Public Meeting Summary

IERs 4 and 5
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Location	St. Paul's Episcopal School 6249 Canal Blvd. New Orleans, LA
Time	7:00 p.m. Presentation
Attendees	approx 350 including 30 staff
Format	Presentation Q & A
Handouts	• PPT slides • Postcard announcing dates and topics of IER public meetings planned
Facilitator	Welcome – Shelly Midura Council District Presentation – Col. Jeffrey Bedey

Welcome

Shelly Midura, New Orleans City Council District A.

Good evening and thank you for coming tonight. I'm pleased to have the opportunity to hear from you and hear what the Corps would like to do. We've got officials here from all over. Julie Morgan will facilitate the meeting tonight. This is important to discuss the Lakefront, Yacht Harbor, Jefferson Parish and the surrounding neighborhood's quality of life. Take into account we are working through this as a community. My approach is I want to work with Jefferson Parish to find a solution that works for all of us. We have a need for flood protection. Residents who will be impacted can't afford the "not in my backyard" (NIMBY) mentality (clapping). Let's try to get that [NIMBYism] out of this. I want to get to the meat of this meeting so I'll turn over the microphone to Julie Morgan who will facilitate. Thank you. I'll stay here tonight as long as I can, if I leave and you haven't spoken to me, I want to hear from you. Please send me an e-mail, my address is smidura@cityofno.com. Thanks (clapping).

Julie Morgan, **USACE Outreach**: I want to thank St. Paul's Episcopal for providing a venue to hold this many people. People on the bleachers will need to move please, it is a fire code violation [to sit on the bleachers], please find seat.

I am happy to be here and happy you're here. This is your opportunity to give us constructive ideas, concerns and comments on the hurricane protection system. This is our 42nd meeting. We've been traveling the metro area to talk about the Lake Pontchartrain and Westbank and Vicinity systems. We are doing this because we value your opinion. Any constructive comments you can provide, we appreciate. We go back and study them and [are willing] to do whatever we can to make it work.

I'd like to recognize the following people:

Aaron Broussard	Jefferson Parish President
Nick Larusso	Louisiana St. Representative District 94
Robert Mendoza	City of New Orleans, Director of Public Works
Patrick Bell	Northwest Municipal Yacht Harbor
Bruce White	Coconut Beach
John Young	Jefferson Parish Council, Division A

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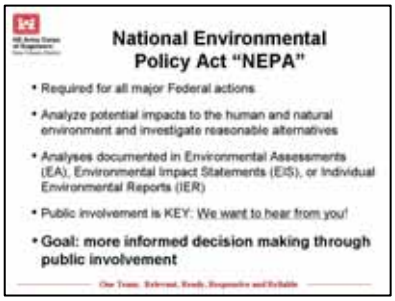
We have a brief presentation tonight and we have lots of people that will want to comment. Now is the time to voice your concerns. The ground rules are: please allow Col. Bedey to complete the entire presentation and please don't interrupt. It runs smoother and he may answer your question during the presentation. Please allow him to finish before asking questions.

Please keep your comments to 3 minutes. In previous meetings many people spoke longer so we had to limit the length of comments so we can get more comments. Please respect everyone, each other and limit your comments. I'll be watching the clock. I'll interrupt as politely as possible but I may ask you to summarize if you don't get to the point in 3 minutes.

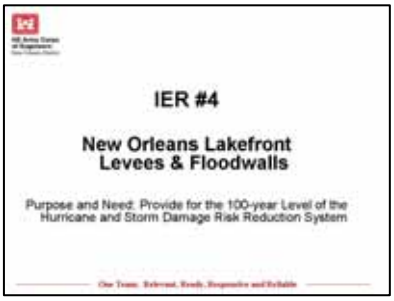
We have many project managers here tonight. I'll introduce them after Col. Bedey presents. For questions and issues we'll have subject matter experts (SME) to answer.

Col. Jeffrey Bedey, commander Hurricane Protection Office (clapping)

I don't have lots of slides. I want to acknowledge everyone for being here and taking the time to be here so we can get your perspective and absolutely to give you the opportunity to provide input. Thank you, you don't have to be here. It's great to see people from such a cross-section interested in these actions. Thank you. Nobody has to be here. This is simple, we started to go through the presentation and the last time we were here was Nov. 29, 2007. Not all of you were here because this room is fuller. As we looked at packaging the information it came down to 3 things. 1. Where are we, 2.Where we're going and 3. What has changed? I'll give that overview. Where we are, where we are going and what has changed since the last meeting, you probably want to know that. I want to tell you that everything is pre-decisional. No final determinations have been made. All this information is pre–decisional; I want to make sure you understand that because it's important. We have not pre-ordained [any decisions] that's not the process.



NEPA is the genesis behind everything. We show this slide at each meeting. It's a simple reminder of why we're here. The most significant point is that we make a more informed decision through public involvement.



[We're here to discuss] two Individual Environmental Reports. IER 4 will be brief [it covers the New Orleans Lakefront Levees and Floodwalls]. IER 5 discusses permanent protection on the outfall canals.

We started in April and through today have defined alternatives.

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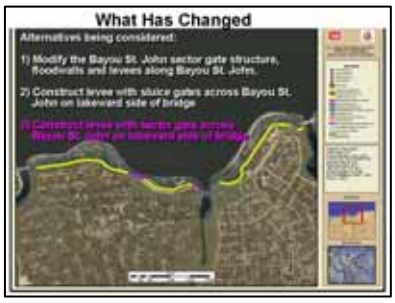
Where we're going? In May we'll release of draft of IERs [4 and 5]. Release of the draft IER is the beginning of a formal 30-day public comment period. [The comment period] allows the public to formally provide input on the draft report. We'll have a proposed action then. The reason for the 30-day comment period is to get the best and final comments on the proposed action, then take that information and we'll go out for additional comment or make a decision.

IER 4 is a snapshot of the New Orleans lakefront from the 17th Street Canal to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal [also known as the Industrial Canal].

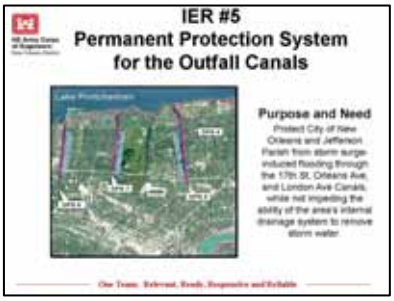
There is work going on as we speak. LPV 101 to LPV 104 are contracts we're planning to award in July and we're making those lifts to get to the 100-year protection level. That's good news.

[Inaudible] the last time we were here we gave a range of alternatives that were under consideration from No Action to Armory Transitions. We eliminated raising homes and businesses. That has changed because it will not allow us to provide 100-year level of protection. It won't be the answer to 100-year protection.



What else has changed?

We added [inaudible] a levee with a sector gate on Bayou St. John. These are three alternatives being considered under IER 4. Depending on input, that could change too but we'll find out during the question and answer session.



We all know what that is. We have temporary closure structures at the 17th St. Canal, Orleans and London. Those are interim, we have [inaudible] to provide permanent protection. Our goal is to have that in place by 2012. That's our goal. Interim protection provides 100-year protection but not permanent nature protection. We have 100-year protection in place but we don't have permanent protection in place. These have something around a 50-year lifespan. These were designed to be there for 50-years.

This is our status. We're close to releasing a draft of the IER; it's about a month away. That's where we're going, [our plan is to release] the IER in early April. The public needs a 30-day comment period, and then by mid-to-late May we'll have a final decision. The final decision could [inaudible] depending on the quantity [of comments collected] now and through the formal comment period.

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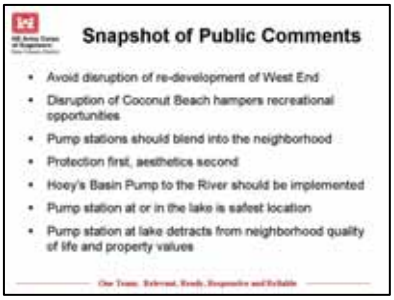
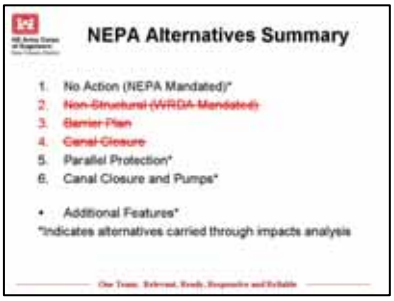
This isn't just for outfall canals but for all actions throughout the system. Meetings like tonight, partnering, phone calls, meeting people at coffee shops, etc. We, the USACE are listening to you, when you talk to us. You may not get the answer you want to hear but we are listening and we're prepared to answer and be accountable for decisions we make. We're getting technical input and senior review from agencies [inaudible] we're bringing people from around the world to give us advice.



This is a snapshot of the feedback we've received. This isn't inclusive but we wanted to give a snapshot. [Inaudible] II Tony's went through a petition, 731 people signed. I am aware of that document because it's in the middle of my desk. I was looking at it today. Some people are for and others are against taking UNO lands. This is a very complex issue. There are a myriad of interests in [inaudible] aren't just those that live near the outfall canals. The canals affect those who live here but residents in mid-city, uptown, the warehouse district and throughout Greater New Orleans area are interested. To a lesser extent [inaudible] public. You don't have to be a resident of New Orleans to give input. Examples of some comments are here, I'm not going to read those. We [can see the interest in not] disrupting Coconut Beach. I remember the first time I was at Coconut Beach, it was to discuss that the Corps was going to take land for access. Coconut Beach was concerned that we would use the property and give it to a contractor without regard for impacts. It was about the opportunity for people to go and recreate. We sat down with the contractor and worked things out. At the end of day he had more volleyball courts than there would have been. That's an example of us listening to concern. (clapping)

There are a number of residents concerned about potential ways to divert water to the 17th St. Canal, or to do Pump to the River, but this is all pre-decisional. Can I promise a diversion of water while still meeting NEPA compliance? No. I can't promise that we're going to [inaudible] flow from Pump Station 6 to the Lakefront. You and technical experts have told us that there is the option, potentially to build a system with gravity flow, essentially removing Pump Station 6. Whatever action will be recommended [inaudible] improvement will happen. I am responsible, as a member of the Army Corps, to ensure whatever we do is done so that it is adaptable to future improvements. From a technical [perspective] it has to be adaptable and from an environmental perspective, which is what this meeting is about. We have to recognize there are potential improvements to a system that may impact the environment. We're aware of comments from the public and technical experts that [inaudible] have the potential to make improvements. [Inaudible] wouldn't do something that.



So, what has changed since last meeting? The only alternative we've carried forward [inaudible] we've eliminated Alternative 3. Non-Structural is not the answer. The

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Barrier Plan is not the answer. A Canal Closure is not the answer. It's not feasible to carry forward No Action which must be carried forward by law. So that leaves Parallel Protection and Canal Closure and Permanent Pumps.

These show what the alternatives that were shown on Nov. 29. Potential sightings have changed based on input from you. In fact the, blue indicates the permanent footprint, yellow indicates temporary impact areas and purple shows the minimized impact of the footprint. This is not necessarily the [space used for a facility] but the footprint that it would be built in. A pump would be somewhere in the area. It won't take all the land. This is [animation] places like II Tony's and Coconut Beach were out of commission. As an example if you look at where we are today, it looks temporary, temporary and purple is minimized impact area. We'd do whatever to minimize impact. It happens that the impact happened to be at II Tony's and Coconut Beach because that's feedback we got from the public. We've modified the footprint in option B and C. Your feedback led us change the footprint, it isn't what it was on Nov. 29 because of input you provided.

Orleans A and B, on Nov. 29, those involved can probably draw [the sites] in their sleep. In location A we are here [animation] the footprint has changed. Location B, [animation] C, [animation] D [animation] in a few minutes we'll go into details.

At London we have location A and changes [animation] location B and changes [animation] for locations C and D. [We also now have a] location E.

This is your opportunity to provide input. This is intended to be a continuous dialogue. We serve. Thank you for your input and your participation in this event tonight. I wanted to give you an overview of where we are, where we're going and what has changed. I can't give you a definitive answer because we're in the middle of the process. We're gathering information at public meetings and forums to get to a decision under NEPA. Then we'll start heavy lifting relative to figuring out what to build. [We'll identify] if pump stations [should be] vertical or horizontal? What footprint to use? What will the building look like? It's too pre-decisional. I can commit to engage with you in transparent manner. I want to say thanks to the elected officials who are here (clapping).

Discussion Period

Julie Morgan: I want to remind you about the 3–minutes comment period. There is one microphone in each aisle. Please state your name before you comment and please use the microphone.

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Comment 1. Aaron Broussard, President, Jefferson Parish: I'm with Council Chair John Young and would like to recognize Lynette Eastman from the Metairie [inaudible] neighborhood, Joe Walt from Pump to River. Citizens from Jefferson Parish please raise your hands. [Inaudible] to represent and thank Corps for allowing us to appear and to consider Pump to the River. We've submitted a written summary of this project which we've introduced. Let the record reflect our appearance and the written summaries and we'll surrender extra time to the next person.

Morgan: I'd like to introduce our Subject Matter Experts. We have people here who are experts. If you'll stand and make your way up to the front.

Dean Arnold	Risk and Reliability
John Ashley	Permanent Pumps
Stan Green	SELA
Brett Herr	Trees
Soheila Holley	Senior Project Manager, Borrow
Joe Kopec	Real Estate
Ed Lyons	Project Manger, Environmental Justice
August Martin	Branch Chief, Hurricane Protection Office
Mike Stout	Aesthetics of temporary pumps
Kevin Wagner	Senior Project Manager, Levees and Floodwalls in Orleans Parish
Deanna Walker	Real Estate
Laura Lee Wilkinson	Environmental Manger
LTC Vic Zillmer	Hurricane Protection Office

Comment 2: Jim Dartez, New Orleans: I wanted to comment as a Lake Terrace Homeowners Association property owner. On Jan. 22 we had a meeting with property owners; I'm speaking for Joe Hessinger who is out of town. Our final resolution, by the Lake Terrace Homeowners Association unanimously opposed construction of a pump north of the existing pump. Any additional land structure should be located on the UNO side of the canal.

Comment 3: Patrick Bell, Northwest Municipal Yacht Harbor, and Billy Marchal, Flood Protection Alliance. We've submitted comments on how we can support flood control but Yacht Harbor is a public benefit [inaudible] Yacht Harbor is a recreational and commercial area which includes Coconut Beach and we're [inaudible] real concern about alternative A. We have suggested alternative D. Mr. Marshall from the Municipal Harbor is embarking on a plan to develop the commercial area part of what is included in alternative A. The Regional Planning Commission did D a [inaudible] had general ideas of what to do with that area. I have handouts of what that would look like.

Comment 4. Billy Marchal, Flood Protection Alliance: These projects are going to be done as design-builds where contractors are given a plot of land and general specifications. At the canal they'll be given a footprint and then experts will come up with plan that works. [Inaudible] Industrial Canal but at the 17th St. Canal you're talking about a major structure in a developed urban area with large footprints. Orleans and Jefferson parishes need to get together and come up with a footprint they'll both live with. The Corps should give Corps-contractors less of a footprint. Orleans and Jefferson [inaudible] option D.

Question 5. Susan Garcia, Lake Vista: I live across from the Orleans canal. With the current levee rising, the current pump is going to [need to] be raised with the levee rise because there will be a difference in height. If the permanent structure is at Robert E. Lee, the Times-Picayune article says the

pump will be replaced by 2012 [because the] walls won't need to meet 100-year protection. [Inaudible] if the pump is south? What [inaudible] why not reinforce the canal?
Response 5. Bedey: As it relates to parallel protection, anything between a structure and the lake, those walls will be given due diligence to make sure we meet 100-year protection. The canal walls won't be ignored north of a closure structure. If the closure structure is south, we'll do due diligence to make sure they carry storm water. That [article] was accurate on the date it was published but as you can see, there is not final decision on the footprint. We have to modify.
Kevin Wagner: We are raising levees approx 1-2 feet. It will allow the levee to settle to maintain for 50-years. They're being built to elevation 19 and what we want to maintain is 16 feet. The Marconi gates are above 16 feet but will have to do reinforcement.

Comment 6: Joseph Sherman, member of Midura's district: I live in Hollygrove. We've had problems with the Palmetto Canal because it feeds to the 17th St. Canal. I'm here to tell people that Pump to the River will provide the city with protection lower flood level and affects more of New Orleans than Jefferson. I'm on the Pump to the River board and we need to listen to what's happened. With Pump to the River there are certain scenarios throughout the area that pumps water and gives us safety. The system is minimum and we don't have protection. We have no back up plan and Pump to River will provide that. (clapping)

Comment 7: Rudy Robert, Metairie: I come to the microphone with a heavy heart. My first reason, the Col. shot me down and I came to enlist allies in the Barrier Plan. It's a [inaudible] point and more to the point. At the meeting at St. Paul's in November, I mentioned that the reason why we had to put up with the tragedy at 17th Street, Orleans and London Avenue was [inaudible] due to protect the citizens in those areas and communities. It goes back to the "Not In My Backyard" [mentality]. We're at the point that the barrier plan was pulled due to community pressure. It would have been so far from Lakeview that no one would have known it was there. Let's get the pump built at the mouth of the canal. The ring levee is dead, I hope. Please tell me it's dead. It was an abomination so let's move forward. [It may be] two years, maybe four before there's real protection. It's time for people to start supporting the Corps, the greatest engineering organization in the world. Let's not throw [inaudible] don't worry about butterfly under [inaudible] lets get going. (clapping)

Comment 8: Bob Northy resident of Lakeview, Corps employee here as a homeowner. Years ago the Corps wanted to put a barrier at the canal and was forced to build a plan that failed in August of 2005. Law 9234 says to construct near the mouth of 17th Street and London Canals. Relative to the Orleans Avenue canal, the Corps built a temporary structure within the area of alternatives A, B and C. When the Corps reported to [inaudible] in August of 2007 there were three alternatives. Now there are 4, one is south of Robert E. Lee, that's ½ mile from the canal. It relies on parallel protection. That's a mile of parallel protection. We have temporary pumps, we'd need acquisition of new real estate. You have to [inaudible] you have bridges to hurricane proof. Real estate goes up [inaudible] and safety, it's an insult to consider alternative D on Orleans Avenue when Congress told us to put the pump at the mouth. The water doesn't stop in Lakeview; it goes past I-10 and into Mid-City, not Jefferson and Metairie. This is not just a Lakeview issue. (clapping)

Comment 9. Freddy [Inaudible], Lakeview Civic Improvement Association, New Orleans Task Force: Thank you for partnering with us. We hope to help in the recovery process. The Lakeview Civic Improvement Association represents 7,000 properties which used to be 30,000 individuals. We've learned a lot since the storm. One is how Jefferson Parish built pumps near the mouth of the canal and it made sense. It was genius to do that. We have the opportunity to follow their lead and [inaudible] we know Lakeview was flooded, we know London flooded [inaudible]. Confidence level needs to be

high so people who would return know we have increased confidence. Be confident when you move pumps up the canal like at Orleans and [inaudible] or Robert E. Lee, you expose those floodwalls. I know the Corps has confidence and knows that they won't fail but why not leave them at the mouth and not be intrusive? I know no one wants it in their backyard but its more than esthetics and more than safety, we need to send a message that the Corps has done everything within their means to make sure the canals feel strong and won't breach. I ask you to leave the pumps at the mouth of the canal. (Clapping)

Question 10. John Trask, President of Lakeshore Property Owners: My understanding is that options A, B, C and D are providing equal protection, are they equal?
Response 10. Bedey: We'll ensure there is 100-year protection. It's complicated relative to what we do because of competing demands. To arbitrarily select a location without this process would not be due diligence. If it is done with an engineering perspective, we may come up with a solution. It may differ with social and environmental solutions. We hope to explain how complex the process is. We wouldn't do an alternative that wouldn't provide 100-year protection. This is a pre-decisional meeting. Under all alternatives, there is an array of alternatives [inaudible] from the mouth of the canal on the lake and an alternative south [of the mouth]. That's why this is important and it is healthy to see so many people here.
Trask: Our board thinks it's [inaudible] put pumping [inaudible]. A good premise with the plan in locations A, B or C. We don't want to destroy the Lakefront [inaudible] providing a staging area that is least intrusive. Thank you for giving consideration to our points. (clapping)

Question 11. Robert Broussard, Lakeview: I was here during Katrina, I live three blocks from the Lakefront. I went to the I-wall. I could have taken three steps [inaudible]. The surge had gone under I-610. There's a problem if we don't have adequate protection and parallel protection. After the storm, the surge was still high. The levee on Marconi had sand and there was debris behind the Lakeview levee. We need to bump that up. Sure that shelter to Lake Vista levee drops [inaudible]. [Inaudible] the restoration of Lakefront with grass [inaudible] to see that. Pre Katrina the grass was getting blown up. Where we locate the pumps [inaudible] understand people's options by Robert E Lee. The pump is down the street from me. I've seen proposals with renderings of Jefferson Parish and the levee development out in the lake. I wonder if that could happen at Orleans Avenue. You could create a levee out further from the mouth and it could create a marsh area and barrier and not in anybody's backyard. It works for everyone and it creates a barrier for the sea wall. You said the barrier is non-existent and it seems like something to research. [Inaudible] there's a file on the Internet. Jefferson Parish has something similar, why can't we do that?
Response 11. Bedey: The Barrier Plan is what I want to make sure is understood. The Barrier Plan is redlined [inaudible] to show how to protect 3 outfall canals and it doesn't mean its not being considered in other venues. LACPR does acknowledge optional coastal [inaudible] in the context of barrier islands at the Rigolets. This is not a "Be all, End all." The 100-year level of protection around Greater New Orleans is not a "Be all, End all." We have to provide 100-year protection concurrent with [inaudible] that ensures we take efforts to restore wetlands (some clapping) that's key to the vitality of this meeting. We're not just focusing on 100-year protection. Look at where we are today versus a year ago. To have offshore oil revenue in the state, that's a source of funding. That's kind of a barrier plan. There are two potential options out of the box. We've gone down a deliberate process under NEPA. We have preferred alternatives and we'll take steps to receive proposals from potential contractors. We don't intend to fully design but to solicit design-build proposals where the industry helps us design and build. What's driving this home is allowing for innovation from the industry so we don't limit to having only one answer. We'll allow a design-builder to compete and allow innovative solutions. In all likelihood we'll have to back up and get public involvement, we're not

[inaudible] answers. It is too important to decide we're going to do what we want. We want to allow the industry to team with us. There are big firms that are engaging in partnerships with international firms to provide protection. That potential is there but we're taking the avenue to make sure we have an innovative solution.

Question 12. Deborah Langhoff, Lake Vista Property Owners Association president. We want protection first and esthetics second. There shouldn't be any comments to interpret otherwise. I'm glad the Corps isolating technological difficulties and making those separate from human needs that the neighborhoods have been given. Our board supports option D at Orleans Avenue for many reasons. It impacts fewer homes, 25 homes impacts more than 60 people because they are on both sides of the canal. If we adopt [inaudible] are you ever going to remove the pumps or will they be there forever?
Response 12. John Ashley: We don't see those pumps being removed at this point. We'll work with coastal restoration.
Bedey: Are the pumps sitting there today going to be there forever? Yes, we will need that pump station. With potential enhancements there is a time and a concern to move the pump station. The non-federal pump stations to the mouth. The pumps provide permanent protection and get water out of the city when it rains. You can anticipate the pumps will be there for an extended period of time.

Comment 13. Scott [Inaudible], Lake Terrace: A gentleman said [inaudible] we took a vote and I didn't know about the meeting or the vote. We want it in the lake. Anything [inaudible] to UNO is a detriment to UNO. We want it in the lake.

Question 14. James Bruce: The pump should be at the lake. There is sheeting that was removed that is still on Leon C. Simon. Why is that sheeting still there? If you look past the gate, it's a mess.
Response 14. Laura Lee Wilkinson: Yes, we have weather delays and sheet piles have to be cut and stored on Orleans Avenue. Those will be moved in the next 4 weeks. That's the time period.

Question 15. Bruce: Pumps run 3 days a week. How often do pumps have to be run? We get pollution from the diesel motors.
Response 15. Zillmer: Maintenance of pumps have [inaudible] about reliability to answer your question. We run them for 60 hours to see if the pumps can run for 60 hours. The result of the test is that they can run for 60 hours so we're confident they can last as long as our fuel lasts.

Question 16. Bruce: How often are you going to run the pumps? A couple hours, what do you intend?
Response 16. Zillmer**:** The maintenance plan is we have to deal with barnacles. [Inaudible] we have to spend two weeks to get rid of marine life. We spend 20 minutes every 2 weeks. They are on an intense maintenance program and then we have to check to see if the machine works. We have quality control. I love to run the pumps when it rains. When we have heavy rain I go to turn on all the pumps. I went to London and Orleans and just hit start and they all started. Every pump ran in a heavy downpour. Every 2 weeks I try to run them and make them run.

