



Public Meeting Summary

Individual Environmental Report 13 Eastern Tie-In and Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levees

Monday, May 4, 2009

Location	Belle Chasse Auditorium 8398 Hwy 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037
Time	6:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 p.m. Presentation
Attendees	Approx. 441
Format	Open House Presentation Discussion
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008 status map • Borrow Handouts • Presentation
Facilitator	Ken Holder, public affairs chief

Ken Holder, public affairs chief



Hello, my name is Ken Holder and I am with the Corps of Engineers. Please make sure to sign in at one of the tables so we can communicate with you better. Thank you for attending tonight's meeting on the Westbank and Vicinity Eastern Tie-In project. This is the 9th public meeting on this topic. If you attended previous meetings, thank you for being here tonight and providing us with feedback. Tonight we are going to go over the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project and what we went over last week at the Oakville meeting. We have the building until 9 o'clock tonight. I understand there are some presentations in the audience and we have allotted 20 minutes for those presentations at the end of the discussion session. Our intent tonight is to provide an update on current and proposed projects based on the meeting last week. We would like to tell you what we heard last night at the meeting. Tonight we have:

Colonel Alvin Lee	USACE New Orleans District commander
Colonel Mike McCormick	USACE Hurricane Protection Office

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	commander
Rick Kendrick	deputy and chief of the Hurricane Protection Office
Julie Vignes	senior project manager
Ted Carr	project manager
Gib Owen	chief of Ecological Planning and Restoration

To introduce the parish officials here tonight I would like to introduce Parish President Billy Nungesser.

Billy Nungesser, Plaquemines Parish President

I would like to start by saying Ernest Buttin could not be here tonight but he sends his support. I would like to thank Senator Mary Landrieu, Senator David Vitter and Congressman Melancon for sending representatives down here tonight. I would like everyone to be courteous as possible because we are here to accomplish something and make some changes. Hopefully with the support here tonight we can get this done. A little more than 2 ½ years ago we had a federal levee funded but not fully-funded to be finished on the west bank of Plaquemines Parish. When we went to Washington initially to marry the projects we were told until the project was ready to be finished it could not be considered. Anthony Buras a councilman for this district, he went back with me a few times and we were told the same thing. Throughout the 2 ½ year period trip to Washington both the Corps and the congressional staff said we are close but we could not marry these projects. Today, thanks to a lot of hard work of the Parish employees and consultants, we have hired people to give right-of-way: private citizens and companies have paid to test the dirt to get it ready through a quick process to move the levee through the system in order to federalize the levee. We are trying to find out the elevation of the 100-year level of protection for the levee and were told we would know in 30 days. Then we will know if we can add the money to the levees south and tie the two projects together. We also hope tonight that we can buy a little time to have our congressional staff go back to see if there is a possibility to marry these two projects. The project was started and approved in 2000 without a definition of where the project would be tied in. It is not the Corps fault. In the process, this levee was approved and funded by Congress. They are here to listen and we can make this a better project.

Ken Holder, public affairs chief

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Thank you President Nungessor. We ask that you allow us to finish the entire presentation before asking any questions. After the presentation we will have a discussion session and our experts will be here to answer your questions. I'd ask that you keep your comments to three minutes per person. I can not stress enough that you ask your question into the microphone. We need and want your input. Please respect each other and allow everyone to have a turn. Before we begin, I would like to introduce our Commander Colonel Alvin Lee.

Colonel Alvin Lee, USACE New Orleans District Commander

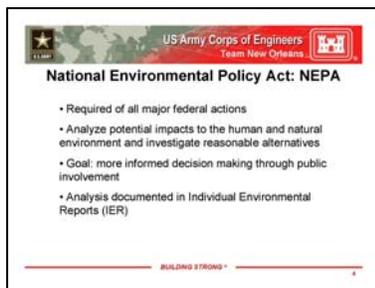


I would like to thank everyone for coming out and I know I met with many of you last week at the Oakville public meeting. There were a lot of questions about the public comment period. It was originally scheduled to end today but I have decided to extend that public comment period for 14 days. I did this because you gave us comments that were valuable. We will go back and consider this input in the document. Tonight I want to receive your comments to make sure we have everything before we go back to make a final decision. The National Environmental Policy Act is a public process that includes your viewpoints and perspectives. The people of the parish understand the parish the most and it is important that we see your point of view and understand the project and proposed action has on your community. I would like to thank you for coming back and bringing more people with you because you are important to the process.

Ken Holder, public affairs chief



The main reason we are here is to get your input and hear what you have to say. Tonight we will provide a brief status of the risk reduction measures that will benefit Plaquemines Parish south of Oakville in the Non-Federal Levee project and we will discuss the proposed actions that will reduce risk in the English Turn and Belle Chasse area.



NEPA is required of all major federal actions. It requires us to analyze all the impacts to the human and natural environment. The goal is to make a better informed decision. To make these decisions we rely on public involvement. The analysis is then documented in the Individual Environmental Report.

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This slide was shown last time and it illustrates how risk goes down. It starts with the initial risk going down through zoning, and building codes, which is where we are now.



Now I will recap the four main things learned at the last meeting. The four things that were heard repeatedly in the last meeting: request number one was to extend the comment period on Individual Environmental Report 13, Eastern Tie In. The request was granted and two weeks were given; the second request was the proposed floodgate on Highway 23 will flood Plaquemines south of Oakville. The response is the Westbank and Vicinity Project, including the Eastern Tie In floodgate, would not create additional flood risk to Plaquemines south of Oakville when the Plaquemines Non-Federal Levees are completed.



Comment three was that by locating the bridge at Highway 23, we interrupt Oakville community cohesion. The Corps' proposed action is the construction of a floodgate at Highway 23 which will maintain the Oakville community cohesion and traffic safety. There was concern about the ability to access the road (levee) to handle emergency vehicles. The Corps' response is any vehicle that does not need a special permit can safely use the levee which

includes fire trucks.

Before we go any further I would like to now go into the Plaquemines Non-Federal Levee project.

Rick Kendrick, deputy chief of the Hurricane Protection Office



Hello my name is Rick Kendrick with the hurricane protection office. The Corps' Non-Federal Levee project is not part of IER 13, it is a separate Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, and we do not have a recommended plan. We will not have a recommendation or a document out until sometime this summer. I would like to talk about how the Non-Federal piece

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takes the existing public and private levees and builds them to build better standards. IER 13 is north of Oakville and this project goes from Oakville south to the existing federal levees in Plaquemines Parish.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project Authority

"... provided that ... at full Federal expense ... that \$215,000,000 shall be used to replace or modify certain non-Federal levees in Plaquemines Parish to incorporate the levees into the existing New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project ..."

46 Supplemental Public Law 109-224

"... provided that ... certain projects in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area be processed in a manner which promotes the goal of continuing work at an optimal pace, while maximizing, to the greatest extent practicable, levels of protection to reduce the risk of storm damage to people and property ..."

50 Supplemental Public Law 109-228

"... provided ... an additional amount of \$456,000,000 ... for the project ..."

51 Supplemental Public Law 110-202

BUILDING STRONG

Two key points of the authorization of this project are: tht the Corps needs to replace the existing Non-Federal Levees in Plaquemines Parish and incorporate the levees into the existing New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project. The funding is for \$215 million. The second part is from the 6th Supplemental Emergency Spending bill for \$456 million that this project was funded to bring the current levees into the federal standards.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Background

- The existing levee is a "Back Levee" approximately 32 miles long, constructed with non-federal funds, both private and public, on the west side of the Mississippi River to provide hurricane protection from Oakville to two miles up river of St. Jude
- Three pump stations provide capacity for approximately a two year event
- Existing levee constructed with adjacent materials:
 - 8' in the northern areas (8 miles)
 - 4' or less in the southern areas (24 miles)
- Ground level between existing NFL and NOV (2 miles)
- Recent hurricanes have caused several breaches resulting in severe flooding and significant property damage

BUILDING STRONG

The key points are there are 32-miles of levees ranging from 8 feet in the northern areas to ground level between the existing Non-Federal Levees. Our job in the process is to incorporate those levees into the federal standards to make sure we have full federal protection. This is not the 100-year risk reduction system. There have been public meetings on the SEIS but there has not been a decision or a recommendation made. The SEIS process is part of the NEPA process but separate from the IER process.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee The Path Ahead

- Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) in development - three public meetings to date, your comments count
- Draft SEIS ready for public review this summer
- Record of Decision (ROD) this fall
- Project Partnering Agreement
- Acquisition of Right of Way
- Construction Begins 2011
- Construction Complete in 2013

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We have had three public meetings and the last one was in Jan. We will have some more in the future. The recommended action is expected by late summer. There are things we are trying to do to speed up the process, like President Nungesser said about helping find material and getting the right of ways. This is scheduled to start in 2011 with completion in 2013. Currently it is authorized to be brought into the same requirements as the hurricane system.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Westbank and Vicinity Risk Reduction

Map showing the Mississippi River levee system with highlighted areas for risk reduction.

