



Public Meeting Summary

IER 6, 7, 11 and borrow Public Meeting
Monday, March 10, 2008

Location	Mary Queen of Vietnam Church 14001 Dwyer Rd New Orleans, LA
Time	6:30 p.m.
Attendees	approx 38 including 16 staff
Format	Presentation
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPT print out • Borrow Mar. 10, 2008 • Corps Approval Process
Facilitator	Welcome – Randy Cephus, USACE Public Affairs Presentation – Col. Jeffrey Bedey, Commander Hurricane Protection Office, USACE

Randy Cephus, USACE Public Affairs

Good evening. We're going to get started, please take your seat. Thank you for coming. On behalf of Col. Bedey and the Corps we want to welcome you to the public meeting. We'll give an overview of the hurricane protection projects and tell you future [inaudible] then open the floor for a question and answer period. The briefing will be in English but there is a second screen that has the presentation in Vietnamese.

During the question and answer period, we will have a translator available who will translate into Vietnamese. During the briefing some questions may come up, please hold your questions until the end of the presentation. Please limit the time you speak and keep it to 3 minutes. We want to make sure nothing gets lost in translation and we want to give everyone the opportunity to ask a question.

I want to recognize the people who will be answering your questions:

Col. Jeffrey Bedey	Hurricane Protection Office Commander
Rueben Mabry	Task Force Hope, Risk and Reliability
Gib Owen	Environmental Manager
Kevin Wagner	Senior Project Manager

Col. Jeffrey Bedey, commander Hurricane Protection Office

Good evening and thanks for coming. I have a couple of people to help with translation, Mimi Nguyen and Van Nguyen.

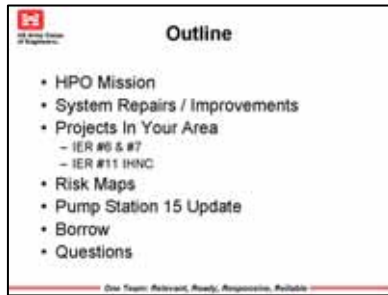
I want to thank you for being here this evening. It's important that we have a community come together to better understand their concerns so we can explain what we, the U.S. Army Corps of

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Public Meeting Summary

Engineers, is trying to do to restore the community. We want to make your community a place you want to come back to and do business. It's rewarding to see you here and especially a good feeling to see young men and woman. To all of you young children, thanks for coming.

Van/Mimi: Vietnamese



Col. Bedey: You should be proud of Van and Mimi for being public servants. Van is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee and Mimi is with the local government, for Councilwoman Willard-Lewis. They are great role models.

I am responsible for the Hurricane Protection Office. I would like to spend the next 30 minutes, between myself and Kevin Wagner, to give you an update relative to hurricane protection. The focus of this

meeting is New Orleans East, we'll give you an idea of what we did in the community after Hurricane Katrina, give you an idea of where we'll go, and of our commitment to provide 100-year level of

protection. This is outlined tonight. The mission is our job. The direct result of what the presentation is about is what Congress directed the Corps to do.



Most of you know that on August 29, 2005, the United States faced the largest natural disaster in its history. That devastation required us to immediately repair the hurricane protection system so it would be at a place it was prior to Hurricane Katrina and in some cases to try and improve protection. Our goal was to have it done by June 1, 2006, the

first hurricane season after Katrina. After that the commitment by the government as we began that work was to repair and improve the system to provide 100-year level of protection. The system is to provide protection for the whole greater New Orleans area. In addition, understand that while we are building levees and floodwalls to have long term protection, we had to look at how to restore the coast.

We are doing coastal restoration and protection because Louisiana coasts are growing smaller all the time from a combination of subsidence to the sea level rising and loss of a lot of vegetation. We are doing that in addition to simply building levees and floodwalls.



This is a picture of the Hurricane Protection System. I'm responsible for the Hurricane Protection Office. We are responsible for building levees and floodwalls for the Orleans line at 17th Street east, down to St. Bernard and then responsible for Plaquemines Parish levees. We

are also responsible for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) protection which we'll talk about later. A very important component to the system is the IHNC, especially as it provides protection for

the entire system. The last two things that I'm responsible for is permanent protection at the three canals; Orleans Avenue, 17th Street Canal and London Avenue and also for storm-proofing. We'll talk about pumps that will get the water out of this community.



Let's focus on how much work has been done between Hurricane Katrina and now. The work was mostly done by June 2006. Almost 220 miles of levees and floodwall were repaired and replaced. A lot of

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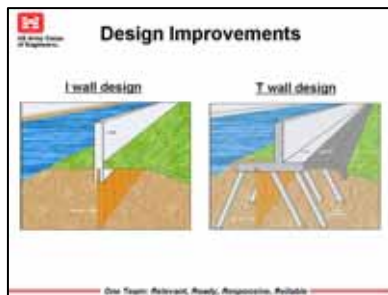
Public Meeting Summary

work has been done. The level of protection is better today than it was before Katrina. By no means is it where it needs to be and that's where we need to go by 2011.



This goes over specific work done to this system since Katrina. You can see we've replaced I-walls and we've improved a significant amount of the levees.

Since Katrina we repaired the airport floodwall, CSX railroad, and the New Orleans East back levee, you can see where it is on the map and also the Citrus back levee.

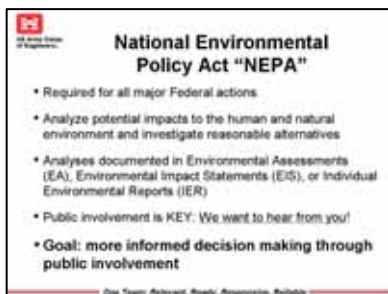


Kevin Wagner was born in New Orleans East and works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



Kevin Wagner, Senior Project Manager

I'm the Senior Project Manager for levees and floodwalls in Orleans Parish. We're documenting environmental effects of what's happening here. This happens for all major federal actions. We have work that has to be done to meet the 100-year hurricane protection system goal. We're going to have 31 contracts to bring it up to 100-year level of protection.



NEPA has to document all the impacts of whatever action we would take. We do that through Individual Environmental Reports (IERs). We want to hear from you. The more information we have from the community, the better decisions we can make. You may not like the answers you get but we're taking your input when we're forming alternatives.



IER 6 and 7.

There are three contracts along Reach 1 for the Lakefront Airport. The other, LPV 106, will address the levee to Paris Road. IER 6 is the Lincoln Beach area.

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Public Meeting Summary



Laura Lee Wilkinson can explain what is covered in the IER. One thing we're trying to do is document all the impacts with every action. If we want to construct a levee and it might go through wetlands, we need to document that.

Laura Lee Wilkinson, Environmental Manager

There are significant resources in the IER. We look at wetlands, vegetation, habitation, populated areas, socio-economic resources and what the population dynamics are. We try to engage the system and

impacts. We're going to have trucks on the road because of the dirt [we bring in] and we may have sheet pile. The document [IER 6] will lay out different alternatives as to what we're investigating and we may raise a levee to make it bigger or a levee with a T-wall on top of it. These are different impacts. What they do is they document everything and in the IER, we look at different alternatives. It's a decision-making document. We have a proposed document. We weigh the impacts and suggest what might be the best alternative.

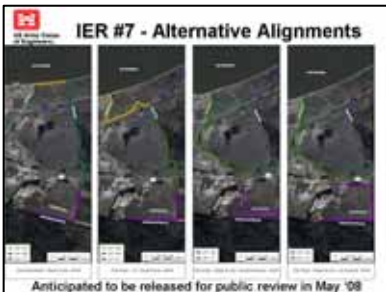
Kevin Wagner: What that document will do is allow you to comment. We're going to document impacts, for example we'll document noise, sheet pile and driving operations. You'll have the opportunity to comment on borrow also. All that will be in the document so you have the opportunity to voice your concerns.

Laura Lee Wilkinson: We have a Web site where you can download IER 6. If you give us your mailing address, we will mail it to you also.

Kevin: We'll give you more information.



These are projects in New Orleans East. This goes from [inaudible] to GIWW to the other side of the Michoud Canal. Potentially there will be four contracts in different phases. In LPV 109 we have four different contracts to address everything on that reach. For example, we may have to raise a road. We have another contract for [inaudible].



