





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

Agenda

**Thursday, February 7, 2008
Church at New Orleans**

To discuss the status of completed, in-progress and potential improvements to the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity portion of the Hurricane Storm Damage and Risk Reduction System.

- **Individual Environmental Report 11, Improved Protection on the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal**
- **Borrow**
- **Questions You've Asked the Corps**
- **5-minute Break**
- **Questions and Answers**



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National Environmental Policy Act: NEPA

- Required for all major Federal actions
- Analyze potential impacts to the human and natural environment and investigate reasonable alternatives
- Analyses documented in Individual Environmental Reports (IER)



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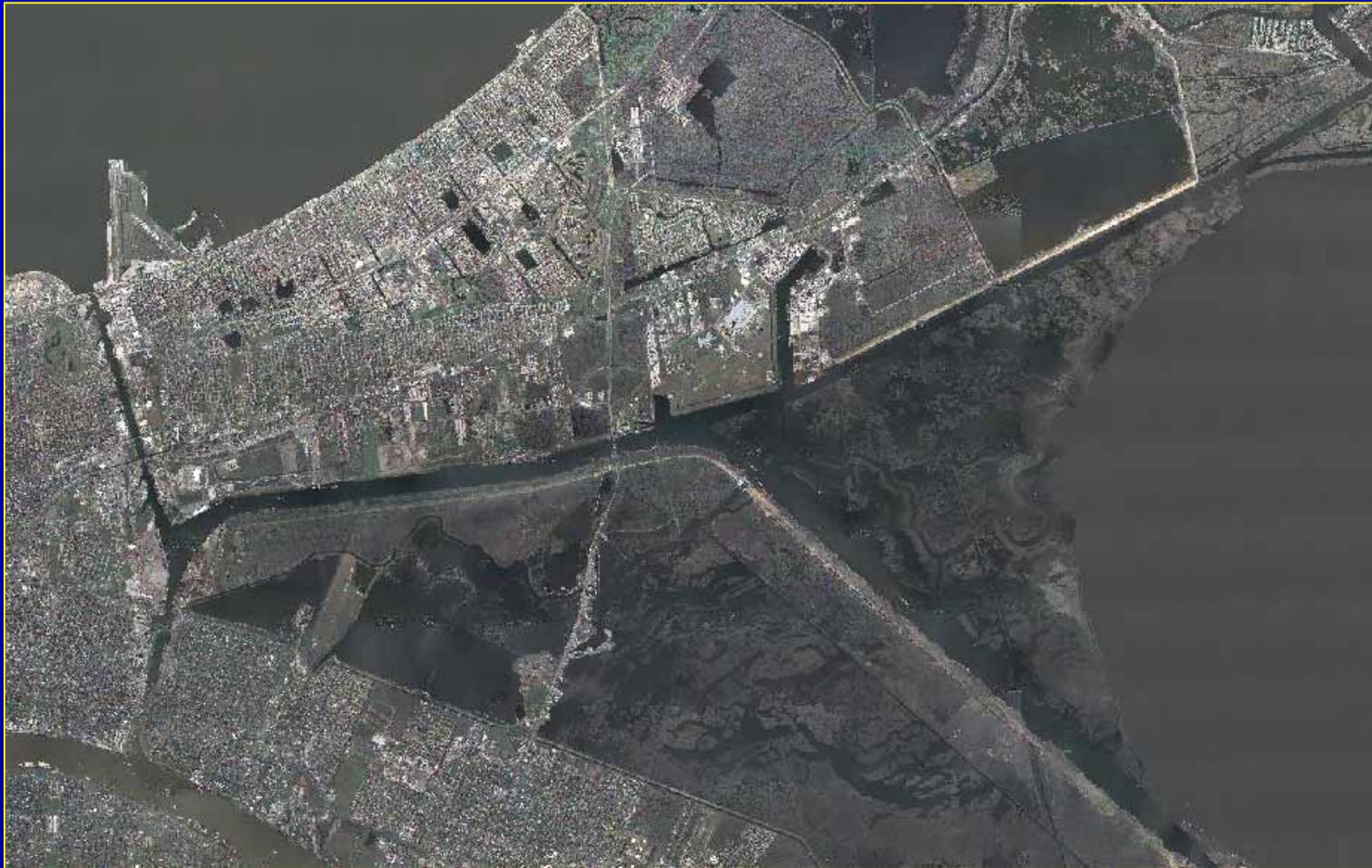
National Environmental Policy Act: NEPA

- Public Involvement is KEY! We want to hear from you!
- Goal: more informed decision making through public involvement



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Improving Hurricane Protection on the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal IER #11



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Project Purpose

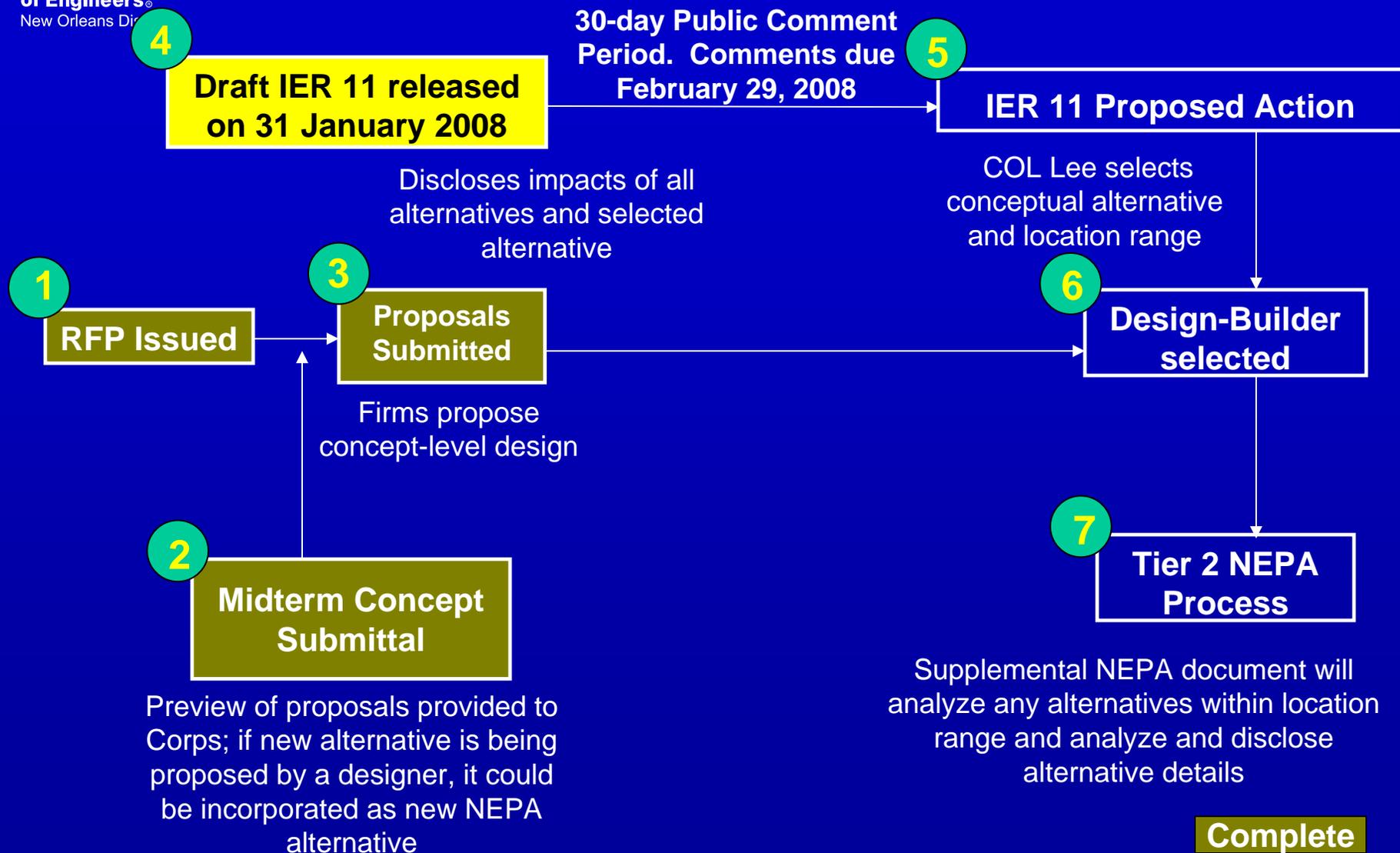
Provide 100-year level of protection to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) from hurricane-induced storm surges by June 2011.

Advance measures should be in place by the beginning of hurricane season 2009.



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Design-Build and NEPA Coordination Process



Complete
Current Status

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Design Parameters

- **Minimize the overall project footprint**
- **Minimize impacts to wetlands and natural hydrological regime**
- **Maintain a water flow capacity that is comparable to the waterway's capacity prior to construction**
- **Minimize the creation of steep environmental gradients (i.e., changes in salinity regimes, changes in physical slope of channel)**
- **Minimize potential adverse impacts to fisheries**



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Design Parameters

- **Design structures to remain open except during storm events of sufficient magnitude that flooding is expected**
- **Minimize potential adverse impacts to fisheries**
- **Accommodate vertical and horizontal fishery distribution patterns with interior marsh tidal pathways and coastal passage**
- **Minimize the migratory distance from opening to enclosed wetland habitats**
- **Do not exceed a 2.6-foot-per-second (fps) water flow during peak flood or ebb tides to avoid or minimize impacts to migrating aquatic species**



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Design Parameters (cont.)

- **Provide for rapid reopening of structure even if electricity is unavailable**
- **Minimize potential for turbidity-causing sediment erosion during construction and throughout the project life**
- **Avoid or minimize disturbance of contaminated sediments and other hazardous, toxic, or radioactive waste (HTRW) in the study area if they are found to be present**

Existing Conditions



IHNC Levee/Floodwall Elevation Status

1 inch equals 4,800 feet





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Alternatives Considered

1. No Action

- Raise levees and floodwalls to previously authorized level

2. Non-structural

- Raise / relocate 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



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Alternative 1 - No Action

- Raise levees and floodwalls to previously authorized level



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Alternative 3

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



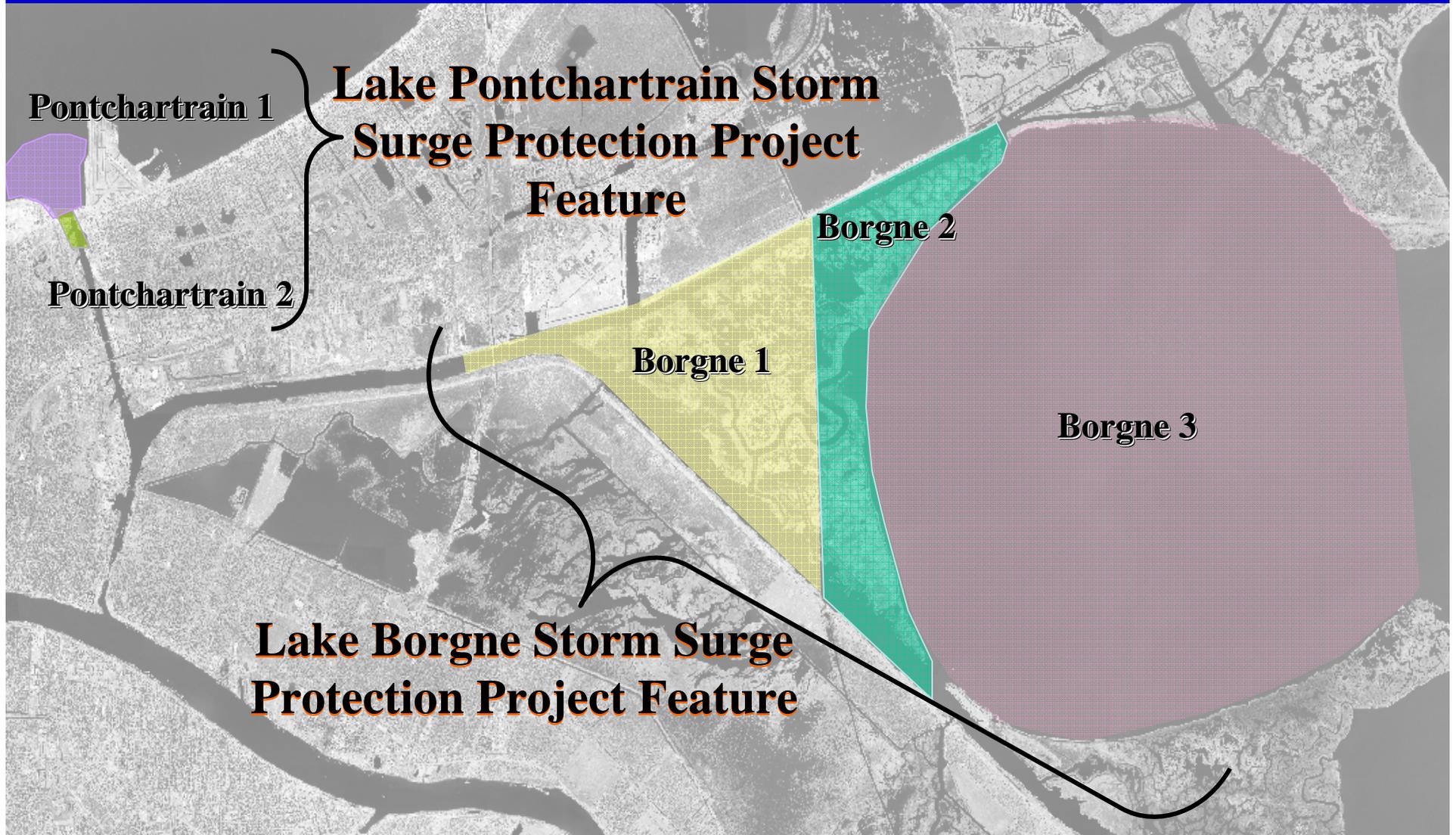
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Alternative 4

Project Features and Location Ranges



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Alternative 4

Proposed Action Location - Pontchartrain 2



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Alternative 4

Proposed Action Location - Borgne 1



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Pontchartrain 2

Impacts to Significant Resources

- **Hydrology:** Flow redirection
- **Water Quality:**
 - Temporary increases in turbidity (cloudiness)
 - Decreases in dissolved oxygen
 - Influx of nutrients due to disturbance of 5 acres of channel bottom
- **Wetlands:** No impacts
- **Aquatic:**
 - Temporary increased turbidity, temperatures and nutrient availability
 - Lower dissolved oxygen
 - Temporary impacts to plankton
 - Loss of 5 acres of open water
- **Terrestrial/Upland:** No high quality terrestrial habitat impacted

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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



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Borgne 1

Impacts to Significant Resources

- **Hydrology:**

- Decrease of sheet 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 construction footprint

- **Wetlands:**

- Loss of up to 346 acres of brackish marsh
- Loss of up to 39 acres of bottomland forest
- Decreased circulation but increased protection of up to 2,786 acres of marsh



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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 56 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



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Borgne 1

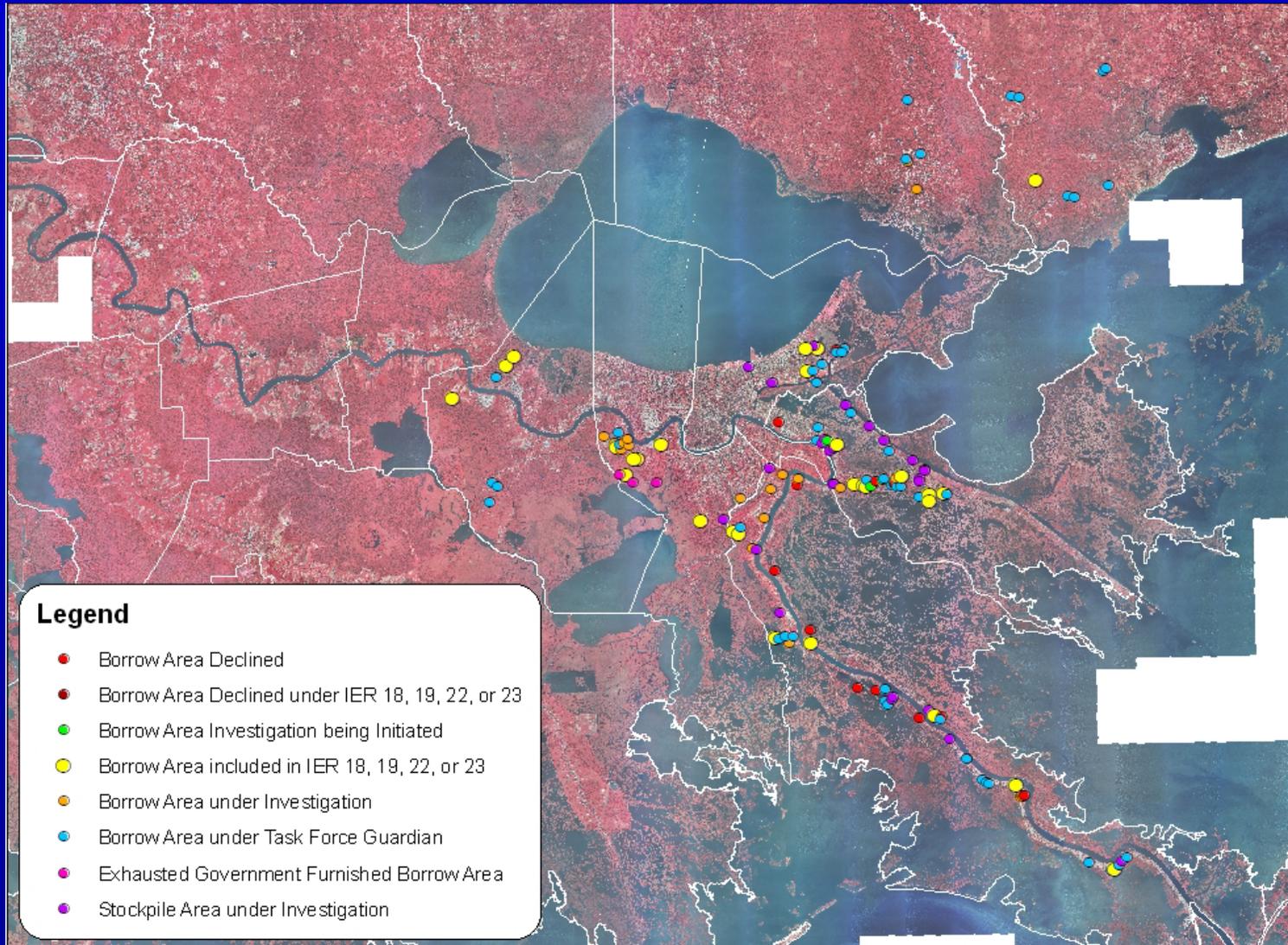
Impacts to Significant Resources

- **Air Quality:** Temporary and localized decrease in air quality
- **Human/Economic:**
 - Minor temporary impacts from construction
 - Long-term positive impacts could be repopulation of affected neighborhoods



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Investigated Borrow Sites – System Wide



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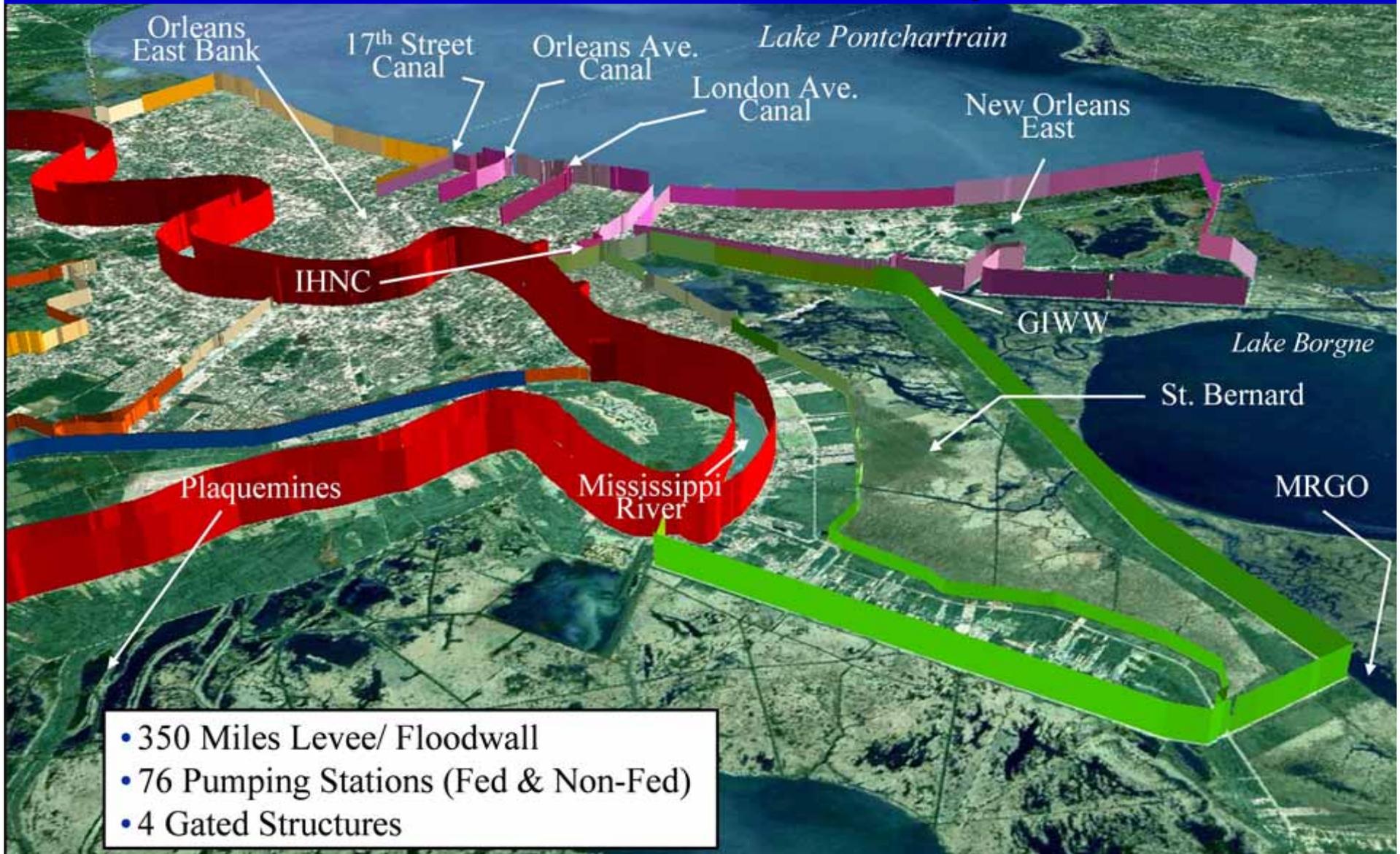
You've asked the Corps...

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New Orleans Area Hurricane Protection System





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



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How are we better off now than before Katrina?

- Repairs to levees and floodwalls
- Improved interior pump stations
- Built more robust floodwalls in breached areas
- Added armoring and scour protection behind floodwalls



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Are all areas getting protection at the same pace?



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



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



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Who made the determination to make the initial repairs?



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



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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?



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



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



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IERs Currently Available for Public Review

IER 18 Addendum - Government Furnished Borrow

- Released for Public Review and Comment: January 10, 2008
- Public Comment Period closes: February 11, 2008

IER 19 Addendum - Pre-Approved Contractor Furnished Borrow

- Released for Public Review and Comment: January 10, 2008
- Public Comment Period closes: February 11, 2008

IER 11 - Improved Protection on the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal

- Released for Public Review and Comment: January 31, 2008
- Public Comment Period closes: February 29, 2008

**** copies available at www.nolaenvironmental.gov or by contacting the Corps.**



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Opportunities for Public Input

- **Monthly Public Meetings throughout New Orleans Metro Area**
 - **Make sure to sign in tonight to get on our meeting notification mailing list**
- **Comments can be submitted at any time at: www.nolaenvironmental.gov**
- **Individual Environmental Reports (IER) 30-day Public Review**

Questions and comments regarding Hurricane Protection Projects

should be addressed to:

Gib Owen

PM-RS

P.O. Box 60267

New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Phone: 504-862-1337

E-mail: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil

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NOLA Environmental - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by USACE, New Orleans District

Address: <http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/>

NOLA Environmental

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Environmental Compliance Data Bank
www.nolaenvironmental.gov

PROJECTS MEETINGS LIBRARY DATA VIEWER GET INVOLVED RELATED LINKS

Welcome to NOLA Environmental! This site has been set up to share with the public the efforts being made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other Federal and state agencies in south Louisiana regarding the environmental compliance for proposed Federal and state Hurricane Protection Projects. Additional information pertaining to other Federal and state agencies' hurricane recovery efforts in southeast Louisiana will also be posted on the site as it becomes available.

FEATURED PROJECT



USACE-MVN Emergency Alternative Arrangements
West Bank & Vicinity & Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity
Hurricane Protection Projects

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District implemented Alternative Arrangements on March 13, 2007 under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR § 1506.11). This process was implemented in order to expeditiously complete environmental analysis for the 100-year level of Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction effort authorized and funded by the Administration and the Congress. The proposed actions are located in southern Louisiana area and relate to the Federal effort to rebuild the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction system in the New Orleans Metropolitan area as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. [\(Learn More\)](#)

NOW AVAILABLE:

IER 11 Draft Report - Public Comment Period: Jan. 31, 2008 - Feb. 29, 2008

IER 18 Government Furnished Borrow Draft Report IER 19 Contractor Furnished Borrow Draft Report
IER 18 Addendum IER 19 Addendum

Public Comment Period: Jan. 10, 2008 - Feb. 11, 2008 

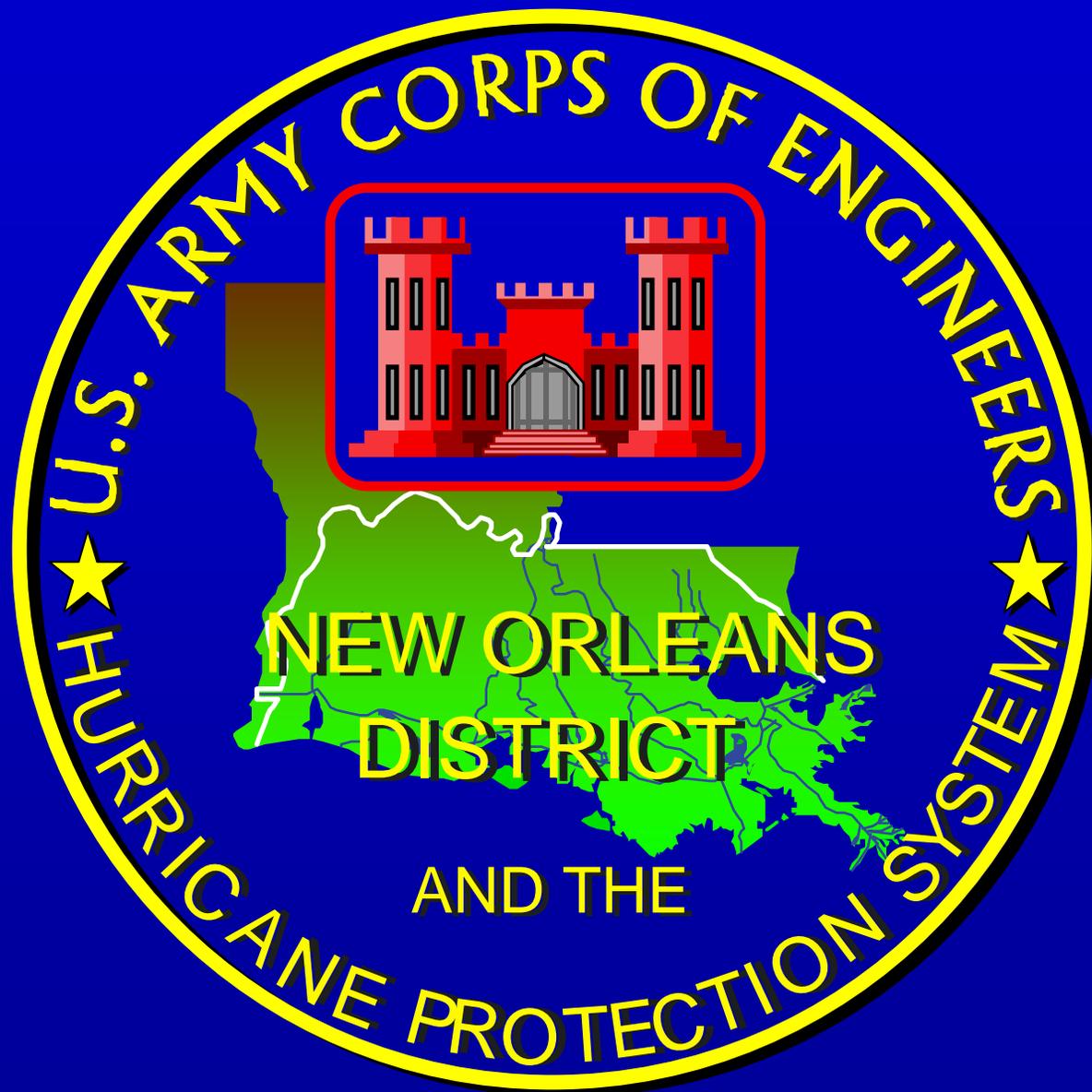
UPCOMING EVENTS: Public Meetings

Feb. 7, 2008 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes (IER 11 and borrow)
Feb. 12, 2008 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Westbank I Borrow Site Public Meeting
Feb. 26, 2008 7:00 - 9:00 pm, Orleans and Jefferson Parishes (IERs 4, 5, and borrow)

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