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Ted Carr, project manager

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Westbank and Vicinity Project Authority

- 1996 Water Resources and Development Act amended the previously authorized West Bank project to provide "hurricane protection" to areas east of the Algiers Canal extending from Belle Chasse to and including Oakville in Plaquemines Parish

Map showing the Mississippi River levee system with highlighted areas for risk reduction.

BUILDING STRONG

Good evening, thank you for having us here tonight. I am here to discuss the Eastern Tie In project. I want to talk a little more about this slide. This [pointing] is the Algiers and Harvey canals. We are talking about the area from the Algiers Canal, along the north side of the Hero Canal, then along the landfill to cross Highway 23 and tie into the Mississippi River Levee system. IER 13 is the Eastern Tie In and that is what I want to talk to you about tonight.

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We have a couple of Congressional authorizations and the one I would like to discuss authorizes the levee system east of the Algiers Canal. In 1996 the Water Resources and Development Act authorized east of the Algiers Canal extending from Belle Chasse to Oakville in Plaquemines Parish.



IER 13 ties in here [pointing] at the GIWW Western Closure Project, this is the Hero Canal [pointing], and we will raise the levees at that point. On this slide we show the orientation of the project.



Here we are at the Hero Canal [pointing] and this is where the existing levee will be raised. We start here [pointing] where we cross the Hero Canal with a stop-log gate. There were several alternatives looked at but the stop-log gate is in the proposed action. At the stop-log gate there will be a small 150 cubic feet per second pump station. From this point [pointing] to here will be a reinforced levee that is part of the federalized system. In this area is the 150 cfs pump station that will take the existing drainage from Oakville and put it into the Ollie Canal. The existing drainage is going to be pumped over the levee and it is the same drainage as what is currently there now. No additional drainage is associated with this project.

The pump station right here [pointing], we reverse where the old FEMA trailer park is with an earthen levee and transitions to a floodwall. The floodwall crosses Highway 23 with a floodgate. There is a highway and a railroad floodgate. Then there is a transition to another floodwall and continues with an earthen levee to tie into the Mississippi River Levee system.



Ken Holder, public affairs chief



This is a list of additional public meetings coming up and everyone got a chance to see this before we got started.

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This slide is of the various IER's available for public input.



As a reminder one way to submit comments is at the [nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov) Web site or by contacting Gib Owen.



You can do these things to accelerate the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project. Thank you for your patience and understanding we are now starting the discussion session.



Question 1. Pete Stavros: I found out two weeks ago about this project. This is the report referenced, the draft of project, and its up to us to understand it. In this document it defines the environment of Oakville as everything within 1 mile of the community. There are many references here, for instance, adjacent are pasturelands and citrus groves, which is not adequate

to the people in this room. One that is an eye opener is the picture of the entire Westbank system. Especially the one that extends south through the marsh to the Barataria Bay estuary. Further north there is commercial and residential use. Why is it important that we can clarify this, because we're saying everything north would be protected and that we are worried about the Barataria Basin? I think we need a response to why you only looked at the direct or indirect effects outside one mile?

Response 1. Julie Vignes: What we attempted to describe in IER 13 is the area immediately affected. In those chapters we described the existing land use of the area bounded by authority of the Westbank and Vicinity project. We understand property south of the area is not pastureland and we can update the section but the intent is to describe the adjacent area to the IER 13 authorized project.

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Question 2. Pete Stavros: We are here because the IER is a substitute for the full EIS. Why the urgency to push through all of these IERs? You are granted the ability to do these IER's verses the EIS. In order for Congress to say we have 100-year risk reduction by 2011, one of the things indicated in the document is a project decision to proceed with these proposed actions. Your completed IER and document completion is followed by the Corps of Engineers. For the preferred reasonable alternatives, we are talking about tying into a federal levee that is 16 foot and at the 100-year level down south. The alternative analysis performed the direct and indirect impacts of the project but we're talking about induced flooding and economic impact to the area, an additional mitigation plan or interim decision is done by the Corps of Engineers. Each IER will identify areas that are incomplete or controversial. The alternative analysis will be based on geography to capture the impacts. We are affected and need to look at the broader picture more than one mile of area.

Response 2. Ken Holder: We have captured that in the record.

Question 3. Pete Stavros: In the engineering regulations it provides for emergency work to proceed in the NEPA process and that the District Commander Col. Lee is to consider the probable impacts. These facts are not documented. The likelihood of induced flooding outside the system means the district commander has not considered all the problems and impacts. It is up to the Corps to give the information to him. When you leave out the possibility of induced flooding you're allowing Col. Lee to make an incomplete decision. We discussed at Wednesday night's meeting that there were numbers crunched and were told there would be minimal flooding, but I haven't seen it posted as part of the IER. The problem is there is a line of 16-foot levees of 100-year protection from Waggaman south.

Response 3. Julie Vignes: The Westbank project extends from the Jefferson/St. Charles line to Waggaman down and the proposed action is to cross the GIWW, tie into the Hero Levee and tie into the Eastern Tie In here.

Question 4. Pete Stavros: What I am focused on is a mile south of that point where the affect of flooding the Barataria Bay will have on the back and the reach which normally has drainage that will be on the other side. I have two unofficial assessments of the effect of the system. When you build a 16-foot wall, it will raise the static level of water and the dynamic affect of the wall will cause a funnel just like the MRGO did in St. Bernard Parish. I understand the Corps wants this to be done but I would ask as part of comment period is a full in depth study of the induced flooding be done immediately and reported.

Response 4. Julie Vignes: We've looked at the potential for induced flooding south of the gate. We've not only looked at that for the gate across Highway 23. We have looked at what the affect on the storm surge would be coming from the south when we have completed the project with

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the floodgate, the GIWW West Complex Closure and other features. Our information tells us it would have a 2 to 3 inch increase in the storm surge outside of the system.

Question 5. Pete Stavros: We are not comfortable with that analysis. We have been trying to be made comfortable by the fact that we are authorized by Congress. On Wednesday night we were told this is out of the Corps hand because it is mandated by Congress and funded with several supplementals. There was \$215 million authorized in 2006 then \$450 million, almost \$700 million. The problem is that because they were not joined the first time you put this up it puts us at risk the moment it's tied in. We'll never make it there because during the storm season we'll be flooded and the money would be used to bail out the credit card companies. When I first found out about this project and started making flyers nobody knew about it. The number one concern for everyone has a varying degree of risk, mine is flood from the levee and in others it is a decrease in property value or availability of insurance. I put out flyers saying part of FEMA's plan is to guarantee 100 year protection that is required. Several people told me I was misinformed and insurance would be available, but several places say this system is required for national flood insurance. Anybody outside the system is not encompassed under the national flood insurance; do you have someone to talk about the flood insurance?

Response 5. Mike Honeycutt, FEMA: I was at the Wednesday meeting and I did not have a chance to read the letter. It can be misconstrued but it doesn't say you need a levee to participate. Flood insurance is available if you have a levee or not. Look online at www.fema.gov. Flood insurance is available because Plaquemines Parish participates in the program. Plaquemines Parish doesn't need a levee to participate. You can buy flood insurance for as long as the federal government provides it. It scores risk. It will depend on your risk rate and that may fluctuate.

Comment 6. Pete Stavros: This misinformation and openness communicates to us that the level of risk is still mighty in my mind. It will continue to be mighty until it is publically released of what is going to happen to the flood side of the project. We would like to document it now so that when we are standing on our roofs cutting dry wall that we will still be insured.