These are the alternatives under consideration for IER 7. Part of the process is to consider the alternatives. You may know this levee but this is the Maxent Canal alignment. This borders the fish and wildlife area. We are looking at possibly extending the levee in lieu of raising the perimeter. A variation is to use a levee that the Orleans Levee District owns. They own the one near Paris Road and it would connect to the [inaudible] canal levee.

Another alternative would be to follow the Orleans Levee, tie it in at Michoud and [inaudible]. A final option is to extend the levee then go east near Pump Station 15.



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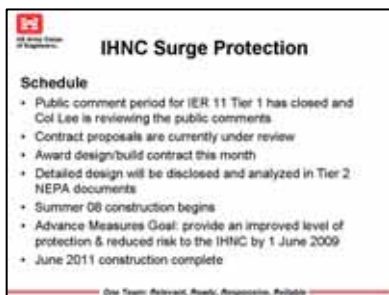
We have these contracts planned for this area in this upcoming year. LPV 106 is trying to advance so we may have 2 contracts on the lake side of the railroad tracks. The reason we have TBD [on the slide] is that we're trying to accelerate the schedule to get construction done sooner rather than later. We plan to award a contract for that in July 2009. LPV 109 is south point to the GIWW and it'll stop at the CSX railroad gate. Contract LPV 113 is between the Michoud Canal and Michoud Slip it'll be a betterment of NASA. NASA has \$12 million to fund this portion of the levee. We will probably award a contract in April or May for New Orleans East.



Col. Bedey: I promise not to talk too much longer because I am here for your comments relative to providing protection for this community. Part of our responsibility is to ensure we look at the natural and human environment and investigate reasonable alternatives. So what we've done is we thought about consequences to the natural and human environment. This is an important project and is relative to protection. This is a system and we must approach it as a system. We're meeting environmental obligations through IER 11. Approx 66% or 2/3 of water [during Hurricane Katrina] was a result of 4 wall failures; 17th Street Canal, London Avenue and the Lower 9th Ward.

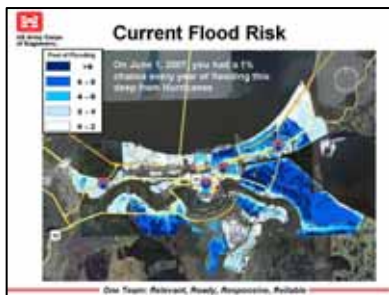


The [inaudible] to the protection area between the GIWW and MRGO is where those two come together, and then the water goes down to the Industrial Canal. How do we protect that area for hurricanes? We're going to award a design-build contract that brings together engineers who design and contractors who do construction. This lets work get done in a holistic manner.



We went through an exhaustive effort through NEPA to ensure we meet obligations in environmental compliance. The comment review period has ended and we are close to Col. Alvin Lee making a decision relative to the preferred alternative. While working through the environmental compliance we have received proposals from contractors and are in the process of finalizing that review of proposals. We've put in requirements to increase protection.

[Inaudible] this contract, which may be awarded on or about the 21st of March, will begin this work. When this contract is awarded it'll be the largest funded in the history of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The contract is valued between \$500 million and \$1 billion and it will immediately protect this key component. It'll increase the level of protection for New Orleans East through metro New Orleans, the Lower 9th Ward, Chalmette and St. Bernard.

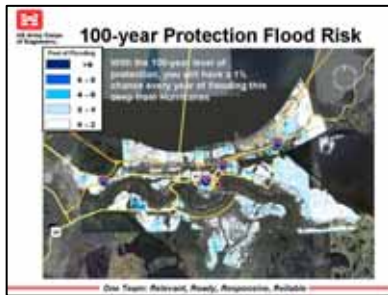


You can see where we were last hurricane season on Google Earth. There is the Causeway [pointing] going east and then south into the MRGO to Caernarvon and then back to the Westbank. That's the area we have a goal to have 100-year level of protection for. On June 1st, if

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Public Meeting Summary

you had half of the pumping capacity, you could expect this amount in terms of water. That doesn't look good in some areas. Now let me show you where we'll be when we meet the commitment of the President and Congress.



