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Contact:

Wayne Stroupe 601 634-2404

wayne.a.stroupe@usace.army.mil

Task Force Releases Report 2 on Hurricane Katrina Impacts

Washington (March 10, 2006) – Today the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) publicly released its Report 2, the second in a series of four planned reports, concerning Hurricane Katrina's impacts on the New Orleans-area hurricane protection system. Report 2, "Status and Interim Results" is publicly available from the IPET Web site, <https://ipet.wes.army.mil>.

The report includes preliminary results from the ongoing in-depth IPET analysis. The information is being presented for public exposure, external evaluation, and application in the evaluation of the existing protection system and the design of future protection projects in Southeast Louisiana.

Report 2 addresses the five major questions of the IPET mission: what was the pre-Katrina protection system, what were the storm's forces, how did the system perform, what are the consequences, and what is the risk and reliability of the system.

There are significant preliminary results in the report, including information on the Geodetic Vertical Datum, the storm surge and wave analysis, preliminary identification of the 17th Street Canal breach failure mechanism, and the influence of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet on Hurricane Katrina's storm surge.

IPET, established by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is comprised of some of the nation's leading engineers and scientists from government (federal, state and local agencies), academia and private industry. The IPET team includes approximately 150 engineers, scientists and other professionals, representing more than 50 independent organizations. The IPET includes 10 analysis teams; almost all are jointly co-led by professionals from independent organizations and from the Corps.

All releasable IPET documents, including design and construction records on the New Orleans hurricane protection system, are posted on the public Web site, <https://ipet.wes.army.mil>. IPET's Report 1 was released on the site Jan. 10. IPET's draft final report will be released June 1, 2006.

All IPET reports and data are being reviewed by an independent External Review Panel of experts from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). A National Research Council panel of experts will review and provide comments on the IPET and ASCE efforts. The National Research Council panel will report its findings in the summer of 2006. All of these reports will be released to the public.

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