Question 7. Chris Arbourgh: After Katrina we were asked to come back, rebuild and invest in the community. My family did without hesitation and if I was told then I would have to pay high insurance premiums, be divided by a 16-foot wall and watch my property value slashed; then, I am not sure I would have returned. I am against the proposed location and would like to know if the study on the north side does it drain into the Ollie Canal system?

Response 7. Julie Vignes: The proposed 150 cfs pump station at that location is based on the field investigation that tells us to [inaudible] a 48-inch culvert. The water would stop there and our intent is to take the water and pump it over the levee. We could do this a number of ways by either going under or over the levee.

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Question 8. Chris Arbrough: Why would you pump the water to another pump, to pump it over the levee? Also, I know that when pumping water we would get more of a flow in a natural route. I also want a copy of the study so when I get flooded I know where to go. I want to know if there has been a proper study completed on the affects of a floodgate on safety of the already dangerous and congested area. I had a family member killed on Highway 23 when a truck pulling a boat pulled out of Captain Larry's parking lot. Personally, I have had to drive off the highway to avoid an accident: once when a child was crossing the highway and another to miss a beer truck pulling out of Captain Larry's parking lot. Thank God there was not a floodgate there because I may not be here talking tonight. Your proposed location is highly congested, poorly lit and has a lot of pedestrian traffic. A floodgate across Highway 23 isn't safe and is asking for trouble. My third comment was to have the public comment period be extended and I appreciate that it has been.

Response 8. Julie Vignes: We are working with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development; they were with us when we looked at the impacts of the proposed floodwall and bridge. They were part of the decision-making process and we will continue to work with them.

Comment 9: Unidentified woman: [Looked around the audience and proceeded] How long ago was that?

Response 9: Julie Vignes: The coordination with the LADOTD and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is ongoing. If many of you remember we met a few months ago when we proposed a floodwall. The DOTD has been on board for many months and participating in the discussion of a floodgate.

Question 10. Unidentified woman: I have only known about the gate for one week. How many proposals are in the report?

Response 10. Julie Vignes: There are 7 proposals in IER 13.

Comment 11. Unidentified woman: I have a proposal number 8. IER 13 shows a lot of zigzagging. Engineers know that every time you zigzag it costs money. If there is a plan to build a Non-Federal Levee south of Oakville and it is in the final design stage then why don't they wait for the design because these levees have to tie in at one point? Why did the Corps not build a straight federal levee **instead of zigzagging to the** freshwater diversion by the **Alliance Refinery** and incorporate it into a good **pumping** station there, you wouldn't need a gate across the railroad to tie into the **federal** levee at the Mississippi River. It would save money. If you already have crews working on the back part that is federalized, then you already have a crew mobilized **to finish the federal levee behind our area to the refinery**. Why don't we save money by **mobilizing and demobilizing**? What assurance do we have that the Non-Federal Levees would be built? The plan I have **proposed** would save money **and** save property. **There are** open pastures **in the back**

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that maybe the company **will** give you **the** land. Then you won't have to buy out property in Oakville. **Don't flood us!** Please help to save money and get good flood protection. The simulations **on the Web site show** you are flooding us, why are you not listening?

Note – wording noted in **red** was updated after a third review of the May 4 public meeting video recording.

Question 12. Wendy Keating, Jesuit Bend: I am a licensed insurance agent with 25 plus years of experience. I am concerned about IER 13, from all the information I have received from elected officials, reports, and research the floodgate is not in the best interest of Plaquemines Parish, especially those residents south of Oakville. This would result in economic lost to Louisiana. The basis of project is from 20-year old data. The Corps confirms in the report that only pastures and farmland is 1 mile south, this is false. If the Corps completed the study they would have found a mile in a half down in Jesuit Bend, 4,200 people will be affected financially and psychologically. Our community includes Belle Chasse Middle School, Scottville Firehouse, Riverbend Nursing Home, churches, compressor stations, and Conoco Philips. Conoco produces 25 percent of the jet fuel. Then 75 to 80 percent of the citrus industry is located in lower Plaquemines that produces \$16-20 mill to the local economy, farming, gas stations and convenience stores. This information was given by Anthony Buras and I would like into enter it into the record. This gate will negatively impact our property values, who would want to drive over a 16-foot floodgate to get home. The tax assessor said that the fair market value total of all of the residential structures, trailers and improvement from Oakville to Alliance including Belle Chasse Middle School and the fire station exceed \$862 million. Property owners are concerned about the future availability of flood and homeowners insurance once the gate is built. Where in IER 13 did you address other significant affects specific to induced flood damage and higher insurance cost of unprotected areas? At the last meeting, the FEMA representative told us that flood insurance wouldn't be affected and he added that rates would go down when the levees are raised. I can't recall where rates in a coastal area were reduced. If anything rates continue to increase above inflation. Since Katrina, the National Flood Insurance Program has raised the rates in May 2006, 2007, 2008 and they will be raised in October 2009. Not all of us were affected but the fact remains they were increased. Under the NFIP current rules if your properties are located in a B, C or X zone insured under a preferred risk policy and the property suffers two or more losses over \$1,000 each within a 10-year period regardless of ownership, you will no longer qualify for the preferred risk policy. This means the rates will increase. Another fact regarding flood insurance within a 10-year if the property suffers four or more totaling \$5,000 or two or more separate building payments where the current payments exceed the value of the property you won't qualify for standard flood program. Then you will be put into a severe repetitive loss program and these rates will be much higher. A concerned resident asked about FEMA assistance. Yes, FEMA may come in after a natural disaster and possibly provide financial assistance with final assessments but you must

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agree to purchase flood and hazard insurance. The FEMA representative mentioned to the resident that her flood policy includes an increased cost compliant endorsement and this amount is for \$30,000 to bring damage in compliance with state laws and ordinances. Can you guarantee that \$30,000 will be enough? Currently the NFIP allows loans to be grand-fathered but since NFIP is run by the government they can change rules at any time. Can you guarantee once the floodgate goes up that the rates will remain the same? Can you guarantee us in writing that once the floodgate goes up the flood plain rates won't change? I am very concerned about the availability and affordable of flood insurance in the future. Since Katrina, some insurance companies have canceled or ceased writing homeowners insurance based on current risk factors including major waterways and levee protection. Some companies have set new guidelines not to insure new properties located less than a mile from a waterway. Who can guarantee that insurance companies will not raise rates or renew policies on the new risk factors? Sure we can turn to Louisiana Citizens Fair Plan but these rates are between 30 to 40 percent higher than the normal market. If companies decide that everyone south of the floodgate is considered coastal then our rates could increase even higher. Insurance is a business and wants to turn profit. Look at the bailouts for the car, bank, and insurance companies. I am not opposed to elevation of the levee but we don't need a floodgate dividing the parish. I beg you to save the community and not put a floodgate.

Response 12. Ken Holder: Thank you. I want to remind everyone that if we want to get to the presentation then we need to head the 3 minute time limit.

Comment 13. Cindy Austin: I have been working with small children for years. Before the decision for the floodgate did you talk to the children? How will they feel being on the wrong side? It is wrong to put a child in that position because it affects their self esteem, spells trouble and mental anguish, what if they were your children? No floodgate but better levee protection.

Comment 14. Nicolas Arbough, Jesuit Bend and Belle Chasse Middle School student: For the record I am for the improvement of the levee but against the proposed location of the floodgate. Last week after my homework I read through IER 13 and did research on the Internet. I think it is a shame that I am fourteen years old and can see a better solution than what is being proposed that would affect fewer families in my community.

Comment 15. Jean Guererra: You're hurting the children. I beg you to please go back and study this more. Can't you see a lot of people have taken time to study this and they have come up with more solutions? All you want to do is put up a gate.

Question 16. Steve Pertuit, Belle Chasse: I have been there for 12 years. During this time we've had new residents and new neighborhoods. There are many people down there now and you have done studies in the past that does not include the new people. One of the biggest problems is the loss in value of property, how would you like it if you had to drive through a floodgate?

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Response 16. Ken Holder: I think that is a rhetorical question, but I would know I have better flood protection.

Question 17. Steve Pertuit: Currently I am relocating my company and selling my house. Many people know Bonnie Buras, a local realtor, when she did a market analysis of my house she said comparable houses they would go from \$400 to \$600 thousand dollars. Due to the controversy we're in this community, I've had to put my house for \$450,000 not \$600,000 or \$650,000. How would you feel if people were leaving an area because of a floodgate? How do you think these people feel if they have to move? I am going to read the broker analysis: there was a meeting about a floodwall in the area that would leave this property unprotected but the decision has not yet been decided. While this area is doing okay compared to rest of the US a property is taking 12-months to sell, how long do you think it would take to sell when the floodgate is up? About a month and a half ago we had a rain you may recall of 12 years; there was only one time that much water was put in my backyard which is adjacent to the Ollie Canal was for Katrina. Now you are proposing to push water into our canal. I want to show pictures after Katrina in Jesuit Bend there is little draining in this area and we are asking you to reconsider the design. Have you purchased property for this levee yet?

Response 17. Julie Vignes: The acquisition of the levee has not been completed at this time.



Question 18. Steve Pertuit: So, there has not been any property bought that is on this map?

Response 18. Julie Vignes: For this alignment we've acquired an easement to do soil borings and 3 to 5 landowners have given permission to go onto the property but there have been no easement of real property.

Question 18. Pete Stavros: There was a contract awarded on Mar. 17 for \$6.9 million and awarded to a firm in Fort Worth. I think it was for preparation for this project.

Response 18. Julie Vignes: This project is planned to be constructed for three contracts. The Corps did award a contract a few weeks ago for the GIWW West Closure Complex, the gate and pump station to be constructed just west of this location. The GIWW West Closure Complex project was described in IER 12.

Question 19. Pete Stavros: There was something under IER 13 for \$6.9 million contract that pertained to this project.

Response 19. Julie Vignes: I am not aware of any contracts unless for survey and activities.

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Question 20. Steve Pertuit: I want to commend our parish president Nungessor for everything he has done. I hope the state officials would do the same for us. We heard there is another project to build up the private levee behind the Ollie Canal and marry the two systems together but they are out of sync. You are already designing this phase and have it in your mind that this is a done deal. No matter what is said in the public forum where we are dialoging, but you have set in law you are going to do this. These people don't want it. My concern is we just heard that there is money to elevate the Ollie Canal levee but we're not hearing the elevation. You are giving 14 extra days to comment and then in 30 days we will find out how much to build the levee. What's wrong with that picture?

Response 20a. Col. Lee: This IER, as we explained, there are two separate projects and authority. IER 13 is for the Eastern Tie In project and that's what we are focused on. We want your comments and you have given good comments tonight. We'll look and see if we need additional work and are looking at the alternative. This isn't a done deal. I am the decision maker and it hasn't been put in front of me. It's a proposed action that we're proposing it to you so we can get feedback and input.

Question 21. Billy Nungessor, Plaquemines Parish president: Could we get the same comment period extended until we know what the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee elevation would be at the 100 year that is said we should have within the 30 days? This way we can possibly marry the two projects.

Response 21. Col. Lee: I extended the public period and I will consider the comments and make a decision.

Comment 22. Lori Becnel: My family has been living here for 4 generations. They have farmed the land, welcomed everybody to our community. I remember when I was a child and I would drive up the road from Belle Chasse Middle School to the Naval Air Station and there was nothing. My dad had a prophecy that one day this would be a city and we have embraced our new neighbors. It's a shame that you could do that to us. I felt devastated when my friends in south Plaquemines lost citrus groves, a legacy lost due to salt water because the Corps failed to protect them. I don't care about the studies, just go to our hearts because we have been living there with our family and we accept the new people. They deserve something for their homes but you can't put a price tag on my home because my dad gave it to me. It is sad for this parish because to cut off the boot is to change the map of the US.

Question 23. Dara Hammer, Jesuit Bend: I might live in Jesuit Bend but I still live in a part of Belle Chasse. This packet I received in the mail May 1 dated Apr. 9, postmarked Apr. 13, asking for permission to go on my land for the survey that you spoke about. My response was due Apr. 30 and I didn't receive it until May 1.

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Response 23. Rick Kendrick: The survey is for the design itself. Those levees are lower than the rest of the system and we are trying to bring those up to the standards. The survey is for the design and not part of the EIS.

Question 24. Dara Hammer: If we had this notification for the non-levee then why have we not received the announcements for what we are discussing here today?

Response 24. Julie Vignes: That is the request to do surveys and is sent to the landowners. We try to notify the public through TV, local papers, Times-Picayune and community grocery store. Some have asked about putting it in water bills and we'll look into it.

Comment 25. Dara Hammer: A lot of people know me but you do not. I stand here as a concerned homeowner. Our family has only lived here for 8 months and I am just now learning about the floodgate project pending since 1996 is astonishing. I have always worked hard to give my children advantages which are the reason for my move. Since residency, unfair circumstances and not with only this project but the loss of my son. On Highway 23 in Jesuit Bend tomorrow would make 6 months since my son passed. This is where confusion comes in because I can not even understand how the division of this parish is an option. Plaquemines Parish offered support and raised donations to allow my 13-year old son to be buried. So I ask how can we allow separation of the parish that is so close and share the same moral beliefs in life. You can't allow the floodgate to separate the parish residences that will give us economical distress which will filter through families. When I purchased my home, nowhere was I informed or disclosed in reference of this project because if I would have known this I would have never signed the act of sale that my government doesn't believe is worth protection. I am not a real estate agent but there are property disclosure papers. The paper disclosures did it mention the floodgate. This parish came together for my family. Mr. Billy, to friends and residents I just met, everyone pulled together in favor of raising a levee but it's tearing families apart.

Question 26. Cherie Burlette: I am from Plaquemines parish and I have lived here all my life. My grandparents built in Buras before Camille and Betsy and they lost everything. This has been going on and I was wondering, why the Corps hasn't stepped up to protect residents and everyone in Plaquemines Parish?

Response 26. Col. Lee: Thanks for your question and I get asked this a lot in area like Houma, too. The Corps has two premises: authority and funding from Congress. Those are the two pieces to make a project a reality. For the Westbank and Vicinity project before Hurricane Katrina it was 40 percent complete and there were gaps. After Katrina, Congress and the administration provided funding to complete the authorizations they had approved. In addition Congress appropriated and authorized all the Non-Federal Levees to become a federal system and funded an additional \$700 million. The Corps of Engineers is willing to do any project for which Congress gives us the authority and funding. We have tried to build both projects as quickly as

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possible and you can help by signing the right of way we talked about. The letter to do the investigation is the types of things that help us to do these to test the grounds and soil to move the projects faster.

Question 27. Cherie Burlette: Why not put the money into levees where it needs to be instead of building a floodwall?

Response 27. Col. Lee: As the decision-maker I will consider all the comments and incorporate them into the decision record.

Question 28. Cherie Burlette: Where you here after Katrina?

Response 28. Col. Lee: I was in Afghanistan during Katrina and I was here a year after Katrina.

Question 29. Cherie Burlette: So you didn't see the actual damage that was here?

Response 29. Col. Lee: I didn't see it physically.

Comment 30. Dewell Walker: This meeting is not about the wall, it's about if the Corps knows what they are doing. Do you have a patent on the levees? In the patent it does not say anything about hurricanes and it will never work. Only a beach will work. All ideas tonight are good that concern the levee and wall. One year before Katrina there was 100 foot water with Hurricane Ivan, the water was high in the River and it killed the storm. We should use wisdom. Billy has someone named PJ Hahn he's a costal restoration and I talked to him. Before the levees, were here how did God design it? If you have a picture of Chandler Islands, it is an inverted sea and because of that it [inaudible] water 180 degrees away from the point of impact. So, a category 5 that hits a solid beach turns into a 2.5 in the southeast pass, by the time it gets to New Orleans it will be a category 1. Do you want a category 5 to hit you? The levees won't work. Anyone a hurricane expert here? You should hire a hurricane expert. We had 5 storms before Katrina. There is a reason today why they did not hit us and Katrina did. In southeast Plaquemines we had a storm with the wind at 58 miles an hour. How long until global warming warms the Gulf and we have hurricanes in the winter. The guy said there was 17inches of rain the other day in Plaquemines Parish and that was 86 miles per hour. We have fronts that come across America with tornadoes and everyone concentrates on that. Right now in the Bay of Campeche there is a storm but because the Gulf is too cool it will not build. I want to show a picture of today's storm that created a circulation. I have documentation that everything I have is in history books.