Bedey: The next job Zillmer will be [inaudible] at the IHNC. The short answer is every 2 weeks. We turn all pumps on unrehearsed and we just go turn them on to increase your level of confidence. We have the big dry pumps that ran for 60 hours. You can be confident the pumps work and I make sure they are maintained. We will turn them on for maintenance and for a storm. Vic's done a great job. (clapping)

Comment 17. Eric Porter, patron of Coconut Beach: In reading and what people have done to refer to Coconut Beach as a recreational facility, it is more to those who play there. Many people came after the storm to rebuild the community and to take it away is a crime. (clapping)

Comment 18. Ann Duffy, Lake Oaks, president: My neighbors are sympathetic to have pumps placed where it affects the least amount of people even if [inaudible] in City Park. If that's as safe as others, he wouldn't put up a plan that's not safe. Lakeshore Drive is a jewel of the city, [inaudible] had a beautiful plan. It doesn't need to be taken away. That would be a shame.

Question 19. Leo Richardson, Old Metairie founding director of Pump to River and Metairie Club Gardens: I want to [inaudible] efforts to the Corps for an incredible job. We lose sight that this job has never been done before. Thank you for being receptive to Pump to the River to make us safe and safer than we've ever been. As part of NEPA I understand you want voices heard and that the community is in favor or [inaudible]. [Inaudible] you can hear thousands who signed petitions to congressional representatives asking for congressional support for the pump. Is it appropriate to submit something between 4,000-6,000 signatures from Orleans, Jefferson and [inaudible] who want to be heard? Are they legally acceptable as part of NEPA?
Response 19. Laura Lee Wilkinson: If [the petition] is just to divert water to a different project yes, you can submit signatures.

Question 20. Richardson: It came to my attention that as part of the Corps 2009 fiscal budget, $430 million of [inaudible] allocated to the Outfall Canal will be diverted to the Industrial Canal. We're concerned that the money will be replaced because it would have to come under another appropriation.
Response 20. Bedey: Is there a proposal to move [inaudible] million dollars so we can award a contract within the next 30-days to provide [inaudible] yes, it's being acted on. I'm the guy who made that recommendation to leadership [inaudible] Army Corps. I'm not in a position to spend those dollars today but the Corps is in a position to award a contract to a key component of a system that will only be as good as its weakest link. You heard about the request for [inaudible] $7.6 billion is requested money. $430 million is the amount for contingency that will allow us to build permanent protection for the Outfalls. It was me.

Comment 21. Bob Becker, City Park CEO: The park was impacted by a number of things and we're concerned about three of them. Land along Orleans Avenue is potentially taken, there's a potential closure of Bayou St. John and potential interruption of water flow. The park is also designated as a holding point. I would like to recommend a meeting to go over all these concerns and get a better understanding. Please contact us. Thank you Corps for your help. We couldn't have overcome this devastation without you.

Comment 22. Judy Brousse, Bucktown Civic Association: I'm not here to say how to stop the flooding. We want what's best for the area. We want Bucktown to be the least impacted. [Inaudible] I was in a meeting on Feb. 11th. I don't want to get rid of Coconut Beach. I'm here for everyone and would like you to know that Bucktown is a historical area and II Tony's has a diesel tank. As long as people come in and eat he's going to cook for them. Bucktown is looking for the best plan with the smallest footprint. We would like the bridge opened to whatever happens with 17th Street Canal. We endured death of having it closed and a lot of traffic. I brought to [Laura Lee] Wilkinson's attention that people from all over come on the 17th St. canal bridge. That's our main concern. We don't want to lose anything else. [Inaudible] we want the least amount of impact, just like New Orleans. We're not going to say it is me or Coconut Beach when it's the least amount of footprint we haven't lost [inaudible]. Our marina was sitting in the lake and was used to land choppers to [inaudible] there were

no commercial [inaudible] on the marina. Homeowners gathered there and did whatever they could do. As you drive through and see there are no trees, Lake Terrace to Gentilly to the 9th ward, how do we prevent it from happening again and keeping our homes and our lives. Please don't close our bridge that everybody uses. We're glad they come to Bucktown (clapping).

Comment 23. John David, Lake Vista: I spend time on the lake and the lakefront. Alternative 1 is 75 feet tall and 100 feet on-site. A structure in the lake would destroy the lakefront. In addition to the structure, there would be a breakwater. It would be terrible. Alternative 2 would put the structure in the canal on the same side but in land. That is a terrible blight, which is bad for the lake and the neighborhood. Alternative 3 is less obtrusive for Lake Vista but it's not good for Lakeshore because it would be too close to them. It is a safe place to have a pumping station. If we put a new structure there, it would be safe. Alternative 4 is the best for us and the best for the majority. That's where it should go.

Question 24. Robert Broussard: Bedey said the Corps would look at alternatives for the levee in the lake and the barrier but it may be further out. I can appreciate that but coastal restoration is a $20 million program that hasn't made much progress. We're getting tax revenue but not a sign to make a [inaudible]. I walk on the canal now. With the security along the Orleans Canal we're prevented from coming near the structure. [The security guards] said its federal property. Can you put signs up to show where federal property begins because security won't let us allow access?
Response 24. Col. Bedey: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for maintaining the structures between [inaudible]. Sewage and Water Board and Chris Accardo will huddle and make sure that it is marked. It's just a function of ensuring we don't have vandals on the property who potentially vandalize those stations. We'll go back and make sure we address this.

Comment 25. Broussard: On the scour pad, I walked my dog and you had to patch it because of the cracks. There are more cracks that you might want to look at the scour pads and the cracks there. If you are building by Robert E. Lee, you have to maintain it or it will crack.

Question 26. Joel Borrello: We're being asked to make a choice of alternative proposals based on what's been sketched out as temporary or permanent proposals. Your policy describes [inaudible], [the policy doesn't make sense]. How can anyone make an intelligent decision or estimate an affected area without [inaudible]? At what point will we know where the permanent structure will be located? There's nobody who can say I want A, B, C, D or E. You're putting a burden to tell us [inaudible] you must know already. It would be helpful if you told us the plan. (clapping)
Response 26. Laura Lee Wilkinson: We're in the process and we don't have a chosen alternative. It's design-build so we don't know what it's going to look like. This process is so we know what you hold dear and if the design-builder puts [inaudible] we can tell the designer what the community holds dear to [inaudible].

Question 27. Borrello: What factors were used to determine the affected areas and impact that would be felt?

Response 27. Laura Lee Wilkinson: We look at air constructability ways to minimize the footprint.

Question 28. Borrello: How can you talk about impact of noise? If you don't know where noise comes from?

Response 28. Deanna Walker: The impact area is showing an area that may be affected. When we talk about affected area, we're talking about the area that may be accessed. We're talking about two different terms.
Laura Lee Wilkinson: When the IER is available, it will go over the alternatives and it will explain it all.

Question 29. Borrello: But you're asking us to make a choice without any knowledge.
Response 29. Laura Lee Wilkinson: We're sharing information as we have it available. We'll come back to show you pumps if that's what we'll build.
Col. Bedey: I understand the genesis of the question. Under the NEPA process we don't have the time or the money to fully design 20 alternatives to then select it so NEPA, as related to technical solutions, gives a broad perspective. We've done enough to have a rough idea of the footprint to determine where a pump would be. The pump station will change depending if it's on the lake or further to the south, whether they are vertical pumps or horizontal pumps. The process is important and [inaudible] minimizing the footprint. Can we minimize the footprint by adding a pump? That will come down to the line. We don't intend the collaboration process to change. We just won't stop. With all this work we are trying to engage early and meet often so our stakeholders have an idea of how we're doing and where we're going. We committed to do this after Katrina as we look at the technical side and the whole process relative to how we deliver and our civil works program. I understand the genesis of your question. This process is intended to be collaborative and transparent.

Question 30. Borrello**:** In two of the plans the permanent markings cover the entrance to the Coast Guard station. Now we don't know how the permanent structure there will be but we don't know how it'll be impacted that's an example of how [inaudible].
Response 30. Bedey: We know from your input and our federal partners like the Coast Guard that there would be actions to take to make sure we have access. That's a great point that's valid. We'll continue dialogue over time.

Comment 31. Kyle Seyler, Jr., Lake Terrace: The east side is the back of the parking lot at UNO so putting equipment there would be better to deal with and have easy access and you wouldn't have to do site prep. The earthen levee you built from Robert E. Lee wasn't demanded. [Inaudible] floodwall because of the SELA project. You need to be mindful of the scale of what you're building. The last rendering looked like Bienville which was all bigger than what you built at I-610 and 17th Street. We don't need to do that. Diesel engines fumes, that'll go away when electric motors. Those are complaints my people talk about. We want to keep the hurricane storm surges out and in between every time there is 5 inches of rain the canal has to run. I look forward to coastal restoration so there will be no storm surge in the lake.

Comment 32. Joe Chatalain, UNO: I appreciate the chance to be involved. We worked together before the 1st of the year for a solution for everybody. However, we can not endorse anything that affects the ability to teach our students.

Comment 33. Sharon Duplessis, Lake Terrace: When you look at the actions for London Avenue, it's clear the footprints for the pumps at the mouth at the canal, the difference between D and E is that it's just further south.

Response 33. Laura Lee Wilkinson: [Inaudible]

Question 34. Duplessis: Was part of Robert E. Lee considered for the London Avenue site?

Answer 34. John Ashley: London Avenue would be for design-build. A pump would be here [pointing].

Question 35. Duplessis: Which one approximates where it is now?
Answer 35. Ashley [pointing]

Question 36. Duplessis: If you built [inaudible] of Robert E. Lee it's still vulnerable and you don't see the difference if 3/4 of mile or ½ mile. I don't understand what's the big difference? Except a few more blocks?
Response 36. Laura Lee Wilkinson: What you can't see on those [inaudible] with this alternative you can see it's mostly on the levee side that wouldn't take the dorms.

Question 37. Duplessis: Did you consider south of Robert E Lee?
Response 37. Laura Lee Wilkinson: No

Question 38. Duplessis: I hear about it on Orleans and it seems like it impacts less developed neighborhoods. It all seems like we have vulnerability. D is where the temporary station would be now?
Response 38. Laura Lee Wilkinson: D and E

Question 39. John [Inaudible] Lake Vista: I grew up in Lakeview and lived in the area my whole life. I understand Mr. [Inaudible] to make sure the projects are safe. To get people to come back [inaudible] this flooded worst [inaudible] where Orleans Canal would be. One alternative noted is the parallel protection. I discussed with someone earlier that we can fortify levees, or are we back to the existing pumping station? The proposal now can't move more water out of the system than you can pump. It's a glorified transfer station. The old light house marina is the same quality we expect [inaudible] outfall canal is improved and [inaudible] fortified so we can use parallel protection down [inaudible] would need a 70 feet monstrosity. I looked at this as a problem. I'm concerned that the Corps isn't making aesthetics [inaudible] of quality of life more important. The selection of the site that the Corps looks at [inaudible] is density of population on both sides wherever proposed pumping station is. On the north side of Robert E Lee, it's denser. It's also a great staging area and maybe the park can make money. It'll be less intrusive on the neighborhoods. The 3-year project is going to diminish the quality of life. Please tell me if parallel protection is feasible and [inaudible]?
Response 39. Ashley: [Inaudible] is safe. We'd take those walls and replace them with robust T-walls or concrete lining. Hopefully nothing will happen but we [inaudible] pump station 6 [inaudible]. That is an option being considered.

Question 40. John [Inaudible]: The Orleans Avenue canal didn't fail. I came back to my house in January of '06 and watched the temporary station built and [Inaudible] with 70 feet sheeting. I know it's going to work. The other canal had 17 feet sheeting. It's safer than part of the levee along the lakefront. You say there's risk, there's a risk in everything. [Inaudible] much less than risk of the levee failure at the lakefront. We can't get more water out of the city with the pumps. We need to improve on it and make sure it's not a failure of a design. I don't think we need the pumping station where it has the least impact on people. I don't appreciate your answer.

Response 40. Ashley: If storm surge comes down, there is more exposure to risk.
Wilkinson: We'll take that into consideration.

Question 41. Bill Collins: Two years ago there was a suggestion of design–build and we couldn't do it. Everybody here tonight wants to get the city fixed so we, the city, can attract new businesses. One remarkable system is only as good as your weakest link. Please be a proponent of coming up with a design-build and planning and managing on a 24-hour war time schedule. You did it on the gates when you met the deadline, you got it done. That changed [the production] factor by 4. You can make arguments to add cost, it adds 15 percent. If you look at inflation, costs will go up. You can take 10 years to get this done. The cost to clean another mess would outweigh a 7-day a week work schedule. Doing that would get us done in a couple years. You'd be a hero.
Response 41. Bedey: We continue to pursue with urgency. What you don't see [inaudible] IHNC is arguably a key component and will protect the entire [inaudible] it will have a positive impact on New Orleans East, Gentilly, Mid-City. We'll award the contract in March. A sense of urgency is true for the Westbank and Eastbank. The proposals came in and arrived on Jan. 7. We assembled a team to evaluate the proposals. Construction will be between $500 million to $1 billion. That's a lot of money. There were people on a plane as soon as we confirmed we had proposals. They've been working to evaluate proposals. Concurrently there is an aggressive effort to identify a team to manage the project. Thank you for your comments. Not everything will be design-build but there is a sense of urgency. It's not always visible because everyone wants to see trucks and dirt. I like being there with welders but there is desk work that has to go to award a contract.

Question 42. Collins: The newspaper reported that they would study Pump to River and do a 2-year study. I don't know what that study entails but if a major firm could do it 24–hours a day, it could be competed in 6 months or less. That way if Pump to the River decided it's 2-years [inaudible] then 3-years to construct. You could be done in 2 ½ years if it were done around the clock. They could be around the world doing work. You people look exhausted. Just like in Iraq, he told Bush we need help. I'm asking you to call Washington [to ask for help].
Response 42. Bedey: He's been down here 7 times in 8 months, General Van Antwerp. He told [inaudible] his commitment. This is the number1 mission in the Corps. We have engineers in St. Louis and St. Paul and around the county helping us to do work.

Question 43. Collins: [Inaudible]
Response 43. Bedey: It's a matter of schedule. You can't have everything as a number 1 priority. I wish we could just build 100-year level of protection but there are real concerns in Sacramento and Seattle and the war in Iraq against terrorism. On the ground we're working. We have Corps and the private industry on our team. I can't promise to [inaudible] the pump study but we will do due diligence and be successful because of our team. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs people here tonight to [inaudible] elected representatives from the local to the federal level. We're all a team. I met with [ACORN] about the eastern part of New Orleans and their concerns. They want 100-year protection now. That's what they'd like and they won't be happy [inaudible]. I could say tomorrow [inaudible] but it'll be 2011. It's about people making risky decisions. We believe we can meet the commitment. There's a whole lot to put off track. Mother Nature, it could rain. Right now is not a good time to build levees. There are issues relative to the environment, public input and what happens to cost sharing. The importance of the team can't be understated. What forms a team is when you communicate. The number of people here tonight is dwindling. I appreciate you staying here but have admiration for those who left too. This sense of community will enable to be successful... It won't just be the Corps; we won't have a chance without the team. (clapping)

Morgan: We appreciate you being here. Pease fill out a survey and sign-in on your way out. The meeting notes will be on Web site.

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

National Environmental Policy Act "NEPA"

- Required for all major Federal actions
- Analyze potential impacts to the human and natural environment and investigate reasonable alternatives
- Analyses documented in Environmental Assessments (EA), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), or Individual Environmental Reports (IER)
- Public involvement is KEY: We want to hear from you!
- **Goal: more informed decision making through public involvement**

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

IER #4

New Orleans Lakefront Levees & Floodwalls

Purpose and Need: Provide for the 100-year Level of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Status

Where We Are:

- March/April 07: NEPA Process began with Public Scoping Meetings
- **Nov 07 through May 08**: Developing alternatives and conducting impacts analysis and soliciting public input

Where We Are Going:

- May 08: Release Draft IER #4
- June 08: End of 30-day Public Review, Make Final Decision – District Commander signs final IER document

New Orleans Lakefront Levee - Current Construction: Phase 1 of 100-year level of protection

LPV 101-17th Street Canal to Topaz Street:
Currently in Design Phase

Anticipated contract award: 1 Qtr '09

LPV 102-Topaz Street to Orleans Avenue:

Contract Awarded 3 Oct 07

90% Complete

LPV 103-Orleans Avenue Canal to London Avenue Canal:

Contract Awarded 3 Dec 07

8% Complete

LPV 104-London Avenue Canal to IHNC:

Contract Awarded 13 July 07

81% Complete

New Orleans Lakefront Levee
Phase 1A & 2 of 100-year Level of Protection

- **Alternatives:**
  - No action
  - ~~Raise homes and businesses (non-structural)~~
- Modifications or replacement of floodwalls / gates
- Additional embankment work to meet new design criteria
- Raise Road Ramps
- Armoring of transitions & utility crossings

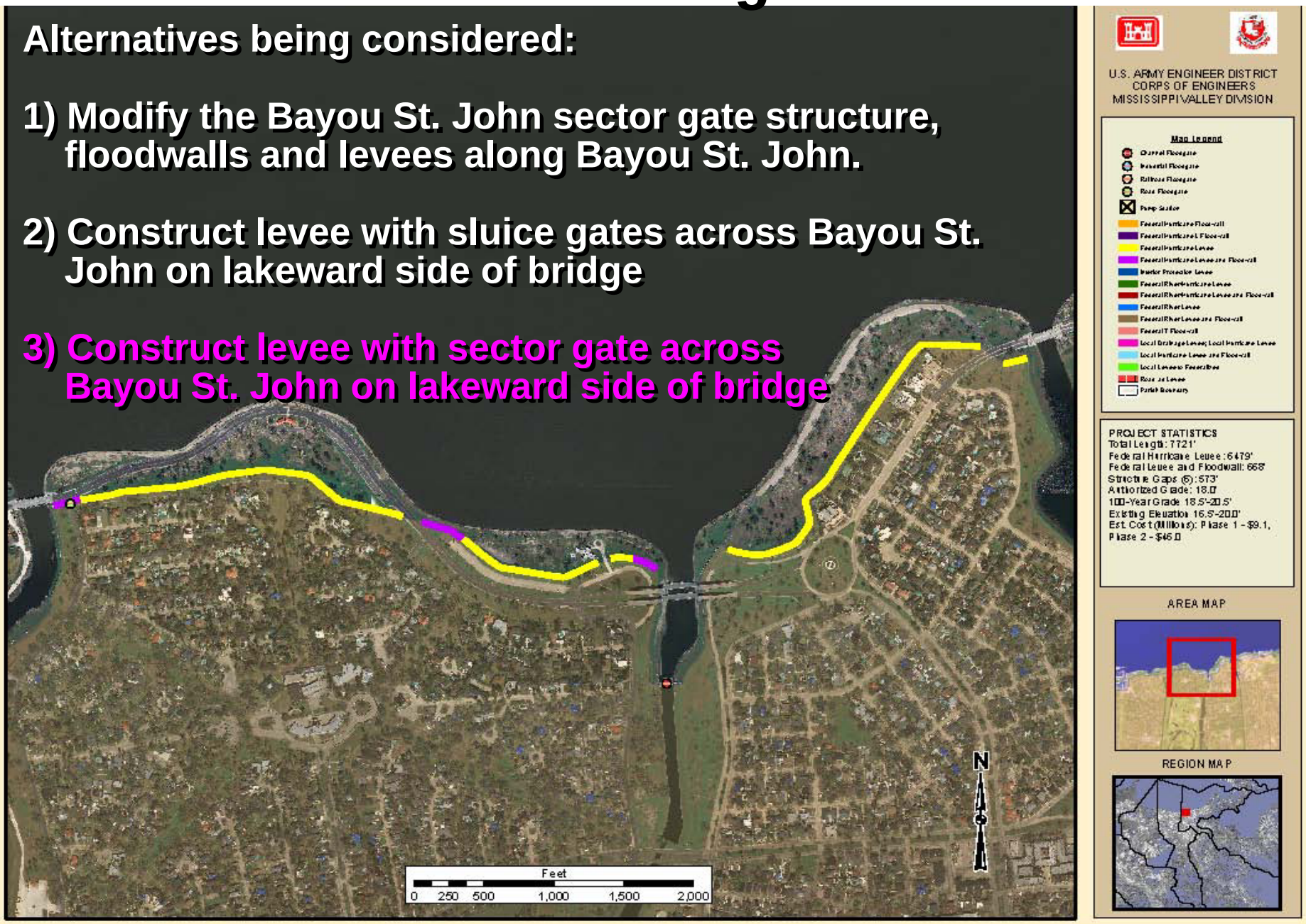
What Has Changed

Alternatives being considered:

1) Modify the Bayou St. John sector gate structure, floodwalls and levees along Bayou St. John.

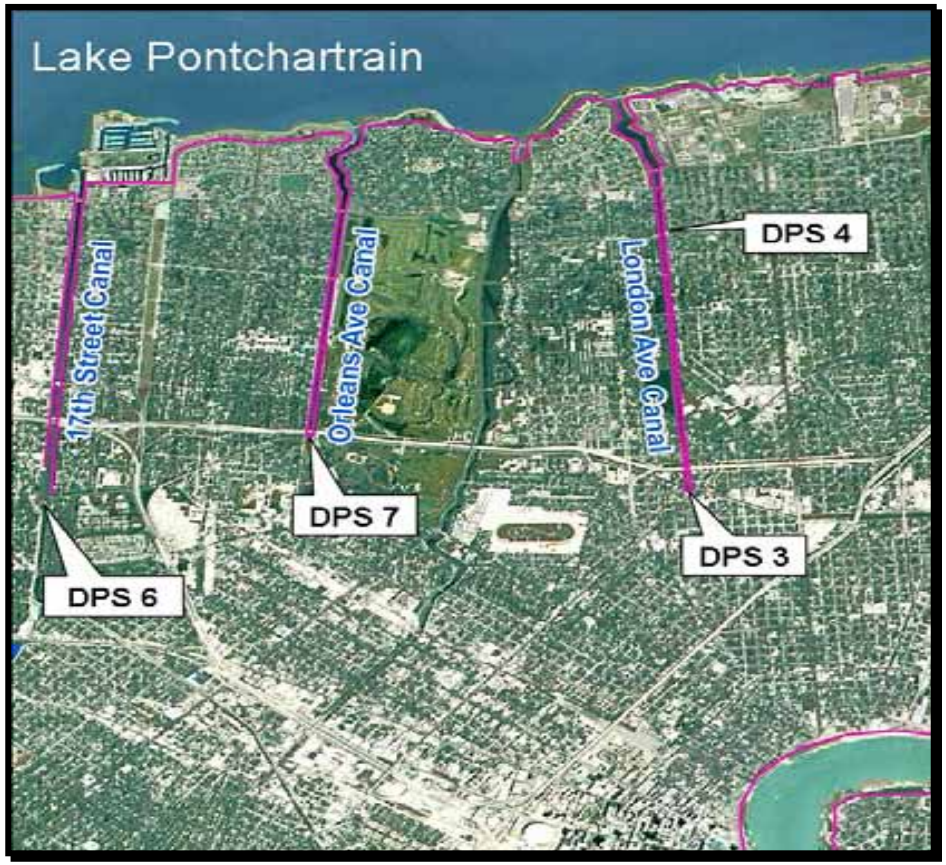
2) Construct levee with sluice gates across Bayou St. John on lakeward side of bridge

3) Construct levee with sector gate across Bayou St. John on lakeward side of bridge



US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

IER #5
Permanent Protection System for the Outfall Canals



Purpose and Need

Protect City of New Orleans and Jefferson Parish from storm surge-induced flooding through the 17th St, Orleans Ave, and London Ave Canals, while not impeding the ability of the area's internal drainage system to remove storm water.

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Status

Where We Are:

- March/April 07: NEPA Process began with Public Scoping Meetings
- April 07 through Nov 07: Alternatives developed
- **Nov 07 through March 08**: Conduct Impacts Analysis, continue Solicitation of Public Input and Complete Draft IER #5

Where We Are Going:

- Early April 08: Release Draft IER #5 (including proposed action alternative and site locations) for 30-day public comment period
- Corps to hold a public meeting during 30-day public comment period; date To Be Determined
- Mid/Late May 08: Make Final Decision - District Commander signs the IER document.

