



Public Meeting Recap

IER 11 Public Meeting
Thursday, February 7, 2008

Location	Church at New Orleans 11700 Chef Menteur Hwy New Orleans, LA 70129
Time	6:00 p.m. – Open House 7:00 p.m. – Presentation
Attendees	approx 80 and 35 staff
Format	Presentation then Q & A
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPT • Borrow (2.7.08)
Facilitator	Julie Morgan, USACE Maj. Jeremy Chapman, USACE August Martin, USACE

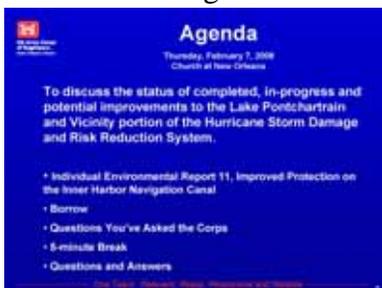
Opening Remarks

Julie Morgan, USACE, Outreach

Thanks everyone for coming. Col. Bedey couldn't be here tonight, he was ordered to go to a conference. This is our 41st meeting. It will be almost a year next month that we've been holding meetings and we will continue holding them. We appreciate you coming and we have information to provide to you. We want to hear your comments and allow you to voice concerns or issues in your neighborhood. We'll try to address concerns. We know it's rough to come out, we appreciate your time.

We're rotating through the basin in the metro area so the community could be impacted by a Westbank and Vicinity or Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity hurricane protection system project. Tonight we have Maj. Jeremy Chapman to talk about the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. We'll also talk about borrow and August Martin will cover issues that have been raised at a lot of meetings. This is another attempt to answer questions for you. Then we'll break before the Question & Answers.

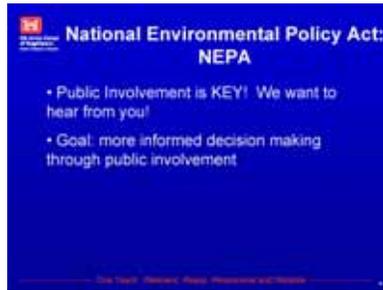
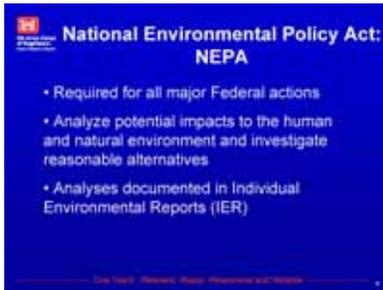
Here are the ground rules: We request that you wait until all presentations have been given before asking questions. We'll have a Question & Answer period. We're here to answer every question. Please don't break the flow of the presentation. We may answer you during the presentation so please hold questions until the end of the discussion period. I'll ask you to respect each other and go to the microphone. We ask that you limit comments to 3-5 min so everybody gets a chance to say something. Project Managers were here early and will remain until after the meeting ends so you can meet with them afterwards. Please make sure you sign in on the sheets and please leave us your e-mail address so we can contact you. We also have evaluations in the seats, please fill them in so we can gauge how well we're doing.



IER 11 – Inner Harbor Navigation Canal

Major Jeremy Chapman

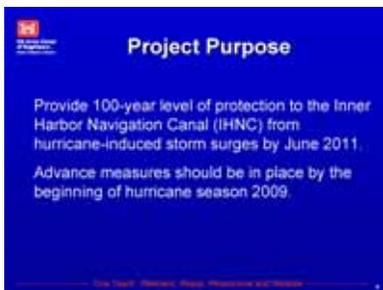
This is our agenda. We'll talk about the recently released report called IER 11 and about borrow, and then August Martin will answer questions.



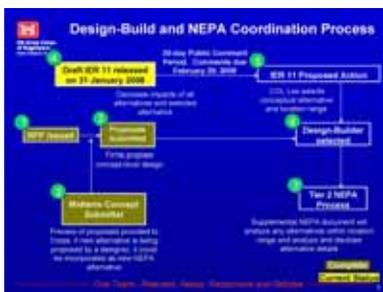
NEPA is required for all federal projects. We're here to answer comments. We record your questions and it will help us to get the public involved. The more involvement we get from the community the better and more informed decision we can make.



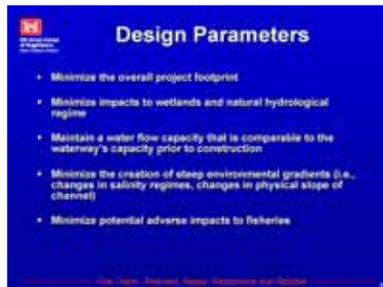
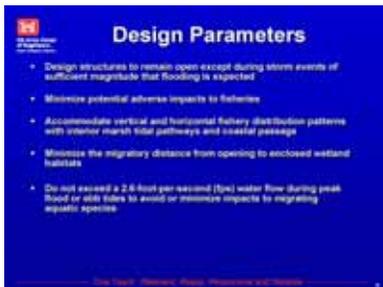
This is a view of Industrial Canal and the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway. You can see Lake Borgne on the right at north. The upper left is Lake Pontchartrain. The Industrial Canal goes to the lock and to Lake Borgne, and then goes to the GIWW to the Michoud Canal and Lake Borgne. MRGO goes down to the lower right. The GIWW goes from Florida to Texas [pointing] this is Mississippi River.



The purpose of this project is to provide 100-year protection from a hurricane storm by hurricane season 2011. Advanced measures will be in place by 2009. Advanced measures were added as an interim measure. They will put protection in place by the 2009 hurricane season. You could have a significant amount of protection in place by then.



We've issued a Request for Proposals and we've received proposals from four firms. We have four firms competing for the design-build contract. We expect to award the contract in March. IER 11 is out for public review. You can go online to submit a comment in writing. The comment period ends February 29, and then we award and finalize the NEPA process with a tier 2 document. The tier 2 document will be put together outlining the exact alternative, the one we'll build.



Here are the project design parameters. They ask for a design-builder to minimize impacts to fish, the footprint, wetlands, and fisheries. Several different specifications were included when we wrote the bid. You can read through to see what was included,



anything from velocity so baby fish don't have to swim so hard are included to minimize impacts.

We've made several improvements to the Industrial Canal since Hurricane Katrina. This is just an overview. The colors depict

different elevations, the tan is above 19 ft. Then the elevation decreases as you go to the Industrial Canal. The largest surge is out in Lake Borgne. As you go to the Industrial Canal the elevation drops off. The dark green is 15 feet elevation. These have been raised to 15 feet which is above authorized level. You can see new T-walls in the Lower 9th. All floodwalls within IHNC have had their stick up reduced which reinforces the walls that are there now. The bridge near 1-10 causes significant

Alternatives Considered

1. No Action
 - Raise levees and floodwalls to previously authorized level
2. Non-structural
 - Raise / reinforce buildings in flood zone
3. Raise levees and floodwalls to 100-year level of protection
4. Construct channel and/or water body structures
5. Construct wetlands

Alternative 1 - No Action

- Raise levees and floodwalls to previously authorized level

resistance to storm surge which drops water level so walls are lower in that area. Overall the IHNC area is a high risk area so we have advanced measures in place.

Alternative 3

- Raise levees and floodwalls to 100-year level of protection

Alternative 4
Project Features and Location Ranges

Lake Pontchartrain Storm Surge Protection Project Feature

Lake Borgne Storm Surge Protection Project Feature

We considered 6 alternatives for the IHNC. The No Action alternative is raising the levees to previously authorized levels. The Non-structural alternative is raising buildings and businesses but still will not prevent flooding.

