



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

# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

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June 11, 2008

## **Corps reaches risk reduction milestones for St. Charles and Jefferson parish projects**

**NEW ORLEANS** – Aggressive plans to reduce risk on the east bank of St. Charles and Jefferson parishes continue to progress. New Orleans District Commander, COL Alvin Lee, signed Individual Environmental Report 1 entitled, “La Branche Wetlands Levee, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana” on June 9<sup>th</sup> and IER 2 was released today for 30-day public comment period. The comment period for IER 2 will close on Jul. 10, 2008 at 5 p.m.

“The project team has reached two significant milestones this week,” said Gib Owen, chief of the Corps’ Ecological Planning and Restoration Section. “IER 1 has been signed and IER 2 is now available for public review.”

The Corps is hosting a public meeting on Tuesday, Jun. 17, 2008 at the Congregation Gates of Prayer, 4000 West Esplanade Ave., in Metairie to discuss the government action for IER 1 and proposed actions for IER 2 and 3. IER 1 discusses the La Branche Wetlands Levee in St. Charles Parish. IER 2 covers the West Return Floodwall that runs along the Jefferson and St. Charles Parish boundaries. IER 3 covers the Lakefront Levee in Jefferson Parish. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the public the opportunity to provide input on development of the hurricane system.

The government action for IER 1 is a larger and higher earthen levee that follows the same alignment as the current St. Charles Parish levee. The proposed action for IER 2 is a new floodwall parallel to the current West Return Floodwall. The preferred alternative for IER 3 is a larger earthen levee along the current alignment.

The Corps’ proposed actions are discussed in detail in each of the environmental documents and will be described at the public meeting. The alternatives will reduce risk of storm surge from an event that has a one

percent chance of occurring in any given year and are an integral part of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

The public meeting begins with a Corps-staffed open house at 6 p.m. A formal presentation begins 7 p.m. and is followed by a discussion period.

In addition to IER 1, 2 and 3, the Corps will also discuss potential areas from which borrow material may be obtained. Borrow is a specific type of clay the Corps needs to upgrade the current levee system. The Corps is investigating potential borrow source sites all across the region.

Public meetings are an essential part of the Corps' commitment to environmental compliance efforts and construction updates on the proposed 100-year storm system for both the Westbank and Vicinity and Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity areas. These meetings, which enhance the Corps effort to introduce alternative National Environmental Policy Act arrangements to the community, are held to provide the public the opportunity to participate in the Corps' decision making process.

The Corps encourages the public to provide written comments on IERs available for public review by mail, e-mail or by visiting [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov) at any time throughout the environmental analysis period. Questions or comments concerning proposed hurricane storm damage reduction actions should be addressed to:

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Phone: 504-862-1337; Fax; 504-862-2088 or by e-mail at:  
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For more information or to sign up for meeting notifications please visit the following web site: [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov).

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