



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

News Release

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Mooring buoys protect N.O. canal bank, promote safety

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has installed nine mooring buoys in the Industrial Canal in New Orleans to protect the bank line and promote navigation safety. Total cost was about \$450,000.

A Corps work crew installed the white and blue buoys in April for vessels waiting to transit the Industrial Canal Lock into the Mississippi River. High water can force delays of 24 hours or more because each lock movement takes longer to complete.

The buoys are relatively soft and thus friendly to tank barges. They were placed to protect the exposed bank from vessels after demolition of the Galvez Street Wharf. Demolition was completed in February as part of the \$655 million Industrial Canal Lock Replacement Project.

The buoys, each about 10 feet in diameter, will also promote vessel safety. Mooring is safer than nosing into the canal side.

Anchors are 6-by-6 foot steel plates driven more than 60 feet below the mud line and attached to the buoys with heavy chain. The buoys are in about 10 feet of water and thus are usable only by shallow-draft vessels such as towboats and barges. The latter are the great majority of lock traffic.

The buoys are on the Industrial Canal's west side, just toward Lake Pontchartrain from the North Claiborne Avenue Bridge. Hired Labor Group A of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, installed the buoys.

Lock replacement fact sheet <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/prj/ihnc/factsheet.asp>

Lock status pages <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/od/lockupdates/statusindex.asp>

Buoy photos

[Photo 1: Work crew with vertically suspended black anchor chain](#)

[Photo 2: Buoys in water and, foreground, another hoisted, looking to North Claiborne bridge.](#)