



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Comite River Diversion designed to reduce flooding *Groundbreaking set for \$163 million project on Monday, March 17*

NEW ORLEANS – Construction is beginning on the Comite River Diversion project, designed to relieve flooding by diverting floodwater from the river westward into the Mississippi River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Friday.

Groundbreaking for the estimated \$163 million project is scheduled Monday, March 17, at 10:30 a.m. on West Irene Road in East Baton Rouge Parish. The site is northwest of downtown Baton Rouge.

The first contract is for construction of phase one of the Lilly Bayou Control Structure. The Corps awarded the \$2.42 million contract to the James Construction Group LLC of Baton Rouge.

Lilly Bayou Control will be one of several structures built along a 12-mile diversion channel that will divert floodwater to protect residents of the 348-square-mile Comite River Basin. Contracts have not yet been awarded for the diversion channel or the bridges that will cross it.

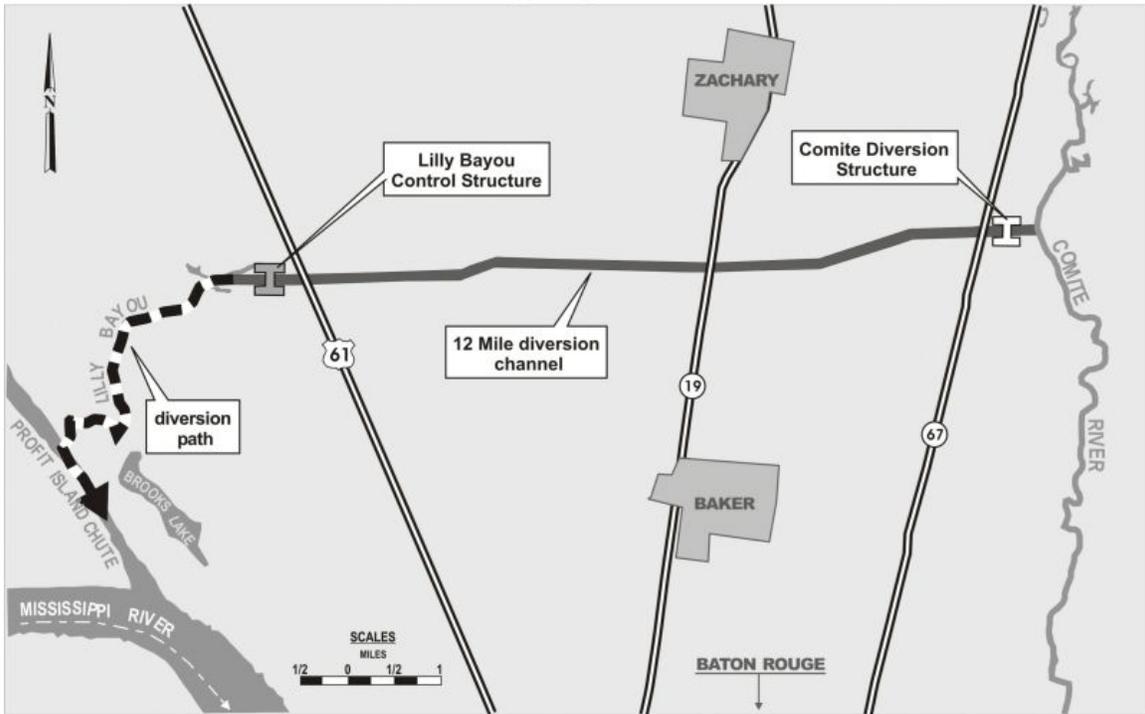
The Comite River Diversion project is located north of the town of Baker and south of the town of Zachary. Diversion channel water will empty into the Mississippi through Bayou Lilly north of Baton Rouge.

The project is being built by the Corps and three non-federal sponsors, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge and the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District. Federal cost is \$115 million, and non-federal cost is \$48 million.

Note to editors: Army Corps of Engineers representatives attending the groundbreaking will include Col. Peter J. Rowan, district engineer, New Orleans District, and Larry Poindexter, senior project manager, Comite River Diversion project.

Map attached as page 2

Comite River Diversion project



Features not shown include four highway and two railroad bridges

Elena Napolitano,
New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers