Corps releases proposed alternatives for New Orleans East projects

NEW ORLEANS – On May 6, 2009, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released a report with the proposed actions required to meet the 100-year design elevations and design criteria for New Orleans East risk-reduction projects. The document evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts that construction of the proposed levees, floodwalls, ramps and floodgates may have on areas of New Orleans East.

These projects are described within Individual Environmental Report (IER) 7, titled “Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, New Orleans East Lakefront to Michoud Canal, Orleans Parish”, for a 30-day public review.

Depending upon location, the proposed action would increase the height of structures to elevation 17- to 34-feet to meet the 100-year level of risk reduction. The projects within IER 7 would reduce impacts from a storm surge event that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year. This would reduce risk of damage to property and infrastructure to communities in New Orleans East.

Written or verbal comments on IER 7 must be submitted to the Corps by midnight on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Comments received during the public review period will become part of the official record.

IER 6, released for public review on April 24, 2009, evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts that construction of the proposed levees, floodwalls and floodgates may have on the areas from the New Orleans Lakefront Airport to Paris Road. The IER 6 comment period closes at midnight on Saturday, May 23, 2009.
The Corps will hold a public meeting on the proposed projects within IERs 6 and 7 on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Church at New Orleans, 11700 Chef Menteur Highway New Orleans, LA 70129
Open house begins at 6:00 p.m.
Presentation and discussion begins at 7:00 p.m.

Questions or comments concerning any 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.

Comments may also be provided by visiting: www.nolaenvironmental.gov

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

# # #