Comment 31. Carol Duflechein: Basically, I would like to talk to the elected officials and representatives from Washington, D.C. Maybe this is only IER 13 to you but this is our home. I'm opposed to the project moving forward. Much has changed since 2006, areas are heavily populated, 600-700 residents. The population is within less than 7 miles from the proposed site. No one wants to live outside the lock system. We have major fears from what we heard in the

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past with property loss, value loss, insurance, and the ability to sustain the community. When you look at the lower end of the parish the community is gone. We want to protect what we have because it is like nowhere else. We are afraid of a mass exodus. The solution is not to wait for the Non-Federal Levee project or wait for it to be raised. The solution is to change the alignment that's been proposed before we move forward or spend more of our tax money. Our tax money is being spent to have a negative impact. Households are a large tax base. If we are locked out many will move out. If residents leave this is not just a district 5 issue it is an issue for every business in the parish. I'm a vet, those houses represents animals that won't come back but not just my business community because there would be fewer grocers, dentist, seafood vendors, restaurants and other services that Plaquemines residences' provide for each other. It impacts not just south of Oakville but everyone. This project was created to protect Algiers and Belle Chasse. Belle Chasse has grown southward and the levee alignment needs to change to protect all of us who live in Belle Chasse. This project was started in 1986 and amended in 1996. If it can be amended in 1996 then it can be done in 2009. Our property and life is what we wanted. Our houses are our biggest investments. I worked for 25 years and have nearly paid for my property. I don't have another 25 years to work. For everyone here if the property is paid for or not it's emotional and we're afraid if it goes through all this will happen. We ask Col .Lee to consider not signing and allowing extra time which you've done. We need information of the officials from Washington, D.C. on how to contact elected officials and everyone needs to write today so if it takes an act of Congress.

Comment 32. Matt Lewage, Jesuit Bend: This is a copy of the presentation presented at the Oakville meeting. My wife says a picture is worth a thousand words. I would like to read an excerpt from the video on the Web site, "We truly believe we can build a better project if we receive the open input from the public." This is the open input we are giving you to build us a better project. We started these 10 days ago and Pete brought this to our attention. We had a pre-meeting with Billy and the state representatives and we didn't have a good feeling, but seeing all the people I believe we do have a chance.

Comment 33. Lewis Hammer, Jesuit Bend: We've been here for 8 months as for the Corps of Engineers; you have been working for a while on this project. I have a lot of family members who work in Jefferson Parish. What I found out is the pumping stations, no more than 5 miles apart, from the Westbank side with walls and levee. All those pump stations are not adequate to get water out. You want levees but no one addressed what pumping station would be put in Plaquemines Parish. We don't have a pump station and I would hate to see the levee and wall when surge comes in when there is no place for the water to go. In Jefferson Parish they have pump stations no more than 5 miles apart from Lake Cataouatche to Planters Road. Everyone wants to keep the water out but no one has addressed how to get the water out once it gets in.

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Comment 34. Amos Cormier: My family goes back many generations. Historically speaking, no county or parish in the country has been more cooperative with the Corps of Engineers than Plaquemines Parish. Every time you have wanted to widen the perimeter of the navigation of the river you have come to Plaquemines Parish. You've taken our land, homes, orchards and community identity but we've cooperated. In the 1927 flood, the levee was broken on the east bank, the Carnarvon levee was blown and were flooded. We have been a buffer from a military base, storm, and disease standpoint with Quarantine Bay. We've sacrificed and cooperated in the past. Now we are asking New Orleans, the state and country to give us what we need and not more sacrifice.

Question 35. Benny Rouselle: Col. Lee, this project as it stands sits in the hands of your agency, Congress and the federal government. I'd ask you to not make a decision any time soon. What I see here is misinformation floating around. I've heard 1986 and 1996 but this gate hasn't come about until the last 6 months. It's not good to have misinformation and have people's emotions upset. This floodgate has just come about as an alternative since the storm.

Response 35. Col. Lee: I do not think there has been any misinformation tonight. I heard Julie mention that we've been working with DOTD on the floodwall and floodgate alternative in the last 6 months. There are two authorizations for this project: the first authorization was in 1986 for the Harvey Canal and the second to include the Algiers Canal in 1996 that included Oakville. There is an evolution over time and if we provided misinformation I want to clarify that information.

Comment 36. Benny Rouselle: I heard people come to this microphone and cry because they think it's been in the works for a long time. It is true that in 1986 the West Jefferson Levee District was approved and in 1996 extended to Oakville. A letter you sent recently says the extension of the project beyond the Hero Canal, Eastern Tie In originally will tie in south of Oakville and terminate at Highway 23. This letter was written on Apr 27, 2009. This gate was not in the picture until recently. The solution is not making a decision. I would also ask that the congressional delegation go back to ask for 100-year protection to Myrtle Grove. There is an enormous amount of money appropriated for the project. To pacify the public you are saying you will have protection but not 100-year. We can give the public 100-year protection with cooperation of all three agencies. When looking at the amount of money appropriated you have \$671 million for the Non-Federal Levee project that has nothing to do with the Eastern Tie In. I ask you to do interim protection and ask for federal authorization for 100-year to Myrtle Grove. Then ask the local government to expropriate pastureland in the southern area of the parish that will save \$218 million to \$260 million. The way this is done is simple and the West Jefferson Levee District did it last week. They expropriated property. At the current rate of 32 million cubic yards at seven or eight dollars per cubic yard which equals \$220-\$226 million to dig the dirt. If the local government expropriate the property for \$4,000 or \$5,00 an acre that frees up

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\$218 to \$260 million which is enough to protect to cover from Oakville to Myrtle Grove and protect everyone in this room. I ask you to consider this because you're taking comments and input. Don't take it personally because you didn't write the letter and it is in the public's hands right now. I don't like confusing people. The federal delegation needs to get 100-year protection to Congressional authorization, the local government needs to provide the expropriation and additional funds for you to build the levee.

Comment 37. Anthony Buras, Councilman 5: I live on the wrong side of the tracks. My comments are direct. I have formally objected to a floodwall being placed across the highway at Oakville to Col. Lee. He's received the copy and there is a copy going to Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter and Senator Melancon. In the letter I requested that the area south of Oakville be included in the 100-year protection. Also, I am going to request that the other members of the council support the resolution to object to the floodwall across Highway 23. I would ask you to call your councilman and urge them to support the resolution.

Comment 38. John Rink: I have been paying property taxes to the parish since 1993 when I moved to Jesuit Bend. I would like to say I am a frequent visitor to Plaqueminesparish.com that something of this magnitude was mentioned for the first time on Apr. 29. I was notified on Apr. 28 when people put road signs on Highway 23 in front of my subdivision. I am incredibly disappointed that somebody made a determination that everyone south of a proposed floodwall is expendable. Now some people know my father and I personally built my house. When he was told about the situation he was overcome and started to cry. That's my issue with him but it seems that something at this magnitude there should have been some type of disclosure. I'm for flood protection and I'm in healthcare. If you protect Barataria Bay with a 100-year flood plan to 16 or 30 feet and lock us out, how high does the water need to go on the other side of the way until the pump can't pump? If you don't have 100 year protection for us and the storm goes up Barataria Bay and reach the floodwall then its going to overcome the levee. How many feet can that pump stop? It was broadcasted on WWL, that's why the pumps in Jefferson Parish failed. The water was pumping into Jefferson Parish because was too high on other side of levee. I was a religious listener to WWL after the storm. Water doesn't care where it goes it will go until it is pushed into a barrier. There was a quick proposal to put a barrier or gate to prevent the water from getting into Lake Pontchartrain. They said why put the floodgates at the canal in Metairie if you stop the water getting from getting into the lake then you do not have to do that. The state of Mississippi said where will it go? Us? And here you are doing the same thing to us, I'm not expendable, I work hard and pay taxes to this parish, to the government. My taxes go to bailout other people have been getting but no one is bailing me out. Instead they are giving me a bucket to bail water out when water comes over levee. You can sit there and say you can give us some protection but it is not going to be the Westbank protection or the 100-year protection. Then we

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will flood because your new pumps will not pump, instead it will give us one big problem here in Plaquemines.

Comment 39. Robert Bidot: I live on the north side of the gate. I have seen this parish survive, prosper, show economic growth and repopulate. Col. Lee I call you to the attention to the Corps mission statement to provide vital public engineering service in peace and war to strengthen the nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risk from a disaster. Sir, your decision will have catastrophic effects if you decide to put the levee system across Highway 23 and separate the parish. It will prohibit economic growth, repopulation and prosperity to the citizens of Plaquemines. The decision will be an economic disaster to the lower part of the parish. I implore you to revisit and to restudy this case. Any other decision is reckless and borders being criminal.

Comment 40. Donald Landry, Belle Chasse: I would like to thank Col. Lee for extending the deadline and I request it be extended for an additional 30 days for the study. I want to thank the Corps, Senate and congressional representatives. To clarify, the Corps works under a directive from those guys. Congress gives them authorization so we have 14 or 30 days to contact congressman and get proposal changed for a floodgate and extend for the newly federalized levee. In the last meeting it was stated that it is a federalized levee, and let's raise the federalized levee to the 100-year protection. Let's save time and money it would take to build the zigzag levee and floodwall. Instead let's start to build a new levee to the 100 year which is my proposal. I've lived in Belle Chasse my whole life. Our community is a community of core. People feel connected to the community and our community is close. We thank our sheriffs last week because we had zero homicides and we are the only parish with those stats. We have a grocery store that has been around for three generation. I work with youth for 10 years as a scout master for Boy Scout in Belle Chasse troop 106. I have worked 17 years with the youth group at the church because they are the future of our community. The community is built around youth and we need to nourish that resource. I encourage you not to divide the community with a floodgate and consider a new proposal to raise the levee to the 100 year level. Don't separate us mentally and politically.

Comment 41. Lonnie Brachot: We live in a great country in the world. We go to war to tear up other countries and rebuild for people who do not like us. We can not spend billions of dollars on rebuilding coastal restoration because levees alone won't a stop a hurricane. I lived in Buras in 2004 and there was a meeting at the Buras Auditorium about another study. Our retirees move out and go to other places. It's a shame because they love the bedroom community we provide but that wall isn't going to accomplish anything but cause misery, flood and ask people to leave. We're the richest parish in the state and treated like red headed step children. We have the best seafood and we have the world's third largest port. We have citrus, oil, and gas but we're the last ones that receive benefits.

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Comment 42. Felicia Allen, Port Sulphur: I see signs that say “united we stand, divided we flood” but I’ve seen people of our own parish that just want to move the levee to cover themselves. We were totally devastated by Katrina and have taken this long to build. I do not know why you want to move this floodgate to somewhere else. We’ve been stabbed in the back in south Plaquemines and we don’t deserve it anymore.

Comment 43. Tiffany Phillips, Port Sulphur: Even though I didn’t know about the floodgate until I saw the signs on the side of the road. We were really devastated by Katrina and I heard people talk about property value. I understand people have their own agenda but what about my property value, I live in a FEMA trailer that will be gone soon. They say united we stand but just because there is a gate doesn’t mean water won’t come over.

Comment 44. Robin Leavage: I want to talk to my friends, family and community because it’s not even two weeks and look what happened. We went to a meeting with our representatives and it didn’t sound good but if it takes an act of Congress we’ll get an act of Congress to get it done. I want to let you know today I went to school it has been very difficult because I haven’t slept. I am representing all of our children and I want you to know that every morning my students stand and say the pledge. They are proud and respect the flag. We live in a free country and the best place in world. So, I leave you with saying one nation with liberty and justice for all.

Comment 45. Eleanor Mackey: I beg god to allow me to come back home and rebuild because I want to retire. We won’t win if we separate the parish with a floodwall. It shouldn’t be in Oakville and if not in Boothville then it has no business being anywhere. I want to thank you Col. for fighting in Afghanistan, so please fight for us. We’re still fighting to rebuild from Katrina. My mom hasn’t moved yet because we are still under FEMA. Her oldest brother who is 90 years old and we have never been affected like hurricane Katrina. If we don’t have the technology to prevent another Katrina, what will happen tomorrow? Make sure the 100 year works for all of Plaquemines Parish.

Comment 46. Robin Goretti, Jesuit Bend: What I have heard was [inaudible] 1996 and that’s irrelevant. We bought in 2007. We weren’t told that and it wasn’t disclosed. In Oakville we were scolded because these meetings have been happening for two years and we weren’t participating. The point is my husband and I had a choice to work on the Naval Reserve and that base has the opportunity to bring people into the area but they won’t come if the lower part won’t be protected. When I was talking with the Lt. Col. I work for now I was encouraged to car pool from Slidell or Baton Rouge. We have the opportunity to make this right. We can bring people here. My request is that you go back and look at this objectively.

Question 47. Emily Burlett, 7th grade Belle Chasse Middle School: I have one more year at the middle school and I would like to spend it peacefully without this big thing to go over every time I go to school. My sisters are going to primary school but they are looking forward to their four

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years in the middle school. There is no telling what will happen to our school, will it become the wetlands? What will happen?

Response 47. Julie Vignes: The school will be protected and it will be better protected than what it is today. It's south of the gate. The fact is I have two projects, your school is outside of one but is protected by the other. Your school will be better protected than it is today.

Comment 48. Unidentified woman: [Inaudible] he said you know last month there was a meeting. We are not going to put a floodgate but we're just talking but you can view the minutes. This was in Feb., how long has the study been going on? The Corps has done wonderful things and these are the names of people working on this project. I hope we remember you for the wonderful things you are going to do for our parish. I feel in my heart that I am a local and I have two boys. Then would we have to move up the road. I say Louisiana you are chopping a community and we want to stay together. I want to live here and tell people to move here because there is no culture like this place. Please don't chop us up but save us and tell your kids you saved a culture and a community. I pray you do the right thing.

Comment 49. Jean Guererra: We can remember each of these faces when we fight floods we will remember you didn't help us. What we need is wetlands built up and that will help protect us. Do not treat us like cow pastures. We're close and proud. We will not stop we have stopped the floodgate. We are prepared to go to Congress and to the President. My husband fought for our county and we will fight for our parish.

Question 50. Jimmy Borat, Jesuit Bend: I haven't heard the fact that environmental impact studies and environmental programs [inaudible]. What happens after the flood and I come back to toxic waste? Why not put the protection and encompass Alliance and help protect the environment?

Question 51. Jennifer, Buras: My comment is to the Belle Chasse people, when the Corps decides to put this in my backyard instead of yours, will you back me?

Comment 52. Unidentified man: I still work down the road in Belle Chasse. I had many opportunities to leave when working with the gas companies and I always came back. I don't want to leave. Others don't want to leave. What you are doing to us now we have been fighting for 30 years not to be separate. More people have been getting back together; everybody is working together since Katrina. We can't get people to live here and stay. We hire military when we can. Why are you pushing everybody out of the parish?

Comment 53. Lori Swallow, Jesuit Bend: I am not from Louisiana I came from Connecticut. One thing I love about the parish and the people is we look out for each other. For those of you

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from the lower end of the parish, I assure you that I will do everything in my power to protect all of us. We all pay taxes and are American citizens and we all deserve the right protection.

Comment 54. Jean Guererra: We are not going to let it go to a certain other area. We don't want any floodgates in this area and we will fight. We moved here eight years ago. I wanted to get away, we were fighting crime in New Orleans, not realizing we had to fight our own government, we beg you to protect us

Comment 55. Shelby Martin: For the congressional staff, who vote yeah or nah. Before the Berlin wall you want, everyone who wants the floodgate vote yeah or nah.

Audience: Nah!

Comment 56. Liz Seiger: There were a lot of wetlands when we first moved here. We watched them go away because we used to go to camp in Port Sulphur. Now there is nothing there if you don't rebuild the wetlands we will never be saved.

Comment 57. Robert Brouse: We need dredges and the lower Plaquemines built back up. [Inaudible yelling].

[Clip presentation from the audience]

Comment 58. Wes Kungel, Senator Landrieu: I will give you my contact information at my office. This only works when you get involved. There is no simple solution. We have to work with what we have and your entire delegation is unified when it comes to protecting you. Every delegation is together now. We will fight for you.

