



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVE
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

Regional Planning and
Environment Division, South

PUBLIC NOTICE

Seeking Public Comment for National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)¹ Evaluation of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock Replacement Project, New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District (CEMVN) continues to plan the replacement of the existing Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock at the Mississippi River. The Board of Commissioners, Port of New Orleans, independently completed construction of the IHNC and Lock in February 1923. Beginning in April 1944, the USACE leased the Lock and a 2.1-mile reach of the IHNC from the Port of New Orleans and assumed its operation and maintenance until purchasing the same facility and reach in fee in 1986. The replacement of the existing lock was conditionally authorized by an Act entitled “Mississippi River—Gulf Outlet—Construction Chapter 112—Public Law 455, An Act to authorize construction of the Mississippi River—Gulf Outlet”, Public Law 86-455 2nd Session, approved March 29, 1956 (1956 Act).

In 2019, USACE initiated Section 106 consultation to amend the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), entitled, *Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock Replacement* Project, which was executed in 2000 among the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP), CEMVN, Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (LA SHPO), and Port of New Orleans for the IHNC Lock Replacement Study. On 25 February 2019, CEMVN distributed a determination of adverse effect letter to the LA SHPO, ACHP, and Tribes. Subsequently, CEMVN invited various additional consulting parties and hosted three Section 106 consultation meetings on 22 March 2019, 9 April 2019, and 24 April 2019. CEMVN determined that the lock replacement Undertaking would adversely affect six NRHP-listed or eligible historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). These historic properties are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Historic Properties Adversely Affected by the Undertaking

	Resource Name	NRHP Status	Type of Effect
1	IHNC Lock	Eligible (Individually)	Demolition/replacement
2	St. Claude Avenue Bridge	Eligible (Individually)	Demolition/replacement
3	Galvez Street Wharf	No longer extant	Previously demolished and mitigated as per 2000 MOA Stipulation 1
4	Holy Cross Historic District	Listed (NRHD) [1986]	Direct effects to setting
5	Bywater Historic District	Listed (NRHD) [1986]	Direct effects including demolition of two contributing buildings
6	Sewerage and Water Board (SWBNO), Sewerage Pump Station B	Eligible (Individually)	Direct effects to setting with significant permanent encroachment

The Recommended Plan includes several design changes to key features of the IHNC Lock Replacement Project since it was presented in 2019. These include:

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

- Change of bridge type: St. Claude Avenue replacement bridge will be a typical, double-leaf bascule bridge design with no central bridge pier versus the previous plan that required a two double-leaf bascule bridge design;
- Elimination of a separate temporary bypass channel: Rather, the existing lock chamber will be utilized as the bypass channel during the deconstruction sequence with alternating day/night closures to navigation;
- Replacement of existing floodwall along the eastern side of the IHNC: Existing floodwall, excluding portions underneath the Claiborne Avenue and St. Claude Avenue bridges, will be replaced with a levee constructed within existing ROW that will provide comparable levels of protection;
- Change of floodwall (T-wall) alignment on west side: T-wall alignment redesigned to avoid Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) sites Areas of Interest (AOI)-1 and AOI-2.

Additional information can be found at: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/IHNC-Lock-Replacement/>.

CEMVN is **reinitiating Section 106 consultation to develop an Amended MOA (AMOA)** for this Undertaking to mitigate for the adverse effects to historic properties. To help further develop a course of action for this project, **CEMVN is requesting your input by 16 August 2024 on ways to avoid or minimize or mitigate the adverse effects to these historic properties.** Comments can be sent electronically to: ihnclockreplacement@usace.army.mil. Or mail comments to: Cultural & Social Resources Section (CEMVN-PDS-N), USACE, Room 140, 7400 Leake Ave, New Orleans, LA 70118-3651.

Map displaying new IHNC Lock location.

