



US Army Corps
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News Release

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Corps Moves Forward With Raising Levees in St. Bernard

NEW ORLEANS – The Corps recently awarded a \$41.5 million contract to raise levees towards the 100-year level of protection in the St. Bernard area. This contract, awarded to Odebrecht Construction, Inc. of Florida, is the first phase to raise the levee heights between Verret to Caernarvon.

During the past six weeks over 9,500 truck loads of clay material have been hauled to the levee. “We are very pleased with the overall progression of this job. In fact, at this time we are nearly 10% complete with this initial phase,” said Christophor Gilmore, Senior Project Manager for St. Bernard Parish Levees, Floodwalls and Armoring with the Army Corps of Engineers.

In the second phase of the project, to be awarded next year, this section of levees will be raised to the 100-year level of protection in which elevations will be 26 feet.

On March 26, 2008, at the front end of the construction process the Corps held a day-long partnering session with key stakeholders. Team leaders from the Corps, Odebrecht Construction, Inc., Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District and the South Louisiana Flood Authority (for both New Orleans East and St. Bernard Parishes) came together in a working session to establish and maintain a cooperative partnership for the execution of raising the levees from Verret to Caernarvon.

“This meeting was important to understand the goals and responsibilities of each of our partners as it pertains to this levee work. We’ve found that having these sessions at the start of a project typically provides for a helpful information exchange which then leads to a successful project,” said Gilmore.

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