



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

# Hurricane Protection Office

## Teammate Update

### 24 March 2010

Things are progressing very well where construction has started. The perimeter system in **Orleans Metro** is over 90% complete and we only have one small contract left to award. In **New Orleans East** efforts have stalled because we do not have the approved Right of Entry needed to award the final eight contracts. All eight contracts have been advertised but we cannot award them. We will need everyone's help to move things along, as these delays have pushed many projects two or more months behind schedule.

In **St. Bernard Parish** sections of new T-Wall will begin to take shape during the next few weeks. The contract award for Verret to Caernarvon (LPV 148.02) was protested for a second time; although work will continue, there is potential for this action to further delay the project completion. In **Grand Isle** we are planting natural vegetation on the geotextile dune, and constructing walkways across the dune, all of which should be in place for both hurricane and tourist seasons. This year, we are working hard to ensure that all **Pump Station Repairs** are completed by the height of Hurricane Season 2010; only Elaine Pump Station in New Orleans East is left to go, and it is under construction. We are also working to accelerate efforts on the **Storm Proofing** of pump stations.

The **IHNC Lake Borgne Surge Barrier** has many activities that are several weeks ahead of schedule; everyone will be impressed with the rapid progress of this project. Vicksburg District continues to support us in ongoing efforts to reduce risk in **Plaquemines Parish**.

On 16 March, Bob Turner, the SLFPA-East Regional Director, inspected the hurricane risk reduction projects in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes.

I do encounter citizens from time to time who believe (and are concerned and anxious) that the outfall canals remain a part of the City's primary perimeter protection. I need your assistance in getting the word out that with the completion of the Interim Closure Structures (ICS) in 2006, the outfall canals no longer function as part the hurricane surge protection system. They are primarily now used to help the Sewerage & Water Board handle rainwater removal. This is a monumental improvement to the City's system since Katrina - no longer is storm surge able to enter two miles into the heart of the City through the three outfall canals.

I am a little concerned about the proposed **Seabrook Floodgate Complex**. Currently, we are evaluating / responding to comments from the public and wrapping up the environmental process. After that process is complete, we will still need to acquire real estate. Until this complex is in place, New Orleans East, Orleans Metro, Gentilly, the Lower 9th Ward and St. Bernard Parish will have to rely on the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal walls as part of the primary system to reduce the hurricane storm surge risk.

I appreciate all of your continued support in helping us to deliver the HSDRRS for the people of Southeast Louisiana on schedule.



#### Mission

*We are committed to achieving the 100-year level of risk reduction in 2011 for the people of Orleans and St. Bernard parishes by constructing the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.*

*The program also includes completing the permanent canal closures and pumps, the Grand Isle flood risk management project, Plaquemines Parish risk reduction projects, storm proofing and repair of existing pump stations.*

## **1. Orleans Metro (Main Supporting District - St. Louis)**

Major construction continues at the lakefront: between 17th and Topaz Streets (LPV 101.02) the contractor is driving piles on the east and west end levees; between Orleans and London Avenues (LPV 103.01A1) the contractor is driving piles and pouring concrete base slabs for the new and more robust T-wall.

The final construction contract for work between London Avenue and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (LPV 104.02) was awarded last month. Work will consist of constructing a new floodwall at the Ted Hickey (Seabrook) Bridge and a new ramp over the levee to reestablish direct access between the University of New Orleans and Lakeshore Drive.



LPV 103.01a - Floodwall Construction

### **[View News Release](#)**

Due to ongoing construction, the following road closures along the lakefront are in place:

- *Franklin Avenue at Lakeshore Drive will remain closed until August 2010;*
- *Lakeshore Drive at Camp Leroy Johnson will remain closed until September 2010;*
- *East and West Lakeshore Drive at Elysian Fields will remain closed until July 2010;*
- *Canal Blvd. between Amethyst St. and Lakeshore Dr. will remain closed until August 2010;*
- *Canal Blvd. at Lakeshore Dr. will remain closed until August 2010.*

We do expect additional road closures; throughout the construction phase, we will continue to work with our partners at the City of New Orleans and Orleans Levee District to ensure public safety. If you have questions and / or concerns, please call our ***Construction Impacts Hotline: 877-427-0345***.