Comment 59. Rachel Perez, Senator Vitter: We had a great meeting before this one and I am looking forward to working with you. We will go back to talk to our senators and will talk about how to incorporate your ideas, that will be beneficial. We are here to listen to your concerns and we look forward to working with you.

Comment 60. Lou Terrell, Congressman Melancon: We work for this district and we are listening. As Wes said if we had the answer we wouldn't be sitting here. We're taking this to D.C. to figure this out to appease everyone. We want to protect everyone that we can. It is not about protecting north or lower Plaquemines. We want to protect the most people. You can e-mail and call to give Congressman Melancon your concerns. The more we hear the more we have to take forward. Thanks for the opportunity to be here and we will continue to work for you.

Comment 61. Pete Stavros: The Corps is giving an extension already. I think part of that is to see this die out and not make any further comments. Please keep updated on

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plaquemeslevees.com on that Web site so you can continue to stay in touch. We have a plan to meet with their bosses in the future and we won't let this die. We will stay together and won't be divided.

Ken Holder, public affairs chief

We will stick around to answer any other questions. Thanks.

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US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans



Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System

Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levees & Eastern Tie In

As discussed in Individual Environmental Report 13

**Mr. Rick Kendrick, Deputy Chief
Mr. Ted Carr, Project Manager
Belle Chasse Auditorium
May 4, 2009**

BUILDING STRONG®



US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans



**Welcome
COL Al Lee
New Orleans District
Commander**



Why we are here tonight

- **We want to hear what you have to say**
- **We need your input – public involvement is critical**
- **To provide a brief status of risk reduction measures that will benefit Plaquemines Parish south of Oakville, Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project**
- **To continue the discussion on the proposed action that will reduce risk to communities from English Turn/Belle Chasse to Oakville and other areas of the Westbank, as discussed in Individual Environmental Report 13**



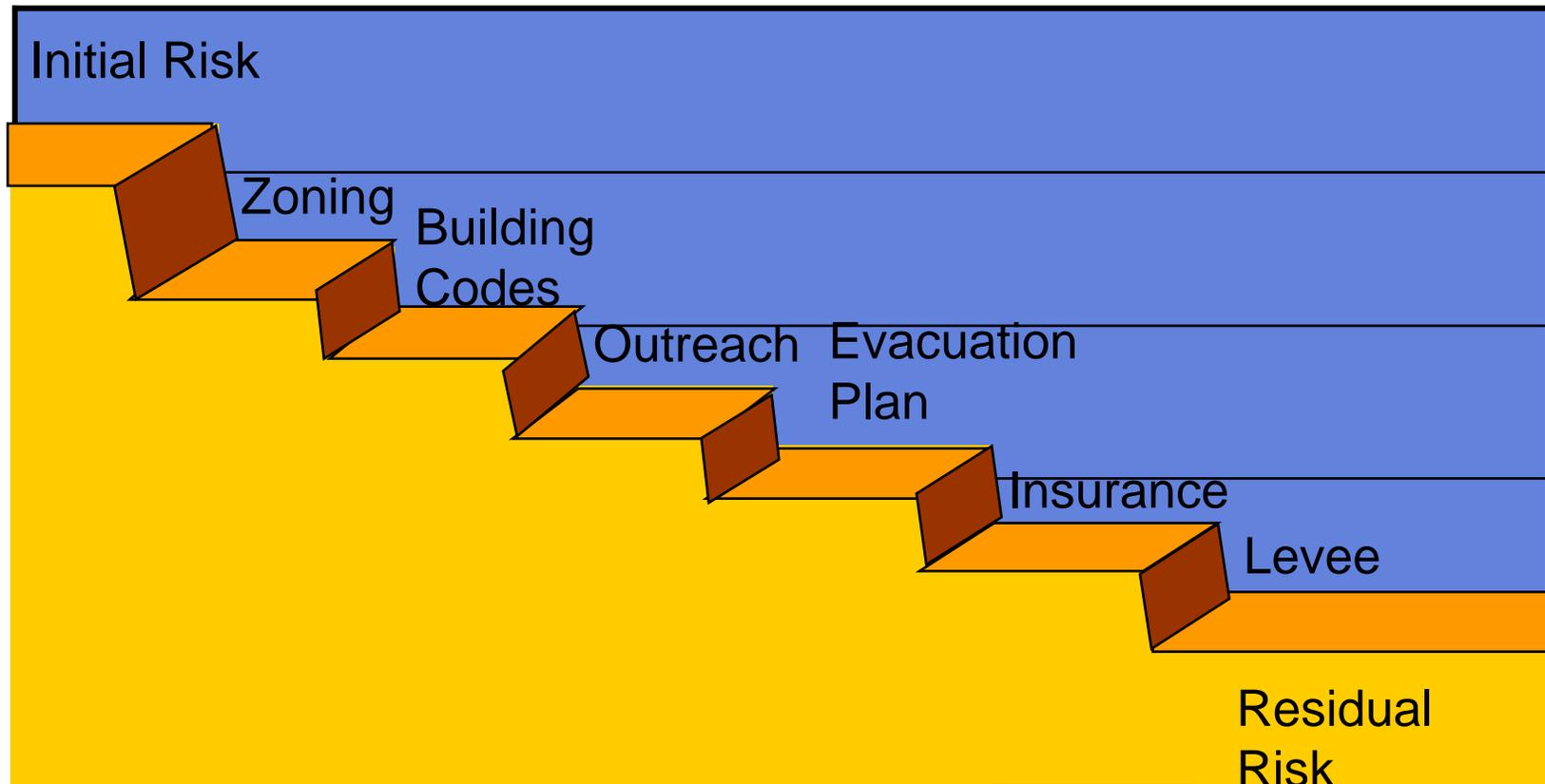
National Environmental Policy Act: NEPA

- Required of all major federal actions
- Analyze potential impacts to the human and natural environment and investigate reasonable alternatives
- Goal: more informed decision making through public involvement
- Analysis documented in Individual Environmental Reports (IER)



Buying Down Risk

All stakeholders contribute to reducing risk!



Risk Reduction Tools
(Cumulative)

BUILDING STRONG®



Recap of Previous Public Meetings

Request 1. Extend comment period on Individual Environmental Report 13, Eastern Tie In

Response 1. Granted, IER 13 comment period will now end May 18, 2009

Comment 2. Floodgate proposed on Hwy 23 will flood Plaquemines south of Oakville

Response 2. The Westbank and Vicinity Project, including the Eastern Tie In floodgate, would not create additional flood risk to Plaquemines south of Oakville when the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levees are completed



Recap of Previous Public Meetings

Comment 3. Locating a bridge at Hwy 23 interrupts Oakville community cohesion

Response 3. The Corps' proposed action is construction of a floodgate at Hwy 23 which will maintain Oakville community cohesion and traffic safety

Comment 4. Concern about ability of access road (levee) to handle emergency vehicles

Response 4. Any vehicle that does not need a special permit can safely use the levee – this includes fire trucks



Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project Authority

“...provided, that; ... at full Federal expense, ...that \$215,000,000 shall be used to replace or modify certain non-Federal levees in Plaquemines Parish to incorporate the levees into the existing New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project...”

- 4th Supplemental, Public Law 109-234

“...provided, that ...certain projects in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area be prosecuted in a manner which promotes the goal of continuing work at an optimal pace, while maximizing, to the greatest extent practicable, levels of protection to reduce the risk of storm damage to people and property...”

- 5th Supplemental), Public Law 160-28

“...provided ...an additional amount of \$456,000,000 ...” for the project...

- 6th Supplement, Public Law 110-252



Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Background

- The existing levee is a “Back Levee” approximately 32 miles long, constructed with non-federal funds, both private and public, on the west side of the Mississippi River to provide hurricane protection from Oakville to two miles up river of St. Jude
- Three pump stations provide capacity for approximately a two year event
- Existing levee constructed with adjacent materials:
 - ***8’ in the northern areas (8 miles)***
 - ***4’ or less in the southern areas (24 miles)***
 - ***Ground level between existing NFL and NOV (2 miles)***
- Recent hurricanes have caused several breaches resulting in severe flooding and significant property damage

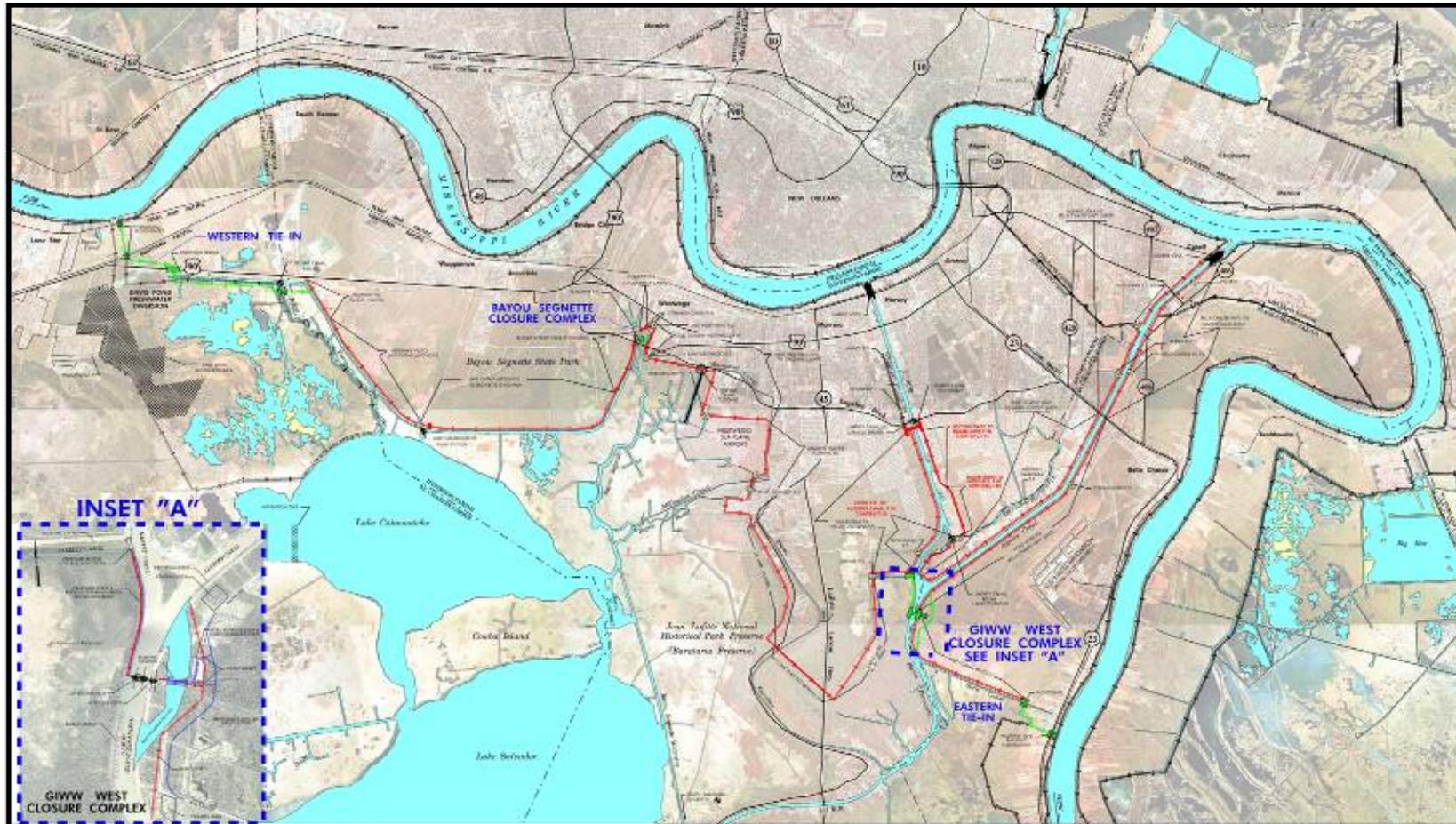


Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee The Path Ahead

- Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) in development - three public meetings to date, your comments count
- Draft SEIS ready for public review this summer
- Record of Decision (ROD) this fall
- Project Partnering Agreement
- Acquisition of Right of Way
- Construction Begins 2011
- Construction Complete in 2013



Westbank and Vicinity Risk Reduction

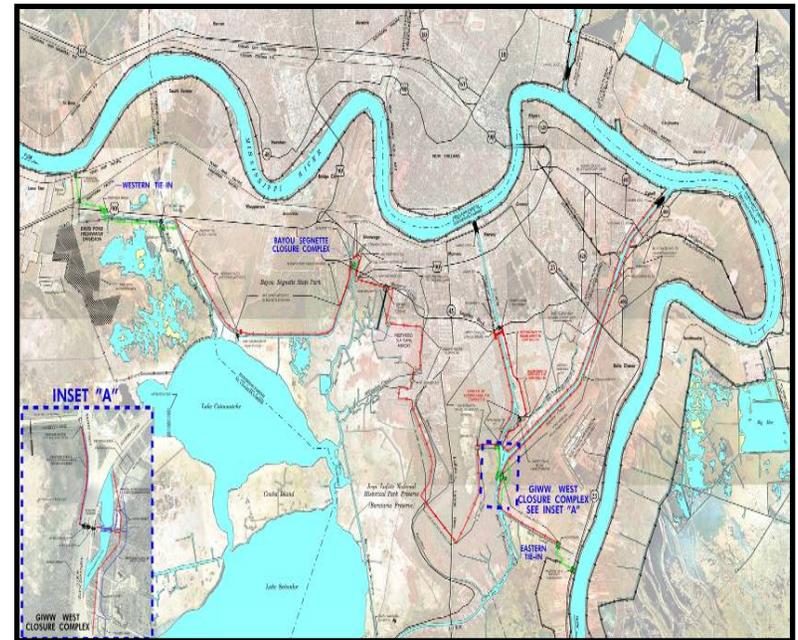


- Current or approved alignments
- Proposed or recommended alignments



Westbank and Vicinity Project Authority

- 1996 Water Resources and Development Act amended the previously authorized West Bank project to provide “hurricane protection” to areas east of the Algiers Canal extending from Belle Chasse to and including Oakville in Plaquemines Parish





Hero Canal and Eastern Tie In (IER 13)

Proposed Action:

- Raise/expand existing Hero Canal Levee
- Connect the GIWW West Closure Complex to the Mississippi River levee





Eastern Tie In

Individual Environmental Report 13: Proposed Action





Upcoming Public Meetings

- **May 11, 2009**
 - St. Bernard risk reduction at St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers
- **May 13, 2009**
 - Bonnet Carre Spillway Masterplan Update at La Maison Magnolia
- **May 14, 2009**
 - New Orleans East Risk Reduction at Church at New Orleans
- **May 17, 2009**
 - Bonnet Carre Spillway Masterplan Update at Bonnet Carre Spillway Pavilion
- **May 19, 2009**
 - St. Tammany Parish at Slidell Auditorium



Currently Available for Public Review

- **IER 13 – Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus**
 - Released for public review and comment: Apr. 3, 2009
 - Comment period extended to: May 18, 2009
- **IER 10 – Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Chalmette Loop Levee**
 - Released for public review and comment: Apr. 13, 2009
 - Comment period extended to: May 12, 2009
- **IER 6 – Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, New Orleans Citrus Lakefront Levee**
 - Released for Public Review and Comment: Apr. 24, 2009
 - Public Comment Period closes: May 23, 2009
- **IER 16 – Western Tie In**
 - Released for public review May 1, 2009
 - Public comment period closes May 30, 2009
- **IER 5 – Outfall Canal Closure Structures**
 - Released for public review May 4, 2009
 - Public comment period closes Jun. 3, 2009

Note - copies available at www.nolaenvironmental.gov or by request



US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans



Opportunities for Public Input

- Regular public meetings throughout New Orleans metro area
- Comments may be submitted at: www.nolaenvironmental.gov

Questions and comments regarding Greater New Orleans Storm Damage Risk Reduction System projects should be addressed to:

Gib Owen

PM-RS

P.O. Box 60267

New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Telephone: 504-862-1337

E-mail: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil



US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans



Opportunities to Accelerate Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project

- **Sign and return Right-of-Entry for site investigation**
- **Work with your elected officials**
- **Continue to provide feedback to the Corps**