Public safety is the Corps of Engineers’ top priority. Congress has fully authorized and funded the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for southeast Louisiana. The HSDRRS includes five parishes and consists of 350 miles of levees and floodwalls; 73 non-Federal pumping stations; 3 canal closure structures with pumps; and 4 gated outlets.

**Project Summary**

New Orleans Metro is defined as the East Bank of Orleans Parish west of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC; also known locally as the Industrial Canal) and a small portion of Jefferson Parish near the Mississippi River. Hurricane risk reduction construction is taking place generally in the vicinity of Lake Pontchartrain between the 17th Street Canal to the west and the IHNC to the east. The structural features being built by the Corps will reduce the risk associated with a storm surge that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year, or a 100-year storm surge. The total construction value in New Orleans Metro is an estimated $100 million.

**Project Features**

In New Orleans Metro, the Corps constructed new “T-wall” floodwalls and vehicle floodgates; raised existing levees and roadway ramps; and modified and strengthened existing floodgates, floodwalls and the Bayou St. John sector gate. All structural features in New Orleans Metro were built to an elevation between 16 and 22 feet above sea level.

**Project Status**

All 100-year level risk reduction features along the New Orleans Metro perimeter were completed in May 2011. Work will continue until fall 2012.