



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

May 11, 2026

Regional Planning and Environment
Division South
Environmental Planning Branch

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Application

Introduction. This Joint Public Notice is issued in pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977, as amended (33 U.S.C., Section 1341) which establish policy, practices, and procedures to be followed on Federal actions involving the disposal of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. This will serve as a joint Public Notice for the LEDQ 401 Water Quality Application. The purpose of the proposed project would reduce the risk of flooding from the Atchafalaya River and Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).

Project Authority. The east and west Atchafalaya Basin protection levees are part of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway project, a prominent feature of the flood control, Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project. The MR&T project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of May 15, 1928, 70th Congress (Public Law 70-391) as amended and supplemented. The Levees West of Berwick feature was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1936 (Public Law 76-678). The West and East Bayou Sale Gordy levees are sections of the Levees West of Berwick feature.

Location. The East West Levee Tie-In is located along the Gulf side of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) which traverses under the LA 317 bridge and ties in two sides of Ellerslie that are above the design levee elevation for this reach south of Franklin, Louisiana.

Description of Work. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification to clear, grade, excavate, and place fill to construct a 0.70-mile levee to connect the West Bayou Sale Gordy Levee and the East Bayou Sale Gordy Levee on the Gulf side of the Intracoastal Waterway. In addition, a borrow area and infrastructure like ramps and a ditch will be constructed. The borrow area and the proposed levee work are both in the vicinity of St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District is applying to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services for a Water Quality Certification in accordance with statutory authority contained in the LAC 33:IX.1507.A-E and provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Discharges by Others. There are no known discharges of fill material by others at or near the proposed project site.

Coordination. This public notice will be coordinated with the relevant State, Federal and Tribal entities as appropriate.

Properties Adjacent to Disposal Sites. List of adjacent properties is available upon request.

Public Involvement. This Joint Public Notice for the 401 water quality application will be available for a 10-day public review and comment period beginning May 21, 2026, and ending May 31, 2026. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties under the Clean Water Act 401. It will be available online beginning May 21, 2026, at the following weblink: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Public-Notices/>


Comments on the LDEQ 401 Water Quality application must be transmitted by May 31, 2026. A copy of the application is available for inspection and review at the LDEQ Public Records Center at 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The available information can also be accessed electronically on the Electronic Document Management System (EDMS) on the LDEQ public website at www.deq.louisiana.gov.

COMMENTS CONCERNING THE 401 APPLICATION:

Comments concerning this application can be filed with the Water Permits Division during the public comment period by referencing WQC 251211-01, Agency Interest (AI) 249632 to the following address:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Water Permits Division
P.O. Box 4313
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4313
Attn: Water Quality Certifications

Comments may be submitted by email to DEQ-WaterQualityCertifications@la.gov.



MARK R. SMITH
Chief, Environmental Compliance Branch

COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PUBLIC NOTICE EXPIRES: May 31, 2026