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***Appendix A – Public Meeting Summaries and Notes***

**April 29, 2009 Public Meeting**

# Public Meeting Summary

## Individual Environmental Report 13 Hero Canal and Eastern Tie In Wed., April 29, 2009

<b>Location</b>	St. Paul's Benevolent Association Hall 128 E. St. Peter Oakville, LA 70037
<b>Time</b>	Open House 6 p.m. Presentation 7 p.m.
<b>Attendees</b>	Approx. 191
<b>Format</b>	Open House Presentation Discussion
<b>Handouts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation</li> <li>• Status maps</li> <li>• Borrow handout</li> </ul>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Jim Taylor, public affairs

Jim Taylor, public affairs



If this meeting is too crowded for you, Monday night at 6:00 p.m. we're having a meeting at the Belle Chasse Auditorium discussing the same topic. We added the meeting in Belle Chasse because we found out so many people was coming here. So, there will be a meeting Monday night at the Belle Chasse Auditorium, if you prefer to have a little bit more room.

### Mark McGee, Oakville Community Spokesperson

Obviously, everybody wants to start the meeting. Hi, I'm Mark McGee, the spokesperson for the Oakville Community. Our President Allen Green is unable to attend this evening. At this particular point, I would like to introduce Rev. Rev. Curtis Carroll for the evening prayer. Thank you.

### Rev. Rev. Curtis Carroll

Amen. Oh, Father, we thank you Lord, that you've allowed us to sit here and assemble ourselves in a peaceful manner. While we come concerned about the things that are going to be engaged in shortly, we just ask you to touch the hearts of those that are in authority today and as you touched their hearts and their decision making, Lord, that this as a community, Lord, and what's best economically as well, Lord, with that is best for the people, as well. We just ask that you

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would invoke your presence in their minds and their thoughts in the things that we'll do here today, and that this will stay peaceful assembly. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

## Mark McGee, Oakville Community Spokesperson

Before we get started, I would like to bring you up to date. This is about our third meeting locally, discussing this levee, the enlargement and the gating of the highway, etc. There are many new faces are here tonight that have some renewed interest in this project. Representatives of the Corps of Engineers are here to answer all of your questions. They have been very attentive in making sure everybody gets their questions answered. The answers they give may not be what you want, but you will get your answers. I would like to introduce Mr. Jim Taylor, a representative of the Corps of Engineers and the facilitator for tonight's meeting.

## Jim Taylor, public affairs

Thank you. We're going to re-do this meeting Monday night at the Belle Chasse Auditorium and cover everything we're covering tonight. There we'll have the opportunity to get into more detail on the non-federal levees further down in Plaquemines Parish. Monday night we'll really get into those details if that's primarily what you're interested in. Again, everything we are covering here tonight we'll cover Monday night at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. I want to thank the St. Paul's Benevolent Association for allowing us to meet here tonight. The parish president couldn't be here tonight but Janice Acosta, his administrative assistant and Lynda Banta, the Parish Council Chairperson, is here. I want to introduce everybody from the Corps, eventually; because, we have a lot of technical people here. We have:

Col. Alvin Lee	US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District commander
Ted Carr	Hero Canal and Eastern Tie In project manager
Bill Maloz	Non-Federal Levees project manager
Ken Holder	Public affairs chief
Mike Honeycutt	FEMA representative

Col. Lee would like to say a few words.

## Col. Alvin Lee, US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District commander

Thank you. I appreciate everybody coming out this evening. The National Environmental Policy Act requires federal agencies to go through a public process to gather information. As stated earlier, this is the third meeting we've held in the Oakville community to discuss the project and its intended purpose. Tonight is to give an update on the progress of the project. This project has

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been in the works for a while with interaction between members of the community, local and state governments to come up with the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative is what will be presented tonight and later tonight there will be an opportunity for public input. As Jim discussed, you'll be able to come to the microphone and give us comments and ask questions about the project. In return we'll be glad to answer those. We have quite a few of our technical members here that can answer those questions and we encourage you to ask questions or make public comments. We'll stay here until we get finished and that's my commitment to you. I do want to introduce a couple other members, my peers, from other districts in our region:

Col. Bob Sinkler	Rock Island, IL District commander
Col. Mike Wehr	Vicksburg, MS District commander

They're here to see what we're doing and how the public process works. I really encourage you to engage and submit your public comments. I know it will probably take some time to work through the crowd that's here tonight but that's okay. We're here to listen to you and it's important that your voice is heard. Thank you.

Jim Taylor, public affairs

Due to the amount of people here tonight it's going to be hard for people to hear. We ask that during the question and answer section, you come up to the microphone. If you can't make it up to the microphone then we'll try to get one to you. Please hold your questions until both Ted and Bill have finished their presentations. A couple of reasons to hold your questions: the presenter may answer your questions during the presentation or they may give you ideas for additional questions or comments. It won't take long, and then we'll open it up for discussion.

Ted Carr, Hero Canal and Eastern Tie In project manager



We're here tonight to talk about the proposed action to reduce risk to the communities of Belle Chasse, Oakville and other areas of the Westbank. The project will connect the Westbank Vicinity portion to the greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. This is the Westbank portion of the tie in to the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Ultimately, we call it the Eastern Tie In. This final project ties into the Mississippi River levee. We also have a brief status of the Plaquemines Non-Federal Levee project. We are here to get your feedback.

The Plaquemines Parish risk reduction features are authorized by separate Congressional authorities. The 1996 Water Resource and Development Act authorized the Westbank and Vicinity project to provide hurricane protection to areas east of the Algiers Canal, extending from Belle Chasse to and including Oakville in

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Plaquemines Parish to tie-in to the Mississippi River levee system. The 2006 Congressional authorized the New Orleans to Venice project known as the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project. This was to reduce risk from Oakville to about two miles north of St. Jude, LA.



Oakville.

There are two systems in the area. Tonight, what we're talking about is here in Oakville [pointing], and there's IER 13 [pointing] which is out for public review at this point. It will be open to public comments until May 4<sup>th</sup>, which is this coming Monday. It's made up of two projects: one that is on the north side of the existing Hero Canal that is raising a portion of the levee and the other project is what we call the Eastern Tie In. This new project ties into the Mississippi River levee through the community of



Col. Lee mentioned the need for the process and it is a very important part of what we do. The National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, is required of all federal actions. We want to make sure that we've analyzed the potential impacts to the human and natural environment and investigated reasonable alternatives. Public involvement is "key" and that's why you all are here tonight. Your input is the key to this process and it's designed around your input. The goal is to make an informed decision through public involvement and in the end having a better system and a better project. I'm going to show you a good example of how public involvement changed the IER 13 document with this process from our last meeting.

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This slide is intended to show there are a number of steps to buy down risk. The important part of this slide is down here that shows there will always be residual risk because you can never eliminate risk but there are steps to take to minimize the risk.



Complex, connect to IER 13 and end here at the tie in to the Mississippi River levee.

I'd like to talk about IER 13. We've already mentioned the two portions of the project: here is the GIWW West Closure Complex [pointing], here is the Hero Canal levee [pointing], and this is the Eastern Tie In [pointing]. This is the Mississippi River [pointing]. The proposed action is to raise and expand the existing Hero Canal levee. The 2057 design elevation for 2011 is 10 ½ feet and to construct the tie in levee to the design elevation of 10 ½ feet. This will connect to the GIWW West Closure Complex which is right here [pointing]. We go from the GIWW West Closure

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Last time we were together, we talked about the seven different alternatives. What I want to discuss today is alternative one which is our proposed action described in IER 13. I'll walk through some of the features of this project. The Hero Canal, in the proposed action is a 56 foot stoplog closure that would be closed in a storm event. From the Hero Canal to the back of the landfill and running along the landfill down to the trailer park, that is all reinforced earthen levee. In this [pointing] corner there is a small pump station at about 150 cubic feet per second. It's small by standards but it is designed to remove the water that accumulates behind the system. From the pump station to right about where Captain Larry's is located there is reinforced earthen levee. At this point [pointing], it transitions to a floodwall. Then we cross Highway 23 with floodgates, cross the railroad with a floodgate and transition back to a levee to tie into the Mississippi River levee. That's the basic system. I'm going to give you some more details on the Hero Canal stoplog structure and the gates across Highway 23 and the railroad.



A stoplog gate is constructed in the canal. It's a concrete structure with a 56 foot opening. Traffic would transition through and in the event of a storm this permanently mounted crane would install these stoplogs. They're not wooden stoplogs but metal box trusses. There are two or three stoplogs placed into special slots that would close the canal.



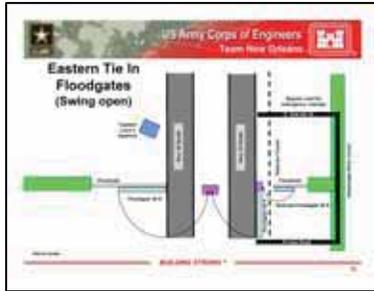
This is at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, we did a de-watering project earlier in the year and it gives an idea of how a stoplog would work. If you look in this lock there are some recesses in the concrete walls. This is a stoplog [pointing]. The ends fit into the recesses of the walls. Through a series of seals, and piling a stoplog on top of a stoplog, it would be like a damn in the Hero Canal. The proposed action includes the construction of a stoplog gate across Hero Canal. There will be two to three metal stoplogs used to close the canal and they would be placed 72 hours prior to an event. Once we're notified of an event, 72 hours before we would begin placing the stoplogs.



For those who were here last time, we talked about a bridge and a ramp with a series of access roads at Highway 23 as part of this project. Based on input received, in close coordination with the Coastal Protection Restoration Authorities, CPRA, Department of Transportation and Development, and Plaquemines Parish the alternative was examined and everyone arrived at a proposal to put in these gates instead of a bridge. That's a great example of how public comment can influence a project.

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Here's Highway 23 heading south [pointing] and here's Highway 23 going north [pointing]. This is the Mississippi River levee [pointing]. This [pointing] is part of the levee system that transitions to a floodwall. This [pointing] is part of the floodwall on the other side of the railroad tracks that goes into a floodwall then transitions into the Mississippi River levee system. There are two designs we're looking at in this project. We're looking at swing gates and roller gates. This swing gate would be stored on the back of the floodwall and then as indicated would swing closed during a storm event.



The gate across the highway has swung closed. The railroad gate also swings closed effectively closing off the system. This [pointing] is an emergency evacuation route. We wanted to provide access to authorized vehicles when the gates are closed by creating an emergency bypassing. There's a private road, on Mr. Landrum's property and there's a road near the railroad gate. The road would transition up onto the Mississippi River levee system and come down on East Oakville Street. When the gates are closed that road would be a bypass around the gates allowing authorized vehicles to get around the closed gates.



A roller gate is a little simpler. This [pointing] is the roller gate. It is stored on rollers with a series of seals on the bottom that effectively make the closure. Since we've been through this, let's go ahead and close it. The roller gate transitions across on rollers as opposed to swinging across to create the closure. The railroad gate is still a swing gate and when that closes it effectively closes the system. There will still be the same emergency bypass.

Bill Maloz, Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levees project manager

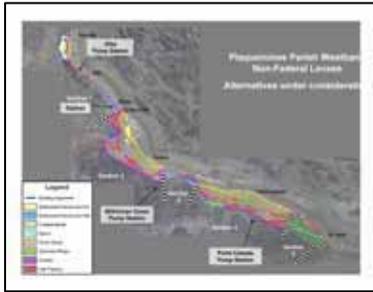


Let me briefly give you a status and general description of the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project. The status of the Plaquemines Parish levee is that there are multiple alignments under investigation using these criteria: risk reduction for people and infrastructure, protection of Highway 23, and concern for the potential adverse impacts to the environment. The authorization limits the potential of the alternatives to repair or modify the

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existing alignment.



For those that came to the Jan. public hearing on this project, this map will look familiar. This is the trace of the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project. The existing levee is in blue on the outside rim and then there are no levees in the last two miles. There will be 34 miles of levee, 32 miles currently exist and there are two miles to be constructed.



The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement is in progress. We discussed this in length at last public hearing. The next item would be the record of decision, then the project partnering agreement would be negotiated, and the acquisition of a right of way. Construction would begin, and we'd look for construction to be complete in late 2013 or early 2014. This completes the status and the general description of the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project.

Ted Carr, project manager



In the modeling we've separated the two projects. What is the impact of these projects on each other? The Eastern Tie In floodgates reduce storm surge associated with wave risk to the Belle Chasse area. The Westbank and Vicinity project, including the Eastern Tie In floodgate, would not create additional flood risk to lower Plaquemines Parish when the parish's non-federal levee project completed.

Jim Taylor, public affairs

Let's start with the question and discussion. I would ask that you come up to the microphone and try to keep your comments to three minutes. This way everybody has a chance to make a comment or ask a question. Once everyone has finished then you can come back up and ask more questions that have developed. That way everybody has a chance to speak tonight. Please state your name we attribute the comments to the right person.

**Question 1.** Dinah Thompson: I live about four miles down the road, in Belle Chasse. Some call it Jesuit Bend, but it is Belle Chasse. What is the height of the non-federal levee? The 100-year levee is 10.5 feet, for 100-year protection? In Jesuit Bend, what is going to be the height of the levee behind that neighborhood?

**Response 1.** Bill Maloz: Two miles of the 34 miles does not have a levee. The height has not yet been determined but at the initiation of the NOV Hurricane Protection at St. Jude is 12.6.

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**Question 2.** Dinah Thompson: So, you're saying 12.6 by Jesuit Bend.

**Response 2.** Bill Maloz: It has not been determined above Jesuit Bend.

**Question 3.** Dinah Thompson: And, then 10 ½ feet here. Why not tie it in, continue, and put the gate where the wave problem is down the road.

**Response 3.** Bill Maloz: That's a hydraulics pump.

**Question 4.** Dinah Thompson: That's a what?

**Response 4.** Julie Vignes: Are you asking why go forward with the floodgate and not consider moving it further south?

**Question 5.** Dinah Thompson: That's not my question. My question is what is the height difference? I work in engineering and I know that if you add on to a project, you've got labor there already building the levee, and what's two more feet? Then a gate down the road will stop the wave action. I got flooded from a wave action. Oakville did not get a wave action. Why are we protecting them from a wave that doesn't exist?

**Response 5.** Julie Vignes: We don't know the final elevation of the non-federal levee will be when it is improved and brought into the federal system because it's still under design. We're still in the environmental process.

**Question 6.** Dinah Thompson: We are in the final design, according to Billy Nungesser.

**Response 6.** Julie Vignes: As we continue to engage the public we will inform you when we know what the elevation will be. At this time, we don't know what the elevation will be in that area. What we have completed is the other project, the Westbank and Vicinity project. I understand doesn't protect specifically the Jesuit Bend neighborhood but that project was authorized by Congress many years ago. Congress is who gives the Corps its authority. Without Congressional authority we will not complete the construction of that piece of the Westbank project. When the hurricanes hit in 2005, Congress appropriated funds to complete that project. That's why you're seeing the movement and the progress on the Westbank project. Then there is the non-federal levee project being brought into the federal system. They're two separate projects and we manage them as different authorities and funding. They're both working themselves through the NEPA environmental compliance process.

**Question 7.** Dinah Thompson: Different authorities, do you mean who's going to let the projects for these levees?

**Response 7.** Julie Vignes: No, when I say authority, I mean the way the Corps of Engineers gets permission to expend dollars and construct projects is specifically through Congressional authority.

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**Comment 8.** Dinah Thompson: Okay. I think we can save a lot of tax money if you hold off for a little while before building millions of dollars worth of floodgate that's not going to protect a lot of the population down the road. In all these things that I've read, in IER 13, I'm being called a cow. I'm not a cow, I don't live on a farm, and I pay big taxes here. That's all I have to say.

**Question 9.** Stanley Gaudet, Jesuit Bend: When I look over some of your literature and the quote from Col. Lee's letter, I understand that in order to comply with the 100-year risk reduction, elevations and design criteria, the Eastern Tie In project must cross Highway 23 to tie-into the Mississippi River levee to close the system. Then it has to be certified for participation in the National Flood Insurance program. This indicates that everyone on the outside of the levee is being told we're going to keep our flood insurance. Then in this letter, the perception is rates are going to be better for the people north of the levee.

**Response 9.** Mike Honeycutt: You've got me at a loss because I'm not sure what letter you're talking about.

**Question 10.** Stanley Gaudet: A letter from Col. Alvin Lee to President Nungesser.

**Response 10.** Mike Honeycutt: Okay. So, that is not a letter from FEMA?

**Comment 11.** Stanley Gaudet: No.

**Comment 12.** Mike Honeycutt: Good. Let me explain FEMA's side of it. Flood insurance is available to anyone no matter if you're at the one percent or not. Flood insurance is available to anyone.

**Question 13.** Unidentified woman: What if you can't afford it?

**Response 13.** Mike Honeycutt: Depends on what your risk is. FEMA has been working very closely with the parish with the flood maps. Billy Nungesser and the council have been terrific in working with us. FEMA has not required Plaquemines Parish to adopt anything from the maps we have provided to them because we know the levees are not there. The parish decided to continue to use their advisory base flood elevation on the upper portion and to leave Plaquemines with its current maps. That does not affect your current insurance. It will affect insurance in the future which could be 2011, 2012, 2013, etc. It's difficult because I can't give an answer to if your flood insurance would go up or down. Many of these individuals with this flood protection may have cheaper flood rates but some may not. You're going to have better insurance and lesser rates with a better system. There's not going to be higher rates because of a better flood protection and I doubt seriously if you're going to have higher rates. You're going to have the current existing rates right now. If you're in an A-flood zone, currently, and continue to be in an A-flood zone, your rates are not going to change. The elevations may differ when somebody builds a new building but it's not going to change your flood rate. It'll only change your flood rate if you go from an X zone into a higher risk zone of A. To my knowledge, everything in lower Plaquemines is an A. I don't know if anybody's a B. If you do live in a B zone and it changes to an A, then yes, your flood insurance is going to increase.

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**Question 14.** Stanley Gaudet: You're going to be tying this into a non-federal levee while we are in the process of getting our non-federal levee adopted. The Corps moves exceedingly slow because they started in 1985 and a lot of the decisions were based on data that is no longer pertinent. If we can tie into a non-federal levee here, why can't we tie into a non-federal levee south of the Alliance Refinery? Then we would be protecting one of the major refineries in the United States?

**Response 14.** Julie Vignes: We've been authorized by Congress, and it is our goal to provide protection authorized in the Westbank project. That project is moving forward. We don't want to not construct the project but at the same time we're moving on an additional project. The answer is both projects are moving forward. They're not on identical timelines but both projects are moving forward.

**Question 15.** Stanley Gaudet: That is one of our concerns. On May 4<sup>th</sup> when we have the final meeting is our comments going to be taken seriously and will we impact or change the project? I found dealing with the Corps of Engineers, having worked with FEMA, that common sense even if it might dictate moving this levee down the road is not that common.

**Response 15.** Julie Vignes: The reason we've not made the final decision on the project described in IER 13 is that we're still in the public input period currently scheduled to close on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We'll evaluate the comments we receive at this point and if we have enough information we'll move to a final decision or we'll continue to gather information. The final decision on IER 13 has not been made. Our goal is to continue moving forward because we don't see the construction of that project having an adverse affect on the future protection or the existing situation in the parish.

**Question 16.** Louis Hammer, Jesuit Bend: Probably a million people want to make comments about this levee. I'm a volunteer fire department member and everything south of Port Sulphur is gone for any major hurricane. When you put that gate up, how are we supposed to respond to anything south of the gate? As a volunteer, I will not take a truck holding 500 gallons of water weighing four to six tons on a levee that's saturated with water and could break.

**Response 16.** Julie Vignes: We're going to automate or power the operation of the gate where it will not be shut until the event is about to happen. Then it'll be able to operate when the winds are blowing at 100 miles per hour. One thing we've done to address the situation is, the gate is going to stay open as long as we can, with consideration for the folks that have to operate it and be evacuated safely. Secondly, we are putting this emergency road.

**Question 17.** Louis Hammer: I'm addressing the emergency road. It's a gravel road leading to the top of the levee. Right now, when we have to do something on the battering side, it takes very careful maneuvering to go down the levee. During the last hurricane there was major flooding over the levee and now you're asking us to use a service road to rescue people by going over a levee that may flood and not handle a heavy pumping truck.

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**Response 17.** Jim Taylor: Well, that's important information, and part of the reason we're having this meeting. We can take that back and include the comment in our analysis.

**Question 18.** Louis Hammer: That just hurts us down there.

**Response 18.** Jim Taylor: Okay. Thank you.

**Question 19.** Butch Kelly, Jesuit Bend: Were there any type of impact studies done after Hurricane Katrina concerning the areas south of the Oakville floodgate and the impact to property values? This area's have grown quite a bit since 1996 with a large influx of people. I haven't read anything where the people south of Oakville have been taken into consideration of the impact of this floodwall. Can somebody answer that question? When was the last study done by the Army Corps of Engineers or by anybody concerning property values? Have you done anything recently or is this all based the original 1985 impact study?

**Response 19.** Julie Vignes: I don't know that we've done any additional studies. We normally conduct a study to evaluate the benefits of a project. The situation we have is Congress acted in absence of a study. Congress took a position and said, let's provide additional risk reduction and raise the non-federal levees without performing a survey.

**Question 20.** Butch Kelly: Okay. That's fine, but...

**Response 20.** Julie Vignes: In other words, there was no need to prove the benefits outweighed the cost to construct it. Congress just said you are authorized.

**Question 21.** Butch Kelly: Reasonable people are going to ask questions. Why hasn't it been an ongoing study? Things change; things don't remain the same as 1985. You can go back and do a study in 1910 and say, well, we're going to do it because we studied it in 1910. Now, why isn't something going on as far as impact study currently, considering the population?

**Response 21.** Julie Vignes: You're talking about a study for the property near Jesuit Bend or below Oakville?

**Question 22.** Butch Kelly: Everything below Oakville, all the way down to Venice, LA.

**Response 22.** Julie Vignes: We're going to move into the construction phase on both of these projects. There are still other programs...

**Question 23.** Butch Kelly: Well, you've got to answer my question. When was the last impact study done concerning the population and property below the floodgate? Now, you're saying this was authorized in 1985.

**Response 23.** Julie Vignes: The IER document does that for the Eastern Tie In project.

**Question 24.** Butch Kelly: But, I have not seen anything where there was an impact study done concerning the population or growth of the Jesuit Bend area.

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**Response 24.** Julie Vignes: The SEIS, or Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, the first milestone that Bill Maloz talked about, is currently being developed. It will be put out for public review in the summer of 2009. The SEIS will have that assessment information in it.

**Question 25.** Butch Kelly: Well, wait, but that's not going to help. When are you going to break ground on this thing?

**Response 25.** Julie Vignes: Is the question, when will construction of improving the non-federal levee begin?

**Question 26.** Butch Kelly: No, no, Oakville.

**Response 26.** Julie Vignes: Okay. The Oakville, Eastern Tie In project, is currently scheduled to start construction this Sept.

**Question 27.** Butch Kelly: Okay. Where is the impact study that's going to affect the people after Sept. 1, 2009, south of the Oakville floodgate? What kind of things are we going to have to be prepared for if we are impacted by a major hurricane? It sounds to me; nobody can answer the question because there hasn't been a study done since 1985. Is there somebody who can answer the question? Just tell me yes or no.

**Response 27.** Julie Vignes: There are two reports that are being published. One is IER 13.

**Question 28.** Butch Kelly: How does that help us being published? We need to know now.

**Response 28.** Julie Vignes: It's accessible on our Web site. We can provide you a hard copy of that document.

**Question 29.** Butch Kelly: What does that document say?

**Response 29.** Jim Taylor: We'll give you the link to the Web site.

**Question 30.** Butch Kelly: I don't want a link to the Web site; I want somebody to tell me what does this impact study say? Are we being sacrificed? Is that what's going on here?

**Response 30.** Gib Owen: I work in the Environmental Group and I'm the chief of Ecological Planning. We have two separate projects. You're talking about the 1985 studies that were done for the Westbank and Vicinity. That study has been done. After Katrina, Congress said here's the money, go build. They also said here's the money, now go build and bring that non-federal levee system into the New Orleans to Venice federalized system. That study is ongoing. We're preparing an EIS for it. Our anticipated release date is late summer and it will take into account the analysis south of Oakville.

**Question 31.** Butch Kelly: Don't you think we ought to put this on hold until the study comes out to see what the affects are to us?

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**Response 31.** Col. Lee: I think Julie tried to answer your question and it gets back to the authority question. These are two separate projects and we've tried to communicate that to you. The Corps of Engineers does not build any project without Congressional authorization. That's our permission. There is an authorization that gives us permission to build projects. Congress gave us permission. This slide shows Congressional authority and it is what gives the authorization. Authorizations give limitations

within those authorizations, also. They give you permission first and then they tell you where you can do it. Authorizations are never outdated. There are authorizations that are dated back to 1927. Whenever Congress passes an authorization, is the date of the authorization, it has nothing to do with today's date. These authorizations specify where the Westbank project is located to provide hurricane protection. Then it specifies the areas east of the Algiers Canal extending from Belle Chasse to and including Oakville in Plaquemines Parish. This is Oakville in Plaquemines Parish and that is where the authorization gives us authority to tie in the levee to the Mississippi River levee, which is the Eastern Tie In part of this project. There is a separate authorization for the non-federal levees and the New Orleans to Venice levees. The New Orleans to Venice levees is a separate project authorized by Congress in 2006. After Hurricane Katrina and Rita, both were funded by Congress giving us authority and funding to complete both projects.

**Question 32.** Unidentified woman: You're still not answering our question.

**Response 32.** Col. Lee: I'm sorry. That is how we operate within the authority. That's our authority and permission Congress gave us to build the projects.

**Question 33.** Mary Jo Hebert, Port Sulphur: I think everyone in this room understands the way you get your authority and funding. The question most people have in this is, since authority was given in 1996, what have you done since 1996 to prove to Congress it's still necessary to put a floodgate in Oakville? That's my first question. Is the floodgate necessary because there are parts of our levee system that are not federalized or at the federal standards? They do not meet the 100-year protection levees. Wouldn't it make more sense to bring all of our levee system up to the 100-year levee protection height before you build a floodgate? Once you get the levees up to the height that's necessary to give us the flood protection we need, then your floodgate may be unnecessary. If you put the floodgate before the levees are in, what you're doing is trapping all the water south of Oakville. That includes the people in Jesuit Bend, Oakville, and everything south. Contrary to what people believe, there are many people living down there.

**Response 33.** Julie Vignes: There's just one small point I want to clear up because I know there's a letter circulating that the Corps didn't produce saying the Eastern Tie In was authorized in 1986. The Westbank project is large, 66 miles of levees and floodwalls. A piece of that was first authorized in 1986 that stopped at the Harvey Canal. That's the 1986 study and authorization. In 1996 Congress added everything east of the Algiers Canal. Since 1996 when we were authorized, there's been construction along the Algiers Canal and the Hero Canal and that has been raised. Now it needs to be further raised to bring it up to the 100-year but every year Congress appropriates a certain amount of money. With those monies, we start constructing the

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whole system. The Eastern Tie In was one piece that no construction had taken place. Then in 2006 Congress fully-funded the amount of money to finish what was already authorized. That's why we're now able to finish the system first authorized in 1986 and added to in 1996.

**Question 34.** Mary Jo Hebert: Okay. If it took that long to get funding, do you really think it would affect Congress that much to hold off on construction until you did another study or until the rest of the non-federal levees are up to 100-year protection?

**Response 34.** Julie Vignes: Right now, because there's nothing here, that's a gap in the system. Everything in this whole area is at risk of flooding and so is everything south. We're going after this with two projects concurrently. The first project says, you have to close this system at this point to protect all the property which is solely in Plaquemines Parish against that 100-percent levee protection, and then to address the risk south, moving forward with that second non-federal levee project.

**Question 35.** Mary Jo Hebert: That's great, except if we get a major hurricane in between, you're starting the federalizing the levees long after you're starting construction on this floodgate. What you're doing is you're leaving the entire lower end of this parish open to flooding.

**Response 35.** Julie Vignes: There are two different timelines and this is the reasons why: authorization already existed, funding was provided, and we were allowed to expedite certain processes for NEPA. In other words, funded permission and environmental compliance was expedited so we could move forward with the projects because there had to be more evaluation, study and environmental assessment to this area where there was no construction done before. That process is trailing behind the other project by several months to a year. That's why you're going to see the supplemental EIS document later this year. Then construction will come online in six months to a year after we start construction of the other project.

**Question 36.** Mary Jo Hebert: You said six months to a year behind but according to the papers you passed out, the floodgate will be completed in 2011, and the levees won't be completed until 2013 or 14, so that's not six months to a year behind.

**Response 36a.** Julie Vignes: Right. I was speaking in general terms as far as where we are in the process. You're correct. Our current schedules are 2011 for the Eastern Tie In, and late 2013 for the other project. That is correct.

**Comment 37.** Mark McGee: I'd just like to explain to all of you that it's getting a little loud in here and that it's very important to get your comments documents accurately. This is a comment period. Being associated with the Oakville Community Group, I can tell you these comments will have some positive input with the Corps and those people above their chain of command that could possibly have some positive benefits for you. You need to be accurate and quick on your comments. There could be some positive things come about. Thank you.

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**Question 38.** Robin Zuvich: First, I've been trying to educate myself within the last few days on IER 13 in section 3.1 of the environment report. My husband came in with me and we would like to present our question as a PowerPoint that goes with it but we were told when we walked in from somebody in the Corps that this is a public building and it's your public meeting. We never did this before, so could someone override that person and allow me to be the first one to do something like this? I will keep it under three minutes, my husband can set it up while others are talking and I can get back in line. Would that work? No?

**Response 38.** Jim Taylor: We want to keep this up but we can get to the slides as soon as we're done, at the end of the meeting.

**Question 39.** Robin Zuvich: No, I want it now when my people can see it, sir.

**Response 39.** Jim Taylor: Well, then, maybe we can do something separate but we're not going to stop the meeting for that, now.

**Question 40.** Robin Zuvich: I don't want to stop the meeting. I want to get it set up, I will go back in line, and I will wait my turn again, sir.

**Response 40.** Jim Taylor: Go ahead and ask your question, if you have a specific question.

**Question 41.** Robin Zuvich: My question pertains to my PowerPoint. I'm a school teacher.

**Response 41.** Jim Taylor: Okay.

**Question 42.** Robin Zuvich: I believe the visual will help all these people.

**Response 42.** Jim Taylor: We can do that once we get all the verbal questions. We're not going to do this now. Let's keep this orderly, please, and we will do it at the end.

**Question 43.** Robin Zuvich: I would like it to go down that I have been refused to comment.

**Response 43.** Jim Taylor: We'll be happy to do it after the verbal section.

**Question 44.** Robin Zuvich: A question in section 3.1 in the environmental section. I want it to go down that I've been refused.

**Response 44.** Jim Taylor: And we're perfectly happy to do that.

**Question 45.** Benny Rousselle: Thank you. A couple of points that I believe need to be clarified. There's a lot of confusion, a lot of misinformation circulated. First, I want the public to understand that this gate has not been in the works for 10 years. This gate has been in the works, for perhaps, the last six to nine months because of the authorization we keep talking about going back to 1986 and then 1996. In the original project, the levee terminated at the local levee on the other side of the Highway 23. The gate is something relatively new, in the last six to nine months, as an alternative trying to tie in the 100-year protection. Now, I think that it's crucial and

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I was in here six or nine months ago saying exactly the same thing about the two projects need to talk and work together. All of these trips made to Washington needs to emphasize that we need 100-year protection all the way to Myrtle Grove. As we said a little while ago, there was no alternative on the levee alignment in Jesuit Bend, unless you go to the northern part of the property, the southern part where there is no levee, below La Reussite. I believe we could have skipped and taken the \$215 million dollars first allocated and used it on that levee. We would have been hauling dirt a year ago but, the main thing is Col. Lee and staff doesn't have the authority. You can't go to 100-year protection at this point, below the Oakville tie in. I think it's important to have the local government seek the authorization for 100-year protection through Congress to give you the authority and not just make trips but ask for what is needed. The budget has gone from \$215 million to \$600 million for this project. All of this has been done by authorization and appropriations through Congress. Each time money was added, the language could've been added to extend 100-year protection from Oakville to St. Jude. Now, I'd like to make sure that the public comes to the Monday meeting. Put on your thinking cap over the weekend, and create some constructive criticism or at least questions. Construct some questions and get direction so we don't get into a contest of pointing fingers. The solution is, Congress needs to authorize and tell the Corps that we want 100-year protection of the \$600 million plus to extend the system to Arlington or Myrtle Grove, for many reasons including the refinery and the community there. We shouldn't be distributing misinformation. When I read this first letter it says this project was started in 1986 and the path had already been finalized. We wouldn't be here if this was finalized. This is a public meeting to get input, we're not here to mislead the public. We're not here to say that it's finalized or we're wasting our time. I am hoping that we will be able to get Congress to give the authority to be able to complete the project. As we talked about the elevation not being very different between the northern tie in and the southern tie in, the money that could be used for the gate could actually be used on the levee. I want to thank you for being here. I also want to thank you for mentioning the two projects in the same meeting because before tonight, we couldn't talk about the two projects in the same meeting. We are making some progress where we are talking about the same project. Even though it's been a miniscule amount of information on the non-fed levee project, at least it's being discussed. With those comments, I hope that you can go back and take into consideration the comments of the public tonight and look at the possibility of that happening. Do interim protection so we don't have to build the gate at this time. Thank you.

**Response 45.** Jim Taylor: I can guarantee you; we will take all these comments back and consider them. That's why we're here, and the more focused and factual the comments are, the easier it is to incorporate them in the ongoing studies.

**Question 46.** Jean Guerrero, Jesuit Bend: You know, we're trying to show you all this is not cow pastures or citrus groves that you have written down in your report whether it's in the 1980s or the 1990s. We were able to build down here, why didn't they stop us then from building? There are beautiful expensive houses here. We're not talking about little shacks that my family grew up in down the road. We're talking about \$300 to \$600 thousand homes. First, don't start the floodgate until you have the levees up, then consider a floodgate. This floodgate is really for the Corps, a quick and easy thing that was authorization back in the 1980s. Authorization can be stopped. It can't go on when you have people here. Studies should be done now to show that we

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have people and businesses down here. Most of us grew up down here, and that's why we moved down here. Had I known that they would've had a floodgate up across the road, I would not have moved from Algiers Point. I moved from Algiers Point to get away from the crime and be where my family came from and that's why we did. Why should this go on? Why can't you all just give an answer because we don't have an answer? It's simple. Stop the floodwall, stop this floodgate. For one, it's going to devalue our homes. There isn't a sensible person whose going pass through a floodgate to buy a home once this ridiculous floodgate is in place. To have it started now in 2009 with us having no levee protection, well, that's ridiculous.

**Response 46.** Jim Taylor: Okay. Thank you. You have a lot of people standing behind you.

**Question 47.** Jean Guerrero: And, you know what?

**Response 47.** Jim Taylor: Wait and speak.

**Question 48.** Jean Guerrero: We can be here until 12 o'clock at night. We don't care.

**Response 48.** Jim Taylor: Go ahead and ask your question.

**Question 49.** Jean Guerrero: You said you paid for this building? The tax payers paid the money for you to rent it. Another thing, everybody in here is not going to leave until they are able to show their aerial view up there.

**Response 49.** Jim Taylor: Absolutely.

**Question 50.** Pete Stavros: First, is there anybody in the Corps here that lives south of this gate? Is there anybody here that did the economic assessment portion of the IER? This past week, there was a comment in that the area on the environment of this proposed IER 13, the term says there are cows and fruit trees there. The answer was, you only looked at a mile within the structure. Was that something that appears in the engineering regulation or was that just an arbitrary number?

**Response 50.** Gib Owen: The section you're referring to was written to refer to the property directly adjacent to where the levee is being planned in Oakville. Now, it was not a description of all of Plaquemines Parish or lower Plaquemines. I'm one of the principle authors of that document and the intent was to discuss the area directly adjacent. I'm talking, right up and touching it, which is Mr. Perez's property.

**Question 51.** Pete Stavros: The problem is, it talks about economic impact. According to your old regulations, you have to follow the National Economic Development plan or was that waved in lieu of this project.

**Response 51.** Gib Owen: The NED has been waived on both of these projects since Katrina.

**Question 52.** Pete Stavros: That's a problem for all of the people who found out two weeks ago that their economic development has been affected.

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**Response 52.** Gib Owen: But, it is being addressed in this second study. That's the purpose. Congress recognized that there was a need to look further south and they gave us that authority. Then they went one step further and actually funded the project.

**Question 53.** Pete Stavros: I understand. The problem is that Congress reads a report that says the only thing south of that project is cows and fruit trees. They read that; they do not come down here to see for themselves.

**Response 53.** Gib Owen: Congress already authorized this project and funded it.

**Question 54.** Pete Stavros: That's a problem.

**Response 54.** Julie Vignes: The NED you're referring to is a process the Corps typically has to go through to justify spending federal dollars on a project. That's been decided already, the money has been appropriated for both projects.

**Question 55.** Pete Stavros: The problem is how it has been used. That money needs to be used to protect these people down here and to develop the economy. Not to gate us up and impact our safety. Is there a hydrological person?

**Response 55.** Julie Vignes: Yes.

**Question 56.** Pete Stavros: Okay. What we got, over the phone calls that happened this week, was that there was no hydraulic or hydrologic impact due to the construction of the 16-foot levee on the Hero Canal and this terminus. The problem is I didn't see any of the documents on the Web site, if there was a hydrological study. It's not being published. I am not a hydraulic engineer, but I am smart enough to know that any water that comes into the Barataria Basin and we restrict the flow from any of the areas inside that 16-foot area, add to it the closing of the Intracoastal Waterway, shut off the Hero Canal and pump at 150 cubic feet per second, that's going to affect the static level on this side of the levee. That level is going to be higher. Not to mention, any sort of dynamic action against that levee is going to double back on us two miles south of here when the levee is only five feet tall. We came within one foot, because I was pitching sand bags in the last storm. That levee, with all the HEBSCO baskets is not going to hold even for one semi-serious storm that hits over in Texas. Between the time that thing is closed and the time our federal levee is built will be terrible.

**Response 56.** Nancy Powell: That is the reason Bill Maloz indicated in his presentation that the non-fed levee elevation has not been determined because we do have to take into account any impact from the West Closure Complex.

**Question 57.** Pete Stavros: I will tell you, right now, that project has induced risk of flooding to my property. You are by law required, by NEPA, to do an EIS and show me what that impact is. You either avoid, reduce, mediate, or scrap it.

**Response 57.** Nancy Powell: Yes, I agree.

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**Question 58.** Pete Stavros: That hasn't been done and that's why I'm angry. That's why everybody else here is angry is because we're at risk.

**Response 58a.** Gib Owen: In the case of the EIS, we have the authority since Katrina to do these IER's. That is taking the place of an EIS. We are meeting the full NEPA compliance. We are doing a full EIS on lower Plaquemines for the non-federal levee.

**Response 58b.** Jim Taylor: And, we will take your comments back and evaluate them. We still have some hydraulics to do.

**Question 59.** Pete Stavros: For the record, I personally think this is a substantive comment. This affects me now and will affect me when I flood. Then I can't get National Flood Insurance because we're on the outside of a levee and that project is scrapped because they could spend \$700 million somewhere else.

**Response 59.** Jim Taylor: Okay. Thank you.

**Question 60.** Frank Renatza: I live about eight miles south of here. My family has been here almost 70 years. We've been around a long time and we've seen many hurricanes. We had some damage from other hurricanes but Katrina opened the eyes of everyone. We are in trouble. The back levee where I live is about seven feet high and it's not enough because it was a foot from coming over the levee. What happens if another hurricane comes and hits Houma, Louisiana? The water builds, backs out of our levee and pours over the back side of that levee? We're going to get flooded. Insurance, I heard this gentleman with FEMA talk about insurance. After Katrina my insurance tripled on my home? What happens to people who have fixed incomes, retired, or don't have money? What are they going to do about insurance on their homes that they already paid for? They can't afford the insurance of what they're being charged.

