



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

**Public Notice:**

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**EIS Scoping Meeting Announcement**  
**November 2002**

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**Donaldsonville to the Gulf Hurricane Protection Project,  
Feasibility Study**

**Scoping Process**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides for an early and open public process for determining the scope of issues, resources, impacts, and alternatives to be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This process is referred to as the Scoping Process. The purpose of this document is to announce a series of scoping meetings for the Donaldsonville to the Gulf Hurricane Protection Feasibility Study that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting in association with the local sponsors, the Lafourche Basin Levee District and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Ideas and issues brought from scoping can be incorporated into the EIS process, thereby reducing chances for reformulation or reassessment after the public review of the draft EIS.

**Study Purpose**

The purpose of the proposed study is as follows: to investigate the feasibility of constructing a hurricane protection levee from Larose Louisiana to the western Davis Pond guide levee located east of Boutte; to investigate possible solutions to improve interior drainage within the Lac des Allemands drainage basin; to investigate restoring and/or protecting the natural and human environment to create a sustainable ecosystem in the Lac des Allemands drainage basin.

**Study Alternatives**

The proposed action would consist of constructing approximately 55 miles of hurricane protection levee from Larose Louisiana to the western Davis Pond guide levee located east of Boutte, Louisiana. The proposed levee alignment would start at the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Lafourche Parish and proceed north, paralleling the east side of Bayou Lafourche to U.S. Highway 90 south of Raceland, Louisiana. The alignment would proceed northeast,

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## NOTES

paralleling the south side of U.S. Highway 90 to Bayou Des Allemands. A water control structure would be built at Bayou des Allemands. The levee alignment would proceed northeast from east side of Bayou des Allemands to join with the west Davis Pond guide levee the east of Boutte, Louisiana. Additionally, ecosystem restoration activities and interior drainage issues will be investigated in the Lac des Allemands drainage basin between Donaldsonville and des Allemands, Louisiana.

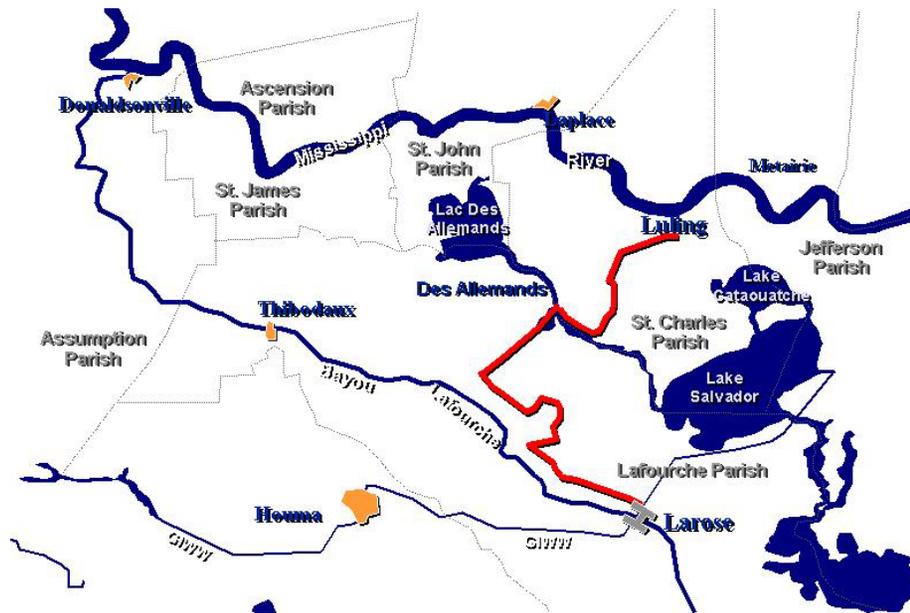


Figure 1. General area where levee and restoration efforts would occur.

Alternatives- The no-action alternative must be evaluated and retained throughout the study. The action alternatives will be compared to the no-action alternative to determine impacts.