The last remaining contract for work in Orleans Metro (LPV 103.01A2) will be awarded this spring and has about a six-month construction duration.

## **2. New Orleans East (Main Supporting District - Memphis)**

Major construction between Paris Road and South Point (LPV 108) is 95% complete. Placement of the sand drainage blanket from South Point to the I-10 crossing is 90% complete. This is the first of three sections along that reach (LPV 109).

Deep Soil Mixing between the CSX Railroad Crossing and the Michoud Canal (LPV 111) began in January.

We held a public meeting in January at St. Maria Goretti Church to discuss the status of construction projects; the [presentation](#) is available on NOLA Environmental.



LPV 111 - Deep Soil Mixing

### **3. St. Bernard Parish (Main Supporting District - St. Paul)**

Major construction is under way between Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou Dupre (LPV 145). The contractor is currently degrading the levee, driving sheet pile and will soon begin to drive H-piles. Temporary road construction continues and the temporary bridge across Bayou Bienvenue is scheduled to open later this month.

Major construction is also under way between Bayou Dupre and Highway 46 (LPV 146). The contractor has driven test piles at all 5 sites, and the load testing phase will begin this week. The contractor is currently degrading the levee and driving sheet pile. Road construction continues and cranes, which will be used to begin driving the H-piles, are scheduled to be on site and assembled this month.



We awarded a \$33.3 million contract in January to New Jersey-based firm Tetra Tech EC Inc. to construct the new sector gate at Bayou Dupre (LPV 144). [View News Release](#)

#### **Times-Picayune Coverage**

We also recently awarded a \$5.3 million contract to New Orleans-based Integrated Pro Services, LLC to build floodgates at Highway 46 (LPV 147). [View News Release](#)

Lastly, the New Orleans District Commander signed the Decision Record for Individual Environmental Report (IER) 9, the Caernarvon Floodwall proposed action, following a 30-day public review period.

#### **View News Release**

#### **Times-Picayune Coverage**

### **4. Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (Corps-wide Support)**

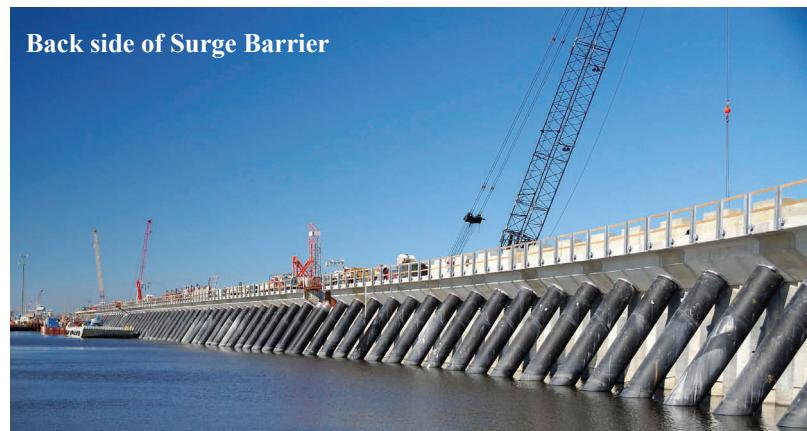
*Our IHNC video, which features the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, proposed Seabrook Floodgate Complex and Interior Floodwall Improvements, is now posted on the following Web sites:*

- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Team New Orleans Web site](#)
- [New Orleans District Facebook Page](#)

#### **a. Surge Barrier**

There continues to be a lot of interest, at both the national and international levels, in documenting construction of the surge barrier at Lake Borgne.

Producers from National Geographic Television visited the site on 4 February to determine whether or not they would like to feature the project; a crew will return in April to begin filming for a special on climate change and sea level rise.



Additionally, a crew from a British production company, Wag TV, visited the construction site on 28 January to shoot footage for an episode of the Discovery Channel's - *How to They Do It*.

Finally, a crew from French Public Television visited the IHNC Surge Barrier construction site on 10 February. They are developing a 45-minute documentary about Hurricane Katrina and will highlight some of the Corps' work. More information will be forthcoming on when those shows will be aired and / or available to view.

As of 15 March the overall design of the entire structure is 85% complete. All (2504) closure piles have now been installed, as well as 13 of 17 pairs of expansion joint piles. We are 90% complete on the installation of batter piles (579), 64% on caps (218), and 47% on the parapet wall. Dredging for the sector gate is now complete.



### IHNC Surge Barrier *In the News*

"New Orleans Repairing & Preparing" on [Rachel Maddow \(MSNBC\)](#) ·  
[International Construction Magazine](#) · [Baton Rouge Advocate](#)

#### b. IHNC East Wall

Work is under way on the East Wall of the IHNC, where we are strengthening a section approximately 4,000 feet south of the Ted Hickey (Seabrook) Bridge with sheet pile. The method of construction chosen by the contractor is a relatively new technique called silent piling, which will cut down considerably on noise levels and vibrations. Construction is expected to be complete this month.

#### [Engineering News-Record](#)



#### c. Seabrook

We held an Individual Environmental Report (IER) public meeting on 27 January in Gentilly to provide an overview of the proposed action for the Seabrook Floodgate Complex.

The IER was released for a 30-day public review on 8 December. The review period was later extended and closed at midnight on 27 January. We are currently evaluating and responding to comments from the public.

A protest on the Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) contract award was filed on 16 November and later resolved. The stop work order has been lifted and we continue to move forward with the design.



#### [Engineering News-Record](#)

## **5. Existing Pump Station Repairs (Main Supporting District - Chicago)**

The Corps and CDM Constructors Inc., the contractor for repairs on three of the severely damaged pump stations in St. Bernard Parish, were recognized by the Design Build Institute of America for utilizing the Design-Build project delivery method to complete the project quickly and cost effectively.

### **2009 Design-Build Award**

We have completed 29 projects out of a total of 30; the project at Elaine Pump Station is under construction and progressing well. The overall Pump Station Repair Program is approximately 96% complete.

Our goal is to complete all pump stations in 2010.



**Elaine Pump Station Construction**

## **6. Storm Proofing (Main Supporting District - Chicago)**

We continue work on finishing up the storm proofing program in Jefferson Parish (15 projects): four are in Scope of Work development, four are in design, five are under construction and two are complete. Storm proofing continues in Orleans Parish (18 projects): four are in Scope of Work development, 11 are in design, one is under construction and two are complete. The overall Storm Proofing Program is approximately 26% complete.

Our goal is to have all storm proofing complete in 2011.

### **Times-Picayune Coverage**

## **7. Outfall Canals**

We are currently making progress on improvements to the walls of the three outfall canals so that they can all contain a water elevation of +8 and effectively handle the Sewerage & Water Board's pumping capacities. Since their initial construction in the mid 1990s, the outfall canal walls have performed well in removing rainwater from the city, including the record rainfall events in May 1995 and December 2009. Since 2005, \$35.6 million in repairs and improvements were made to the London Ave. Canal and \$25.7 million in repairs and improvements were made to the 17th St. Canal.

Additional improvements will be made to the three outfall canals, beginning this summer. The 17th Street Canal walls will likely be further strengthened with deep soil mixing. Only very minor improvements will need to be made to the Orleans Avenue Canal Walls, which will include a seepage cut-off wall near Pump Station 7. The London Avenue Canal walls will require seepage cut-off walls along about a mile of the walls.

The plans and specifications are being developed now for these projects, and more specific information will be provided in future updates. The improvements to the outfall canal walls will be very similar to the improvements already made to the IHNC canal walls.

### **Times-Picayune Coverage**

## **8. Grand Isle (Main Supporting District - St. Louis)**

We completed covering the geotextile tube with dredged sand. Currently, we are finishing the walkways and evacuation roads, as well as planting dune vegetation. We plan to have a celebratory event this spring before hurricane & tourist seasons.

## 8. Permanent Replacement Pump Stations

Long-term sustainable and permanent risk reduction for the citizens of greater New Orleans has taken a huge step forward as a result of the signing of a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) between The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) of Louisiana and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

We can now move forward with the process to award a design-build contract for Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) at the 17th St., Orleans Ave. and London Ave. canals.