**Response 60.** Mike Honeycutt: You're saying your flood insurance tripled? Flood insurance did not go up. Homeowners are a different story and I wish there could be something we could do about homeowners.

**Question 61.** Frank Renatza: I've been with this insurance company for 47 years. They called me on the phone and said, Mr. Renatza, you bring me a check for \$1600 right now or we're going to cancel your insurance. I said, why? He said, because we're going to have to change your policy. Now you're going to have three policies. I said why do I need three policies? I got insurance for wind, hail and flood. My wife and I are retired and living on a fixed income. I got a beautiful home that I worked for years to own. Nobody gave it to me. We don't know if we can continue to pay the insurance on what we own. What happens when you put this floodwall up here? The floodwalls are going to close 72 hours ahead of the hurricane and you all will go around the bypass to get out of here. You are creating a mess that we're going to have to put up with when you people leave here. I bet none of you live here. Every person here, these folks live here. This is our home. We all live below what you all are going to propose to be a floodwall. You're going to put it there, spend all this money and create a levee and a floodwall to separate

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lower and upper Plaquemines Parish. We are all Plaquemines Parish people. You should not separate the people of this parish with a floodwall. You're creating a mess.

**Response 61.** Jim Taylor: Those comments we will definitely take back to consider.

**Question 62.** Frank Renatza: I know you want to cut me short, but I have one more thing to say.

**Response 62.** Jim Taylor: Okay.

**Question 63.** Frank Renatza: You showed where the levee came and the air base was located. Look at where the levee comes and how it goes around the air base. That was put there purposely to protect the air base. We have protection right here by the back door but that's the reason why the levee was put there. They don't care about anybody else or any other part of the parish that goes below there. Instead, they have to put that floodwall up there.

**Response 63.** Jim Taylor: We absolutely do care about what's important to you and that's why we're here.

**Question 64.** Frank Renatza: No.

**Response 64.** Jim Taylor: That's why we're recording these comments and taking them back. We do care.

**Question 65.** Frank Renatza: Once you put this floodwall up, I don't know if I'll be able to get insurance on my house, once FEMA gets finished with my insurance.

**Response 65.** Jim Taylor: I understood.

**Question 66.** Frank Renatza: This is my first meeting and I apologize that I'm not knowledgeable on what's going on. I can tell you, it's not going to stop because everyone in this place is going to work to stop this program.

**Response 66.** Jim Taylor: Okay. Thank you.

**Question 67.** Kevin Johnson, Sheriff's Office District Commander: This is my district from Belle Chasse to Myrtle Grove. I have three beautiful daughters, I just built my house in Jesuit Bend, and I worked very hard to get here. Instead of having to scrape, scratch and live in other parish's that are disgusting as far as the way they treat their people. I'm touched with the turnout. It makes me so proud to live here. Sir, everything in me wants to believe that all these recorded statements are really going to do something.

**Response 67.** Jim Taylor: They are.

**Question 68.** Kevin Johnson: I'm an educated man and I tend to do a lot of speaking events. I was in a lot of debates and a police officer for 14 years. I can read body language well. Sir, you're talking like a man that's carrying a big stick that says, people its coming we got the

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authority. I understood what you were trying to explain. To my townsfolk, I get privy to conversations that really aren't open to this and the conversations behind closed doors where the truth is spoken. I have friends in higher up positions and they confide in me. What I am being told is this is done. I am being told that these next few meetings are lip service, and come May they're looking to shut the books hard. The people who told me this was three of them. They told me it's worth fighting for! You need to at least make a statement. We're making a statement by being here. I'd like to know what your meetings are like before this building filled up. The parking lot is filling up with many angry people. Do you think we have a chance? I'm not talking projects and getting into details. I think we've made it blunt. You have a lack of being able to answer questions. We don't want the floodgate. Now, I'm asking your opinion, do you believe we have a chance? I don't want to hear, a one millionth chance because that's not what I'm talking about. A legitimate chance that this floodgate, come May, is not going up? Or do you believe it is more probable than not. People in this room and people who are stuck outside, is it coming and is it done? What is the tone? Can you share that?

**Response 68.** Col. Lee: I think we've tried to communicate the purpose of the meeting, which is to present the preferred alternative. This is the proposed action.

**Question 69.** Kevin Johnson: This is what's going on again. I'm not getting frustrated, I'm trying not to get frustrated the best I can. Sir, I understand what the purpose of your meeting is. Unfortunately, this is not everyone who showed up for tonight's purpose. They already know what you're putting up the floodgate. That's why everybody's here. Their motivation for being here is to make that not happen. Not to try to fall in love with it, they already hate it, nobody wants it. My question to you is what is the chance? Is there a chance? You're in those meetings. When you spoke about your authority, were you really showing me the facts and that it's coming? I felt like you were saying let's drop the financial bomb on the island to save the townsfolk up north.

**Response 69.** Col. Lee: Before this public meeting we received many comments this week. That's why we are having another public meeting Monday night. We had an internal discussion in our organization because we heard there was a lot of public comment that needed to be heard.

**Question 70.** Kevin Johnson: Please give your opinion on my question.

**Response 70.** Col. Lee: This is our proposed action.

**Question 71.** Kevin Johnson: Is it probable or not that this will not happen?

**Response 71.** Col. Lee: I would say its probable right here. This is the proposed action.

**Question 72.** Kevin Johnson: There you go. This is what I want to explain to everybody. This is not a let's throw it out to you and talk about it situation. It's at the end.

**Response 72.** Col. Lee: I told you this is a proposed action and it doesn't say a final action. A final action means, since I am the decision maker, I've signed the document stating this is the way it will be built exactly as specified here. I have not done that. I won't do that until after May

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4<sup>th</sup> when the public comment period ends. Once all the comments are received, we assess and evaluate the comments. Then, that's where the decision is made. The decision has not been made.

**Question 73.** Kevin Johnson: Who is the final authority?

**Response 73.** Col. Lee: I am.

**Question 74.** Kevin Johnson: You are the final authority?

**Response 74.** Col. Lee: I am the final authority.

**Question 75.** Kevin Johnson: That's good to know. I didn't know that the man with the final authority is right here. I applaud you and thank you for being here.

**Response 75.** Col. Lee: Thank you.

**Question 76.** Kevin Johnson: Honestly, if it doesn't, would you buy my house?

**Response 76.** Col. Lee: I really appreciate you coming, and I thank everybody for coming. The purpose of this meeting is for you to tell us how you feel. We need to know what you're thinking, what you like about this project, what you don't like about this project. Then we can consider all the comments as we make a decision. That's the whole purpose of why we're having the public meeting. Thank you.

**Question 77.** Vaughn Boudreaux, Jesuit Bend: I'm not going to sit up here and chew you out about it but, to your hydrological person, what affect does blocking off the Hero Canal have on that surge coming in? I know during Rita, where the levee was five foot, the water was coming over into Jesuit Bend. My neighbors and I spent 20 hours sandbagging to keep the water out. I can tell you the Hero Canal saved us. They were able to open the locks to the river and a lot of that river went up the Hero Canal. It drained and took the pressure off. At one point the water was coming up about 6 inches an hour. It was topping that levee and we were bagging it as fast as we could while parts were washing out. Then the parish president got in touch with Jefferson Parish and they opened some of the floodgates or locks in the river, allowing the water to start dropping. That's what saved Jesuit Bend is the coordination the parish with other parishes and the opening up those gates. How does the Hero Canal being blocked affect that ability? Does it or does it not? How does the Jefferson Parish line tie into the blocking of the Hero Canal? The levee coming from Jefferson Parish, there is going to be a wall across there, correct? So, the water is not going to be able to go up the Hero Canal anymore?

**Response 77.** Nancy Powell: When this project is finished it won't go up to this terminus here.

**Question 78.** Vaughn Boudreaux: It has nothing to do with the hydrology in Jesuit Bend or the ability of Jesuit Bend to drain, correct?

**Response 78.** Nancy Powell: Correct.

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**Comment 79.** Matt Zuvich: I did come earlier today and asked about the PowerPoint. The girl I talked to said she never had anybody want to do anything like that at a public meeting. I said, well there's always a first, and I know she has her own computer. I told her I had my own equipment. What I want to tell people is, before these people go out and spend millions of dollars to do another study on what we have below Oakville, get on Google Earth for about 15 minutes and look at what we have down there. You can see the middle school, the nursing home, the refinery, all of our subdivisions, and all the people who live down in this area. You're talking about doing another study which is going to cost a lot of money and wasted time. Those aerial shots probably were taken off the same place I got mine. One other thing, it's not just about the people that are in the room tonight, we have kids, and what do you think their future is going to be behind this wall? You think they're going to raise a family down here? Do you really? It's your decision to make, you told us that. You're going to make the decision that's going to affect our kids whether they want to stay in this parish below. When you make the decision, think about if you had kids living down here, how they'd feel. Thank you.

**Comment 80.** Amos Cornier: My family is from Plaquemines Parish, dating back to the 1700's, and I would like you to carry one message back to Congress about the historical corporation of Plaquemines Parish with the Corps. We have sacrificed our land and our livelihoods through orchards and groves we have given and you have taken for set backs from the river. Now, if you will go back and check in 1927, you busted a levee at Myrtle Grove and Plaquemines Parish was sacrificed. You blew up the levee at Caernarvon and the east bank of Plaquemines Parish was sacrificed. If you put this up, then the entire parish would be sacrificed, again. Thank you.

**Question 81.** Ryan Martinez, Jesuit Bend: I'm almost at a loss for words because Kevin took the words out of my mouth. Who is going to have the authority to close this gate?

**Response 81.** Julie Vignes: It will be constructed by the Corps of Engineers and we have a partnership with the state of Louisiana. Once the construction is complete, it's turned over to the state of Louisiana to operate and maintain. The Corps of Engineers will provide them an operations and maintenance manual. As we design the gate, we will put forth perimeters that describe when the gate should be closed but the actual operation of the gate will be by the state of Louisiana.

**Question 82.** Ryan Martinez: So, there's no local input on when the gate should be closed?

**Response 82.** Julie Vignes: We have a coordination team that meets through the planning and design of this project. Plaquemines Parish government participates in that coordination.

**Question 83.** Ryan Martinez: I'm still a little confused because this gentleman says that our comments are going to be taken back to Washington and reviewed. Then this gentleman says that you all already have the authority. Is this a done deal? Yes or no?

**Response 83.** Julie Vignes: The final decision on what will be constructed for IER 13 has not been made.

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**Question 84.** Ryan Martinez: So, there's still a chance that this wall may not be built at all? Yes or no?

**Response 84.** Gib Owen: I can't give an answer that easy. We are in the public phase. As soon as it ends, the environmental group will put together a packet with the team and we'll work through it. We'll look at all the comments and the team will make a recommendation to Col. Lee who will weigh the comments, review them, and make the decision.

**Question 85.** Ryan Martinez: So, it's not a done deal?

**Response 85.** Gib Owen: It's not a done deal until he signs the paper, but that decision has not been made.

**Question 86.** Ryan Martinez: I want to make sure we're not wasting our time and that our comments are going to be reviewed.

**Response 86.** Jim Taylor: Your comments are going to be incorporated in the final decision, absolutely.

**Comment 87.** Ryan Martinez: Well, I want my comment to go on record that, I think I speak for everybody in this room, we don't want it.

**Question 88.** Donald Landry: I don't know how the public was notified that we were having these public meetings, but I found out about it Sunday. I've lived down here for 25 years. I grew up in Belle Chasse and I've lived in Plaquemines Parish all my life. It seems like somebody dropped the ball. An issue this important should have been house to house letting us know you're building a floodgate. I did pull up Google Maps and I counted the houses as best I could. There are over 600 houses from the proposed floodgate to the Alliance Refinery, where a Salt Water Diversion Project crosses the highway. There's well over 600 houses and 50 trailers. I counted 50 trailers in the two trailer parks. I didn't count individual trailers that are spotted within the radius, but 600 plus families you're impacting. I'm a little confused as to your 1996 authorization. Did it or did it not include this floodgate?

**Response 88.** Julie Vignes: What was authorized in 1996, is a project and its alignment. The project is not through its final design phase. Now, it doesn't identify this area as 1,000 feet there will be a levee or in these 1,000 feet will be a floodwall or a floodgate. It identified the area. I know it's difficult to see on this map, but his area, the east side of the Algiers Canal and the community of Oakville, is the authorized area to provided hurricane protection.

**Question 89.** Donald Landry: I'm confused, Benny Rousselle read a document and said that the levee was going to tie in with the non-federal levee and not include a floodgate. It sounds to me, the answer is no. The original authorization did not authorize a floodgate.

**Response 89.** Julie Vignes: The original authorization language did not describe a floodgate. That's correct. It said provide protection, go forward and design how to accomplish that.

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**Question 90.** Donald Landry: When protecting property and people, my comment on the issue would be not to build the floodgate. I would like to recommend that the final date of May 4<sup>th</sup> be postponed by one month to give the uniformed people in this room a chance to read it and comment. I think we need a better study. I don't see anyone here representing the local and state government. They're supposed to be our representatives that give direction in what your project should include. Is that correct? You get direction from Congress, right?

**Response 90.** Julie Vignes: We get our authority which describes the permission from an act of Congress, yes.

**Question 91.** Donald Landry: I would recommend a postponement for at least a month to get our state and local authorities involved with our congressmen and get this impact looked at.

**Response 91.** Jim Taylor: We have at least one council member here but it would be good if all of them could show up.

**Question 92.** Donald Landry: Billy Nungessor said he couldn't come. I called Charlie Melancon, he couldn't make it tonight and he's not going to make it to the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. We don't have representation here.

**Response 92.** Jim Taylor: And, you need that.

**Question 93.** Donald Landry: They need to be here. I would recommend postponing this deadline because construction isn't going to start on this floodwall for probably another year, right? I would recommend, September. Is this project going to increase our risk, i.e. flood insurance premiums south of Oakville? According to this man, by placing a floodgate across there it is going to increase our risk?

**Response 93.** Julie Vignes: The construction of the floodgate, based on modeling we've done, will not have any noticeable appreciable increase to the amount of storm surge that would come to those areas south of the floodgate. With any amount of increase, we're going to continue to do modeling to define what that potential increase is.

**Question 94.** Donald Landry: After the gates are built or before it's built?

**Response 94.** Julie Vignes: That's ongoing work now. If we can indicate that there is an increase, then the design of the levee behind the Jesuit Bend area will incorporate that.

**Comment 95.** Donald Landry: Okay. I guess that answers all my questions. Thank you. Thank you for coming out tonight and at least hearing us. I appreciate it, thank you.

**Question 96.** Victoria Taylor: I want to know why you didn't decide to put the floodgate further down where properties have been destroyed and residence are not as plentiful as we are here in this room tonight?

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**Response 96.** Julie Vignes: The short answer is if I move that gate any significant distance, I don't have the environmental compliance. It's out of my permission that I have from Congress. I would've had to get additional authority. Now, that can still happen in the future but we're just moving forward with what we're already authorized to do. To move the gate would've taken additional Congressional authority.

**Comment 97.** Victoria Taylor: Did you get our permission to invade our homes and our livelihoods here with your decision making? Did you do that? I built my house in 1993 and you're telling me on that paper that in 1996, you made this authority happen. I wasn't ever notified by certified mail. I was never sent anything in writing and the first time I hear about this is tonight when I got home. I got a flyer in the mail about my flood insurance may not be eligible for FEMA assistance. I made a phone call to my insurance agent and he told me, if I'm not eligible for FEMA and flood insurance, my homeowners insurance will sharply increase. I'm a single mom and I can't afford all that! What are you all going to do about it?!

**Question 98.** Jean Guerrero: You're closing the MRGO, right? You opened that. That's my friend's families, begged you not to do in the past. Now, it's created a mess. You ruined a whole parish over there. What are you going to do? Is this what's going to happen now? It looks like your attitude is you don't care, you got authorization and money. Congress blows money out of their you know whats all the time without any thought or anything of what's going to happen. That's the reason why you have a lawsuit right now with the MRGO which is making you close it. The MRGO is taking more money to close it.

**Response 98.** Jim Taylor: And, that relates to this?

**Question 99.** Jean Guerrero: Yes, it does. Why wouldn't it relate to it? That's what's going to happen right here. You all are not studying anything. Why don't you try to use common sense for a change? The people, right now, can't stand the Corps of Engineers. Why don't you try to work with the people? My husband's cousin worked for the Corps of Engineers. I know what goes on with them. Who's going to pay the people to evacuate when they don't have the money all the time, when it's time to close these wonderful looking floodgates? Who's going to pay the people who cannot afford to evacuate all the time? Because you know how often storms come. Rita came, Katrina came, and all of them came. Many people couldn't evacuate and that's why they all had to go to the Superdome. Who's going to pay for all the people here to evacuate when they cannot evacuate, you or Congress? Where is this floodgate? Once the water gets in this floodgate, when you close it, what will happen because you don't have the levees done? Instead of doing the levees first and then the floodgate, how are you going to get the water out of here? That's another question.

**Response 99.** Julie Vignes: The question is, once we close the gate and water is accumulated behind it, how will it get out? The existing local drainage system will continue to work, and that pump station Ted mentioned will be part of our system. We will provide an additional pump to pump it over the gate. The existing conditions will be maintained.

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**Question 100.** Jean Guerrero: May 4<sup>th</sup>, you all think is the last time, it's not. Let me tell you, everybody is here with me? If they keep this going, we can file a class action lawsuit or file an injunction to slow them down or stop them. It can be stopped, let me just tell you that. Is everybody behind me with that?

**Response 100.** Meeting attendees: Yeah!

**Comment 101.** Jean Guerrero: If you think it's a done deal, it's not a done deal. You had better study some more and do something else. Go down there to Conoco Phillips and connect there. Talk to these oyster fisherman because they know much more than the Corps of Engineers, you all don't have any common sense.

**Question 102.** Denise Buford: I am new to the Parish. I know it's coming across as anger, tonight, but it really is fear. When I say I'm new to the Parish, I own commercial property on Walker Road. I'm very familiar with what you're doing on Walker Road. I was not aware of the floodwall that was coming across. I have to say tonight, I feel unfortunate that my husband and I purchased a prime prestige piece of property just two miles down the road. Not to throw numbers but I might have two millions dollars worth of property that we purchased in this parish in the last year and a half. To think this investment could be hampered by a floodwall. We understand that you have two projects going on. We just wish that the two projects would be working together. We want protection, we're glad you're here to give us protection, we need it. We know that but that is what we want instead of the floodwall to cross over at the highway to tie into the back levee. If it's taken this long to get to this point, can't it take a little bit longer to tie them both in? That's all we're asking for. What we're afraid of, is not only flooding from the back, which I think that will be solved when you raise that back levee, but the floodwall across that's going to detour people. I don't know if I would have spent that kind of money on a property a mile past a floodwall. I really don't. I'm afraid of what the property value is going to be after this floodwall comes? The other thing is I don't need flood insurance. I couldn't believe that I didn't need flood insurance; of course, I purchased it for \$300. What happens, eventually, is once your floodwall goes across and the back wall is raised, FEMA will come out with another map. We know that's going to happen. When it's going to be, no one knows. What's going to happen, do we now need flood insurance? What is the cost of that? That's what everybody is afraid of now. Insurance is steady rising like everything else and for us to be hit in three or four years, what will be the cost of flood insurance? I want to leave here tonight feeling like the books are not going to be closed on us Monday. We're just getting educated on this situation and maybe it's our fault for not being more involved with the community. I think everyone is going to leave here being much more involved. I ask that you give us a little more time to have our concerns met and maybe for you to have more time to do studies. I think everybody would feel more comfortable if we didn't think Monday was it and the decision was being made. We have been told by the parish president that he was going to have the authority to open and close those gates. I'm the one who asked the gentleman to ask that question because I was too embarrassed to stand and talk in front of you tonight. He said that he was going to have the authority, and now it's the Corps with the state and local sponsors. That scared us, too.

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**Response 102.** Col. Lee: What you said is true; the parish does have the authority unless the state changes that. Currently, every parish that has floodgates or any type of flood control structure in their system has the responsibility to close and open it. There's a lot of coordination that happens with the state. What Julie was saying is the state is what we call our non-federal sponsor. All of the work that is going on through the greater New Orleans area, they're the non-federal sponsor. CPRA, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority in Baton Rouge, they're a non-federal sponsor for this project. We build it, and then we turn it over to the state that has an agreement with Plaquemines Parish. Plaquemines Parish has the responsibility for the operations and maintenance of the floodgates. They will operate those in any event and provide routine maintenance on them if there is a decision made to build them.

