



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

News Release

Public Affairs Office
504-862-2201

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

For Immediate Release

Contact: Julie Morgan, 504-862-2037

August 27, 2008

New Orleans District Commander signs document confirming action on Westwego to Harvey Levee

NEW ORLEANS - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Commander, Col. Alvin Lee has signed Individual Environmental Report 14, entitled "Westwego to Harvey Levee, Jefferson Parish." The report documents the human and environmental impacts that could be generated by the Corps' improvement of the earthen levee and floodwall along the Westwego to Harvey stretch of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

"This portion of the Westbank and Vicinity project reduces risk to people and businesses in Harvey, Woodmere, Estelle, Walkertown, and Westwego," said Mike Stack, project manager. "The Corps' next step is to finalize design of the earthen levees and T-walls." The Corps anticipates beginning construction as soon as March 2009.

The Corps will enlarge the current earthen levee, within the existing right-of-way, from east of the New Westwego Pump Station south to Hwy 45. The current floodwalls will be replaced with robust T-walls from Hwy 45 to the Lafitte-Larose Hwy. The east leg of the "V-line" levee, the levee reach that forms the V-shaped wedge bordered by the Jean Lafitte National Park, will also be enlarged; however, improvements to that section of the levee will require the Corps to acquire an additional 200 feet of right-of-way.

IER 14 was released for public review on Jul. 3, 2008 and was followed by a 30-day public comment period which closed on Aug. 4, 2008. The Corps' recommended alternative has been discussed at several public meetings throughout the metro area.

Alternative arrangements allow the Corps to expedite the environmental process required of all federally funded projects while fully complying with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Questions or comments concerning Individual Environmental Reports or the Corps' environmental process may be addressed to:

Gib Owen, PM-RS
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
Phone: 504-862-1337
Fax: 504-862-2088
E-mail: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil

For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list please visit the Web site at www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

###