



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Reducing risk for 17th Street Canal floodwall and levee *Trees and fences within 6 feet of levee toe will be removed*

NEW ORLEANS – In another step to reduce risk for the greater New Orleans area, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will soon begin the removal of trees and fences along the east bank of the 17th Street Canal.

Tree and fence removal is necessary in order for the Orleans Levee District to maintain the area and to conduct periodic inspections of the levee toe to identify seepage or other potential problems. Tree removal is also necessary to protect hurricane levee and floodwall integrity.

“The root systems of these trees invade the levee section and provide channels for seepage that can threaten the levee. Additionally, roots ripped out during a tropical storm would worsen the seepage and reduce the stability of the levee, potentially resulting in failure,” said Steve Finnegan, a project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps awarded the \$784,000 contract, under the Small Business Administration’s 8(a) program for small and disadvantaged businesses, to Three Fold Consultants, LLC of New Orleans yesterday afternoon. The contract includes stump and root removal and related repairs such as refilling and compaction of holes.

Work is scheduled to begin June 30th, covering the east bank of the canal from Pump Station #6 to the breach repair site, and will be completed by the peak of the 2008 hurricane season. All trees and fences within six feet of the levee toe will be permanently removed, and will be done at federal expense. These actions are being taken by request of and under right-of-entry granted by the Orleans Levee District.

In response to public safety concerns, the Corps will install, at no cost to the property owners, a temporary chain link construction fence for properties where removal of the existing fence leaves swimming pools exposed.

After receiving a permit from the Orleans Levee District, property owners can rebuild fences beyond six feet of the levee toe, at their own expense. Other structures within six feet, including sheds and garages, will not be removed at present. The Orleans Levee District will evaluate each structure on a case-by-case basis in consultation with property owners.

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