



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Hurricane protection study beginning *57 miles of levee from west St. Charles to Larose*

NEW ORLEANS – A 57-mile hurricane protection levee could be built from west St. Charles Parish to Larose on Bayou Lafourche if shown to be feasible by a study just getting underway, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Friday.

The Donaldsonville to the Gulf Hurricane Protection Project would protect U.S. 90 from Luling to Raceland, and La. 308 from Raceland to Larose.

Another feature to be considered is a flood-control structure on Bayou des Allemands where it would intersect the new levee. The structure's gates would remain open for navigation in the absence of storms.

The Corps invites citizens to express concerns in two public meetings:

Tuesday, Nov. 19 – Gheens Community Center, 1783 Highway 654, Gheens. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 20 – Sixth Ward Middle School, cafeteria, 795 Choctaw Rd., Thibodaux. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Additional meetings will be scheduled in other parishes. Parishes in the feasibility study are Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist.

These are known as “scoping” meetings, where public comment is sought to help the Corps of Engineers obtain the widest scope of information to include in a study. Among other responses, the Corps seeks answers to these questions:

Question 1: *What are the most important issues, resources and impacts that we should consider in the environmental impact statement?*

Question 2: *Are there any other alternatives or modifications to existing alternatives that we should consider in the environmental impact statement?*

The study area has been declared a Federal Disaster Area because of flooding four times since 1985 and received assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency as recently as this year.

The Corps is conducting the feasibility study with two non-federal sponsors, the Lafourche Basin Levee District and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

The levee would be built south of U.S. 90, beginning near Boutte, at the west Davis Pond guide levee, and extending westward to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at Larose. The feasibility study would weigh the levee proposal, and also investigate possible ways to improve interior drainage.

The study would also investigate restoring and/or protecting the natural and human environment to create a sustainable ecosystem in the Lac des Allemands drainage basin north of U.S. 90.

Questions

Address questions about the study to Project Manager Frank Duarte, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-PM-W, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La. 70160-0267, telephone 504-862-1014, e-mail francisco.m.duarte@mvn02.usace.army.mil.

Address questions about the **environmental impact statement** to Biologist Gib Owen, CEMVN-PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La. 70160-0267, telephone 504-862-1337, e-mail gib.a.owen@mvn02.usace.army.mil.

Below: map of proposed levee alignment.

Donaldsonville to the Gulf Hurricane Protection Project