This map provides a tremendous amount of hope to the community. Not to just one part of the community but the community of the entire Greater New Orleans area. If someone can go back one slide, tonight we're here [pointing] this is where we'll be in 2011. The grey area indicates land with no water. While many people want to know why we're not there today, it's a matter of it takes time. It's a tremendous amount of work with more than 100-million cubic yards of clay that must be put into the levees.

Question 1. So if a hurricane came in 2008, 2009 and 2010, I see a lot of water, what do we do for three years until you get to that point?

Response 1. Col. Bedey: I didn't show you what it looked like before Katrina. I wanted to show you where we are today and where we are going. No matter what map you see there is no guarantee. We're trying to tame Mother Nature. She always gets the last at bat. Mother Nature is like that, I would advise to listen to your local officials and local government and what they advise you to do relative to leaving during potential storms. We've been blessed that in last 2 years we've had no storm. We will continue to work to increase the level of protection.

Question 2. We are waiting to see improved pictures of eastern New Orleans. On this map you mentioned 17th Street canal. How does that area compare to significant improvements to pre-Katrina levels and each year since the storm? Has that been an area that's been improved?

Response 2. Col. Bedey: The area near the 17th Street canal has been [inaudible] than the effort for the IHNC but in the short term, the greater improvements were here [pointing] rather than over here [pointing] than Mid-City and the Lower 9th Ward and Chalmette. We were able to put gates there. The majority of water in the Lakeview area was from the 17th Street east as a result of the floodwall failure. By putting a gate in front we were able to reduce risk so that physical effort was able to be executed in a short period of time. We have over 10 miles of levees and floodwalls from Paris Road Bridge to the IHNC lock. The ability to go in and make improvements is not something we can physically do in this time period. That's why we are working to award a contract. I would love to tell you something different. It was early and we had a meeting with Pastor Haywood that talked to citizens there.

Question 3. I'm not sure I understand how prioritizing went in terms of contracts. Every area deserves equal protection. I'm an advocate of simultaneous protection. If you are looking at natural disasters and not where to pin point where with last storm we were devastated just as much as Lakeview and the Lower 9th Ward. Who makes the decision to work on these areas first? It gives the appearance that Lakeview and the 17th Street canal [inaudible] as opposed to here which needs protection. Why has there been such a lengthy period? There's a lot of blue there, pre-Katrina we didn't succumb to flooding. We know something else happened here but the aftermath is important and we should feel

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Public Meeting Summary

that the Corps is doing the same thing here as it is in other areas. It should be simultaneous. I can't understand your choice of one place versus another. Who sets the priority in awarding contracts? Why is there such a long wait?

Response 3. Col. Bedey: I'm not here to change your perception. We are working diligently on the Seabrook Bridge and just as hard on the 17th Street Canal. In fact, we recommend that money for protection of the Outfall Canals be reallocated to award a contract to protect IHNC. We were given approval to award a contract to protect this area. It's hard to see it because efforts have been behind the scenes. About a year ago the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began to speak of this area as the Achilles heel to the system. To give you an idea of the diligence and the efforts being made behind the scenes, the proposals [for the design-build contract for the] IHNC came in on the 7th of January. People [who would judge select the design-builder] had plane tickets booked as soon as we said we had the proposals in. We called the [selection team] and they were here the next morning. People were on a plane to begin evaluating these proposals. I wish we could do it faster but it's not possible.

Comment 4. It's not faster, it's simultaneous. It shouldn't be about prioritizing. Construction guarantees equal protection. Please look at simultaneous protection and that we're getting equal protection.

Comment 5. Cynthia Willard-Lewis, District E: Thank you for your availability and continuing dialogue and an effort to be transparent and stand with integrity to the facts as you know them. This is a public discussion and you're here to get our comments. Ms. Wall has [inaudible] you've heard our community with disappointment that the system is being improved. This area had never flooded before and then experienced the worst devastation and you've decided it's the Achilles heel. I know it's easier to [inaudible] lake but we can't in our humanity understand that this is phase 3 of a 6 phase process. Again that is disappointing even though we are encouraged and we're very grateful for the largest contract the Corps has executed, however we remind you it was a failure in 1965 and 2005. We know many of you come from New Orleans. This is the government's lack of commitment. If it costs \$40 million now, maybe it wouldn't have [before]. I thank Congress for allocating those dollars. As you continue to share contract news, our confidence is so important and our ability to return from a business perspective [is also important]. If we still see blue [on maps] and if the rest of New Orleans is blue, the idea of nothing [inaudible] lower than the Industrial Canal becomes a reality and a fact. You need to communicate with facts and the continuing story that it's going to be a little lighter. People keep making decisions and national businesses look at all of this information. [Inaudible] to have a design-build contract is very important. To have and not incorporate local businessman and woman with you challenges would be a missed opportunity. In structuring of the economy, develop networking not just [inaudible] contracts even though they look like us, we want the contracts [inaudible] you've passed many hurdles but still the perception is to not go across the Industrial Canal. We need your leadership and this team's ability to [inaudible] the timeline and explain in a more appropriate manner so that fear is removed. I'm going to close with, "close the MRGO." Give us speed bumps to stop the tidal surge, network our businesses and families to make New Orleans safe for history to come. (clapping)

Response 5. Col. Bedey: The second map is where we will be [when we complete the system].

Public Meeting Summary

Comment 6. Cynthia Willard-Lewis: I see some lakes. What are the other blue spots? Canals, lagoons? You need to say that. Why is this neighborhood still flooded? It looks like some are still susceptible to flooding. We're living with a perception [inaudible] and with the media who is not from New Orleans. Folks from Atlanta are going to say we're still going to flood. You need to say we'll [inaudible] give us a legend.

Comment 7. So by 2011, this is how the levee system is going to look? We still have some fear until we get to 2011. The way the map was before, the way this map looks today, the people in the Lower 9th shouldn't be building. It looks like in the Lower 9th they are getting any improvements. That it can still look like that.

Wagner:

Pump Station 15 Update

Damage from Katrina is currently being repaired.

- Before Katrina 3 pumps were operational
- Station is currently operating with one pump.
- Two pumps are being repaired, will be working in approximately 3 weeks.
- Third pump which has been working but not at 100% effectiveness, will be going under extensive repairs.

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

There is great interest in Pump 15, along the Maxent Canal near the GIWW. It protects places like Air Products. They're concerned that as we [inaudible] we may have to take some pumps for repair. When we fix those two pumps we'll put those back in operation and continue to improve it to make it functional. I wanted to give you an overview. If I need to provide additional information we can give you during the question and answer session.

Borrow

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Investigated Borrow Sites New Orleans East

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

We need more than 100 million cubic yards of borrow material. We're investigating sites as potential borrow to get a suitable clarification along the Louisiana coast. This is New Orleans East [pointing], Luling and the Westbank. We are focusing on all areas even in Mississippi and Slidell and any place to get suitable material for a reasonable price.

Neighborhood Borrow Maps: Cummings

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Neighborhood Borrow Maps: Maynard

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This was our initial site that was undeveloped and in the lower part near GIWW we are investigating it as potential borrow sites for 100-year level of protection. Sites we are looking at for borrow are Cummings and Maynard sites. Those are primary sources for borrow in this area.

Neighborhood Borrow Maps: Stumpf

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Neighborhood Borrow Maps: Eastover

One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable

Another area is in Eastover near the golf course. They are willing landowners. We're working with them closely. That would be a contractor furnished site.

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Question 8. Tangee Wall: I live in Eastover and that's an area of concern. I saw in the newspaper the amount of material you need. What efforts have been made to involve the community? In a previous meeting I asked about negotiations. Has that changed?

Response 8. Gib Owen: We cleared Eastover in IER 19 which was signed 2 weeks ago. That site is available for use by the landowner. We haven't had a meeting in Eastover but we talked the site in other meetings.

Question 9. Wall: But there are concerns from residents in Eastover. We're concerned about the impacts of borrow and what happens to a 20 foot site. Eastover is a premiere neighborhood. It seems hard pressed that it would be a great site. If the landowner offered dirt to you [inaudible] permission should be accessed from property owners.

Response 9. Owen: I would be glad to talk to them but that site is cleared and negotiations are now between contractors and landowners. The Corps is out of the project.

Question 10. What about impacts to neighbors?

Response 10. Gib Owen: Yes, there will be impacts but the bigger picture is that we're making a safer New Orleans East by doing this.

Question 11. When impacting a neighborhood of that type and size, would it be hard pressed to say that people who live there are on board?

Response 11. Gib Owen: There's no way to please everyone.

Col. Bedey: We're looking at attaining borrow in three ways. In reality, it's a combination of ways. When the requirement is to take 100-million cubic yards, we go through government furnished contractors and supply contractors where we purchase borrow from a private citizen just like limestone or gravel. We must look at the impacts to the environment. Local ordinances and local government can and can't do things relative to the land use.

Question 12. Once the dirt is removed are you required to fill those pits?

Response 12. Col. Bedey: No. We are not required or legally allowed to fill the pits. That goes to [inaudible] local and state. There are opportunities for local ordinances to make land use [inaudible] you may at local level choose to enact and create ordinances allowing a landowner to backfill if the local government chooses. There are ways to approach it and many times [inaudible] of what are kept at local levels.

Question 13. Can we have an Eastover meeting? Other pits, Cummings and Maynard, I don't know anything about them. What about Cummings, are those contractors? Those will be done according up to your standards?

Public Meeting Summary

Response 13. Wagner: Cummings is an existing pit. We used it for Task Force Guardian. Other areas are potential sites. We haven't finished the investigations.

Question 14. Who has site control?

Response 14. Wagner: The landowner. We've been talking to Air Products and they have land we can use because they want to raise the levee.



Question 15. Willard-Lewis: Relative to the Maynard site, nothing was triggered by city government. There was nothing our office had to do to make anything [inaudible] so it must have been through safety?

Response 15. Wagner: We just started with Pastor [inaudible]. Once the IER was signed, then it could go to the landowner.

Wagner: [Pointing] this is Michoud and Six Flags. The area has two property owners.

Wagner: Eastover is a contractor furnished site. Maynard is off the I-10 Service Road. This is what we approved for levee protection. We're trying to avoid wetlands.

Question 16. Willard-Lewis: We know what you will use the material for. My concerns are the vehicles and pathways and aesthetics. Will you be monitoring the travel?

Response 16. Wagner: We will be using the interstate and service roads. We are not trying to run trucks through neighborhoods.

Col. Bedey: We've created a database to ensure all drivers have commercial drivers license. We're tracking their driving record. We'll also restrict the trucker's ability to drive our trucks. We are concerned about the neighborhoods.



Question 17. Willard-Lewis: May I suggest GPS so we can track vehicles and detours from the route? We can use GPS so we can set community standards to allow, front end guarantees.

Response 17. Col. Bedey: We would have to put one on every vehicle but I will look into it.

Wagner: Maynard is in the yellow. This is what we're looking at.

Question 18. Minh Nguyen: Earlier you said the borrow pits don't have to be refilled.

Response 18. Wagner: The levee district may be responsible for continual maintenance.

Question 19. Minh: How will you make sure that the borrow sites won't become a landfill?

Response 19. Wagner: The Corps wouldn't be involved in that decision.

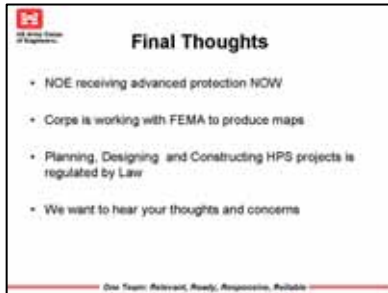
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Gib Owen: If it's a government furnished site it will be owned by the government.

Wagner: If Maynard is purchased as a government site, it'll remain public land.

Col. Bedey: Many, but not all government portions, of the borrow sites are from landowners that are attempting to use the property afterwards for economic development. Those are Government Furnished sites and will be government-owned. Contractor Furnished sites are looking to equalize clay material then use the land for other use. It is consistent with the growing neighborhood.



We are trying to advance protection as fast as possible. We are planning to get projects on the street as soon as possible to begin construction and bring the system up to 100-year protection elevations. We want your thoughts and comments. The more input the better our projects will be.



This is another opportunity for input. This is how you can give more feedback. Through the Web site and monthly meetings. You can also log on to provide comments. Gib Owen is the main point of contact. Here's his contact information. You can provide input to process.

We'll stay around for one-on-one. Thank you again for taking time out of to be part of this.