Levees: Alternatives recommended for consideration include several levee alignments along the east side of the Bayou Lafourche corridor in the vicinity of the wetland /cropland interface. Alternative alignments along the Bayou des Allemands to Davis Pond guide levee corridor would follow existing St. Charles Parish levees or along routes for which the parish has obtained permits. Alternatives will be investigated for levees of various elevations and widths that provide varying levels of protection, to determine the plan with the highest net benefits.

## NOTES

Flood Control Structure: Alternatives for the flood control structure at Bayou des Allemands will be investigated for several locations where the levee could intersect Bayou des Allemands.

Interior Drainage: A comprehensive hydraulic modeling effort will be undertaken to evaluate the existing canal and pump station system in the basin. Model results will be used to recommend improvements to the existing canal and pump station system, or a combination of improvements in association with additional capacity.

Ecosystem Restoration, Lac des Allemands Drainage Basin: Ecosystem restoration alternatives being considered include a freshwater diversion from the Mississippi River, breaching of existing spoil banks to create more overland flow of water through the basin, restoration of Lake Boeuf, and drainage improvements to prevent stagnation.

Additionally, other alternatives may be developed during the scoping process.

### **Need for Action**

The USACE, New Orleans District, is initiating this study under the authority of a United States House of Representative; Transportation and Infrastructure Committee resolution adopted May 6, 1998. The focus for initial action is within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Lafourche Basin Levee District, which cover portions of the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist. The project area has been declared a Federal Disaster Area four times since 1985 after flooding events. FEMA has provided federal disaster assistance as recently as 2001 in response to the flood events. The basin is subject to heavy rainfall, tidal surges from the Gulf of Mexico, and hurricane flooding.

### **Resources/Issues to be addressed in the EIS**

An initial list of resources to be evaluated in the EIS includes elements of the natural environment such as wetlands (marshes and swamps), bottomland hardwoods, wildlife resources, aquatic resources (including fisheries and essential fish habitat), and threatened and endangered species. Elements of the man made environment that will be evaluated include: water quality, air quality, agricultural lands, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Socioeconomic items to be evaluated in the EIS include navigation, flood protection, business and industrial activity, employment, land use, property values, public/community facilities and services, tax revenues, population, community and regional growth, transportation, housing, community cohesion, and noise.

## Public Action Requested

**A scoping meeting will be held on November 19, 2002 beginning at 7:00 PM at the Gheens Community Center located at 1783 Highway 654 in Gheens, LA.**

**A scoping meeting will be held on November 20, 2002 beginning at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria of the Sixth Ward Middle School located at 795 Choctaw Road in Thibodaux, LA.**

Additionally, scoping meeting will be scheduled in Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John the Baptist Parishes.

The scoping meetings will begin with a brief description of the EIS process, the Corps study process, and the study alternatives. Scoping meeting participants will then be divided into smaller groups where a facilitator for each group will record the participants' answers to the following questions:

***Question #1. What are the most important issues, resources, and impacts that we should consider in the EIS?***

***Question #2. Are there any other alternatives or modifications to existing alternatives that we should consider in the EIS?***

Scoping meeting participants, and other interested parties, are requested to provide answers to the two questions, as well as other areas of concern. Comments will be summarized and described in a "Scoping Document" that will be made available to the participants. In addition to comments made at the scoping meeting, written comments will be accepted by letters postmarked no later than 30 days from the date of the meeting.

## For Further Information

Interested parties are encouraged to express their concerns at any time during the study process.

Questions regarding the proposed study should be addressed to the Project Manager Mr. Frank Duarte, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning, Programs and Project Management Division, CEMVN-PM-W, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, telephone (504) 862-1014. Mr. Duarte may be reached via e-mail at francisco.m.Duarte@mvn02.usace.army.mil.

Questions regarding the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Gib Owen, CEMVN-PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267, and telephone (504) 862-1337. Mr. Owen may be reached via e-mail at gib.a.owen@mvn02.usace.army.mil

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