalmette Loop Levee and the Industrial Canal Navigable Floodgates as covered in IERs 8, 9, 10, 11. The Corps will also discuss potential areas from which borrow materials may be obtained. IERs 8, 9 and 10 are for projects in St. Bernard Parish. IER 11 is investigating a project to improve protection for the Industrial Canal Navigation Channel area in Orleans and St. Bernard parishes.

Feb. 7, 2008

Church at New Orleans, 11700 Chef Menteur Hwy., New Orleans.
Meeting presentation will discuss the Industrial Canal Navigation Channel (IER 11) and the potential areas from which borrow materials may be obtained. IER 11 is investigating a project that will improve protection of the Industrial Canal Navigation Channel in both Orleans and St. Bernard parishes.

Feb. 26, 2008

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6249 Canal Blvd., New Orleans.
Meeting presentation will discuss New Orleans Lakefront Levee, West of Industrial Canal, the Outfall Canal Closure Structures, and the potential areas from which borrow materials may be obtained (IERs 4 and 5). IER 4 addresses areas within Orleans Parish. IER 5 addresses areas in both Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

Feb. 28, 2008

East Bank Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Ave., Metairie.
Meeting presentation will discuss St. Charles East Bank Levee and the potential areas from which borrow materials may be obtained (IERs 1, 2, and 3). IER 1, entitled LaBranch Wetlands Levee, covers a study area in St. Charles Parish. IER 2 covers the West Return Floodwall on the St. Charles and Jefferson parish line. IER 3 is called Jefferson Parish Lakefront Levee.

Mar. 13, 2008

Our Lady of Holy Cross College, Moreau Center, 4123 Woodland Dr., New Orleans.
Meeting presentation will discuss Harvey and Algiers Canal Levee and Floodwalls in Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines parishes, as well as the potential areas from which borrow materials may be obtained (IERs 12, 13). IER 12 covers the areas around the Algiers and Harvey Canals. IER 13 studies Hero Canal Levee and the Eastern Terminus of the levee in Plaquemines Parish.

The purpose of each IER is to analyze the impacts of a range of alternatives, analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of each and identify a preferred alternative for the hurricane protection system.

The Corps' proposed alternative arrangements have been coordinated with, and reflect the input of, numerous key federal agencies including the council on Environmental Quality, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Visit www.nolaenvironmental.gov for additional information on the NEPA process and Individual Environmental Reports in the greater New Orleans area.

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