



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

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Corps releases environmental document recommending improvements to Inner Harbor Navigation Canal

Feb. 7, 2008 public meeting will discuss

NEW ORLEANS - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, is hosting a public meeting on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008 at Church at New Orleans, 11700 Chef Menteur Hwy, in New Orleans East to discuss Individual Environmental Report 11, entitled Improved Protection on the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC). This is the first environmental document, proposing hurricane protection project features, the Corps is releasing under its National Environmental Policy Act alternative arrangements.

“IER 11 is available for public review,” said Laura Lee Wilkinson, environmental manager on the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. “This report proposes constructing a channel and/or water body structures to reduce risk in Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes.” Comments on IER 11 are due by Friday, Feb. 29, 2008.

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 question and answer period. The purpose of the meeting is to allow the public the opportunity to provide input on development of the Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction System. A Vietnamese translator will be available at this meeting.

In addition to IER 11, the Corps will also discuss potential areas from which borrow materials 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; there are borrow source sites in New Orleans East as described in IERs 18, 19, 22, 23, and 24. Addendums to IERs 18 and 19 are out for public review until February 11, 2008.

Public meetings are part of the Corps' commitment to environmental compliance efforts and construction updates on the proposed 100-year storm damage reduction system for the West Bank and Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity areas. These meetings are a part of a National Environmental Policy Act alternative arrangement, and 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 11, 18 and 19 and the other projects under consideration by mail, e-mail or by visiting www.nolaenvironmental.gov at any time throughout the environmental analysis period. Questions or comments concerning proposed hurricane and 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.

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