Alternative 3 is to raise levees to 100-year protection; this is the outline with the red line. Alternative 4 is to construct a channel out in the water or marsh near the IHNC. Alternative 5 is to construct wetlands and it makes them a buffer.

Alternative 4
Proposed Action Location - Pontchartrain 2

Alternative 4
Proposed Action Location - Borgne 1

Alternative 4 focuses on water body structures and people refer to it as a gate project. Colors depict areas to put a barrier in this area. For this alternative and in this report we recommend two areas for the structure.

Pontchartrain 2
Impacts to Significant Resources

- Hydrology: Flow redistribution
- Water Quality:
 - Temporary increases in turbidity (cloudiness)
 - Decreases in dissolved oxygen
 - Influx of nutrients due to disturbance of 3 acres of channel bottom
- Wetlands: No impacts
- Aquatic:
 - Temporary increased turbidity, temperatures and nutrient availability
 - Lower dissolved oxygen
 - Temporary impacts to plankton
 - Loss of 3 acres of open water
- Terrestrial/Upland: No high quality terrestrial habitat impacted

Pontchartrain 2
Impacts to Significant Resources

- Threatened and Endangered Species:
 - Not likely to adversely affect
- Recreation: Could impact lakefront recreation facilities temporarily or permanently
- Noise: Elevated noise levels during construction
- Air Quality: Temporary and localized decrease in air quality
- Human/Economic:
 - Minor temporary impacts from construction
 - Some utilities or infrastructure may be relocated
 - Long term positive impacts from better flood protection

We're recommending location Pontchartrain 2 because it has fewer impacts. For Lake Borgne protection we recommend Borne 1 which is yellow.

Borgne 1
Impacts to Significant Resources

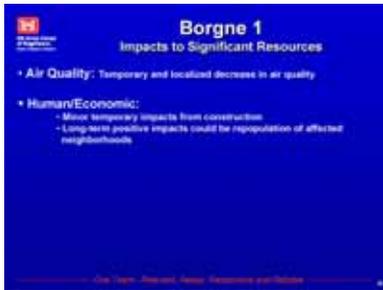
- Aquatic:
 - Up to 296 acres of open water habitat lost
 - Temporary declines in plankton and long-term redistribution
 - Reduced conversion of marsh into open water habitat
- Terrestrial/Upland: Up to 98 acres of upland lost
- Threatened and Endangered Species:
 - Not likely to adversely affect
- Recreation: Impacts to wetlands could impact recreational fishing
- Noise: Elevated noise levels during construction

Borgne 1
Impacts to Significant Resources

- Hydrology:
 - Decreases of short flow through marsh
 - Reduced circulation and sediment flow
- Water Quality:
 - Temporary increases in turbidity (cloudiness)
 - Decreases in dissolved oxygen
 - Influx of nutrients due to disturbance of up to 642 acres of intertidal footprint
- Wetlands:
 - Loss of up to 348 acres of brackish marsh
 - Loss of up to 28 acres of terrestrial forest
 - Decreased circulation but increased protection of up to 2,796 acres of marsh

These are Pontchartrain 2 impacts. Most of these impacts are temporary and will be during construction. There will be noise and there's little impact to wetlands. There are some temporary impacts to aquatic life and the temperature of the water. Right now there are no impacts to terrestrial habitats. We're not likely to have an adverse impact on endangered species. There are other temporary impacts you can read.

These are the impacts to Borgne 1. These are the worst case scenario impacts for this zone. The proposals we receive will have fewer impacts. Most of these impacts are temporary and will only impact the area during construction. [Inaudible] water flows to salinity [inaudible] there are some impacts to areas and impacts in the triangle. There are some impacts to aquatic life. There is minimal impact to terrestrial and upland areas. There is little impact to recreation and some impact to noise. Again, the impacts are due to construction.



These are all the borrow sites the Corps has investigated or is in the process of investigating. The dirt we need to build levees, or clay material we need, to build levees is unique. These are some of the areas we've searched for the material.

This is the area in New Orleans East under investigation to use for borrow.

You've asked the Corps

August Martin, Branch Chief, Hurricane Protection Office



Good evening. I'm August Martin, the branch chief of levees, floodwalls and armoring. Tonight we want to go over issues that have come up and address questions you've asked. This slide shows the hurricane protection system. My office is responsible for Orleans Parish West of IHNC, St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish.

Explain elevations for levees and floodwalls now and for 100-year level of protection.

Where we are today is a reflection of work done prior to the storm under previous authorizations. Work done by Task Force Guardian was done to repair areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Today we're working to build to 100-year level of protection. When we refer to 100-year level of protection, our model is a sweep of storms, some with low-intensity and some that are less likely to happen. The storms are what one would basically expect to happen. People have a 1 in 100-year chance to experience this type of storm in any given year. That's what we refer to as 100-year level of protection. We're working to provide that protection.

How are we better off now than before Hurricane Katrina?

Work during Task Force Guardian repaired damaged areas and in doing repairs they added resiliency to the system, so we have an improved system not including what we started before the storm. For example, behind floodwalls we've added scouring. We've raised levees on the north side of the GIWW

and the south side. On Haynes Blvd we've added Hesco baskets to reduce stick up and strengthen certain areas that were vulnerable. This is in addition to repairing breached areas. We also improved interior pump stations and the floodwalls Maj. Chapman referred to. We put in T-walls instead of the I-walls that were there before.

Are all areas getting protection at the same pace?

We're working to provide 100-year levels of protection throughout the system. We can't put out the project contracts at the same time. We have over 60 contracts to be awarded before we can [complete the system]. Before we award we have to find the best engineering solution and we have to obtain environmental clearance, we have to get the right of way, there are a number of facilities we have to develop relocation plans for. We also need local agreements from sponsors. As soon as we work through the details, then we advertise and award contracts.

Why does the Lakefront have 100-year level of protection now and we do not?

The entire basin west of the IHNC does not have complete 100-year level of protection. Substantial work needs to be done to protect the basin. We're still making floodwall replacements and doing ramp replacement work. There is additional levee work that needs to be done and we're working to provide levees. We can't award all contracts at the same time based on complexity.

What can we do now to get some work diverted to this area in 2008?

We'll have two major contracts this summer in New Orleans East. Reach LPV 108 is in area that extends from Paris Road to South Point. Reach LPV 109 goes from South Point to the CSX railroad. That's 14 miles of levee construction. We are working and are paying attention to the complete system. We have engineering and design ongoing so resources are directed system wide.

Who made the determination to make the initial repairs?

We followed laws and regulations to do an assessment of the system and report to Congress following the storm. Congress authorized and the President approved repair projects that were done after the storm. Work done by Task Force Guardian was what the Corps was authorized to work on following the storm.

Can you guarantee that borrow sites will not impact low to moderate-income communities?

There are no guarantees but we're looking for borrow across the state and nation. We're looking at various ways to get borrow. More than half of the borrow may be from Plaquemines Parish because of transportation costs. It would be the ideal solution to find borrow close to the work area that would make for a less costly construction project. While not able to make guarantees, we are searching across the nation for the material we need.

