



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
7400 LEAKE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South
Environmental Compliance Branch

February 17, 2017

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER, BATON ROUGE TO THE GULF OF MEXICO,
MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GULF OUTLET, LOUISIANA, NEW INDUSTRIAL CANAL LOCK
AND CONNECTING CHANNELS PROJECT**

[IHNC (INDUSTRIAL CANAL) LOCK] REPLACEMENT

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND COMMENT PERIOD EXTENSION NOTICE

Important dates:

Thursday, February 23 – Public Meeting in St. Bernard Parish

Tuesday, March 7 – Public Meeting in Orleans Parish

Tuesday, March 14 – End of public comment period

Reference is made to previous general correspondence, press releases and public notices regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New Orleans District's (CEMVN) public release of the integrated draft general reevaluation report (GRR) and supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the Mississippi River, Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, Louisiana, New Industrial Canal Lock and Connecting Channels Project. The USACE proposes to replace the existing lock on the Industrial Canal, also known as the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal or IHNC, with a 900 feet long by 110 feet wide by 22 feet deep navigation lock. The draft GRR/SEIS was officially released for public review and comment on Friday, January 6, 2017 with a 45-day public comment period running through Monday, February 20, 2017. This comment period was initially extended until March 1, 2017. The USACE CEMVN Commander, Colonel Michael N. Clancy, has officially extended the public comment period a second time, to end on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

The Corps will host two public meetings, one each, in Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes, respectively. The meeting format for each of these public meetings will include an "open house" period scheduled from 6:00 to 6:30 pm. Each public meeting will begin at 6:30 pm with a brief introduction and presentation of the project followed by a 20 minute question and answer period, and will close with a public comment period.

The Corps will host a public meeting on **Thursday, February 23, 2017** (which was announced on February 6), at the St. Bernard Parish Government Complex (Council Chambers) at 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana 70043.

The previously cancelled Tuesday, February 7, 2017 public meeting in Orleans Parish (canceled at the request of the City of New Orleans due to tornado activity on February 7th) has been rescheduled for **Tuesday, March 7, 2017**. The meeting will take place at the Andrew "Pete" Sanchez and Copelin-Byrd Multi-Purpose Center at 1616 Caffin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70117. The meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room located on the second floor.

The Corps will accept written comments through **Tuesday, March 14, 2017**. All public comments received will be considered and addressed accordingly in the final GRR/SEIS. The draft report is available online at the USACE, CEMVN website here: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/IHNC-Lock-Replacement/>.

Please send written comments to the District Engineer, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118. Comments may also be sent to the District Engineer through Mr. Mark Lahare, via email mark.h.lahare@usace.army.mil. For further information please contact Mr. Lahare, via e-mail or telephone at (504) 862-1344.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward P. Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Edward P. Lambert
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch