



PLAQUEMINES PARISH

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Public safety is the Corps of Engineers' top priority. Risk of storm surge inundation is reduced in Plaquemines Parish by three separate but connected risk reduction projects.

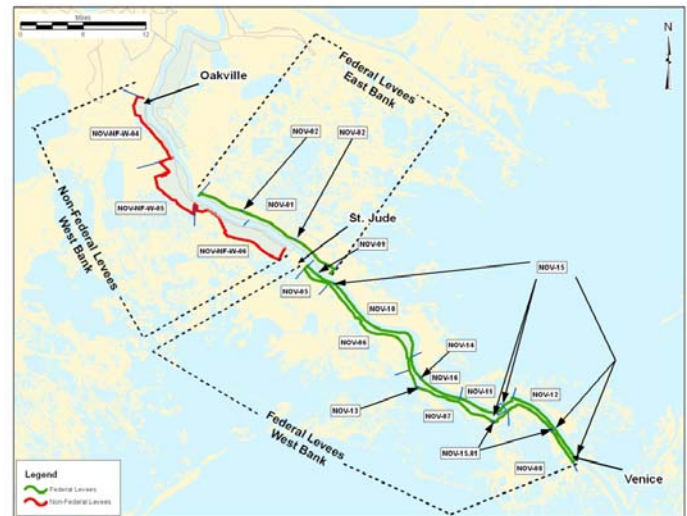
West Bank & Vicinity Project

The Belle Chasse sub-basin includes portions of Orleans, Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes. The Belle Chasse polder is part of the West Bank and Vicinity (WBV) portion of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). Features of the WBV project are fully funded and are being built to an elevation that defends against a storm surge that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year, or 100-year storm surge event. The eastern barrier of the Belle Chasse polder includes the Mississippi River Levees. The Corps is currently raising the portion of the Mississippi River Levees between English Turn and Oakville.



Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project

South of Oakville the Corps is engaged in two separate projects on a complementary timeline that will reduce risk in Plaquemines Parish and defend against a storm surge event that has a two percent chance of occurring in any given year. On the westbank, where the Federally-authorized West Bank and Vicinity project ends in Oakville, there are 32 miles of levees that were previously constructed by Plaquemines Parish and private residents. The levees run from Oakville to St. Jude. In the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season Congress funded an effort which will incorporate the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project (NFL) into the New Orleans to Venice project (NOV). The NFL project includes approximately 20 miles of levee replacements or modifications and a tie-in to the Mississippi River Levees. Improvements to the existing NFL project include flood and protected side straddles and shifts using the HSDRRS design criteria as well as some floodwalls.



New Orleans to Venice Project

The purpose of the NOV project is to achieve storm risk reduction for Plaquemines Parish by upgrading Federal levees using the HSDRRS design criteria. The NOV Federal levees are located on the eastbank of Plaquemines from Phoenix to Bohemia and on the westbank from St. Jude to Venice. Improvements to the existing NOV project include flood and protected side straddles and shifts, some floodwalls, and sector gates at Empire Lock. Only in the instance of engineering reasons would the existing NOV alignment shift. The current NOV project includes approximately 37 miles of back levee modifications and 2 sector gates on the westbank, and floodwall fronting protection at 2 locations on the eastbank.

Project Status

Construction of improvements to the WBV and Mississippi River Levee portions of the Belle Chasse polder are underway. Features are in place to defend against a storm surge event that has a two percent chance of occurring each year however construction of risk reduction measures along the Mississippi River will continue through 2014.

Environmental documentation in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the PPNFL system and NOV levee system respectively, have been completed and environmental assessments discussing mitigation alternative analysis will be released prior to construction. Real Estate acquisition is in progress and the first contract for construction will be awarded in early September 2012.

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