### Permanent Canal Closures & Pumps *In the News*

[WWL-TV CBS](#) · [WVUE-TV FOX](#) · [Times-Picayune](#) · [WRNO Radio](#) · [WGNO-TV ABC](#)

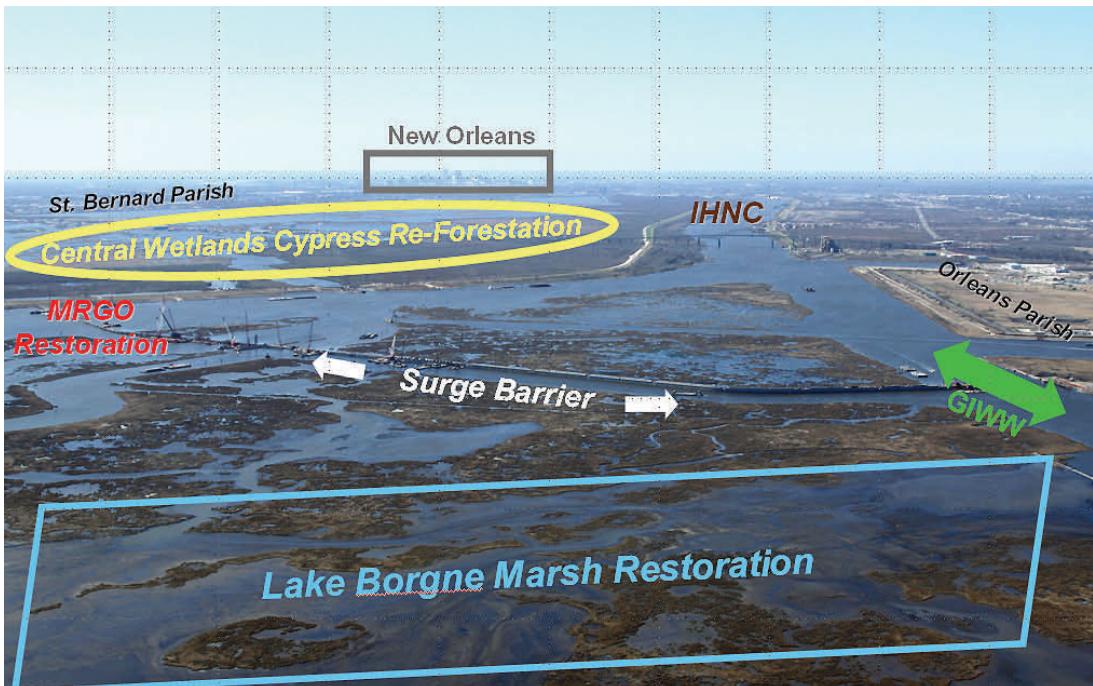
Community Meeting #3 Request for Proposal *Wed., March 24, 2010*

*Dillard University, Lawless Chapel, 2601 Gentilly Blvd, N.O., LA 70122*

*6:00 PM - Open House 6:30 PM - Presentation*

## 9. Lake Pontchartrain Coastal Zone (Basin) Coastal Protection & Restoration

Planning is under way to create marsh and reestablish cypress forests in the Lake Pontchartrain Coastal Zone (Basin) to mitigate for construction of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Details will be featured in future updates.



*Roland C. Satchwell*

# Recent Visitors to the IHNC Surge Barrier Construction Site



Lower Ninth Ward Neighborhood Empowerment Network Association



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Planning Associates



Mississippi Valley Division Planning Advisory Board



Illinois & Iowa Corn Grower's Associations and Waterways Council Incorporated



20th Engineer Brigade Leadership



Col. Miles, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District

# Recent Visitors to the IHNC Surge Barrier Construction Site



National Geographic Television



Baton Rouge Advocate (Amy Wold)



French Public Television



Spike Lee - Sequel to "When the Levees Broke"



American Council of Engineering Companies



Lake Pontchartrain Water Resources Management Team

# Recent Visitors to the IHNC Surge Barrier Construction Site



Tulane University - Environmental Law Students



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division & Far East District



National Wildlife Federation & Ivor Van Heerden



Bob Turner, SLFPA-East Regional Director



Community Leaders of New Orleans (Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell)



USACE Senior Leadership Development Team