Public Meeting Summary

Individual Environmental Report 5
Outfall Canal Closure Structures
Wednesday, October 22, 2008

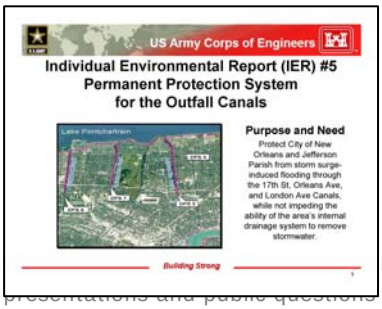
Location	St. Dominic's Elementary School Gym 6326 Memphis St. New Orleans, LA 70124
Time	6:00 p.m. – Open House 7:00 p.m. – Presentations and Discussion
Attendees	Approx 117
Format	Presentation and Discussion
Handouts	• PowerPoint (slides inserted throughout) • Corps Approval Process Brochure • Borrow handout 10.22.08
Facilitation	MAJ Tim Kurgan
Presenter	Dan Bradley

Welcome

Major Tim Kurgan, chief of public affairs

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of the New Orleans District Commander, Colonel Alvin Lee, and Colonel McCormick I would like to thank you for coming tonight. We are here to give you an update on the project status and we are here to answer your questions. I would like to thank the elected officials that are here tonight: Cynthia Hedge Morrell, New Orleans City Council District D; J.P. Morrell, Louisiana State Representative District 97; and Mr. Enrico Sterling, Representative for Shelly Midura, New Orleans City Council District A. We will begin this meeting with a brief presentation on Individual Environmental Report 5 by Dan Bradley. Bradley is the senior project manager for IER 5. I ask that you please hold your questions until the end of the presentation. Then I will introduce our other project managers who can answer questions for you.

Dan Bradley, senior project manager



Good evening. I would like to thank you for coming out tonight. I have an update on IER 5 and we are presenting the status of the report in a brief slide presentation. This is leading us up to the 30-day comment period which will begin in December. In December, you will have the opportunity to comment on the IER.

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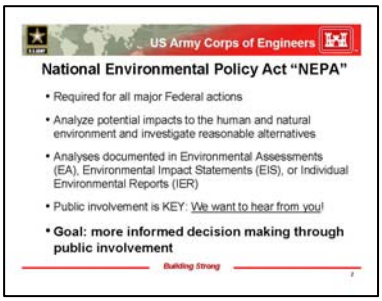
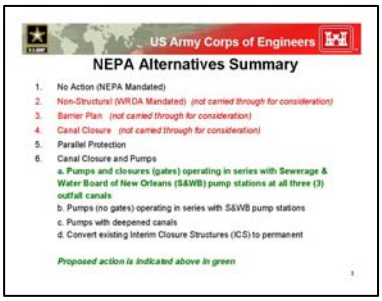
Tonight, we are going to present the proposed actions, site locations and future IER activities. I want to mention that the interior diversion features were not carried forward. These features include diverting water from pump station 3 down Florida Avenue to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. That also includes the project from Hoey's Basin which is called "Pump to the River." These features are included in the report to Congress which is en route to Congress and will then get to the Secretary of the Army.

We would like to emphasize that we are listening to you. Your questions and comments are taken into account and we especially want you to comment on the IER during the official comment period. We would also like to build a project we all can be proud of. We will have another meeting during the comment period and I encourage you to voice your opinions.

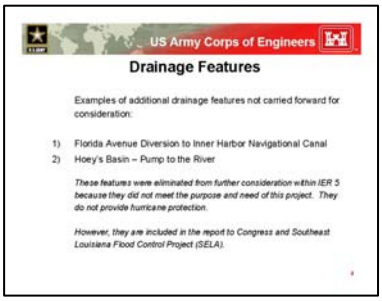
The purpose of the project is to locate the construction sites of the future pump stations. The purpose is to prevent storm surge induced flooding and to not impede the ability of the current pump stations to pump water from the outfall canals.



The National Environmental Policy Act is required for all major federal actions. In it we have to analyze all the project impacts to the human and natural environment and we investigate all the alternatives that are relevant to the project. Public involvement is "key" to developing the best alternative. We really want to hear your input on the project. The goal is to have a more informed decision through public involvement.



The NEPA alternatives in red are the ones that were not carried through for consideration. Then the green indicates the proposed actions for the pump and canals closures similar to the ones we have now. We have handled all the water pumped by the Sewage and Water Boards at all three outfall canals.



Some of the drainage features that were not carried forward for consideration were the diversions at Florida Avenue to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal and the Hoey's Basin "Pump to the River." These features were eliminated from further consideration to the project because they did not meet the purpose or need of this project. They looked like interior drainage structures. However, they are included in the report to Congress and they will have another look at these projects. The Southeast Flood Control project could also be included with the report.

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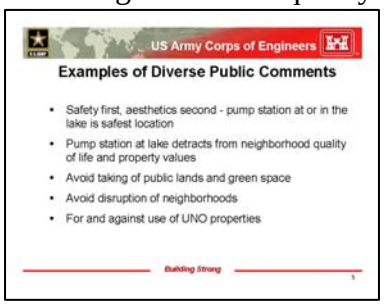
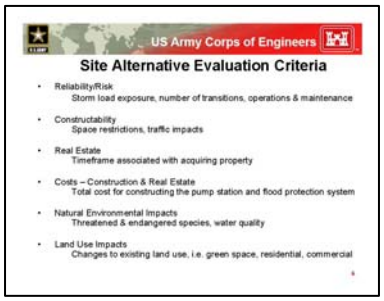
Some of the diverse public comments we have heard are that we need to place the pumps at the lake because it is the safest location. We've also heard that the pump station at the lake detracts from neighborhoods' quality of life and property values. This project requires a balancing act.

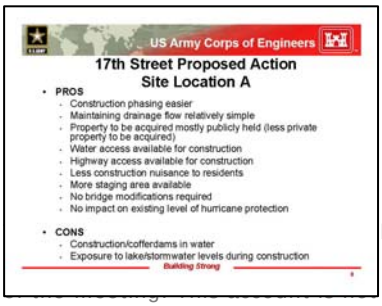


Some people ask that stations be located, for safety, at the or near the lake. Some other concerns was the elimination of green space. You will see later on in the presentation what we have done to emphasis how we have minimized the impacts to avoid impacts to the neighborhood. There is a 50/50 split for and against the use of the University of New Orleans properties. The plan is to minimize the impacts on the UNO property.



Some evaluation criteria we used were Risk/Reliability and some of the examples on that is the storm load for the structure, the number of transitions between pump stations and the parallel protection operations/maintenance consideration. For the Constructability factor we looked at space restrictions and traffic impacts. For Real estate we considered the time frame associated with acquiring property. In a lot of cases, the sites we looked at were public property so that would ease the problems and difficulties associated with construction. Costs with construction and real estate are the total costs for constructing the pump stations in the risk reduction system. The Natural Environment factor studied the impacts of the project. We examined the area for threatened and endangered species, along with the water quality having to deal with the lake marine life and in canals. Then we considered changes to the existing land use, i.e. green space and that sort of things. As we move forward, we will look at the proposed actions and the site locations in the maximum footprint.

We are looking at the 17th Street proposed actions. The green hatched marks and the yellow show the maximum project footprint. The yellow is the temporary access that will go away when we finish the structures. This is the maximum footprint and we will see if during the design-build process we can minimize that, to have the lowest amount of impact in the area.



In the next slide we look at the pros of the site "A" selection. Some of the pros are the construction phasing is a lot easier. Again it's mostly public property we will be using, water access is available and it is easier for construction. More staging areas would be available. The bridge impacts would be non-existent in this option and there are no additional impacts on the existing

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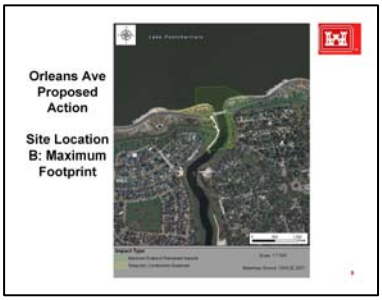
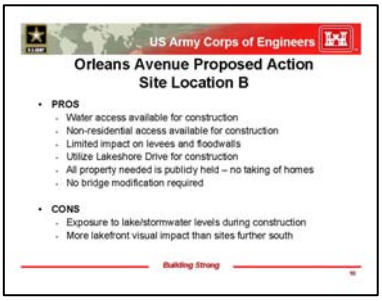
levels of the hurricane protection. Again the Interim Control Structure is currently at 100-year protection and we do not want to affect that protection for the metropolitan area. Some of the cons would be the cofferdams in the water since there will be a lot of work in the water. Also a con is the exposure to the lake/storm water levels that we'd have during construction, we would have to take more precautions.

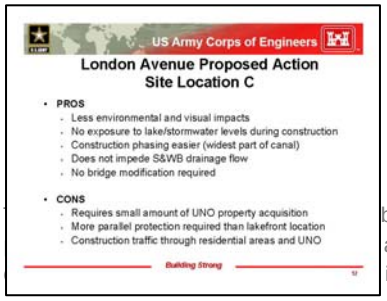


In the next slide we look at the Orleans Avenue proposed action at site location called "B." This is the maximum footprint, you can see that again it is at or near the lake. Again the yellow area is temporary and the green is more permanent and we are almost positive that in the design-build process we will reduce this footprint.



These are some of the pros for the Orleans Avenue proposed action site location "B." Water access will be available for construction [inaudible]. We will not have to go through residential areas during construction so we will minimize noise impacts to houses. There will be limited impact on levees and floodwalls so you will still have 100-year protection. We will utilize Lakeshore Drive for construction traffic and keep the trucks out of your neighborhoods. All property needed is publicly held so there would be no taking of homes or properties. There would also not be any bridge modification required. Some of the cons are exposure to lake and storm water levels during construction because we are so close to the lake. There are more lakefront visual impacts than there would be at sites further south, so when we have this construction out near the lake you will have some impacts aesthetically. During the design-build we will try to mitigate that by blending that into the environment with aesthetic treatments and maybe lower profile pumps.

The next slide we are talking about is the London Avenue proposed action and site "C" is the proposed location in this case which is near UNO. In this case we again show the green being the permanent footprint and the yellow being the temporary footprint. Again, we will seek to minimize the green footprint.



Some of the pros of this on London is it has fewer environmental and visual impacts. There is no exposure to the lake storm water levels during construction because we are further back in the canal. Construction phasing will be easier because this is the widest part of the canal. Due to this being in the widest part of the canal we will not impede on the Sewage and Water Board

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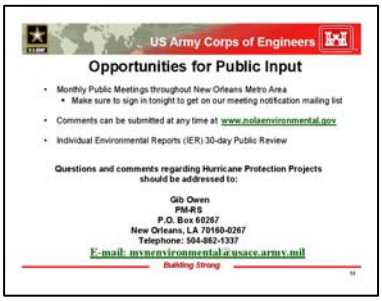
ability to pump rain or storm water during storm events. Some of the cons are that it requires a small amount of UNO property acquisition and we are working with UNO on that. It will need more parallel protection because we are a little further away than on the lakefront. So we will have to have a little more construction to fit that in and to preserve that 100-year level protection we currently have now. There will be some construction traffic through residential areas and UNO but we will try to minimize them.

This is the path forward. Currently we are awaiting the Coastal Zone Management concurrence from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources on the proposed locations and we think that would be in the next three or four weeks. We will review and evaluate all input then the draft the IER will be released. There is still the opportunity to make comments on the IER and we are listening to your comments. In December the Corps will hold another meeting with the release of the draft of IER 5 for a 30-day public comment period. I would encourage you to comment. In the January or February 2009 period we will make the final decision and the district commander will then sign the IER document. Then that would initiate the procurement process to bring on the design-build contractors later in the year.



We want you to avail yourself to public input. We have monthly public meetings throughout the area. I would encourage your neighborhood association presidents to contact me and we could have more frequent updates as needed. Again, we have a Web site that your comments could be submitted at any point and we have that 30-day review. We also have Gib Owen as a point of contact and can be contacted at the following information.

Major Kurgan, public affairs

I want to introduce a couple more of our subject matter experts and pros who are here to answer your questions this evening. Of course, I'd like to introduce Col.McCormick who is the commander of the hurricane protection office. You have already met Dan Bradley the project manager for IER 5. The others are:

Calvin Hoppmeyer	Project manager
Deanna Walker	Real Estate
Joe Kopec	Real Estate

Soheila Holley	Senior project manager borrow
Reuben Mabry	Senior project manager risk and reliability
Laura Lee Wilkinson	Environmental manager
Gib Owen	Chief of Ecological Planning
Kevin Wagner	Senior project manager

At the end of the presentation Dan Bradley showed you the www.nolaenvironmental.gov Web site. The Corps has also had an update on the main Web site. Now it is more user friendly and there are some good links in there. For instance, the HSDRR portal is where you can look at the different projects we have in certain areas. At this point I want to open the floor to question and answers but first I have to mention the ground rules. I ask that you state your name because we are recording the comments. Please come to the microphone so everyone can hear the question. Please keep the comments to 3 minutes so we can give everyone a chance to speak, but you can come up again and ask another question after everyone has had a turn.

Question 1. John Skinner, Lake Oaks: My question is a two fold question. I heard a lot of talk in the media about the height of the structure and the stated height has been 35 feet. Most of the plans that I have seen measure 35 feet from the top of the levee. So that makes the structure 18 feet high plus 35 feet tall plus an additional 20 feet if the Sewage and Water Board gets a crane structure on top that would make these structures 70 feet tall. The second part of my question is that you said this project is a design-bid contract. Any company who will bid on the contract will not take risk and would go with tried and true technology. This means that most companies would not use low profile pumps because they are high risk. So my question is that, it sounds to me we are going to have very big, tall structures well lit like the ones there now. They are going to be very disturbing to the neighborhoods. It seems to me, like we will have a huge sacrifice for the people who live in these neighborhoods. You talked earlier about property values and that is really going to kill property values. I do not see the point of having high structures and ugly buildings. Back in the 1930's when public contracts were taken up, structures were designed and became architecture beauties. I do not understand why aesthetics could not be considered.

Response 1. Dan Bradley: I agree with the last part we certainly do want to bring that into consideration. I do want to clarify one thing and that is this is not a design-bid but a design-build type of project. We will receive proposals based on the criteria we will develop. Part of that criteria will take into consideration the height of the structure and the blending of the structure into the environment we have indicated in these areas. So, we do have the opportunity in our criteria and evaluation to bring aesthetics into that construction.

Question 2. John Trask, president Lakeshore Property Owners Association: I want to put out on the table that safety comes first but with that in play, assuming we have the right performance from these pumps, what I would like to ask is this: Are you willing, with the design-build process, to give preference or points to low rise pumps compared to large massive structures.

Response 2. Dan Bradley: Again when we talk about low rise pumps you are talking about low rise pump station. The pumps within the station do not necessarily contribute to whether it is a low or high rise station. We are considering giving extra points to a low rise pump station in design.

Question 3. John Trask: Are you willing to require or give preference for placing pumping equipment inside the canal verses land use? The reason why I bring that up is because when the temporary structure was built Lakeshore and Lake Vista we were told everything was going to be in the canal. Then it did not happen. So naturally we would like to see more of it in the canal than on the land. Would you give preference to that?

Response 3. Dan Bradley: We are certainly considering that, yes sir. I think that would be part of the design. The current construction is not an optimum configuration and it looks like that was done more out of the expediency of getting those barriers done before the hurricane season.

Question 4. John Trask: One thing that I saw that I was happy about was that you are going to try to avoid using the neighborhoods for construction traffic. Does that mean we can feel like the construction on land would be between Lakeshore Drive and the levee or are we at risk of having that thing built south of the levee in the Lakeshore/ Lake Vista subdivisions?

Response 4. Dan Bradley: I think you are looking at the maximized footprint. We are going to minimize the size of that and we will do whatever we can to keep the traffic out of the neighborhoods. We think we can do this with the optimized site location.

Question 5. John Trask: Does that mean you intend on keeping things between Lakeshore Drive and the levee, or will something be built south of the levee?

Answer 5. Dan Bradley: When you talk about Lakeshore Drive and the levee, are you talking about Lakeshore Drive and Robert E. Lee?

Question 6. John Trask: I mean the actual levee by the lake front. Would we be on the north side of the levee toward the neighborhood or toward the south side by the lake?

Answer 6. Dan Bradley: You would be on the opposite side of the lake so that would be on the south side.

Question 7. John Trask: I live on the south side.

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Answer 7. Dan Bradley: It will be on the south side of Lakeshore Drive.

Question 8. John Trask: Is there a reason why we can not build it on the north side?

Answer 8. Dan Bradley: There is environmental and constructability issues dealing with that. It will be contained in the IER when it comes out for public review. The explanation and evaluation of how that came about will be included.

Question 9. John Trask: The presentation with the Dutch people, they showed that you can build these things to make them look nice. Are you willing to put some money or requirements to maximize the aesthetics of the structure?

Answer 9. Dan Bradley: We could put points to maximize but we do have a certain amount of authorized funding and we have to do that within the authorization.

Question 10. John Trask: What I would like you to consider in that regard is that I know you got some funding got approved to beautify the temporary pumps. This is one man's opinion but I would like to see that money spent on the permanent pump that we will have to live with the rest of our lives rather than beautifying something and then tearing it down. (Light clapping.)

Answer 10. Dan Bradley: I do not want to mislead you on what asthetics means in that case. I believe they are putting a few shrubs up to hide the Interim Control Structures from the current residences. It will not be an elaborate thing.

Question 11. John Trask: If it is a money thing then tell us who we have to go pressure to get it because we are going to be living with this for a long time. We are all for safety and we are grateful for the safety and improvements but if you can build it right and not destroy our lakefront and neighborhoods, then I think you should build it right the first time.

Answer 11. Dan Bradley: I think we can do it right without that kind of impact with the current authorization.

Question 12. Charles Nelson: I live on a street that is 8 feet above sea level about a mile from the Mississippi River but I am very concerned about the pump stations that will be built at the mouth of these canals. You mentioned the process it went through to optimize at the three locations. It seems like there are three sets of geometry, neighborhood and constructability at play in each case. You mentioned that the 100-year design storm was part of your criteria, but in each of the three locations is the Corps of Engineers giving serious thought on how to incorporate this into a higher level protection to take us from a 100-year protection to a 500-year protection being discussed?

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Answer 12. Dan Bradley: We are considering maintaining the 100-year protection that we currently have. That would require additional funding and appropriations if we were to go to a higher level of protection.

Question 13. Charles Nelson: You also mentioned and addressed that you are going with the design-build contracting concept. Because of the difference in nature of the three construction site are you still planning on putting them under one program management contract or are you going to do them under one.

Answer 13. Dan Bradley: Currently it is under one.

Question 14. Jesse Cannon, Lake Terrace: Would you provide the folks here with some evidence that you have taken some of the comments and placed them into your pros and cons. What I want to see or hear is that the Web site you flashed up in this meeting where comments can be entertained. How do we know that our comments are being entertained and given consideration or value in the thought process? I have done that and I have not seen anything that provides me any evidence that you are taking anyone seriously.

Answer 14. Laura Lee Wilkinson: I can assure you that we have considered your comments.

Question 15. Jesse Cannon: Why should we believe you? When we get down to it you have failed us once. I do not think anyone is going to trust you enough to do this on your own and do this to us a second time. (Light clapping.)

Answer 15. Maj. Kurgan: Sir, a couple of things: we are taking your comments very seriously and they are coming into the design process. I could divide this room in two and these folks would believe one thing and the others would believe something else. You can not design something to please everyone. The pump people came here and talked, we invited them to the Corps to give us a presentation. So that we would have that information and we are taking this very seriously.

Question 16. Jesse Cannon: I guess because you are doing all that analysis and decision making. I am not seeing any interface with the public on how you go from point A to point B. I think I raise a legitimate question.

Answer 16a. Maj. Kurgan: That is what we are here doing tonight is to have this interaction with you tonight and that is also why we have a 30-day comment period. This is why we put out this IER and you can read it and see the decision process. This process is to open it up and you can see the reason we reached the decision that we have and then if you see something that we did not consider. Then your comment is taken into consideration and brought into the process.

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Answer 16b. Wilkinson: In the IER 5 there is a section called public concerns and this is where we summarize all the public comments that we have received. You can see there is a lot of public input as a part of this process and we have to provide hurricane protection.

Question 17. Jesse Cannon: It should be hurricane protection at any cost and this is what the citizens are concerned about. I am glad you brought up that you want to entertain citizen input. Are there any prohibitions or restrictions against having citizen committees working with the Corps of Engineers in developing the design-build specification package? Maybe citizens sitting as a group or committee as the design package is being designed and construction is going on to make sure things are implemented according to the plans and specs. Are there any prohibitions on doing that?

Answer 17. Dan Bradley: What we are planning to do prior to the request for proposals is we will still be considering your input. We could give you advisories and get a few of your community representatives and we can brief them as we go toward the RFP. After the RFP is out and we start considering proposals any changes would then come into cost. So we have to try to incorporate everything in advance.

Question 18. Jesse Cannon: I can see the citizens removed in the process.

Answer 18. Dan Bradley: Right, but try to see the citizens involved and help me do that.

Question 19. Jesse Cannon: I think you want to get citizen participation but you have put up a blockade to disallow through the whole process.

Answer 19. Dan Bradley: Tonight and from now on we are going to try to break that blockade down.

Question 20. John Davis, Lake Vista: I do have some questions but I do want to make a few comments. One, you said that all four sites would provide an equal level of 100-year protection and for months a number of people have said the pumps need to be on the lakefront to be safe, you have never mentioned that. Now you have selected at the London Avenue Canal that is not on the Lakefront, so I think we can assume it does not have to be at the lake front to be safe. Let me tell you, you said something a while ago that I have heard only one time in my life. I went to the two day Corps presentation session back in January. At that time, they introduced the four sites. Every time I ask the question if they were all safe and the answer was yes, they would do the job. They would all do the job with no problems. We had a meeting in Lake Vista and a few Corps guys came and they told us the closer to the lake the better it is which I had not heard before. I started to ask, then I got a letter from Colonel Bedey that said they were all safe. A while ago you said the closer to the lake the better it is. Then when you presented the four sites

you should have said that in the beginning. Be consistent because when you start to do a little dance people start to get aggravated.

Response 20. Dan Bradley: I want to assure you that all the sites would have met the 100-year protection level. Closer to the lake is better in terms of location but not necessarily safer. They are all safe. There are some trade offs if you have to build the parallel protection back to it, then it affects cost and constructability. There are some reasons why you can not go back to the lake as in the case of London. Then it makes sense to build it at the wider area of the canal for passage and drainage of water. In the IER those pros and cons are laid out clearly for your reading and edification.

Question 21. John Davis: Given that the lakefront site is not required for safety, then what is important, are the environmental issues and the impacts on people. In my opinion the lake front side you have chosen will have the maximum effects on the people. The building we were told is going to be 70 to 90 feet in build. So it is a real big ugly building and it takes green space/parks. Anyone who goes to the lakefront will see it and there will be a breakwater where you will not even be able to see the lake. So that is not good either. The worse part is that it is not necessary. If you go down to the canal where the interim pump station is located, it is better but it is between two neighborhoods. In my opinion if you go down near the City Park area on Robert E. Lee there is not much activity there and owned by the city. It would be better down there. Wherever it goes people will be affected.

Response 21. Dan Bradley: Again in the design build process you can put in the criteria certain points to influence how it looks and blends in with the environment. The 70-85 foot, we do not know what it is going to look at. The most damaging location is located in the report.

Question 22. Jim Dartez: I have two specific questions but I have a comment to reinforce what was said earlier. It sounds logical to me because we all do have questions on how you have been listening to our comments. Certainly all of us have not been listened to in this thing by what is listed on the board. I want to reinforce the idea of committees of community members being involved in the decision making process. Not in one or two hour meetings but involved in the bidding process. My questions have to deal with London Avenue. The aerial views with the grids do not really give us much information as to what will happen. The area that will be affected on that canal to my estimate will be 200-300 meters long. Hopefully this structure whether it will be 40 or 80 feet that it will not be 300 meters long. Can you tell us how much of that structure will be above the levee?

Response 22. Dan Bradley: The green footprint, it is a maximum footprint. As you will see the green during the design build he will maximize the footprint within that area. The extent of the canal could reflect improvements to the parallel protection which would be an improvement. SO

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your pump station will not be extending across the whole area. The area will probably extend between this and that area (pointing) to maintain that parallel structure.

Question 23. Jim Dartez: What will be south of the structure?

Response 23. Dan Bradley: South of this structure….If the selected site is here (pointing) then this area will not be affected.

Question 24. Jim Dartez: So you do not know where you are going to put that within the grid?

Response 24. Dan Bradley: That is why we call it a maximized footprint and we plan to minimize that in the design build process.

Question 25. Jim Dartez: My second question: the levees to the north of the green grid have been broadened and they show a widened footprint than what is in the area. Can you tell me what you proposed to do with those levees?

Response 25a. Dan Bradley: They will be tied in with the parallel protection that would be either floodwall or levee.

Response 25b. Maj. Kurgan: It will tie that into the structure so you will have protection there.

Response 25c. Kevin Wagaman: Wherever the pump stations will be located at we will tie in the existing protection system which you can see is by Lakeshore Drive and we will follow the canal if it set back in the canal so we will have continuous protection.

Question 26. Jim Dartez: I do not care if it is a levee or a floodwall I just want to know how high those structures will be.

Response 26. Kevin: Right now you will not see anything different out there now. We just enlarged the reaches along Lakeshore Drive, so the levees that tie back in there will be the same elevation. The elevation we need for hurricane protection is 16 ½ feet so we built it to 18 ½ feet to allow for subsidence.

Question 27. Jim Dartez: Right now there is raw steel sticking out of the ground is you going to cap it.

Response 27. Kevin: Right now if we will do anything we will consider that in the future. Currently we do not have any plans to put a concrete cap on it right now?

Question 28. Jim Dartez: Is there a plan for anymore armor?

Response 28. Kevin: I can tell you right now we put all that rock out there to harden the area right after Gustav to prepare for Ike at 21 locations. When we go back to work in some of these

areas we are going to remove that rock and probably put concrete slope paving to make it more nicer.

Question 29. Jim Dartez: I would appreciate it. In my final statement I would want you consider the committees to work with you. These people are not with you and I want you to know that. IF you give us an actual say in that bidding decision then you would have commit to us and have us behind you.

Response 29. Kevin: I think we have considered the public comments. For example at Topaz Street when we first started talking about levee enlargement there, there was a flood gate. We heard from the public we want the gate removed, we have now build an earthen levee in that area. So, we do consider your comments.

Question 30. Jim Dartez: We want you to take our consideration when you bid them.

Response 30. Maj. Kurgan: Sir, back to your questions on elevations. The maps in the back are status maps. The green elevation is the current elevation. It would give you a feel on how high we have to go. Another thing is the Corps is not building this alone; we have to work with the local sponsors and state. That is another venue for you to voice your concerns. We are working with the flood protection authority and the state as partners, so you need to work with those entities to make sure we all know what you want.

Question 31. Charlene Comstock-Galagan, Lake Terrace: We thought for a long time the ringing in our ears was music, but it was sheet pile driving. We know what it is to live with a project you are trying to do and we have been doing it for a long time. Speaking for my-self, I have worked much more closely, learning and studying what is going than in the past because I have been living under the shadow of the cranes. I have learned some things and I have had some experiences. Tonight I had an experience because I spend a lot of my professional time looking at how people communicate; I think you have a communication and trust problem with the people over here. Just to reflect that back to you when you say you are considering our comments and can not give an example. Thank God for Kevin, because he told us about Topaz Street. When people hear that they like that because it is an example on how our comments influenced the project. The more we hear things that sound like because I said so the less you will have people behind you. If you get the people with energy and others in this room like me, there is nothing you can not do in this town. When you come here to do something then we want you to come as the United States Army, because that is who you are. When I look at you I want to say thank God the Army is here but instead when I got together with this group this is the experience I had with this as a person, I looked for information and all I got misinformation. WE went to go information on our on and with an effort we went and got twelve neighborhoods together. We did it because it was important to us. People were on roofs and sending there grandmas in water and we do not want to do that again. We can not take it; it is not going to

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happen here. When you come to build this beautiful thing, do not consider it by putting a check mark by it. We want you to listen and act to what we said. I also want you to hear, we are tired of being talked to like we do not have a brain, can not find resources. We want the pump stations to be the most technology advanced and have Dutch people to come over here and see what we have that is really great. We want the RFQ and RFP where we can make a picture of what we can visualize minimal or marginal reflections of what we comment to you. It is not easy to visualize.

Response 31. Maj. Kurgan: Mam, understand we are early in the process. In the future we will have an artist rendition of what it will look like and you will see it, but again we are early in the process.

Question 32. Charlene Comstock-Galagan: The last thing is we do not want the same old pumping stations they have build in the past. When modern cost effective technology could keep us safe and does not have a breakwater in the beautiful lake that we love. We do not want the breakwater if we can get a pumping station that does not require us to have it. Lastly, we want you to build something where you can bring your grandchildren to and say I built that.

Response 32. Maj. Kurgan: I will give you a couple of quick ones here. Most of the folks who work in the Corps are from here and of the 1200 people here I would say 1150 born, bred and raised here and they do not ever want to see it happen again. Examples of the input we have got from you: the fact that we will emphasis in the biding process that we will give points for a low rise system and that is a direct input from your comments. We will continue to try to come out here and give you examples. If you are interested in the IHNC surge barrier it was a hash mark but now it is an artist rendition and we will do that on this process as well.

Question 33. Woman with white scarf: I have been talking to people with the Corps for the past several months. I want to tell you some of things people have been saying about mistrust. This is how some of the mistrust builds up. I think John Skinner said we do not have examples of concrete volute low rise pumps that thirteen neighborhood associations brought for that demonstration one evening. They have been used in nuclear plants and Canada. When I have asked particular people about them from the Corps they have said they are interested. Then Mr. Hoppmeyer told me that they would not work because the Sewage and Water Board already use them. Mr. Rick Kendrick that told me they would have to be 100 feet apart and they would be small 250 cfs. They have already been built to 1,070 cfs. Mr. Kendrick you wrote to me in a letter in response to mine that said: “Comments made at a recent public meeting regarding the pump station capacity may have been misinterpreted and are reiterated here. One of the pump stations being utilized as an example application of a low rise pump station has an approximate capacity on the order of 1,000 cubic feet per second. As comparison the required station capacity for the 17th street canal will be in the order of 12,500 approximately 12,000 of the example

station." That was very confusing to me because I know that one concrete volute pump alone can pump already in existing of 1, 070. That was a confusing comment to me. You referred me to Mr. Bradley, and we spoke. Then you said that it did not make any sense to me either and you would get back to me. You never got back to me. It was very disturbing to read. It took many people and time to get KSB to come talk about their efficient pumps. In a letter to you, Mr. Bradley, from KSB, she writes about the meeting. She writes about the meeting: "Given the resistance and abrupt dismissal we experienced in the combined district and HPO meeting and the strong preference expressed by district members for the Allis Chalmers for use in the vertical pumps for use in the permanent pump stations we were unable to have the technical conversations that projects of this nature commands." It was very upsetting to hear this and read. It is hard to know that Colonel Lee and McCormick were not even present at that meeting. I am sort of running off a list of things that develop mistrust. I would like to know what you did get out of the meeting that morning with KSB. I called Mr. Bradley to see if they did have a new meeting and you said that you had, then you said Mr. so and so should have done that. After Katrina and the lost of 1600 lives, we want you to bring us the most technological advancements the world has to offer. There are many people disappointed about how this happens. Would your specs include an opportunity for this?

Response 33. Rick Kendrick: I am happy that you asked that question because it was probably a miscommunication. I think and I would love to see the opportunity for these pumps. I mean I even have a picture of this pump on my wall. There may have been a miscommunication because there are things we need to address. The reason why we are here tonight is to show you the location. We do want the best solution we can get and we would like to say here is our site Mr. Contractor here you give us. You come propose to us based on the site and get the best possible solution. We do not want the same old thing, but I have to ensure that I have a contractor who can do it in the time frame. We sent a guy to Germany to talk to the manufacturer. That does not represent what we are trying to do, we want the best. They will tell you that they need more of the technical details which we will get into the next phase and we do welcome their proposals.

Question 34. Woman with white scarf: Why did the meeting go down like this?

Response 34. Rick Kendrick: I do not know what the particular issue is; I think this is to do with the specific contractor. We have not ruled out low rise profile pumps.

Question 35. Woman with white scarf: From my knowledge right now KSB does not have the information to go through now with the biding process. I am not saying they are the only source for concrete volute. Have they got the specs from you to do the biding process?

Response 35. Rick Kendrick: We can not do the biding process until we finish the environmental process. We have to talk about the site that we have selected for those areas. Then once the process is through, we are trying to go back through and look at sources. We want them to help

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us write the proposal so we do not eliminate people. First, we have to make sure we go through the NEPA process, which talks about the first piece of why we made the solutions. Then once we do that process, then the next phase is to engage the industry and make sure we do not have a limiting criteria. We want the industry help us to have the best solution to meet the needs of the people.

Question 36. Woman with white scarf: When you are open to biding, do you just say industry bid on this and then you take the most economical bid?

Response 36. Rick Kendrick: No, we are looking for the best value solution.

Question 37. Woman with white scarf: What I would be concerned about is the bid that seems like the most convenient design-build would that eliminate the concrete volute pump? We want to make sure that it does not eliminate the concrete volute pumps because we are impressed with the technology. We also believe that then you would not even need a barrier. We are concerned with height and what this would do to our neighborhoods. You are going to be involved in the design?

Response 37. Rick Kendrick: We will test the systems to ensure they meet performance. What we are trying to do if we designed this process and picked a solution then we can have a contractor to design around their system. We will test those systems and accept based on the final solution. It is a performance driven process. The proof is in the performance.

Question 38. Woman with white scarf: How do you test the concrete volute pumps if they are in nuclear power plants, how are they going to be tested?

Response 38. Rick Kendrick: I can not tell you all the technical parameters, but I can tell you that I have spent most of my life in the military program doing high priority sensitive programs that required generator systems to run or operate through. A typical generator system would do the same thing. We would test. We may go to the site and test by running on a dummy load system. We have to test to make sure they meet our needs.

Question 39. Woman with white scarf: The concrete volute pumps can run 24/7, that is what they are doing in nuclear power plants. So the design-build you are still putting out a concept for design, you are not just handing that over to private corporations.

Response 39. Rick Kendrick: No, this is part of the concept and all the parameters will go in. We have to talk about how much back up fuel source we need, what the pump capacity is, the head loss, and a lot of technical issues we have to measure. Then we have to look at noise and height.

Question 40. Woman in black shirt: I am concerned with the Orleans Avenue Canal. Half of Lake Vista did not flood during Katrina. Since Katrina you have built another substation and

now you want to build something in front of it. Why it does not make since? It did not flood before and it would not flood now. What you are doing to property values and construction I still do not get, please explain this to me again.

Response 40. Maj. Kurgan: It is about the whole city and the whole system. If any wall in that canal fails then the whole system fails. It is only as strong as its weakest link Now Lake Vista did not fail but that canal has a safe water elevation of 8. We built a temporary gated structure with pumps near the mouth of it to close it off if it ever gets to 8.

Question 41. Woman in black shirt: Fine then why not build it back towards Robert E. Lee which was a very viable option.

Response 41. Maj. Kurgan: As Mr. Bradley talked about earlier this evening, building it up towards the front of the lake is the most viable and best option by our analysis and it is there in the IER and why we are getting comments now.

Question 42. Woman in black shirt: Why I can not understand, when you show how much you are taking as far as the Marconi side. Are you going all the way to Marconi Drive?