**Question 103.** Rose Jackson, Vice President of the Oakville Community Action Group: I'm so happy to see so many of you here tonight in our position of the floodgates but as far as these meetings are concerned; they have been going on since 2006 or 2007. How I found out about the meeting is I read in the Times Picayune and the attorney that represents the Oakville Community Action Group called me because she saw it in the Times Picayune. The meetings were being held all over New Orleans and Jefferson Parish. How I found out about the first meeting was at Holy Cross College. I've been attending meetings since they first started. It was in the paper as a published notice to everyone. I read it in the Sunday paper. This is the important meeting. The first meeting was held in Plaquemines Parish at the Belle Chasse Auditorium by your local government officials. They should have notified everybody in the parish that this meeting was taking place. You can't blame the Corps of Engineers for the fault of your elected officials. Remember this, we go in those booths. We put these people in office and we need to look twice before we start punching those buttons. As far as Congress is concerned, you put those people up there in Washington. We put them there. They work for us. We don't work for them, they work for us. We are tax payers. We can't blame these people. Congress passes everything on to them. I worked for civil service and the federal government for 27 years, and whatever Congress says, it goes. If it didn't go the way Congress want it there would not be enough proficient funds to pay your salary. That's the way the systems works. They're our voice but they work for Congress, your elected officials. Everyone in here tonight needs to get on your computers and email your congressman and representatives. Let them know that enough is enough! If you don't do that, there's no sense beating up on the Corps of Engineers because they are paid employees of Congress. We are the government, the people, the body is the government, we vote to put them in office. We pay their salary. The wrong decision was made for Oakville after Katrina. The local government officials gave the call and told the Corps of Engineers to put everybody's debris out of Plaquemines Parish, Jefferson Parish, and Orleans Parish, into Oakville. I'm living next door to a 40 foot mound of garbage. Your old deep freezers, sofas, refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, and contaminated carbon are all here. Our local government officials were behind all of this because that decision should not have been made. I don't trust our local government officials. Trust me I don't trust the one that's up there in Baton Rouge. I worked up there with them five and six times a year. I went to Washington, D.C. in 1996 when it went into affect. I worked for Teddy Johnson. I know how it came about. That's the reason I organized Oakville Community Action Group because there are too many wrong things that are going on. We can't just blame these people. Let me tell you something, you all are talking about the floodgate. Guess what, that levee was coming through the middle of Oakville. I fought tooth and

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nail, it was better to move that dirt than to move those families. It was going to affect those families. The floodgate, that's nothing, the last meeting held here they said they were going to put a wretched old bridge and divide this community. They were going to put a floodwall and elevate the highway so that when the school buses come out for the children, they would have to go almost around the trailer park to make a u-turn to get these kids on the highway. You blame your local government officials because they're supposed to notify the people and they're not doing it.

**Response 103.** Jim Taylor: Let me address the issue of notification. Make sure you signed up and after the meeting let me know some ways that we can improve communicating with you. What we do now, is we send out postcards and tape flyers to various stores around town. In some cases we even had people go door-to-door. If we're missing you, I want to know how I can ensure that we get the word to you. If you have ideas on that, I'll show you how to email them. You can talk to me after the meeting because we absolutely want to make sure that everybody knows about these meetings well in advance. Thank you.

**Question 104.** Anthony Buras, Plaquemines Parish Councilman: Thank you. I'm their local councilman and I have not done a very good job of notifying them. That will change. I want to ask one specific question. I've been to Washington five times since I took office in 2007, to talk with the Corps and our members in Congress. The federal government is like a dog chasing its tale. On the one hand, the Corps of Engineers says Congress has to authorize it. When I go to Congress and talk to them they tell me the Corps didn't tell us we need to authorize it. It's my understanding from the people who live in my district is that Congress authorizes projects based on information received from the Corps. I hope the ranking officers in the Corps will take this to heart. There are two people from the Corps standing up here, tonight, who I have attempted to call. I have left voicemails at your offices. My secretary got in touch with one of you gentleman last week and you told her I understand your boss is looking for me but I haven't had the time to call him back. I've called for two of you, left voicemails at your office with my name, my concern, and question. I think that's appalling. I think that policy needs to change. Thank you.

**Response 104.** Jim Taylor: After the meeting, tell me who those people are and I'll make sure we address that. Let me give you a quick civics lesson about how a project gets to authorization and construction. The first thing that happens is the community identifies a problem they want to fix. Then they go to the local government who goes to the state government and they go to your members of Congress. Congress then decides if we need to look into this and if it's appropriate. They'll turn to the Corps and say go and complete a reconnaissance study. The Corps goes in, looks at the issues and if there is an issue then it can be solved. Part of that process is meeting with elected officials in the community, individuals, and civic groups. Then it moves to the steps through the government as a feasibility study and the various other things. It has to start at the local level. Now, if somebody calls up the Corps and says, we think we have a problem here. We absolutely are going to sit down and talk to you about it to help you work through that process. That's this process and Congress has established that it works.

**Question 105.** Pete Stavros: I recommend they take more than a one mile trip south for the reconnaissance trips. Two days ago, we met with the parish president and we talked about both

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of these projects together but what he told us was this is not going to be a bad thing. The protection levee goes across here and then you have your federalized levee that's well up to 14-feet here. You are going to be safer. You're going to be safer after that project is complete than you are if you took 16-feet all the way down. Now, I want to know if that is a true statement or not. What we want is to tie in here to a non-federal levee, federalize it and make a 16-foot levee down behind us to protect all of us instead of dividing the parish. If we go 16-feet and then we federalize at 12 to 14, will we be safer or not safer on this side of the levee?

**Response 105.** Julie Vignes: I'm not sure I understand the question but the answer is, once we complete the project you will be safer. The levees are going to be raised, I'm hearing to approximate elevation five to seven.

**Question 106.** Pete Stavros: If that is true, that we will be safer on this side of the levee, then let's go to the other alternative that brings it across Hero Canal and tie into Oakville on the safer side of the levee. Save \$30 million or whatever it costs to include Oakville. Then we're safer with a 16-foot wall protecting Belle Chasse and a 12 to 14-foot non-federal levee going behind Jesuit Bend or are we safer tying into the existing non-federal levee, making it federal and building the project, tying the two projects together. Wouldn't it be better if I am inside the 100-year protection?

**Response 106.** Julie Vignes: Both projects are being built and I'm doing the best I can.

**Question 107.** Pete Stavros: We have heard the authority for these projects come from Congress. If we can successfully, as one voice, lobby Congress, and get them to tie IER 13 with the other existing non-federal levee, then build it into one project and get a timeline that fast track to get it prior to 2014, wouldn't we be better off with 100-year protection down south of Alliance, than a 16-foot, 100-year and a 12 to 14-foot levee behind us?

**Response 107.** Julie Vignes: If you get more protection, yes, you would be safer. If you're successful to get more authority, yes, you would be safer.

**Question 108.** Pete Stavros: The reason I came down south of Oakville is the executive order 12-8-98 that talks about taking care of some of your poorer neighborhoods. By law you did comply with that in the IER. You complied with executive order 12-8-98. There are similar settlements south of here that will be negatively affected, and you will violate 12-8-98 because you haven't done a benefit to cost ratio in your IER. I did not see a BCR because it's been waived. Again, these are problems when you're trying to affect this many people, when you're not doing an EIS and you're waiving a BCR.

**Response 108.** Julie Vignes: When this was authorized in 1996, an EIS, or an environmental assessment, was done that did comply with the environmental justice executive orders as well as all the NEPA compliances. That document is available for public review but an EA was done prior to this being authorized. There will be an EIS for the future project south.

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**Question 109.** Pete Stavros: NEPA is to protect us and when we waive that away we are not doing a full assessment. We are fast tracking something that needs to be studied. The first call I make is to Charles Melancon and Mary Landrieu. They are all getting letters and they're only being notified now because we are only being notified now.

**Response 109.** Julie Vignes: There was a chief report done in 1994 which documented the alternatives looked at for everything east of Algiers and an EIS accompanied it. During that process, a benefit to cost ratio was done and it was not waived then. What was waived is, when Congress appropriated money to finish building the system. They didn't require us to go back and re-look at the benefit to cost ratio.

**Question 110.** Pete Stavros: That is because of faulty information and no recon drive that showed the economic impact because we waived the regional economic development plan. We did not take into account this new evaluation and the new income produced by these people that are out here. We do not want to stop the gate we want to change the project to be tied into federalizing and bringing it up to the 100-year for everybody. Not for some and excluding others.

**Response 110.** Julie Vignes: What we do here does not change what has already been authorized. That additional authority can be sought. Congress did not require a benefit to cost ratio to be calculated before they gave us the authority to raise the non-federal levee.

**Question 111.** Pete Stavros: That cannot be good because if they did the benefit to cost ratio and annualized it, they would see when you increase our risk by not giving us 100-year protection, then you are hurting the community.

**Response 111.** Julie Vignes: I would suggest you work with local and state officials to ask them to look at increasing the level of protection.

**Question 112.** Pete Stavros: A phone call was made in February, by my wife, because she heard a rumor that this project was in play. She called the Corps, I can give you the names after, and she was told no that project is not in play and if that happened we know how badly we would affect you if it did happen. We would certainly need to compensate you by buying your loss, and I say that is completely wrong. We put it to bed because we figured that the greater good would prevail whenever we get the funding. We understand the civics, Col. Lee signs the decision document and that goes back to Washington. Does that go back to Gen. Van-Antwerp at the Corps of Engineers? Am I right? It does not go back to Congress through the chain of command within the Corps of Engineers. When we talked about going to Washington, we are not talking about, these employees of our representatives. When they say authorization, it is up to us to change the authorization with Congress. That can be done by holding off and doing a full EIS. While we notify our congressmen, they debate it, they figure out how to instead of bailing out my credit card company, they bail out this project here and fund it.

**Response 112.** Col. Lee: Thank you for your comments and we will take into account the comments here tonight and determine whether we will extend the comment period.

