



## West Bank and Vicinity

### Quality assurance is an essential component of the Corps' work

ly, it does not effect on the structural integrity of that levee.

On two of the three contracts, the unsuitable material did not exceed the allowable amount. For the contract WBV

of the levee will also be performed to provide additional input, verify levee performance and finalize any corrective actions necessary to ensure that it meets the HSDRRS criteria and quality standards.

Additionally, the Corps is organizing a Tiger Team of technical experts from outside of the New Orleans District to review the contracts' embankment specifications,

assess the contractor's quality control methods and the Corps' quality assurance procedures.

Throughout the process, the Corps will continue to work with our non-federal sponsors to address any and all concerns related to unsuitable materials. This combined effort will focus on delivering a quality storm damage risk reduction system for the citizens of greater New Orleans.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a comprehensive Quality Assurance/Quality Control process for all phases of construction to ensure that contract specifications and quality standards are met. If unsuitable material (concrete, rock, brick, steel, tires, etc.) is reported to the Corps or our partners, we increase the level of quality assurance to include more

inspections prior to compaction of the levee, additional levee lifts and final grading and seeding.

Of the 54 contracts that comprise West Bank & Vicinity (WBV) portion of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), unsuitable material has been reported in three. Although unsuitable materials may cause a levee to settle minimal-



Crews inspect a levee section along West Bank and Vicinity 14c.2

14c.2, the Corps is conducting tests (electromagnetic mapping and ground probing radar) to determine if unsuitable material - from either the hauled material or material re-used from the previously existing levee - is within the new levee or berm. Exploratory trenching will be performed to calibrate the testing equipment and to verify results. Investigative trenching and coring

## Commander's Desk

### Every community in South Louisiana is important

Teammates,

During Tropical Storm Lee, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worked with the City of New Orleans and its Sewerage and Water Board to evacuate nearly 15 inches of rainwater from the city. The success of this team effort underscores the important role partnerships have in our ability to deliver a successful mission.

While the efforts in New Orleans have received significant national and local interest, the region is only one portion of the New Orleans District's 30,000 square mile area of responsibility. Whether it is New Orleans, New Iberia or New Roads, the Corps strives to deliver the best service and support possible to every South Louisiana community.

Every day of the year, New Orleans team members are working throughout the district to provide great service. Some of our hardest working teammates rarely step foot in the New Orleans District

Headquarters. Team members like Robert LeBoeuf, who volunteered to go out during Hurricane Ike to open the gates at Catfish Point so that the flood water trapped behind the structure could be released; and Allison Hebert, who assisted with this year's opening of the Morganza floodway while her family made preparations to evacuate their home in Krotz Springs.

To further improve the effectiveness of their efforts, the Corps must foster stronger partnerships with community leaders and stakeholders. Strong team work and a shared vision is critical to successfully addressing the issues that face South Louisiana.

Whenever possible, I schedule time to travel throughout the New Orleans District's area of responsibility. I will undertake one of these trips the first week in October.

These trips grant me the opportunity to visit several communities, seeing work that is under

way while gaining a better understanding of the area's needs.

Each day, I will sit down with Corps stakeholders like Port of Lake Charles Director of Navigation Channing Hayden and Chitimacha Councilman John Paul Derden. Together, we can focus on the top issues facing their communities and how the Corps can help.

These visits also provide an opportunity to meet with many of my team members that live and work throughout the District. These men and women consistently do an outstanding job and are a tremendous source of information about the issues that currently impact their mission and communities.

Traveling through South Louisiana is one of the best aspects of my job. The region is one of the most unique and important places our nation has to offer. Together, we can keep it that way.

Building Strong  
Col. Ed Fleming



*Coastal Protection and Ecosystem Restoration*

**Corps and state of Louisiana partner to study Mississippi River resources**

To safely pass the Mississippi River's record-setting levels during the 2011 flood season, the Bonnet Carre' Spillway was opened in May for 43 days. The flood waters have since receded and the spillway is again closed. However, more than 10 million cubic yards of sediment have been deposited in the Bonnet Carre' Spillway, evidence that the mighty Mississippi continues to yield great power and an abundance of natural resources. A successful coastal restoration program in Southeast Louisiana must make the most of these resources.

To use funding and resources responsibly, planning and implementation of individual coastal restoration projects and programs must be based on sound science and engineering. Sharing this understanding, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Louisiana have

signed a partnership agreement for the development of the Louisiana Coastal Area, Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study. This study will provide scientific research and recommendations for the construction of large-scale coastal restoration projects.

On August 24th, the New Orleans District and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) signed a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement for a comprehensive modeling effort of the Mississippi River from Old River Control to the Bird's Foot. The agreement also covers the Delta Management component, which will look at ways for future management of the Mississippi River to support multiple uses including navigation, coastal restoration and flood risk management.

This signing ceremony began a five year, \$25 million

effort that is being cost-shared 50/50 with the State of Louisiana. This modeling effort will help determine what is available in terms of freshwater and sediment in the Mississippi River for use in coastal restoration projects, such as river diversions.

Understanding resources and water flow is critical in determining where to place diversions, how to construct them and when to operate them. Ultimately, the Delta Management component will assist in determining how to manage the Mississippi River in a sustainable manner.

Efforts are underway with a focus on developing processes that will be utilized by the Project Development Team (PDT) to ensure successful implementation of the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study. During the first two years, the PDT will focus on

cataloging all of the existing modeling efforts along the Mississippi River and initiating modeling efforts for those areas that have not yet been covered.

Eventually, these models will be calibrated to build a comprehensive, large scale model of the entire southern reach of the river. As soon as possible, the Corps and State teams involved in coastal restoration planning will use the information derived from these modeling efforts to better plan coastal restoration projects, such as river diversions. Over the long term, the PDT will also use the findings from the modeling efforts and other large-scale coastal restoration plans to determine sustainable management of the Mississippi River that balances ecosystem, navigation and flood risk management and supports the needs of the Nation.



*Far left and center: The operation of the Bonnet Carre' Spillway resulted in more than 10 million cubic yards of sediment being deposited in the spillway. Right: The Corps and the state of Louisiana will cost-share an effort to learn how to maximize the river's benefits.*

*Congratulations*

**Local Corps attorney wins prestigious award**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District employee and New Orleans native Daryl Glorioso recently won the E. Manning Seltzer Award for his outstanding contributions to the legal services for the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS).



The Corps Chief Counsel selects recipients of the award based on special contributions to the development of legal theory, legal management innovations or practices, or outstanding performance in solving a legal or management problem. Glorioso was recognized for providing essential legal support on authorities, fiscal, environmental, procurement, real estate and ethics and for balancing the legal challenges associated with the \$14.6 billion HSDRRS, the largest civil works project in Corps history.

As Senior Counsel for Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, Glorioso assured coordination and integration of legal services and provided counsel to offices responsible for overseeing and executing the HSDRRS.

# Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Damage Reduction Program

## Work under way to reduce the risk of damages from rainfall flooding

The Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Damage Reduction Program (SELA) was authorized to reduce the risk of damage from rainfall flooding in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes. SELA projects consist of improvements to major drainage canals and pump stations and were initially authorized in 1996. Later in 2005, Congress appropriated funds to complete those projects that were authorized in Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

Of the 59 SELA projects in Jefferson Parish, 44 are complete, five are under construction, one is in the

pre-award phase and nine are currently under design.

We recently awarded two contracts for improvements on the west bank of Jefferson Parish. In June, a \$13.6 million contract was awarded to Louisiana-based Merrick Construction, LLC. Work is under way to install a new drainage culvert at Oil Company Canal near 8th Street; as well as to widen and improve Justice Canal with concrete and rip rap between 4th Street and Barataria Boulevard. In August, a \$3.3 million contract was awarded to Louisiana-based Fleming Construction Com-

pany, LLC to improve Mayronne Canal with 1,300 feet of earthen and 1,860 feet of concrete-lined channel from Dugues Canal to Westwood Drive.

Of the 20 SELA projects in Orleans Parish, eight projects are complete, four projects are under construction, one contract is the pre-award phase and seven are currently under design.

In Orleans Parish, a \$54.2 million contract was awarded this month to Louisiana-based Boh Brothers Construction Company for Phase 2 construction on Napoleon

Avenue between South Claiborne and Carondelet Street. Work will consist of constructing approximately 4,200 feet of covered canal, as well as relocating the sewer and water lines to accommodate the project.

Overall, the currently scheduled design and construction effort in Orleans and Jefferson parishes is about 65 percent complete and construction should be finished in 2017.

*Below: Work is currently under way in Jefferson and Orleans parishes to reduce the risk of damage associated with rainfall flooding.*