Why were floodwalls and levees only built to authorized elevations after Hurricane Katrina and not 100-year level of protection in New Orleans East and Lower Ninth Ward?

The Corps is an authorities based organization. Work done immediately after Hurricane Katrina was done according to what was authorized by congress. 100-year level of protection work is subsequent to Katrina and is work started by Task Force Guardian.

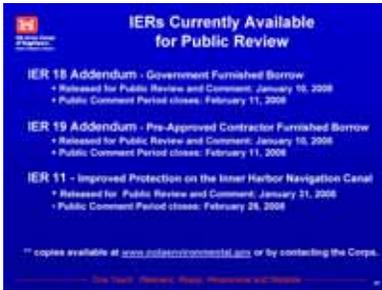
Can community members be on a Board of Directors or some other decision making body?

Our activities are governed by Congress, and you direct Congress. Local officials and levee boards and citizens can influence Congress. As we are doing tonight, and have done at 40 other public meetings, we're working with levee boards, neighborhood associations and the state as we develop the

100-year level system. If you wish to participate more in this process or have questions, you can contact the Corps' Public Affairs Office and you will be added to our contact list. You'll be invited to meetings to discuss projects.

Is there currently more risk associated with living in the Lower 9th and New Orleans East than other parts of New Orleans?

Many factors influence risk including topography and geography. There are areas that have less risk than others. In those areas that have higher risk, West of the IHNC or on the Westbank, when we provide the 100- year protection you will have the same level of protection. Today your risk depends on geography.



These are IERs that have been released. The IER 18 public comment period closes Feb 11. IER 19 closes on the same day and IER 11 closes on Feb 29.

These are your opportunities for input in addition to public meetings.



This is our Web site. If you have questions you can address then to Gib Owen at address shown, or from this Web site.

Discussion

Julie Morgan: The subject matter experts we have here for you tonight are:

Maj. Jeremy Chapman	Senior Project Manger, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal
Soheila Holley	Senior Project Manager, Borrow team
Rueben Mabry	Task Force Hope
August Martin	Branch Chief, Hurricane Protection Office
Greg Miller	Sr. Project Manager, Mississippi River Gulf Outlet
Gib Owen	Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration
Larry Poindexter	Project Manager, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal lock
Kevin Wagner	Senior Project Manager, Orleans Parish levees and floodwalls
Laura Lee Wilkinson	Environmental Manager

We have microphones in the aisles for your convenience. Please walk to the microphone to ask your question. Please state your name. We're recoding what you say and want to make sure we answer your question now or will answer at the next meeting. You can read over comments on www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

Question 1. Gwendolyn Adams, New Orleans, ACORN: The gentleman [referring to August Martin] had a question that was asking if we **are safer in New Orleans East and Lower 9th than before Katrina?** That was a yes or no question and he didn't answer it adequately.

Response 1. Martin: In New Orleans East and the Lower 9th you have [interruption]. Yes, you are safer now. [The Corps can say you are safer] based on fact that areas that were repaired, you have more robust protection in those areas than you did before. You don't have 100-year level of protection but if you ask if you have a greater level of protection than before Katrina, the answer is yes based on work done by the Corps during Task Force Guardian following the storm.

Question 2. Adams: [Major Chapman] went over 5 alternatives. There was one recommending houses or homes be raised. I'd like to know who [is going] to fund [that alternative] when Road Home has not released funds for elevation. How are homeowners going to fund this?

Response 2. Chapman: Those alternatives were [dismissed] because it would cost billions of dollars.

Laura Lee Wilkinson: [Alternative 2] is required to be investigated as part of the Water Resources Development Act. That alternative would include moving an airport, houses businesses and the mall. The impacts are amazing and funding needed [inaudible] every street would be made a bridge. That alternative... is non-comprehensible. If were raising a few things, we could do it but we're talking about whole city.

Question 3. Adams: **How would you ask homeowners to pay for this?**

Response 3. Wilkinson: In IER 11 we are proposing to place structures in Pontchartrain 2 area and Borgne 1 area so we don't have to rebuild the whole system.

Question 4. Adams: **Why is the Corps only looking at rebuilding the system for a 100-year storm, rather than a 400-year storm?** Other storms have happened in a 40-year period. Why not provide additional protection? Why [are we getting] only minimal protection?

Response 4. Chapman: Building to the 100-year level is dictated by Congress. They authorized 100-year levels of protection. LACPR is a state program and federally they are looking at [funding it] at the 500-year level of protection.

Greg Miller: Under LACPR we're working with the state and looking at higher levels of protection. Across south Louisiana levels [we're looking at] are at 100-year, 400-year and 1,000 year levels of protection. We have a report in technical review right now; it will be released for external peer review before being submitted to Congress.



Question 5. Adams: You stated levees along Lake Borgne have been raised to 15 feet. Last time, **it was my understanding that they were 12 ft, when were those [improvements made]?**

Response 5. Chapman: Areas that are red are 12-13 feet, but those are in risk areas. The orange areas are 14-15 feet and dark green are 15-17 feet.

Adams: **Are there [areas with] 15 feet high walls or levees in the Lower 9th?**

Chapman: The dark green lines show you where T-walls were replaced. Here is the Lower 9th, Holy Cross and Florida Avenue [pointing]. You have a T-wall, it's 15 feet. Then there is part that's 13 feet, then there is yellow and green to Paris road which is 15 feet. Past Paris Road it's in the 13-14 feet range, it goes up to greater than 17 feet. Past Bayou Bienvenue it's above [interrupted].

Question 6. Adams: To be at 100-year levels of protection, **what level would the [floodwalls or levees] be?**

Response 6. Chapman: [Inaudible] would have overtopping then drop by 15 feet because of overtopping. Hurricane Katrina was a 400-year storm; you had surges to 18-19 feet. In a 100-year storm it [interrupted].

Comment 7. Adams: Considering that Katrina was a 400-year storm, we still wouldn't be protected.

Response 7. Chapman: You would have better protection if Katrina came, but would still have overtopping.

Question 8. Frank Spears, New Orleans, Co-Chair of ACORN New Orleans East: I haven't heard anything about closing MRGO. I know Congress has come and said it would be closed. If you need the tremendous amount of material [for the levees], where do you intend to store it? How much material will you need to close MRGO?

Response 8. Miller: Last week the Chief of Engineers signed the final report recommending that MRGO be closed with a rock structure near Hopedale in St. Bernard. There are things to do before we do [build the rock structure]. We have to do some design work and the final environmental document has to be signed by Assistant Secretary of the Army. That's a record decision. All that information, once packaged, goes to Congress. They authorized WRDA in November. We have to finish a report and submit it. Once we do all of that we have to sign an agreement with the state because they're going to purchase [inaudible]. We have things to do but the good news is we made that recommendation and intend to go as quickly as possible.

Question 9. Spears: Will [the closure/rock structure] be done parallel to 2011 hurricane protection?

Response 9. Miller: Our hope is to [close MRGO] sooner than that. It is a priority for the Corps.

Comment 10. Dan Arcenaux, St. Bernard, ACORN: I've talked to people from the Lower 9th. I was raised in the 9th. [Inaudible] made the statement [inaudible] where a lot of people [inaudible] where I told them we shouldn't allow any mud to come out of St. Bernard because then they're going to tell us they're out of money. For 14-years I've been arguing with the Corps and Mr. Miller. They aren't giving you protection and telling you that sand hill is up to par and that washed down every time rain hits. Sand isn't going to stay there.

Dr. Van Hurten, at the meeting that Congressman Melancon called at NASA, William Jefferson [was there along with a] lady from Texas. Mr. Jefferson asked Col Wagenaar for people to rebuild. That meeting was in 2006 in January. I attended that meeting; he said you can start rebuilding now because you have better protection. Sitting next to him was an engineer and he said he wouldn't come back for a year and a half. [A representative] from the LSU hurricane center said the MRGO levee will wash away. [Inaudible] program 12 July 2007 said [inaudible] a dam between 250 and 270-feet [inaudible] bottomwoods and [inaudible] 25 to 30-feet and 5 ft above [inaudible] there's no storm protection, it's a salt water [inaudible] from Lake Pontchartrain.

About 6 weeks after that Col Bedey had a meeting with them and told [inaudible] it's criminal to build without storm protection. Congress told to [inaudible] to stop the deep draft navigation [inaudible] and in the second paragraph it says people involved in that [project should be] St. Bernard Parish government. I've been to every meeting and they invite the shipping industry. I just got a package, it was 12 lbs, it was [inaudible] the shipping industry and river pilots want to keep [the MRGO] channel

open. [The document] said there would be a water structure built in Violet, LA. When I asked Col. Bedey about that and his representative, Chris Gilmore, I told him it was criminal. Now you're trying to kill St. Bernard. Col Bedey said it was a misprint in the paper. He said that was a misprint. Then they told me they were going to put a water control structure at Bayou Bienvenue by Parish Road Bridge and another water control structure [inaudible]. I told them now you're planning to drown St. Bernard and New Orleans East. Then I got a report and it said the new design is going to be 12-feet. They are going to eliminate 20-feet of it and it will be 5-feet above the normal tide which, in a storm, it'll wash out in 12-feet before it drowns us again.

At a meeting in St. Bernard I asked a question of who was responsible to design repairs on the Industrial Canal to 8-feet high during hurricane season. Someone is responsible for that. No one answered that question, that's the way the Corps tells you to go to hell.

I want people to know I want the mud to stay in the Parish. I want it to protect all the way to the Industrial Canal. I doubt we'll get that. They also said they needed 100 Superdomes worth [of clay]**. **Note: during the Jan. 17 public meeting in St. Bernard, the Sr. Project Manager, Chris Gilmore, said the Corps needed 20 Superdomes of clay** There was an article about taking land in St. Bernard. You've already destroyed St. Bernard when the channel was dug and the MRGO only destroyed 27,000 acres. Ms. Suhors said it took 32,000 acres to build the MRGO and that's because there's a back levee and it was supposed to be 250-feet wide. [Inaudible] also tell that it's authorized by 36-feet but for a long time they never told us that MRGO is dredged 5-feet over the depth. There's 1-foot for accidental [inaudible]. The man told me they use an 8-foot cutter head and if they go deeper it's a bonus for the Corps. You can believe me or believe the Corps. I'll be at the ACORN meeting at 1020 Elysian Fields if you want to see. (clapping)

Question 11. Vanessa Gueringer, ACORN, Lower 9th: Every time [inaudible] I get angry. My first question is what is the height of the levee at the 17th St. Canal? What were they pre-Katrina and what are they post-Katrina?

Response 11. Kevin Wagner: I'm the Senior Project Manager for Orleans Parish. Pre-Katrina the 17th St. Canal levees were about 14-feet. At the closure structure they are at 16-feet, which basically stops the storm surge from getting inside.

Question 12. Gueringer: If you're telling us our levees were only authorized to be pre-Katrina elevations, why were the 17th levees heights increased by 2-feet if you could only go to pre-Katrina heights?

Response 12. Wagner: We didn't raise the levees along the canal. We repaired the floodwalls by replacing them with T-walls and closure structures to address storm surge.

Question 13. Gueringer: Are they at 100-yr levels?

Response 13. Wagner: Levees at 16-feet would meet 100-year levels of protection.

Question 14. Gueringer: We just met with Col. Bedey; we were told our floodwalls are at 12-feet. He said a year ago that our flood protection is the Achilles heel [of the system], so then why not put an added level to repair them? Why do we have to wait until 2009?

Response 14. Wagner: That's what we're doing with [Maj. Chapman's] project. In between the Parish line and the IHNC and the Industrial Lock to Seabrook. Instead of raising levees, the solution is to prevent the storm surge from entering.

Question 15. Gueringer: So you won't add another level of protection? Our flood protection is going to stay the same?

Response 15. Wagner: Yes, because we're trying to get it done as quickly as possible.

Comment 16. Gueringer: When someone needs minor surgery you go where there is critical protection needed.

Response 16. Chapman: When [repairs] to the outfall canals were authorized, we didn't know [the Lower 9th Ward] was the Achilles Heel. We found out last spring.

Question 17. Gueringer: So it took you 2 ½ years to figure this out?

Response 17. Chapman: [Inaudible] risk maps.

Question 18. Gueringer: Insurance is higher because those maps say we can't go home. You are involved with blatant racism in the black community. (clapping) The earthen levee along Bayou Bienvenue, that earthen levee in Chalmette is being raised to 26-feet. Ours aren't at 26-feet.

Response 18. Chapman: You have several levees; some are at about 15-feet. Only the red [interruption].

Gueringer: He told us the levees weren't there yet and that those were going to be 26-feet and then [inaudible].

Chapman: Those levees aren't at 26-feet, they're being worked on. The whole system will be 26-feet for 100-year protection by 2011. Some areas, east of Michoud, will go to 26-feet as well.

Question 19. Gueringer: [The Corps] recently raised levees along [Lakeshore] Drive. They didn't get a drop of water. Pontchartrain Beach is the oldest black neighborhood [inaudible] why [inaudible]?

Response 19. Martin: We have three contracts in that area. As I mentioned, all of the work we do we have to go through steps which I outlined earlier. As soon as we complete the engineering, solve the right-of-way issues we will advertise and then award contracts.

Question 20. Gueringer: When the Corps goes to congress with maps, politicians are not engineers. They are depending on you to explain things, when you go up there, why not say these are in critical need of attention? If you are black and you live in these neighborhoods, we have to say what happened? Nothing is happening.

Response 20. Martin: We were authorized to do work across a complete system and we're working to get there.

Comment 21. Gueringer: We pay taxes but we don't have the same protection. I haven't got a straight answer as to why some things are happening. I keep hearing about contracts. You ran to Lakeview and [inaudible] that'll keep them protected. Citizens here don't count. You should be ashamed. It's an outrage. (clapping)

Question 22. Tanya Wall, Eastover, and New Orleans East: I've been to several meetings and it's dishearting that you have no new answers. For the federal government to treat citizens [inaudible]. The Constitution guarantees protection for everyone. Why must eastern New Orleans struggle for [inaudible] critical flood protection? Pre-Katrina we had nothing like this. We still don't have answers about what happened. This is unconstitutional. It's a disgrace and we need answers. You aren't coming with real answers. This picture is jaded. We listen to what you say and you still don't have answers. We're citizens and tax payers, why wouldn't you be concerned with protecting us? It doesn't make good business sense. I don't like to subscribe to conspiracy theories. We have no clarity here. It's been almost 3 years, what is really going on?

You talked about clay you need to borrow from areas in eastern New Orleans. Have there been negotiations? What dirt? Where is it? Will it protect the area it's taken from? I've heard dirt may come from a golf course. Are there negotiations? What will this dirt be used for?

Response 22. Soheila Holley: I'm the Senior Project Manager for the borrow team. The areas in New Orleans East under investigation are all willing landowners. They have all been under investigation but there are no negotiations. We get the right-of-way from landowner for us to investigate. If the material is suitable there would be real estate [inaudible]. No sites have gone through that yet. Those areas in New Orleans East are potential borrow sites. There are no real acquisitions, yet. Earlier it was noted that we need a tremendous amount of borrow. The bulk of the cost for borrow is from hauling. In order to have money to provide protection [for the whole system] we have to identify borrow closest to alignment. [Inaudible] tremendous cost. New Orleans East borrow sites are from willing landowners but nothing has been acquired yet. There are no negotiations with the golf course.

Question 23. Wall: Where would this material be used? In eastern New Orleans?

Response 23. Holley: It wouldn't be cost effective for us to move material from one parish to another place. If we exceed 20 miles it's not cost effective. If we identify a borrow site, it wouldn't make sense to move it across a parish. We understand your concerns, I flooded. I understand your concerns. We are trying all three different methods to make sure we have material suitable for levees and floodwalls. We're trying to balance cost and not delay contracts. We've been trying to get material from outside New Orleans so we don't impact parishes and neighborhoods. The sources sought, that's the advertisement we did to do market research to figure out what is out there. We're willing to get material from outside of LA. We know there's a budget.

Question 24. Wall: How soon, what's the timeline for flood protection in Eastern New Orleans? We've heard about protection and research, it's been almost 3 years. Why isn't it clear? Is that because it's not happening or not certain? I want to know the timeline for closing MRGO. [Inaudible] flood protection and floodwalls or levees when will implementation begin?

Response 24. Chapman: For the Industrial Canal, which will protect New Orleans East, you'll have protection by 2009. Our project will close MRGO with a [inaudible] at 25 to 30-foot elevation. [The structure we propose will be in] the Borgne 1 region, will be a hurricane protection dam in MRGO. Construction will probably be at same time that the closure is built in Bayou La Loutre.

Question 25. Wall: What bodies were in the negotiation's with [inaudible] how flood protection to [inaudible] protection initially and [inaudible]?

Response 25. Martin: Your question about New Orleans East, in addition to the contract that will come this summer, it will go [inaudible] from Paris Rd. to the CSX railroad. Those contracts will come in June. Most other work will be done in 2009. Complete protection is scheduled for completion in 2011. Beyond that, in terms of individual pieces and reaches, 2011 is when all steps are [set to be]

completed. We'll get through environmental review, real estate, and right-of-way obstacles including those with the utilities.

Question 26. Wall: Who is responsible for this decision? What other entities decide? Who [inaudible] protection 1st, 2nd, etc.? Why do we have to wait until 2011 before any level of protection? What determines this and who determines this? Who makes the decision?

Response 26. Martin: Congress provides funding for 100-year levels of protection, we've started that. We worked with the levee districts and levee boards.

Chapman: My project is developed by the Project Delivery Team. We include Col. Bedey, local leaders, the Louisiana DOTD as well as SELA East. Mr. Bob Turner, he's involved and so is Congress. We send reports to Congress all the time. They want a status and they dictate what they would like to see. It's not just one person.

Question 27. Wall: So elected officials, state and national leaders determined [what to do]?

Response 27. Chapman: [Inaudible] is not just a factor. We don't just pick neighborhoods; we've started in all the neighborhoods. We have to do an Individual Environmental Report, we have to find borrow and we have to advertise. From 2008 to 2011 you will have an increase level of protection. Everyone has some level of protection that is based on what was done in the past; it isn't based on the new system. Right now we're gradually going to bring the whole city up.

Question 28. Wall: Can you see the people who have spoken and why it gives the appearance of a racial difference? Can you see that? Maybe it could have simultaneous protection. All neighborhoods deserve to return and especially after Katrina. I know everybody [inaudible] list. We're intelligent enough; it wouldn't have been rocket science to simultaneously handle this. To selectively [inaudible] you build your own discrimination into that. It wasn't natural. This was the biggest disaster, that's what happened here. Everyone understands nature but beyond that and how one is treated, this is a disgrace. To be here 3 years and having the same discussion. You still have no clear answers. Shame on you. (clapping)

Response 28. Chapman: I can see your perception but I've been here working hard, we are not ashamed to be working for the Corps. I don't see any preferential treatment, from my perspective, from the Corps. There might be the perception be there [inaudible] but there's more risk in some areas verses others and [inaudible] that's just a perception. We're not picking a neighborhood, that's the reality.

Question 29. Barry Kohl, New Orleans, Louisiana Audubon Council and Sierra Club. I'm interested in how priorities were set. On the Westbank, Eastbank and around the entire system. It's been segmented for studies. I'd like a copy of the document that set up the priority process and the decision on which are going to be first [sections improved] and how that was rationally determined. [Inaudible] based on availability of borrow? I'm sure that process had been undertaken; I'd like to see that document.

Response 29. Gib Owen, Chief of Ecological Planning: There is no such document. We had a major task when taking on 100-year level of protection. We would have to write 2 Environmental Impact Statements and no one could have started until the EIS was done. So it would take 20-years. EIS is how the federal government handles studies. They usually take 5 to 10 years to complete. So instead of 2011, it would have been 2015. So we set up alternative arrangements. We discussed this when we went to the Council on Environmental Quality. We had pub meetings; we broke the system into 17

parts to allow us to do environmental [inaudible] then move into construction. The timing is related to the complexity of the project. Some projects only need to go to a foot higher [inaudible] the IHNC project is complicated.

Question 30. Kohl: Are priorities based on ease?

Response 30. Owen: There's no priority. Some projects come sooner because they are easier to figure out.

Comment 31. Kohl: I think engineers would have come up with a priority system. There must be a document that exists.

Response 31. Owen: There is no such document.

Question 32. Kohl: This question is about the IHNC lock. The new lock contract requires dredging of the eastern side of the canal which will return [inaudible] berm. It will remove [inaudible]. Has there been a study to determine if the bypass channel and protection berm will [inaudible] that affect flood protection wall and levee. Has there been a study that looked at the impact of dredging channel?

Response 32. Larry Poindexter: As you are aware, the IHNC lock is enjoined by the court. We were doing a design but there is an injunction. To answer your question on the study, design hasn't been completed. When the injunction is lifted we'll look at it.

Comment 33. Kohl: That's not satisfactory. The lock project and bypass channel becomes an asset of flood protection. Surely someone else has looked at what the affects would be from removing [inaudible].

Response 33. Poindexter: We can't do any construction or design until the injunction is satisfied.

Question 34. Kohl: You had a final EIS for dredging and for the bypass channel. In that EIS did you study the affects of removing all that berm and the impacts on flood protection?

Response 34. Poindexter: The court asked us to go back and look at environmental concerns as they related to Katrina. We had to go back to the original EIS and look at it. We can't do any more design.

Question 35. Kohl: Did the Corps study the impact of removal? If the Corps didn't do a study before the EIS, it should have considering the failure around the levees of the city.

Response 35. Poindexter: What you said was, when the original EIS was developed and construction for the lock replacement [inaudible] I think it was considered. [Inaudible] for new lock replacement. Until the adjournment is released, we can't look at the affect on the wall.

Question 36. Kohl: But it hasn't been studied or designed, yet?

Response 36. Poindexter: Not since Hurricane Katrina.

Comment 37. Matt Rota, Gulf Restoration Network: I have a question about the language used. 100-year protection. That word is disingenuous. It's 1 percent protection. Just because you're building to 100-year level, it's not true. The Corps should stop using 100-year protection. That's not true.

Response 37. Martin: Basically what we call 100-year storms are those that were modeled on a [inaudible] of storms. In any year there is a 1 percent chance of that occurring.

Comment 38. Rota: People in this room understand [100-year storm]. If you follow this [process you understand] but on the Web site, it still says 100-year protection. Your explanation makes sense, they can understand that but it's disingenuous. Another word is borrow. Again this is disingenuous. You are mining dirt and you're not putting anything back. In the last meeting the Corps said that federal borrow pits must be backfilled. The Corps doesn't have to abide by those ordinances. That might be legally true but, the Corps has black eyes. To say your laws don't matter isn't good for your case. Another thing is the racial issue. I know the first Environmental Justice meeting was in November. That's two years after the storm. Each meeting should be an EJ meeting. You guys are getting on the wagon too late. People are frustrated. If you scrambled 6 months later [inaudible]. [Inaudible] help everybody understand now that you're trying to pick up pieces. Making EJ meetings, I'm glad they're happening but I'm skeptical at this point.

Question 39. Unidentified Man: How much clay is needed for IER 11?

Response 39. Chapman: We don't have any clay need identified but we don't have the final solution awarded. It isn't significant like in St. Bernard. Clay isn't a significant factor.

Comment 40. Rota: Now I'm confused, you said anything taken from [inaudible].

Response 40. Chapman: In the Seabrook area [inaudible] borrow is needed in the New Orleans East polder. Those will protect New Orleans East.

Question 41. Rota: You looked at 5 different options. Two of those go short [inaudible]. I've glanced at the IER 11 that was thrown on the table. Wetlands can't be our only protection but to say that we're not looking at [inaudible] is short sighted. Our city will continue to sink, only wetlands can grow, we shouldn't throw them off the table. Why did you pick one alternative? We could use money to raise houses. We can build levees; we can buy out some people. Going with one alternative is shortsighted. It's not as comprehensive as we deserve.

Response 41. Chapman: It's not completely ruled out but we could create some wetlands and raise some houses but [inaudible] solution is what we recommend. We have mitigation plans. We looked at marsh restoration and a barrier.

Wilkinson: These slides show the significant impacts [inaudible]. We don't have the whole design. We're doing a tiered NEPA document. Once we have the design and the document we'll mitigate for whatever it is. You have to wait for the Tier 2 document; we don't have the design yet. You want a combination of wetlands and the non-structural solution, those could work for other IERs, but constructing wetlands wouldn't protect [this area]. There are other projects such as Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration study [inaudible] where they'll look at building wetlands.

Comment 42. Rota: But if we put wetlands as part of the plan we would all be safer in the long run. The justification is it costs \$16 billion to raise houses. You're using the justification of the entire city when it's convenient but you're [inaudible].

Response 43. Wilkinson: The IHNC is in 3 polders. We are doing a tiered NEPA document. We didn't know the design so didn't know impacts. As far as alternatives for constructing wetlands, we put that in the design parameters and designers came up with [inaudible] if there is dredging, then this is a nice way to mitigate.

Comment 44. Rota: I'm talking about additional creation of wetlands. Of course you have to mitigate.

Response 44. Wilkinson: We have Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act and Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration. There are other projects focusing on other wetlands and land building. But these are concentrating on hurricane protection.

Rota: Wetlands are hurricane protection.

Comment 45. Beverly Wright, New Orleans, and Deep South at Dillard University: I had the privilege of sitting in meetings and seeing how the Corps works. It's important for you to know that the Corps works not around science, but political science. I watched projects being presented by the Corps to Congress and the Legislature. I watched them make decisions based on budget. And so science often times is thrown out and political science comes in. That's why Lakeview looks like it does (clapping). I believe the people here work hard. The young man, thank you. But only you and I can pay attention to deals cut, based on race and class. St. Bernard and Chalmette has also been left out. That leaves all of us vulnerable. Katrina uncovered all that. It became obvious that only certain people get protection we should all get. That's why Lakeview looks like it looked. No one was paying attention before the storm. Those contracts were in place when Katrina hit. They are protected and we are not. Now this is a game to make sure we get protection. Meetings are important because Lakeview will still get protection. I've been to Washington DC. The scientist present good plans but what comes out of that room, based on the cut of money, is different. We have to deal with racism and classism. We let people who should be taking care of this [inaudible] unless we get in their face (clapping).

Question 46. Dan Arceneaux, St. Bernard: Anyone that wants to see about the Lower 9th should take a ride to Paris Ave. and Hayne Blvd over the railroad tracks. Take the high rise and continue over the Industrial Canal and go right. From then on to St. Charles, you can see what they got. Roads are 10 feet above. We don't have any of that. My question for Maj. Chapman, you talked about rock dike, is that the 5th change since 2007?

Response 46. Chapman: The rock dike is different; Greg Miller is [inaudible]. This just crosses the MRGO. We're closing it; it'll be at the same elevation which is 25-30 feet. It won't be a rock dike; it'll be a hurricane [inaudible]. This is a permanent wall. The plan is not to have a navigable barrier.

Question 46. Arceneaux: What about a water control [inaudible] at Bayou Bienvenue with four international companies? They're going to pay for 900,000 [inaudible]?

Response 46. Chapman: That contract was before Congress de-authorized MRGO. That barrier is going through Bayou La Loutre. It's supposed to stop navigation damage.

Arceneaux: In the letter that Congress asked to de-authorize MRGO, the second paragraph said people to be involved in the closure of MRGO LA was government from St. Bernard, the government and the Corps. I've discussed this. I've never been to a meeting where we invited 150 people that want to keep the channel open.

Question 47. Louis Barrett: I've spoken about borrow pits before. A borrow pit is a mining operation; it's going to leave an open pit. I've asked this before but am asking again. You keep saying we have a problem to get borrow. It's a problem. In that light, what alternatives have been considered due to the limited amount of borrow available? What alternative methods have been looked at?

Response 47. Wagner: There are different types of alternatives. The system we're looking at has levees and floodwalls, combination of levees and floodwalls. There's all kinds of design criteria. We've looked at different alternatives and solutions for that reason, we may not get enough borrow.

Question 48. Barrett: I've looked at how much borrow [inaudible] in St. Bernard. Mr. Arceneaux said how much land was available. You're probably taking borrow from the highest areas, you're going to decimate the whole parish to do this. If we continue to dig this, I've read IERs 18 and 19; those alternatives are not addressed in these IERs at all. From your answers I can certain that no alternatives are being looked at

Response 48. Owen: We divided the system up into 17 parts, plus borrow IERs and IERs 22 and 23. The alternatives you're looking at are written about in IERs 1-17, the ones that look at levees and floodwalls. Borrow IERs are focused on borrow. The alternatives you're looking for are in the other IERs. Some areas may have floodwalls, or levees or a combination.

Question 49. Barrett: If you dig borrow to put lifts of levees, you'd need another lift in 10 yrs. Over a long term period what's going to happen to it? Our whole approach is very short sighted. We're cannibalizing the land, what's left. Most of St. Bernard was lost to erosion. We're going to accelerate that by digging more borrow. I wanted to ask about the process of borrow material used at the closest location. Why was 197,000 cubic yards dug within 2,000 feet? That contract came in November and hauled to Plaquemines to fill a borrow pit. And then you talk about money?

Response 49. Owen: Backfilling of pit wouldn't have been a federal action. That wouldn't be a federal project.

Question 50. Barrett: I keep hearing about government furnished borrow and back filling. In an IER you recommend backfilling in contractor furnished and recommend and endorse it. You say you won't have to fill it and won't. When something happens to a contractor pit, you say "it's a contractor and you have no control." If the Corps is buying material, how can you say you don't have control?

Response 50. Owen: On backfilling? In no document have we recommend backfilling.

Question 51. Barrett: In IER 19 you say backfill.

Response 51. Owen: Contractors have to follow local laws. The federal government is not subject to local and state laws. We're trying to see if as a Corps we can do it. We would fill with sand but there are a lot of costs. We have to do what is in best interest to people of the United States. We have to find a way to make it work without costing the people a high price.

Comment 52. Barrett: I keep hearing about cost. If that plan included backfilling or whatever you deem necessary you'd ask congress. So you didn't ask for the correct amount of money.

Response 52. Owen: The plans that go to congress are passed by with the best engineering and technical solutions. Backfilling can't be justified in that matter. We can't justify additional expense for backfilling in our request to Congress.

Bare: I don't agree with you. You can cannibalize people's prop. You can't justify backfilling

Gib: We're trying to find a way to make it work.

Question 53. Barrett: What wetland restoration projects have been started since Katrina?

Response 53. Owen: CWPPR projects have been started. Other projects through [inaudible]. There are ongoing efforts the Corps has launched since Katrina. Three months ago the Louisiana Coastal Authority authorized a \$2 billion [inaudible]. LACPR is a study under way, if it goes to Congress.

Barrett: So nothing has happened yet?

Owen: We have authority to do CWPPR projects across a coastal range, that's been underway since 1990. We can't do anything until it's authorized.

Comment 54. Barrett: Maybe I'm preaching to the choir, maybe we need to lobby congress. In four months there was a plan made and a project sent out and built. To build a bridge across Lake Pontchartrain. That took less than 6 months.

Response 54. Owen: That's what we did in Task Force Guardian. We worked and got system repaired and did that in a year, just how they did I-10. We had emergency arrangements. Same was true for DOTD.

Morgan: We do beneficial [inaudible]. We dredge material, that's ongoing and will continue to after Katrina.

Question 55. Barrett: Right after Katrina there were numerous articles that the MRGO dredged under direction under the Corps was [inaudible]. [Inaudible] continental shelf, is that material being captured?

Response 55. Morgan: To some degree that material being dropped at the continental shelf. Now we can dredge and use that. That's what we're doing in Atchafalaya. We've created thousands of acres of wetlands.

Barrett: So we're taking America's wetlands to drop it off on the continental shelf?

Morgan: The LCA study has dredging long distance so it is not hampered. we'll be able to transport settlement. Right now we're hampering.

Comment 56. Barrett: So we need to lobby Congress? Many things the Corps does, they ask Congress to do and it becomes a thing, it sounds like dodging the bullet.

Response 56. Morgan: Local stakeholders require certain projects and we present them to Congress. The Corps doesn't initiate projects. Local people notice a problem and ID it and [interrupted].

Barrett: But the Corps goes to Congress?

Owen: We have local stakeholders. They lobby Congress; they look at something through a WRDA. Then we give a report to Congress.

Barrett: That report includes an estimate.

Owen: Then we have to come up with a general design and put a price on it.

Barrett: So if you include backfill [in your study] you could do it. Those are mining operations. I remember reading in *National Geographic* about a strip mining operation and the outcry it got [shut

down]. That's what changed the landscape. That changed how that was done within a matter of years. You're going to do the same with borrow pits.

Question 57. Drea, New Orleans: I grew up respecting people. One of the main things I got out of this is that the levees that are being rebuilt aren't going to help people in the situation that you've gone through already. That's a lot of people that are designing projects that aren't going to anything. People spoke of shame. That we should be ashamed, I don't subscribe to that but I do want to ask for people to join the ranks of humanity. It's about more than money to the majority of people. I don't know why [inaudible] different. I want to make a difference, to join the ranks of humanity. If you can't do it, get your children to. While we're not [inaudible] we're not fooled, we're disempowered. Somebody spoke of interesting language, I noticed it as well. The first gentleman spoke about 4 competitors to win a competition. Can you elaborate on that? I think it's ironic that we would think of rebuilding as a competition. Can you elaborate?

Response 57. Chapman: With this project the concept is a design-build project. The contract is for close to a billion dollars. Design and construction firms across the nation, there are also Dutch firms, the competition is not only for cost but we want the best innovative solution to supply the designs in order to design the protection system.

Question 58. Drea: Can you tell me about these teams?

Response 58. Kewitt Construction, URS Design, also Mass and Taylor Construction Company, Shaw Environmental, Boh Brothers Construction, Cajun Constructors, other members of the team are from a Washington group and have international firms on their team. Each of these competitors is made of a team because they wouldn't all be able to provide the services we'd need.

Question 59. Drea: Can I get that list?

Response 59. Chapman: I can give you my card and I'll write you and give you details.

Question 60. Drea: Levees need to be built but they aren't going to be built very well. There are a lot of college students who may want to be more involved to work on socially or environmentally just engineering projects. Is this competition closed to just these 4 groups? Or, if someone had a better plan [could they participate]? What's the politics?

Response 60. Chapman: They aren't closed but the large company [submissions] is closed. Once we award a contract it'll take small businesses to complete the work. They will be hauling dirt, painting gates, there's a lot of design companies that can get involved.

Comment 61. Drea: There was a question about community members being on a board. I'd imagine it might be a problem tonight to invite [inaudible] to be on a decision making board. There's more that needs to be repaired than levees. People here have something to say about it. You get orders from Congress, we know Congress, and you know Congress [inaudible] this is a call to join the ranks of humanity. They can determine who is on the board it's socially irresponsible to put yourself as an expert when you've failed so horribly. You may be expert in getting degree but you're not experts in levee building. So I want to second the idea to put community members on a board. Your response is, we know where it's coming from. You're not having [inaudible] please reconsider putting community members on a board. In terms of interesting language, there are two children's books [on the back table] one is called "Ready set Prepare". I want to mention that this is where it begins where someone can stand in front of us for 20 minutes and not tell us a thing. Talk to your children about evaluating

language. We just had people talking to us for God knows how long and didn't say anything. You should impart to your children...

Morgan: We bring subject matter experts to try to answer questions. We try to improve every time; we'll come better prepared next time.

Question 62. Frank Spears, New Orleans: I spent 36-years working for government directly and indirectly. My experience has taught me that seldom do people get a government contract in timely and with a matter of cost. Government always misses completion dates. That's common with government. Since we'll be the last contracts awarded, have you done a study to make sure we won't get the contractors that are going to be doing substandard work, or missing completion dates?

Response 63. Martin: That's a challenging question. When contracts are advertised there's an evaluation process. There are different acquisition methods. The contractor is evaluated; a bid is not just accepted. Its award is based on does the contractor understand, does the contractor describe the work, what's their track record.

Question 64. Spears: But these are huge contracts. It's not just a little guy. Once you award several contracts, how many do you have left that are quality contractors that can come, ready to start and get the job done in a timely matter? How many are left when you finish?

Response 64. Martin: The contractors aren't just from the immediate area. Some are from other places. What you're referring to is when there's a solicitation. That's when interested contractors bid, then are evaluated. Given the nature of some of these contracts we'd expect competition from the immediate area and other contractors.

Question 65. Joan Heisser, New Orleans: I'm a resident of eastern New Orleans for 30 years. New Orleans East, St. Bernard and the Lower 9th were the most devastated by Katrina. We chose to come back home and a lot have minimum insurance, no help from the Road Home. We're using our own resources to build and come back. We're forgotten people. When are the new flood maps going to relieve us from exorbitant cost of home owner insurance and flood insurance?

Response 65. Rueben Mabry: The Corps is working with FEMA to come up with a plan to put flood maps out in the next few months. First, we'll be discussing with parish officials, to try to get affordable flood insurance. The storm left us with a dilemma. The FEMA approach is that we engaged with them to develop a process to push maps to the public. I can't speak FEMA terminology, alternative zone, recovery zone; this information will be coming in three phases. Western part of the state in January, February we'll release mid-LA and March will be the eastern area. We'll have information within a month or month and a half. Our FEMA representatives didn't stay late enough but this is what they would have been telling you. Our public information will be out so you can get familiar with FEMA terminology.

Question 65. Woman from the crowd: Have new maps been out?

Response 65. Mabry: Tangipahoa is out.

Question 66. Heisser: We're the last to be considered, again. This is a direct insult to everybody that lived in the area because we talk about borrow, dirt. The federal government built roads and interstates

and Hoover dam, many dams, but when comes to levee protection cost is a factor. Bringing in dirt is a factor. We shouldn't be discussing that. Funds should be there to [inaudible].

Response 66. Mabry: FEMA is making special arrangements to accommodate flood insurance. It's going to be helpful to understand recovery and insurability. FEMA is doing something special. I'm getting involved with FEMA in a dialogue to talk to parish officials to bring in [inaudible] because they are an important part of the process. They're coming and [inaudible] an improvement over what we had. Levee areas are important. If you don't have certified levees then [inaudible]. The term 100-year system is a special term to FEMA. It means a storm has a 1 percent chance of something to happen. That's when they write insurance. A base flood elevation is 1 in 100 years [inaudible] that's a 1 percent chance.

Question 67. Heisser: When in negotiations and meetings with FEMA, how are you going to arise at values? Please keep in mind our areas wouldn't have flooded if FEMA had done what they were supposed to do. MRGO was opened by the federal government against the wishes of New Orleans and St. Bernard. There was a breach in the levee system. Levees weren't built properly in the [inaudible] this was a man-made disaster. We're the last people to be looked at. Out community, St. Bernard and the Lower 9th. I hope you bring that up. Had they done this correct in the beginning we wouldn't be here (clapping).

Comment 68. Chapman: I have a general comment. The IHNC is the first 100-level protection project that will be awarded in the entire system and it's protecting New Orleans East, St. Bernard and the New Orleans metropolitan area, you're not last.

Comment 69. Paul Legarde, St. Bernard: I've been to lots of meetings. I'm always talking to the same people. A train passed by, did you feel the building shake? The building shakes, a lady over there felt it. You can't build a levee in south Louisiana and expect it to stand. Our money is being wasted. I haven't seen a Senator or a Congressman. We need Mary Landrieu and Mr Vitter or Melancon. They should be taking an interest in us down here. I want to bring up something important. Go to Barnes and Noble, buy Rising Tide. I talked about, in chapter 34, about St. Bernard and what went on. People below the Industrial Canal, we will be flooded over and over; they aren't going to let the CBD flood. We're the flood plane. You're talking about an I-wall in the Industrial Canal. Its 12-feet high and 3-feet wide. If you look at a chart out there, everything goes down, it doesn't end. Steel comes out of the ground, it doesn't go to the top of the wall. When you bump it with a barge or a shrimp boat [inaudible]. I ask about a berm. If it does hit the levee you have a berm. Behind it, that wall's going down. I've seen two barges, during Betsy there was a barge. There's always a barge waiting to go through.

I've come up with a solution to the levee system. You can't pile up mud and expect it to stay there. I've come to a sheet pile solution that would hold mud together. It would be sheet piles down and levees 40-feet sticking up above the ground at 35 degree angles. The Corps has seen this. This would lock in your materials you wouldn't have to dig up St. Bernard or Plaquemines. You could just put something in there for density. You wouldn't need to tear up our parish. They have \$14 billion. I wonder how much, how many billions is going overseas.

\$60 billion is spent on illegal aliens to give them schooling and free medical care. But they can't give us more than \$14 billion. There's something wrong when people [inaudible] we need our representative down here and not going through the Corps to touch their ears.

Do you have a map of [inaudible] we need to put a couple of dredge boats. And fill through the Intercoastal Canal and fill 20-feet high and fill the spiral area. I have plans to show you how to do it.

And once it's filled with Lake Borgne material you have a barrier island running from the Intercoastal Waterway to Bayou La Loutre with sheet piling. If you started off at Bonnet Carre. You could, there's an area to [inaudible] in New Orleans East. [pointing] if you come up the MS river levee you could bring that back to the lakeshore, run it to New Orleans East. You could come straight across through the Intercoastal Canal. [Pointing] Here's your ship channel, you can make a barrier island. You have steel wall all the way around. If you come around it drives it out to Black Bay. You won't have water inside or in St. Bernard. They're going to flood St. Bernard. Material is there and the biggest expense would be sheet piling. I think we should get our representatives down here to listen.

Question 70. Gueringer: On the agenda it says Cynthia Willard-Lewis would be here. Where is she?

Response 70. Morgan: She didn't give a reason as to why she's not here. It was on her calendar.

Question 71. Gueringer: You talked about elected officials being involved. Will you discuss what city officials that represented all these neighborhoods, who was it [involved in the authorization to this project]?

Response 71. Chapman: I'm not sure who originally authorized this project but I can try to get back to you.

Question 72. Gueringer: Do you have the money in hand to do these projects to do whole levee? Specifically the Lower 9th?

Response 72. Morgan: No.

Question 73. Gueringer: So this may not happen? [inaudible] feet of water flooded for Hurricane Katrina and Rita, you don't care about human life. Let me talk about the [IHNC] lock and the Sierra Club guy about environmental study not done post Katrina. I believe you [inaudible] levees are going to be null and void. We're inconvenienced by shipping and the Port of New Orleans. When is it going to stop? You're talking about another map. It impedes our [inaudible] our community. We can't rebuild we don't have money to elevate. It's pathetic.

Question 74. Woman from crowd: During Katrina NASA was bone dry. They were able to keep water from NASA, how did that happen? Because of the large plant? Everybody else was soaked.

Response 75. Wagner: The NASA facility is elevated on Gentilly Ridge, plus they have a pumping station so they operated it to keep water from entering where they assemble rockets.

Woman from crowd: Why only [inaudible] location for pump?

Wagner: They had their own staff to man the pump.

Morgan: Project Managers are available for you. Thank you for coming. We appreciate your comments. Have a good evening and be careful going home.