Response 42. Maj. Kurgan: I apologize about the graphic.

Question 43. Woman in black shirt: I have heard three different comments on how long the construction will go on. I heard three months to three years.

Response 43. Dan Bradley: We do not know exactly. According to the long range schedules if we begin in 2010 then we hope to be done by 2013, so I do not know where the ten months came in.

Question 44. Woman in black shirt: The other thing is, what impact all of this will have on the lake and environment? We have worked so hard to get our lake back and I understand that people and property are important but what is this going to do with our environment.

Response 44a. Dan Bradley: That is one of the reasons we are doing that environmental report.

Response 44b. Laura Lee Wilkinson: Granted it is a pump station, so every time there is a rain fall event right now water is pumped into the canals, that has some detrimental effects to water quality as part of that, but it is apart of the existing conditions. At some of the site locations there is a proposed breakwater that could shift the habitat type. It could take lake water and make a reflex for fish. There are some aesthetic attributes that could be added later, such as a fishing pier but its main function is a breakwater.

Question 45. Woman in black shirt: When you say about beautifying and so forth, I have heard so many height increments. However, when you talk about rebuilding what you have taken away

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in the land area. You have ripped out oak tree after oak tree because they will breech the levee system. Then I see where palm trees, planted everywhere, fell down during Gustav, it is a joke.

Response 45. Maj. Kurgan: If you are referring to the tree removals, then yes there is a safety concern with the trees coming out and affecting the impact the structural integrity of the wall, which could affect the city.

Question 46. Woman in black shirt: Which never did after trees and you went and ripped them out. You removed perfectly good trees.

Response 46. Maj. Kurgan: So they would not fall down in a future event and cause a breech in the levee.

Question 47. Lisa Ludwick, Metairie Club Gardens: I am a volunteer with pump to the river. We are made up of 20 neighborhoods that are affected by the pump to the river project. We do not believe this is early in the process because this is 3 years out. Earlier estimates predicted this could be done in 3 to 4 years and it could be done by now. We know there are good solid solutions out to protect us from flooding again. It actually came out of the DGAM Harris study I would like to ask you to amend where you are removing Pump to the River from further IER consideration. In Congress, they have asked the Corps to come up with a price to consider this project. It makes no sense to us in a late date in the game that you would remove this from consideration this late in the game. The idea earlier tonight to ask through a comment to be put back in is a waste of time.

Response 47. Gib Owen: The purpose of this project is for the 100 year protection; we determined that Hoey's Basin did not meet this purpose or need that is why it came out of this IER. If Congress gives us more authority or appropriations then we would do a study and move forward with it.

Question 48. Lisa Ludwick: We are working on that right now and I guess I would like to go on record that we have a fundamental disagreement because pump to the river is apart of the hurricane protection. If you close the gates at the lake and the low areas in New Orleans flood then that is all part of hurricane protection. Pump to the river is a project that will help to prevent that. My questions then goes a little further in please change number 3 and reconsider placing it back in this project. If you close the gates then you have failed in your purpose to protect us.

Response 48. Gib Owen: Our purpose of this project is hurricane protection and Hoey's Basin is internal drainage. I understand a lot of people want to link but it does not link. It takes another appropriation from Congress.

Question 49. Lisa Ludwick: Living here in the area we know that if you flood from a surge or a breech, it does not matter that is flood protection. Internal drainage would mean that we would

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have full free board of our walls and not a safe water level that is down to 6 feet, example the 17th street canal. You have not returned us to the level we were pre-Katrina.

Response 49. Maj. Kurgan: You will not flood due to the gates being closed. Our pumps match the capacity of the Sewage and Water Board. Now, Hoey's Basin is an enhancement to the drainage, to provide more capacity. As far as any pump station we put at the mouth of that canal it will match drop for drop to what the Sewage and Water Board puts at the base of that canal. That is a key feature of this project and that is what they are trying to relate to with this project. Understand that yes when a hurricane comes there is a lot of rain and water that needs to get out. We do a lot of work through SELA to assist the local authorities with internal drainage. We are doing the Hoey's Basin report, it gets to Congress and authorized then yes it would be better for everyone and provide addition capacity to get water out of the city during not just a hurricane event but a tropical event.

Question 50. Lisa Ludwick: This is a little bit of a shell game because you are saying you are matching it, but you are leaving us with a complicated system of having to coordinate the older pump station number 6 with whatever it is you are going to do at the lake. This is not parody and what we had before. We do not have the same height protection in the height of the walls and we do not have the same situation. I think that you are splitting hairs by saying this is just a drainage project, it is not at all. With some of the reports that have come up from ya'll, you could actually pay for pump to the river if you did it in coordination with what your final project.

Response 50. Maj. Kurgan: I understand your comments. You do not have less protection but you do have more protection. We have more protection than we ever had before. We still have interior drainage issues we have to work and Hoey's Basin is a priority that we have to work in there.

Question 51. Lisa Ludwick: I guess we could get into more details about this. There have been studies by the Sewage and Water Board has paid to local engineering firms that have shown that throughout the Greater New Orleans area and Metairie the ground is sinking. The situation has changed, so I think there are more studies that you need to do because power has gone out at some of those pumping stations.

Question 52. Mark Fullmen, Lake Vista: I have followed this process now for a long time. It seems that the Orleans Avenue Canal is different from the London and 17th Street Canals. It appears to be the smallest because I understand the pumping capacity is about 2,800 cubic feet per second, London is 8,000 cubic feet per second and at 17th Street Canal it is in excess of 10,000 cubic feet per second. As far as movement through the canal it looks like it is smaller.

Response 52. Maj. Kurgan: It is you are looking at a little over 9000 at 17th, a little over 5,000 at London and a little over 2,000 at Orleans. So yes that is accurate.

Question 53. Mark Fullmen: It also appears that where the temporary pumps are located because of the configuration of where the canal from the mouth of the lake to the pump. It is my understanding during Gustav and Ike, that you closed the gates at London and 17th but never closed them at Orleans.

Response 53. Maj. Kurgan: That is correct. The reason why we never closed the gates at Orleans is because we never reached the safe water elevation trigger. Understand the pumping capacity is different but so is the safe water elevation. London's safe water elevation is the lowest and Orleans is a highest. London will always close because the safe water elevation is five and 17th the safe water elevation is six, and we close at five. Then at Orleans the safe water elevation is eight and we never close it until seven. During both Ike and Gustav we never reached the trigger to close that gate.

Question 54. Mark Fullmen: the levees that protect the city from Robert E. Lee north to the lake earthen levees seem to be similar to the levees from Lakeshore Drive.

Response 54. Maj. Kurgan: Yeah, pretty much they are.

Question 55. Mark Fullmen: The last thing is that the I-wall and T-wall construction south of Robert E. Lee with the clay berms did survive Katrina. There were no breeches and the Orleans canal did not flood this city it was the 17th Street and London Avenue Canals. It seems to me to be differences between this canal and the others. I want to know if you will reconsider the location for the permanent station south of Robert E. Lee.

Response 55. Gib Owen: There are considerations and the safe water elevation is 8. Parallel protection along those canals is not at the 100-year level of protection. So, if we were to move any structures further up the canal then you are talking about an impact all the way up the canal. All of that parallel protection then has to be brought up to the 100-year level of protection, which it is not at now.

Question 56. Mark Fullmen: Well if you said that the earthen levees north of the Robert E. Lee to the lake are similar to the ones on Lakeshore Drive. Believe me if Lakeshore Drive floods then we have more problems than the canals. If that is the case then why are you not moving that system closer to the Robert E. Lee Bridge so it does not affect the lakefront? Why are you not moving the permanent pumps south of the temporary pumps?

Response 56. Gib Owen: As part of the environmental process we have been doing an alternative process. We have six factors we looked at and scored them out as each alternative. Then we took the best score and recommended the best alternative. Land use is the people's impacts and that is where we have been listening to you. All that was scored out to figure out what the best solution was.

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Question 57. Mark Fullmen: Is that going to be summarized in detail in the report coming out.

Response 57. Gib Owen: Absolutely it with be in the IER.

Question 58. Mark Fullmen: Have you ever considered a closed culvert system or a system similar to Jefferson Parish where the canals are below the ground as opposed to trying to protect this with levees.

Response 58. Gib Owen: That was one of the alternatives that were looked at for all of these to do a closed circuit from the existing station that is there.

Question 59. Mark Fullmen: Why was that?

Response 59. Gib Owen: It was probably engineering and cost. It also stopped you from being able to adapt the system to something better in the future.

Question 60. The last comment is simply that you seem to be talking in different direction with people. This neighborhood can either be a great allies or very formable enemy. I want to ask that by the end of the month and have a group of citizens who represent this neighborhood starting tonight.

Response 60. Gib Owen: We have had a lot of meetings and we do listen to you. We can not involve you in the decision process because it is not allowed by law. It is called FOCA that does not allow citizens to be involved in a federal decision. But, you are involved in the process by giving us your comments.

Question 61. Mark Fullmen: Are you denying us a seat at the table because you think it is against the law.

Response 61. Gib Owen: It is against the law.

Question 62. Mark Fullmen: I can only tell you with all respect that no one in this room believes you are listening to us.

Response 62. Maj. Kurgan: Well sir, we are listening to you and we will come back out here to show you how we are listening to you and take more comments.

Question 63. Mary Cannon, Lake Terrace: Does the possibility exist that what I am looking at on the 17th Street Canal and the London Canal could potentially be built?

Response 63. Maj. Kurgan: No, we can not have an exposed structure. We need to have an enclosed structure for maintainability. We are putting significant weight on that in the design build project to get that as low as possible.

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Question 64. Mary Cannon: Do you see that it is a monstrosity? Would you want that in front of your house?

Response 64. Maj. Kurgan: If it keeps the storm surge out of my house then yes but as a permanent structure then no and we are not going to build that for you.

Question 65. Mary Cannon: We went through a lot of trouble in this community to get people from Europe to come over here and talk to us and show us an alternative way to do this. Then we also sent tax payers over to Europe to look at this. We did not find this information until we dug it up ourselves. Why was the community not given the information by the Army Corps of Engineers that there were other alternatives out there?

Response 65. Maj. Kurgan: I mean it will come out in the design process. All of these options are going to come out in the design process. I understand there is a concrete volute pump and it is a low profile, but understand that I can not pick a pump and build around it. Also, I understand that everyone is interested in getting the most innovative, best technology solution here. It is not just efficiency; it is also reliability and all of these factors. We want the same things you want. Our goal is to have the best solution with minimal impact on you and the environment. We have the same interest and there are steps that we have to follow by law. We are trying our best to get the information to you.

Question 66. Mary Cannon: I want the Corps to understand that you work for us not us working for you. Jackie Clarkson sat up there a month ago and said what the citizens want they will have. We will get it because we deserve it.

Response 66. Maj. Kurgan: I understand.

Question 67. Leo Richardson, Metairie Club Gardens: You have heard enough about why the pump to the river is a good idea. Let me first tell you that I do deeply respect and admire the Corps personnel for being here tonight. There are a few observations that I would like to ask questions. Can you tell us what the safe working life of the current interim closure structures?

Response 67. Dan Bradley: Currently we are looking at 5 to 7 years. What we have done is, we have looked at the most vulnerable points on those interim closure structures and it seems to be exposed steel. We are entering into a contract now to clean that steel and put coating on that to extend the life to 2015, if needed.

Question 68. Leo Richardson: There is a reasonable amount of time then to get this right. Going back to an earlier question you mentioned the idea of lowering the elevation of the canals to promote gravity flow and eliminate the need for the tandem pumping station arrangement on the 17th Street Canal. You said it was discarded but I was wondering why.

Response 68. Dan Bradley: If I said that I did not mean to say that. In the report to Congress which is different than the IER 5 we are discussing tonight. In the report to Congress we look at three options in costing. Option 1 which is an adaptable pump station at or near the lake. Option 2 that would deepen the canal all the way back to the Sewage and Water Board Stations, for example at 17th, pump station 6. This would be a huge project because it would be removing or decommissioning pump station 6 which is a large project that has not been authorized. Only option 1 is authorized. Then Option 2A in addition to deepening and decommissioning of the pump stations is a Hoey's Basin type of diversion.

Question 69. Leo Richardson: We seem to be going back in all of these discussions to one fundamental issue. It seems to be based on cost. All the restraints you seem to talk about are related to cost. The funding you referred to by Congress was established soon after Hurricane Katrina without any credible knowledge of the needs that my neighbors and I have been bringing up to you in numerous meetings. So the design criteria, the basis of discarding of a lot exceptional good ideas for the future of the community. The ideas are being disregarded to fit a solution to the funding. You said a little bit earlier that you are seeking the best solution to meet the needs of the people of New Orleans. In reality, listening to your well organized presentation, you are trying to fit what you are doing to the money and criteria established years before this project got started. It seems to me, you are trying to build the best system with the money from Congress based on inadequate information on the part of our congressional representatives at the time. I think this is the reason I asked how good the interim pumps are now. We hope that you will take into consideration that we intend to pursue more funds and we want you to give us the credit that the needs of this communities exceeds the limitations and restrictions under which you feel that you are restrained to operate for the 100-year protection. When looking at Dutch standards and others how strange it was to come up with that number. I think that it is important to underline that the NEPA process puts us all here not to really show us why you chose, we are here because you are compelled to go through that process and provide us with what you propose to do under the funding. Is that a reasonable assessment?

Response 69. Maj. Kurgan: No sir, I guess we will talk the funding process. We have 14.8 billion authorized for this project and a lot of those funds were done right after Katrina.

Question 70. Leo Richardson: Let me interrupt you for a moment. The 14.8 billion does that also include a provision for 400 some odd million for the pumping stations we are addressing. So is that not your limitations for these stations?

Response 70. Maj. Kurgan: Yes that is in there, but the programmatic cost is very detailed and was done over time. It was not something done 3 years ago that we are dealing with today. Understand that the 6th supplemental that we have today, which gave us up to our full funding, did not come until June this year. So, this is not funding we are working on that was figured out

6 months after Katrina. There was initial funding that came for programmatic cost estimate for us to determine what we need to build the IHNC Surge Barrier, the Western Closure Structure, and this structure, all of these systems. Those details we have worked on for years and we went back to Congress and that are the results see in the 6th supplemental. We are not building a structure based on the money we are giving, we are building a system on the 100-year design criteria and that is the money we have been provided. Certainly cost is always something, as a tax payer I hope you would find important. This way we can find the most efficient, effective, technical solution at the best price. Now, that does not equate to low bid but to best value. We are not working within some little restraint. We have the money to design and build this structure the way it needs to be built.

Question 71. Leo Richardson: Are you saying the funding available for the outfall canal structure is not limited by any budgetary limitations?

Response 71. Maj. Kurgan: It was set by Congress. There are funding constraints for everything based on technical assessments and inputs that the team came up with.

Question 72. Leo Richardson: It sounds like in the 6th supplemental there was some change to the amount of money allocated to the three outfall canals. Is that correct?

Response 72. Maj. Kurgan: 704 million was added. So, that is part of the process if we need more money then we will go back to get it to build it.

Question 73. Leo Richardson: Can you explain to me the disparity or disconnect between an earlier report to Congress which the best technical solution was described in including the Hoey Canal diversion but it was discarded from this program because now it is viewed as to costly or better addressed as an interior drainage criteria.

Response 73. Maj. Kurgan: It was not disregarded for those reasons; it was disregarded because it is not a feature of the required hurricane protection at this site. The project purpose of IER 5 is to eliminate storm surge from entering the outfall canals and causing breeches like we saw during Katrina that is the project purpose. Hoey's Basin does not provide to that project purpose but it does add to interior drainage and the reduction to impact on the city. This is why we are working that report to go to Congress to get authorized. I know it is frustrating but it is what we are working with at this time.

Question 74. Leo Richardson: When you say, hopefully, you can still do that then that tells me you think that is a better solution than what is on the table now.

Response 74. Maj. Kurgan: A better solution for eliminating storm surge from coming into the canal?

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Question 75. Leo Richardson: For addressing the overall effects of storm surge and the closure of the canals. Not only to prevent storm surge coming in but to handle drainage water that has to go out during the storm surge.

Response 75. Maj. Kurgan: The reason why the 100-year system is there is to prevent storm surge from coming into the city.

Question 76. Leo Richardson: Then why do you need pumps?

Response 76. Maj. Kurgan: Because if I put a feature that restricts the city's ability to remove interior drainage, then I have to give them the ability to get the water out of the canal. If they are putting 10,000 cfs into the canal then I have to get the 10,000 cfs out.

Question 77. Leo Richardson: I want to congratulate your ability to articulate this, but I would like to have included in the remarks for this evening that this community does have a fundamental disagreement with the program that is on the table for the 17th Street Canal.

Response 77. Maj. Kurgan: Again, the web site I encourage you to go there and put your comments there.

Question 78. Leo Richardson: Let me address that for just a moment. You mentioned the partnering with the community and you are looking at one of the partners. We have sat in those meetings; we watched Colonel Bedey required the partnering group to vote four times because he disagreed with the fact that there was a unanimous consensus that pump to the river was the best technical solution at the time. The Corps was adamantly and resolutely opposed to that and it continues. I participated recently in a very extensive conference call between the Sewage and Water Board, Corps, and president of Jefferson Parish and we asked why the different solutions had been proposed by the Corps had to deal with cost. We were told that John Woodley had issued orders that you were not to disclose to your partners what those component cost were, so we could have a clear and reasonable understanding of this process. I want to point out to you, I hope you take into consideration; the partnering is part of a charade from our point of view.

Response 78. Maj. Kurgan: We do have some cost info on features on the web site because we do not know the exact cost. On any one of these projects, if you go the hurricane portal you can see the price range. Once the project is let like the IHNC surge barrier we can give that to you.

Question 79. Joe Hassyer, president Lake Terrace Property Association: I want to echo a couple of points that have already been expressed tonight. Then I want to bring up a few additional ones. The first is we want to be involved in the process going forward: placement, footprint, mitigation, and construction. During this NEPA process I sent the Corps a letter that lays out several considerations that are important to us. Considerations not only on where this thing will be but also on how it will be constructed. Some of my neighbor's houses are 50 feet from where

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this thing will be: temporary and permanent construction. How this process works is incredibly important because it impacts these people on a daily basis. It is not just where it is, but also what is will be and the traffic, noise, and pile driving. We have not talked about construction procedures because we have not been involved in that at all. A couple of years ago the Corps came to us and discussed the temporary stations. They gave us a slide show and hand outs like this. What they showed us was beautiful green space on London Avenue with a little stream running through it and a little red block inside the levee that represented the temporary structure. You have seen what we have there now. The impact from that thing has been horrific and we want to make sure that those considerations that should have been taken into account then are taken into account now. Second with the FOCA, I am sure there is plenty of opportunity for the Corps to work with us during the process. So we have the Corps commitment you will do that on an ongoing basis?

Response 79. Maj. Kurgan: Yes, we will continue to come out here to talk with you as this process develops.

Question 80. Joe Hassyer: Second, there were at least 8 for the final report that I think was December 8 or 9th that triggers the comment period. What we would like you to do is move that issuance date because what is going to happen is the 30-days runs through the holidays. I am sure it is just a coincidence, but you are going to prevent people from making comments because they will be active in the holiday activities.

Response 80. Maj. Kurgan: Obviously you can understand the constraints we are working under and we have to balance that with the project execution also.

Question 81. Joe Hassyer: Also, Kevin talked about Topaz Street and there was a floodgate there and now it is a levee, which is the response we need. In connection to London Avenue they have talked about putting a floodgate or raising Lakeshore Drive at London Avenue Canal. Apparently the Orleans Levee District does not believe it has the capacity to close one more floodgate in the event of a storm. So their option is to take homeowners properties to raise the roadway. I just want to remind Kevin and his comrades is that what we want there is a floodgate and we do not want people's property taken.

Response 81a. Kevin Wagner: I will tell you we do still have the two options on the table. We are considering looking at raising the ramp and a floodgate at that location. From the governments point of view we have been through the Alternative Evaluation Process and we have a recommendation that we would like to present to the Levee Authority, the Levee District, and the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority. We are trying to get on their calendar as we speak to talk about what we think is the appropriate recommendation there as well with Rail Street. We do know about the potential homes and we want to reduce the impacts to their

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homeowners. We do have a meeting Nov. 13 to talk about the alternatives for that particular location.

Response 81b. Steven Spencer, Orleans Levee District: From our perspective we are not looking for any additional floodgates, but then again it is a lot easier to operate a ramped raised crossing than a floodgate that you have to maintain. Then you are also closing an evacuation route when a storm is going on. It is simpler to maintain and provide access. We have asked the Corps to look at the Lake Terrace on the west side and Rail Street to try to minimize impacts.

Question 83. Joe Hassyer: So you know, Lake Vista and Lake Terrace want you to put a flood gate there and we want you to close it, then we want you to open it afterward. We do not care how hard it is to maintain because that is what the Orleans Levee District is there for. This is why we do not want people's property taken so you can avoid opening and shutting a flood gates. This is a big issue, put a flood gate and figure out how to add it to your list for when a storm is coming and what you have to do after a storm.

Response 83. Maj. Kurgan: Kevin will be out to talk to everyone on the 13th and we will get more info on that.

Question 84. Jim Harlen: I am an engineer business man and I believe we need a much more integrated approach. I noticed that in the 3rd slide that you passed over the barrier plan and did not even look at it for consideration. I assume that is the plan for the gates to keep the storm surge out of the Lake Pontchartrain all together.

Response 84. Maj. Kurgan: As part of the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System that is right. As part of the LACPR study that goes to Congress which talks about greater levels of protection through coastal restoration or barrier that goes into that report. It is not like they have been eliminated, as far as this particular feature they have been. This is still part of the analysis of how we provide this area with a greater level of protection.

Question 85. Jim Harlen: So, we have three 250 million dollar projects and the storm surge gates which reduce the problem everywhere, compared to about a 150-250 billion dollar Rigolets storm surge gate. We do not have an integrated approach. If you could keep the design problem lower by keeping the surge out of all of Lake Pontchartrain, how could you reduce the profile and community impacts if you did not have to design for as large of a storm surge as you do to provide 100-year protection under these design criteria?

Response 85. Maj. Kurgan: I do not have the hydraulic answer on that, but what you are asking is if future work does go out on Rigolets and Chef. Then you have redundant levels of protection. People talk about a resilient system and the Dutch, they have a redundant protection.

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Question 86. Jim Harlen: Redundancy is good, but you also work in imposing great aesthetic impacts on this community. If I look at your process and Congress specifies we want to have surge gates. Then it is a year in a half process then the temporary gates can last 5 to 7 years and spruced up to last longer. Then maybe we should have an integrated solution that might have a lower impact on the aesthetics of these communities.

Response 86. Maj. Kurgan: If that comes as part of the LACPR with additional appropriations then that is what we will do. Based on the current system, operations, and authorizations this is a system and it has to be system. We are trying to have an integrated long term solution but I can not fix everything today either.

Question 87. Jim Harlen: Part of that are the congressional authorities you are operating under and if those are fixed then you could have a much more integrated approach than you have now.

Response 87. Maj. Kurgan: Possibly, yes sir.

Question 88. Stradford Goins, Flood Protection Authority East: I have a couple of comments but first I am going to honor our outgoing board member Larry McGee because the Corps was one of his bulls he called Cosmo, a 2000 pound animal and we can not get you to do what we want but we can coax you on to try. One of the things our board is our board issued a unanimous resolution was in conjunction with the permanent pump stations was to have an integrated system. We were opposed to option 1, we issued a resolution supporting option 2 and to my knowledge it has gone no where with the Corps. The reasons we are opposed to option 1 because of the double pumping and in the future you would have the double expense passed to the Sewage and Water Board. These people will then have to pay for it. You will leave them with substandard walls. In your report to Congress, it said option 2 is technically superior. Colonel Bedey after Katrina told us we were going to get the most technically correct option and design for this system. We are not getting that because option 2 is far more technically superior to option 1. The other thing is in your own report you said you have to do additional drainage studies. How can you get the result if you do not have the input? It is like you are building from the roof down. You can not start at the end with the output until you know all the hydraulics. Option 2 can give you that hydraulics which would improve the capacity at that station. Another reason why we are opposed to option 1 is because if capacity exceeds safe water elevation we have to shut off capacity. We have already had to do that at London Avenue. We do not want that to happen in the future.

Response 88. Maj. Kurgan: A quick correction on that: at London the safe elevation was four but after the test it was raised to 5, so we did not have that solution. Now that has been fixed.

Comment 1. Stradford Goins: There is that possibility and we do not see that as an acceptable solution to say: we can not pump and we have to flood because we do not want the walls to fail.

Fix the problem. I can tell you now as a partner and as a member of that commission I will not support a right of entry for this when you have a much better solution out there that you are ignoring. You said part of your solution with the regular process and the emergency process is congressional authorization. Now it appears to me you are hiding behind you are not authorized by Congress but you are providing input to Congress. So, somewhere along the line we have to fess up and be honest with the public. My father is 83 years old and his home flooded. He just got his insurance check and I will be damned after he rebuilds that I would let that happen again.

Question 89. Tad Breaux: I live directly across the street from the London Avenue pumping station. Under the pros where you list the construction phase is easier because it is the widest part of the canal, what does that mean?

Response 89. Dan Bradley: The access to the structure is easier to get to at that point. It is wider so it affords the opportunity for us to pass drainage water during a storm event through there while construction is going on.

Question 90. Tad Breaux: Is the fact that it has the curve there going to be a benefit because the gate is going to be placed behind the curve or is that going to go away?

Response 90. Dan Bradley: The benefit is that we can use that curve part to excavate partly in the dry while we are bypassing around.

Question 91. Tad Breaux: So when looking at that curve you are going to do some excavating, so in the end there will not be a curve.

Response 91. Dan Bradley: That is correct we are going to straighten out the flow.

Question 92. Tad Breaux: I want to share my experience with you because I am still living on Pratt. My neighbors and I are impacted by the length of the construction process on the street. We have been having these meeting for a while and I understand that you have to go through all the processes. We keep hearing the same presentation at each meeting and even though we have an opportunity to talk to people about what they are thinking, we still keep getting presentation. We still want to know what the building pad is going to look like and we should not have to wait 6 months to get that question asked. There is a definite certain level of mistrust because we never get a right answer. It seems to me that this is a deflection and no real commitment in your answers. I want to know where the building and fence around it is going to go. I am still waiting for the temporary landscape to hide it. Here are some other suggestions: I know this is a bazillion dollar effort but as far as the dust and mess it seems like in the budget there should be some sort of plan to mitigate for us living through it all.

Response 92. Dan Bradley: We hope to keep you abreast during the process. You will know when we know.

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Question 93. Tad Breaux: I think you already know because this is not the first one you built. Please give us some information so we can respond to because we are going to get a chance to respond once it is designed.

Response 93. Dan Bradley: No, the opportunity for your input will come before the design occurs. As you heard the discussion today about the low rise pump stations. So there are options out there. We do not know what it is going to look like but we do develop the criteria of what it will be and with your input we develop that.

Question 94. Tad Breaux: You have done very well about maximizing the temporary and permanent space. You are very vague and it just makes us not want to trust you.

Response 94. Maj. Kurgan: Thank you, sir.

Question 95. Mike Dunn: I do not understand something concerning the 17th Street Canal. You have this maximum footprint and right there by the bridge you have the Mariners Cove townhouse association. You are taking the houses along the levee and leaving the rest. If I have any input I think less is worse and I think you need to take the whole association because we do not know what it is going to look like, but I can not get rid of my house. The only people who want to buy it are super low balling me, so please take the whole association. I understand you want the footprint to maintain small but it is killing me.

Response 95. Maj. Kurgan: Yes sir, understood. Obviously any impact we have is severe and if we can minimize the station and area then you can retrieve the value of the property, then that is the best solution. I understand and we are doing our best to moving this along and let you know what the impacts are. Your point is taken regarding taking the whole area.

Question 96. Kent Burgess, Representing Sid-Mar's Restaurant: We have been impacted directly by this project. The entire area of Bucktown has been around for over 150 years. The entire area has been taken over and my family is still waiting after 3 ½ years for payment. Right now the structure is on our property and we have not been paid. That structure needs to be put further out north toward the lake. All this area was just built like the bridge but we can not even use the bridge. I have been in business area for 25 years; you have destroyed boats and livelihood. Can you move that structure north and give me my property back or pay me for my property for the past 3 ½ year.

Response 96a. Maj. Kurgan: I will have Dan talk real quick about why we can not push it out into the lake and then we can talk to Deanna offline.

Response 96b. Dan Bradley: Again, the location is based on environmental consideration as well as human and business considerations. Pushing it back into the lake would have severe environmental impacts.

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Question 97. Joel Borrello: Could give us some idea of what affect the construction will have on the use of the 17th St. Canal Bridge, also known as the Hammond Highway Bridge and on the proposed development of the park marina.

Response 97. Dan Bradley: The maximum impacts would be in the green box areas. At the Hammond Highway Bridge we do not believe there will be too much impact except for traffic control during construction but we will try to minimize that.

Question 98. Joel Borrello: During the construction during the temporary pump construction it was a mess. What about the park marina? There are some proposals now on the park marina to do the infrastructure work on the west side of the canal; will this have any affect on the proposed development?

Response 98. Dan Bradley: It will if it is the green.

Question 99. Joel Borrello: It does and I was wondering if there has been any coordination with the parish regarding the proposed development?

Response 99. Dan Bradley: There was group who did come in to discuss the proposed development but I am not certain at this time.

Maj. Kurgan, public affairs

That is the end of the meeting. Thank you for comings and any additional comments you have can be made at www.nolaenvironmental.gov or by contacting Gib Owen.

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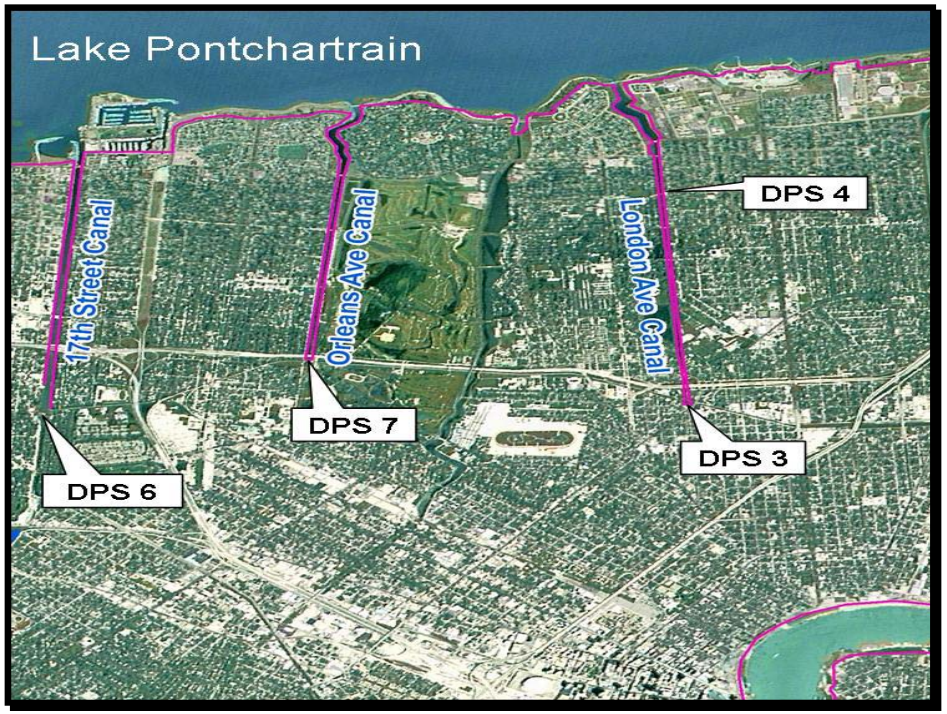
Individual Environmental Report (IER) #5 Permanent Protection System for the Outfall Canals



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 stormwater.

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**

NEPA Alternatives Summary

1. No Action (NEPA Mandated)
2. Non-Structural (WRDA Mandated) *(not carried through for consideration)*
3. Barrier Plan *(not carried through for consideration)*
4. Canal Closure *(not carried through for consideration)*
5. Parallel Protection
6. Canal Closure and Pumps

   a. Pumps and closures (gates) operating in series with Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) pump stations at all three (3) outfall canals

   b. Pumps (no gates) operating in series with S&WB pump stations

   c. Pumps with deepened canals

   d. Convert existing Interim Closure Structures (ICS) to permanent

Proposed action is indicated above in green

Drainage Features

Examples of additional drainage features not carried forward for consideration:

1) Florida Avenue Diversion to Inner Harbor Navigational Canal
2) Hoey's Basin – Pump to the River

These features were eliminated from further consideration within IER 5 because they did not meet the purpose and need of this project. They do not provide hurricane protection.

However, they are included in the report to Congress and Southeast Louisiana Flood Control Project (SELA).

Examples of Diverse Public Comments

- Safety first, aesthetics second - pump station at or in the lake is safest location
- Pump station at lake detracts from neighborhood quality of life and property values
- Avoid taking of public lands and green space
- Avoid disruption of neighborhoods
- For and against use of UNO properties

Site Alternative Evaluation Criteria

- Reliability/Risk
  Storm load exposure, number of transitions, operations & maintenance
- Constructability
  Space restrictions, traffic impacts
- Real Estate
  Timeframe associated with acquiring property
- Costs – Construction & Real Estate
  Total cost for constructing the pump station and flood protection system
- Natural Environmental Impacts
  Threatened & endangered species, water quality
- Land Use Impacts
  Changes to existing land use, i.e. green space, residential, commercial

17th Street Proposed Action

Site Location A: Maximum Footprint

Impact Type

Maximum Extent of Permanent Impacts

Temporary Construction Easement

Scale: 1:7,000

Basemap Source: USACE 2007

17th Street Proposed Action
Site Location A

- **PROS**
  - Construction phasing easier
  - Maintaining drainage flow relatively simple
  - Property to be acquired mostly publicly held (less private property to be acquired)
  - Water access available for construction
  - Highway access available for construction
  - Less construction nuisance to residents
  - More staging area available
  - No bridge modifications required
  - No impact on existing level of hurricane protection

- **CONS**
  - Construction/cofferdams in water
  - Exposure to lake/stormwater levels during construction

Orleans Ave Proposed Action

Site Location B: Maximum Footprint

Impact Type

Maximum Extent of Permanent Impacts

Temporary Construction Easement

Scale: 1:7,000

Basemap Source: USACE 2007

Orleans Avenue Proposed Action Site Location B

- **PROS**
  - Water access available for construction
  - Non-residential access available for construction
  - Limited impact on levees and floodwalls
  - Utilize Lakeshore Drive for construction
  - All property needed is publicly held – no taking of homes
  - No bridge modification required

- **CONS**
  - Exposure to lake/stormwater levels during construction
  - More lakefront visual impact than sites further south

London Ave Proposed Action

Site Location C: Maximum Footprint

Impact Type

Maximum Extent of Permanent Impacts

Temporary Construction Easement

Scale: 1:7,000

Basemap Source: USACE 2007

London Avenue Proposed Action Site Location C

- **PROS**
  - Less environmental and visual impacts
  - No exposure to lake/stormwater levels during construction
  - Construction phasing easier (widest part of canal)
  - Does not impede S&WB drainage flow
  - No bridge modification required

- **CONS**
  - Requires small amount of UNO property acquisition
  - More parallel protection required than lakefront location
  - Construction traffic through residential areas and UNO

The Path Forward

- Awaiting Coastal Zone Management concurrence on the proposed locations
- Review and evaluate all input and finalize Draft IER
- December: 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
- January ‘09 / February ‘09: Make Final Decision - District Commander signs the IER document
- Initiate procurement process to bring on Design-Build Contractor

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:

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USACE Web Site

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil