



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

Project Fact Sheet

Official Project Name

Alexandria, La. to the Gulf of Mexico Feasibility Study

Location

Area drained by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, from Alexandria, Louisiana, to the Gulf of Mexico. The study area is located in Rapides, Avoyelles, St. Landry, Evangeline, St. Martin, Vermilion, Lafayette, Iberia, and St. Mary Parish.

Purpose

To address urban and agricultural flooding problems and agricultural water supply needs in the area drained by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee landside drainage system, between Alexandria, LA and the Gulf of Mexico.

Background

Urban development in the Alexandria area and agricultural development throughout the basin have increased rainfall runoff and flooding. The Chatlin Lake Canal is inadequate to handle runoff from the Alexandria area, and flooding causes extensive damages to urban and rural development in the upper basin. Downstream agricultural flooding and water supply requirements are also being addressed in the study.

Authority

The study was authorized by a 23 July 1997 resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives. The resolution reads:

“Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, that the Secretary of the Army is required to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, published as House Document 308, Eighty-eighth Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine whether modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood control, navigation, wetlands, conservation restoration, wildlife habitat, commercial and recreational fishing, saltwater intrusion, freshwater and sediment diversion, and other purposes in the area drained by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, from Alexandria, Louisiana, to the Gulf of Mexico.”

Scope

At the request of the sponsor, the scope of the feasibility study has been adjusted to consist of the city of Alexandria and surrounding urban area and downstream agricultural areas to the Rapides Parish boundary.

Progress to Date

Initiated feasibility study May 2004. The residential and commercial structure inventory is completed along with the surveys of the existing tributaries in the area; Chatlin Lake Canal, Henson Bayou, and Horseshoe Canal. Topographic surveys are being completed and the development of the hydrologic model of existing conditions is underway.

Sponsors

The Gravity Drainage District No. 1.

Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (<http://www.dotd.louisiana.gov>)