



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

News Release

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Comite River: The first big job begins

NEW ORLEANS – Construction will begin in late September on the first big piece of the Comite River Diversion Project, the \$27.6 million Lilly Bayou Control Structure, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said.

The \$163 million Comite River project is designed to divert floodwater westward into the Mississippi River through an eight-mile canal to be built north of Baton Rouge. The entire diversion, including Lilly Bayou, will be 12 miles long.

The Lilly Bayou Control Structure will be a gateless dam – known as a weir – over whose top the water will flow into the lowlands of Lilly Bayou en route to the Mississippi. The contractor is B&K Construction Co. of Mandeville.

The heart of the control structure will be a 500-foot-long concrete edifice over which the water will travel as it descends 50 feet to the level of Lilly Bayou. Along its length, the thickness will taper down from 14 feet to six feet.

Big rocks on each end of the concrete will extend the control structure to a total length of 1,000 feet. It will be 150 feet wide.

The Corps of Engineers is building the project with three non-federal sponsors: Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge and the Amite River Drainage and Water Conservation District. Costs are being shared \$115 million federal and \$48 million non-federal.

The Comite River project's first construction job was a \$2.42 million excavation project that prepared the site for the Lilly Bayou Control Structure. The site construction began in March 2003 and was completed in January 2004.

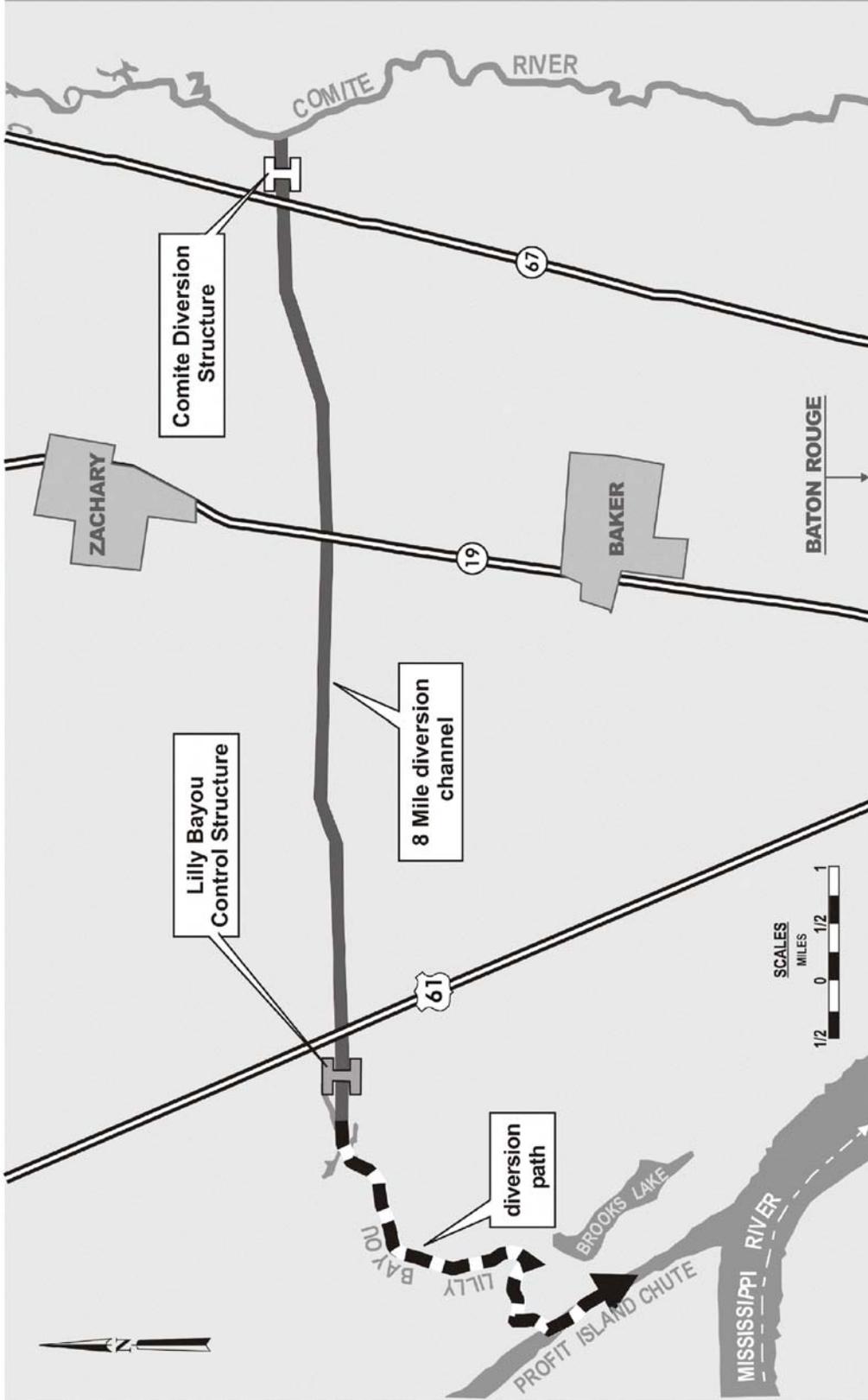
The next contract will be for a bridge on La. 67 (Plank Road), one of the four new bridges that will cross the future diversion canal. Contract award is scheduled for January 2006.

Meanwhile, the acquisition of real estate is a priority in order to maintain the present schedule.

The Comite River project is expected to be ready by 2012 for the diversion of floodwaters from the Comite River. The project will protect homes and other improvements in the 348-square mile Comite basin.

Map attached

Comite River Diversion Project



The entire diversion will be 12 miles long from Comite to the Mississippi

Elena Napolitano,
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