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

How we collected input

Public Input

- Frequent public meetings
- Numerous meetings with parties potentially directly impacted
- Numerous emails, phone calls, letters, petition, resolutions
- Partnering sessions with potential non-federal sponsors
- Alternatives selection workshop

Technical Input

- Senior Review Panel
- Monthly interagency team meetings
- Analysis of Impacts to important resources (human and natural)
- Engineering support team

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Snapshot of Public Comments

- Avoid or minimize destruction of wetlands and non-wet bottomland hardwoods
- Avoid taking of public lands and green space
- Avoid disruption of neighborhoods
- For and against locating pump station along Bellaire Dr.
- For and against use of UNO properties
- Opposition to taking of Il Tony's Restaurant

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Snapshot of Public Comments

- Avoid disruption of re-development of West End
- Disruption of Coconut Beach hampers recreational opportunities
- Pump stations should blend into the neighborhood
- Protection first, aesthetics second
- Hoey's Basin Pump to the River should be implemented
- Pump station at or in the lake is safest location
- Pump station at lake detracts from neighborhood quality of life and property values

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

NEPA Alternatives Summary

1. No Action (NEPA Mandated)*
2. ~~Non-Structural (WRDA Mandated)~~
3. ~~Barrier Plan~~
4. ~~Canal Closure~~
5. Parallel Protection*
6. Canal Closure and Pumps*

- Additional Features*

*Indicates alternatives carried through impacts analysis

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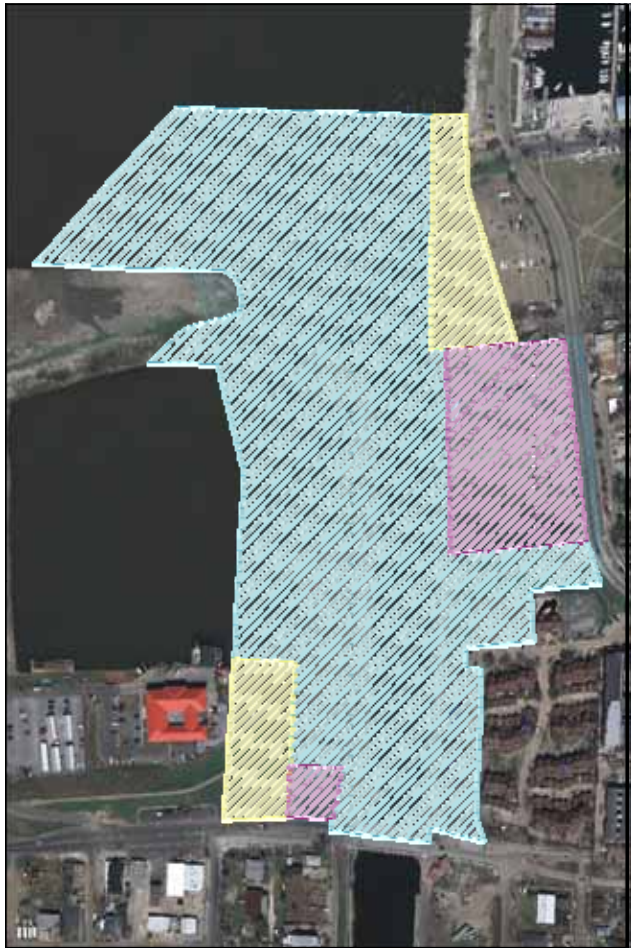
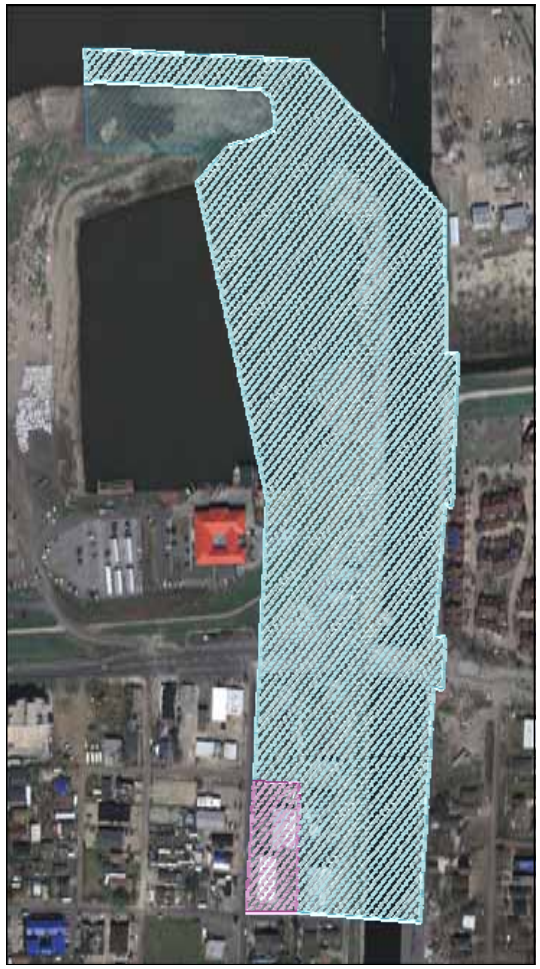
New Orleans District

What Has Changed
17th Street Site Locations

Location A



Location B



Location C

Permanent Temporary Minimize Impacts

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New Orleans District

What Has Changed
Orleans Ave. Site Locations

Permanent

Temporary

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What Has Changed
Orleans Ave. Site Locations

Location C

Location D

Permanent

Temporary

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive and Reliable

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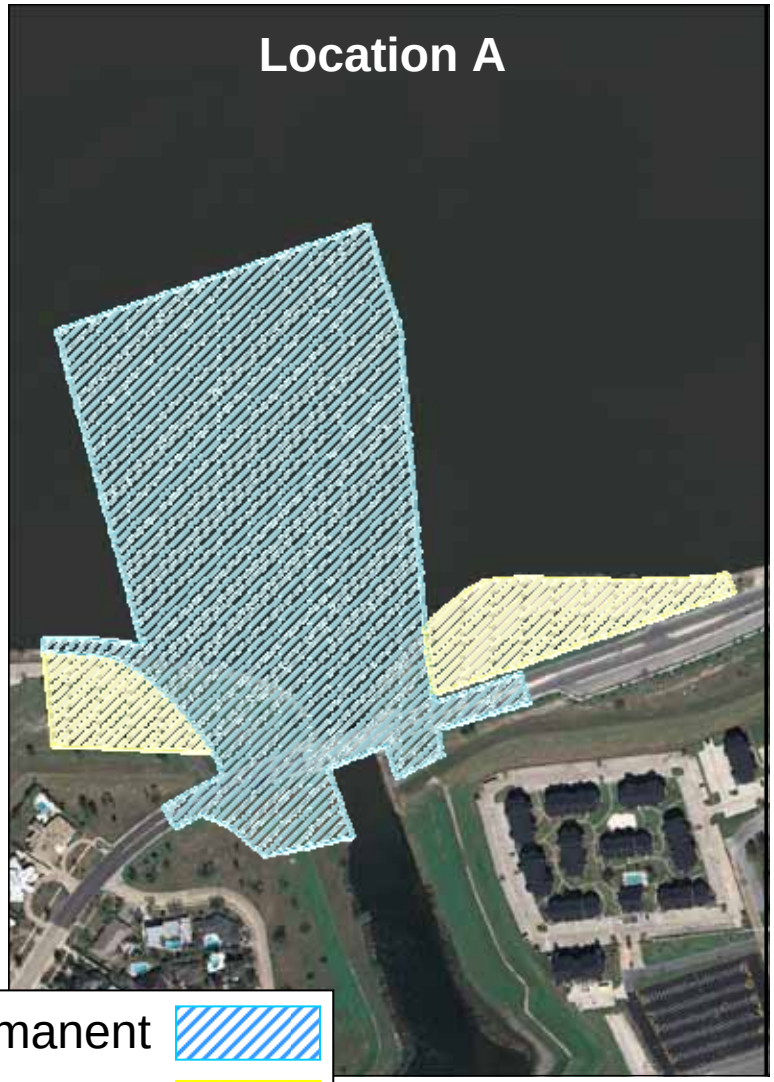
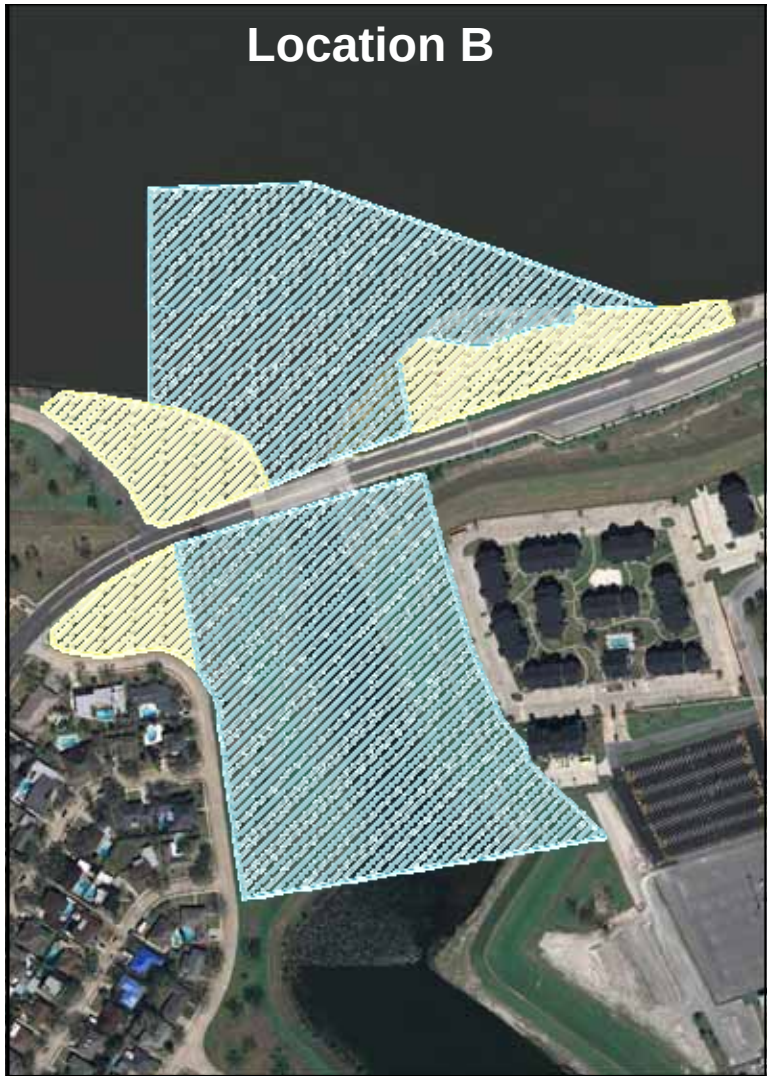
What Has Changed
London Ave. Site Locations





Permanent

Temporary

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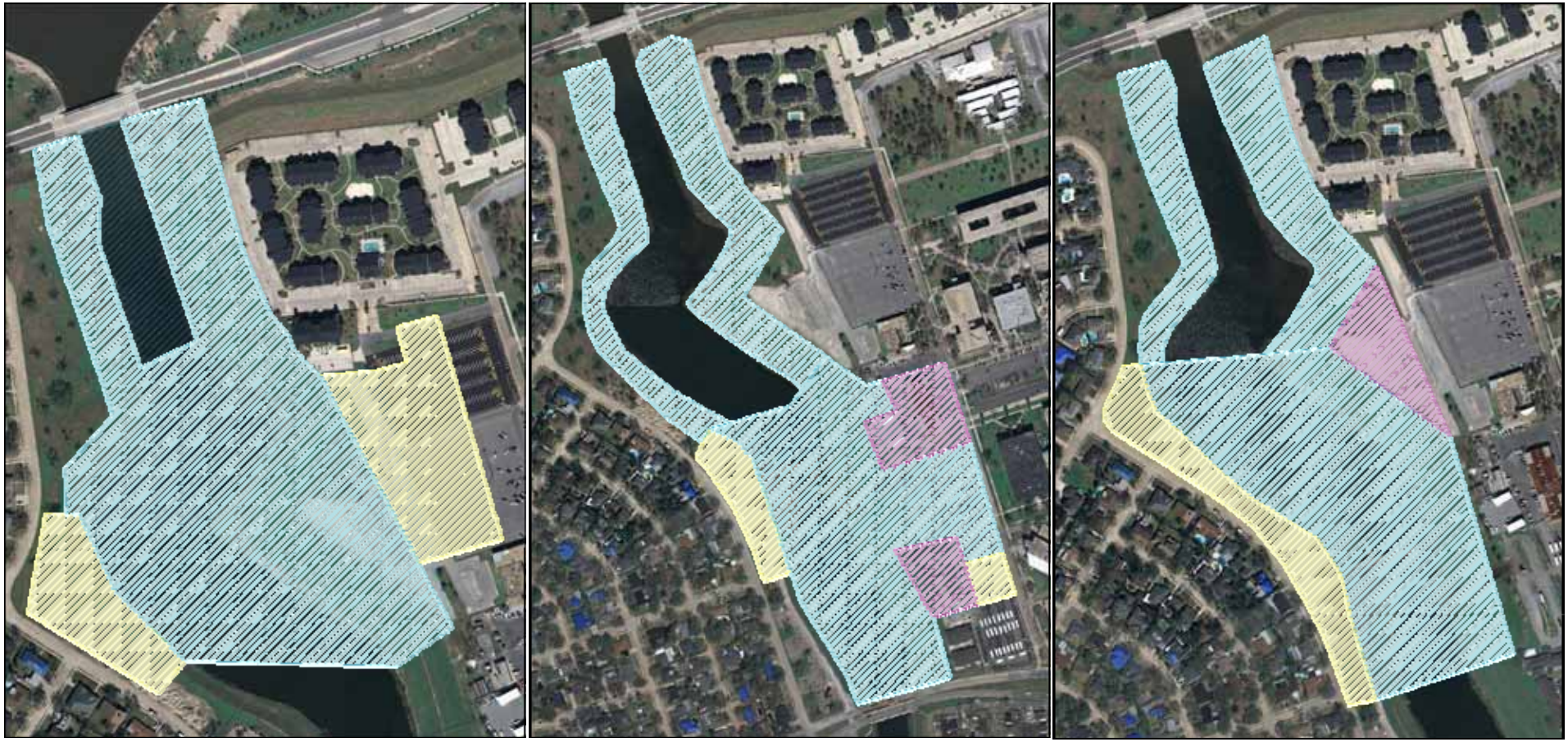
New Orleans District

What Has Changed
London Ave. Site Locations

Location C **Location D** **Location E**



Permanent Temporary Minimize Impacts

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Opportunities for Public Input

- Monthly Public Meetings throughout New Orleans Metro Area
  - Make sure to sign in tonight to get on our meeting notification mailing list
- Comments can be submitted at any time at **www.nolaenvironmental.gov**
- Individual Environmental Reports (IER) 30-day Public Review

Questions and comments regarding Hurricane Protection 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
New Orleans District

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Environmental Processes and NEPA Compliance

What is NEPA?

FEATURED PROJECT

USACE-MVN Emergency Alternative Arrangements
West Bank & Vicinity & Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity
Hurricane Protection Projects

USACE NEPA Questions & Answers
USACE Alternative Arrangements NEPA Process
USACE Alternative Arrangements NEPA Process Appendix

Welcome to NOLA Environmental! This site has been set up to share with the public the efforts being made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal and state agencies in south Louisiana regarding the environmental compliance for proposed Federal and state Hurricane Protection Projects. Additional information pertaining to other Federal and state agencies' hurricane recovery efforts in southeast Louisiana will also be posted on the site as it becomes available.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District implemented Alternative Arrangements on March 13, 2007 under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR § 1506.11). This process was implemented in order to expeditiously complete environmental analysis for the 100-year level of Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction effort authorized and funded by the Administration and the Congress. The proposed actions are located in southern Louisiana area and relate to the Federal effort to rebuild the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction system in the New Orleans Metropolitan area as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. (Learn More)

IER 18 Government Furnished Borrow Draft Report Public Comment Period: Oct. 28, 2007 - Dec. 04, 2007

IER 19 Contractor Furnished Borrow Draft Report Public Comment Period: Nov. 2, 2007 - Dec. 6, 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS: **Public Meetings**

Nov. 29, 2007 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Open House: 6:00 - 7:00 pm), Orleans East Bank (IER 5)
Dec. 06, 2007 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Open House: 6:00 - 7:00 pm), St. Charles (IER 1, 2, 3)
Dec. 11, 2007 7:00 - 9:00 pm (Open House: 6:00 - 7:00 pm), Environmental Justice

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Questions

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