

Public Notice
Seeking Public Comment for NHPA¹ Evaluation of the
Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock Replacement Project,
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN), continues to plan the replacement of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock at the Mississippi River by building a new lock between Claiborne and Florida Avenues. The current IHNC Lock was constructed by the Port of New Orleans in 1923 and acquired by CEMVN in 1986. It is an integrated component of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal/Industrial Canal that joins Lake Pontchartrain to the north with the Mississippi River to the south and also connects the eastern segment of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway with the Mississippi River. As early as 1956, Congress recognized that the IHNC lock was not efficiently providing passage of waterborne traffic and authorized the *Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, Louisiana, New Industrial Canal Lock and Connecting Channels Project* (commonly referred to as the IHNC Lock Replacement Study).

Under the current study, proposed construction entails: 1) a cofferdam section parallel to the new lock location and bypass channel; 2) an area between the cofferdam & westbank of IHNC to be dredged; 3) a bypass channel between the cofferdam & eastbank of IHNC dredged; 4) a cofferdam around the new lock; 5) construction of floodwalls & a permanent St. Claude bridge; 6) a portion of the cofferdam removed and new lock placed into operation; 7) a portion of the cofferdam *relocated* & the remainder of the T-Walls & backfill of temporary bypass completed; 8) a bypass channel parallel to existing lock completed once the new St. Claude bridge is operational; 9) demolishing the old lock and old St. Claude bridge; 10) backfilling of any remaining bypass channel; and 12) in-kind replacement of flood risk reduction measures along the bank. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/IHNC-Lock-Replacement/>.

Federal regulations require CEMVN, as an agency responsible for funds appropriated by Congress, to identify if properties are historic (listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places); to assess the effects the work will have on historic properties; to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties; and to evaluate the proposed action's potential for significant impacts to the human and natural environment.

The considered improvements will adversely affect six historic properties: 1) the IHNC Lock; 2) the St. Claude Ave. Bridge/LA 46; 3) the Holy Cross National Register Historic District; 4) the Bywater National Register Historic District; 5) the Sewerage and Water Board, Sewerage Pump Station B, and; 6) the Judge Seeber Bridge/LA 39. During earlier phases of this project, the Galvez Street Wharfs were adversely affected by demolitions activities; however, the adverse effects of this work were mitigated through documentation as stipulated within a previously executed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) prior to demolition. Presently, CEMVN is recommending the amendment of the previously executed MOA to address the currently understood adverse effects of the proposed project. To help further develop a course of action for this project, ***CEMVN is requesting your input by February 14, 2019 on ways to avoid or minimize or mitigate the adverse effects to these Historic Properties.***

Comments can be sent electronically to: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil

Or mail comments to: Cultural & Social Resources Section (CEMVN-PDS-N), USACE, Room 140, 7400 Leake Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118-3651



Map displaying project area boundary (above)
Aerial photo 2017 with star marking new lock location
(below)



¹ CEMVN is issuing this public notice as part of its responsibilities under the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (54 U.S.C. § 306108). This notice applies to activities authorized under Public Law 455, Chapter 112, 84th Congress, 2nd Session, approved March 29, 1956. Subsequent to the 1956 legislation, the project was modified by Section 844 of the Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA) of 1986 (established cost sharing requirements) and was amended by Section 326 of the WRDA of 1996 (authorizing the Community Impact Mitigation Plan).