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**Comment 113.** Lynda Ton, Jesuit Bend: I was previously a resident of Empire, LA which I still have a home there worth at least \$200 thousand that survived Katrina. There are homes down there, not just shacks. Even if you live in a shack, it's your home. That is your home, that's where you live, and you deserve to be protected just like the person that's in New Orleans. Just like the bankers who sacrificed my grandmother in the 1800's, and it seems like that's what you're doing right now. You're going to sacrifice everybody past Oakville for the benefit of everybody north. That is unconstitutional, and it's just wrong. Number two, for the concerned people, if you have a concern, you should be here tonight and voice your concern. My brother is in Riverbend Nursing Home, he is crippled and blind. Almost 200 residences can't be here tonight. You are sacrificing these residence homes. They're not cattle, they're not pasture land, and they're people who have paid taxes to live here. How dare you sacrifice their home?

**Question 114.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: I've been a resident since 1995. This is a good meeting because I just met the new neighbor through the meeting. As I was sitting there I wondered about the neighbor down a little further from me, and they asked a question that you didn't answer. She asked, was there a notification in 1996? Was there a notification in 1996? Wait a minute, in 1986 you came up with this right then you made an amendment in 1996, right?

**Response 114.** Julie Vignes: That's correct. The NEPA process was followed in 1996. Those documents are still available for review.

**Question 115.** Rev. Rev. Curtis Carroll: So there was notification we just missed that memo. That's not a problem. I just wanted to know if that's protocol for you to send out in a public meeting notice and we missed it. I noticed that there were alternatives on the table over here, and I don't want to waste anybody's time but is there any alternative that will produce this gate passed the heavily populated residential areas that's on the table now?

**Response 115.** Julie Vignes: The alternatives that we looked at for the Eastern Tie In, is the southernmost alternative that was evaluated.

**Question 116.** Rev. Rev. Curtis Carroll: Col. you've heard a lot of great comments today. You said it lies in your hand. What suggestion, comment, or thought would make it possible to move this to an area that is less populated? Is there any?

**Response 116.** Col. Lee: This is the process, and we're listening to your concerns. We'll go back and evaluate your concerns to determine which recommendation is the right way to go. I mean, that's what this is all about.

**Question 117.** Rev. Rev. Curtis Carroll: Right. You're saying it's not a done deal, right? The FEMA gentleman with insurance, he made a comment that this is going to help us. Everybody in the community of Oakville is protected by that gate. It's the people in Jesuit Bend and further down that's going to be affected. I heard the guy from FEMA say that it's going to be better for us.

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**Response 117.** Mike Honeycutt: I said I couldn't tell right now because the project's not done. No, you cannot do modeling until a project is done. When you're looking at what is happening here, you're looking at the court telling you that they're going to give you one percent protection. When that one percent protection is given to you, then your flood insurance rates will drop. Right now, nothing will change with your elevations outside that levee protection system. Nothing is going to change there. I can't really say that your flood insurance will go down or up because nothing is going to change but your elevation.

**Question 118.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: That's fine but the water came over the levee for Katrina, right? My insurance is now, 40 percent higher but there was no elevation change. My insurance is higher.

**Response 118.** Mike Honeycutt: Your flood insurance from the federal government has not changed. Your flood insurance for your homeowners, I have no control of.

**Question 118.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: No, my flood insurance went up.

**Response 118.** Mike Honeycutt: Your flood insurance should not have gone up. If your flood insurance has gone up, give me your address and I'll check into it. I will check into it because your flood insurance has not gone up. Congress sets flood insurance rates and there have not been any changes.

**Question 119.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: We pay our house note on the escrow, right? Well, we do.

**Response 119.** Mike Honeycutt: Your flood zones have not changed for Plaquemines Parish.

**Question 120.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: I talked to the lady at the bank yesterday; she told me that, I have to pay the shortage on my escrow because the flood insurance went up. The storm surges, we're talking about a storm surge, correct? The gate is being put there for a storm surge?

**Response 120.** Julie Vignes: Right, this is to prevent the storm surge from moving further north, if it's already come over the existing levee or, in the future.

**Question 121.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: Hypothetically speaking the storm surge we're talking about is coming from Barataria Bay or is it coming this way? Which way are we talking about the storm coming? Worst case scenario, to where the whole Westbank is going to flood anyway? Is that what you're saying? Or, when it comes through the Barataria Bay?

**Response 121.** Nancy Powell: What she is referring to is the storm surge that has the potential of overtopping this levee and coming this way.

**Question 122.** Rev. Rev. Curtis Carroll: Right, Barataria Bay which has the potential to inundate the whole Westbank anyway.

**Response 122.** Nancy Powell: There are some events, yes.

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**Question 123.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: What kind of storm surge are we talking about? Cat 1, cat 2, cat 3, what are we talking about?

**Response 123.** Nancy Powell: Just to make sure you understand, categories and storm surges are not equal, so don't try to equal storm surges and categories.

**Question 124.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: Wave height, can we do wave height? It is already predicted or calculated with a cat 1 and the Corps already knows but it's not etched in stone but there is a forecasted storm surge with a cat 1. They said when Katrina hit; Katrina had a cat 4 storm surge. They needed to throw cat 4 out because they didn't know, you're telling me they don't know.

**Response 124.** Julie Vignes: A hurricane category, cat 1, cat 2, is determined primarily or exclusively by wind speed. When we predict storm surge it's based on many parameters: size, intensity, projected path, and wind speed of a hurricane. Wind speed does drive waves. It's much more complicated how we determine what the predicted surge will be than to equate it to a category 1, 2, 3.

**Question 125.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: That's why I asked which way the storm was coming because you do a project based on the geographic location. When you say that there's going to be a wall right here and it's going to protect northern Belle Chasse, we're left to fend for ourselves, right? Then you say you don't know what the tidal surge is; you can't give me how high it's going to be?

**Response 125.** Nancy Powell: The 10 ½ foot levee along the Hero to Oakville reach is designed based on a storm surge that has a one percent chance of occurrence each year. That number is about, and don't quote me exactly, it's about seven to seven and a half feet of surge.

**Question 126.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: Okay. So, it's going to top the levee. A 15-foot surge is going to inundate everybody, it don't matter anyway. What's going to happen when you close the gate, what's going to happen to us? Are we going to have some pumping stations put down there that's going to help? What is the contingency plan for us?

**Response 126.** Nancy Powell: All right. Are you in here or are you down here? You're down in Jesuit Bend.

**Question 127.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: I'm one mile down. What is on the table for us? Even if the gates pass, are you going to do anything to protect up here. If you do put that gate there, are you going to do anything for the people on the southern side of that gate?

**Response 127.** Nancy Powell: Yes.

**Question 128.** Rev. Curtis Carroll: What are you going to do?

**Response 128.** Nancy Powell: That's Bill Maloz's project and that's the project that the house has underway right now and has nothing to do with the gate.

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**Question 130.** Kenny Stuart, Jesuit Bend: I also happen to own the landfill. I disagree with the proposed alignment. I think you should simply come straight across and tie in. I understand there'd be rocks you have to go through, but if you didn't have all this big jig-jag coming back to the highway and didn't have to put the gate in, you'll save \$50, \$60, or \$80 million dollars on a project. Is it possible to divert the money allocated for that to go ahead and give the protection behind Jesuit Bend? That money could be spent simultaneously. You wouldn't need to even put the gate in. I'm saying if you could come straight across, tie into what you call existing non-federal levee, then go straight across and stop all this zigzagging. The Corps gives specifically the environmental portion of it; the foot print that you use for the levee is not being impacted any differently. You have direct and indirect wetlands and what they're talking about is people. The width of that levee is impacting the wetlands. How many feet does it take to build the levee. You're not impacted if you're shortening that up; you're not impacting more wetlands. What they do not want to do with this design is have more indirect impact on wetlands. That's what it all boils down to. Is that not correct? Wait a minute, is that not correct? That is the law. It is indirect impact. That is not direct impact.

**Response 130.** Julie Vignes: Part of the process is we are required to avoid, minimize, compensate, and mitigate for environmental impacts. The process also examines how we affect the human environment.

**Question 138.** Kenny Stuart: That is an impact because you're building a levee on that property, you're impacting the wetlands. What we're saying is the law is not exactly on indirect impact. If you're not impacting the wetlands, just because there's a levee in front of it and it still flows then you're not impacting it. That's your interpretation.

**Response 138.** Julie Vignes: One of the reasons why we're not proposing an alignment that goes straight across and stops here is because it is our responsibility to close this system. For us to comply with Congress's intent, not authorization, we have to provide a system that can be certified. This way the residence in that community can participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. I recognize that many of the residences are here tonight. I get that. I'm just asking you to understand. We're working under two separate authorities. We can't re-nig on our responsibility to address our mandate here but we're doing a second thing to address and minimize risk south.

**Question 139.** Kenny Stuart: If you can prove an economic savings, there's no way no way to change it? Even by showing you're saving a significant amount of money that can be forwarded to the next project, is there no room there?

**Response 139.** Julie Vignes: I would just say there's a process by which Congress can act if they want to authorize the 100-year protection to the communities south of Oakville.

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**Comment 140.** Kenny Stuart: Concerning the floodgate, I'm opposed to your proposed 54-foot floodgate. You have several businesses, besides mine, that are on the canal. Our opinion is that the locks are 75 feet wide in the river and we're having commercial traffic come in and out. We have barges that come in up to 100 feet wide. We're losing all of this because you want to put a 56-foot wide gate in when the locks are 75-foot wide. I think it's an unfair economic impact to the individuals who have businesses. The savings of money from a 56-foot gate to a 75-foot gate is not that much. I've been able to supply my letters of objection and I appreciate the time but I want to go on the record tonight that I'm against the 56-foot gate and I'm against the current alignment. Thank you very much for your time.

**Question 141.** Victoria Taylor: How many times do you have to flood before you're no longer eligible for FEMA assistance or the flood program?

**Response 141.** Mike Honeycutt: There's no amount.

**Question 142.** Victoria Taylor: No amount.

**Response 142.** Mike Honeycutt: The question was about federal assistance. The question did not ask about a non-compliant home that you would have to elevate which is a different question.

**Question 143.** Victoria Taylor: You'll be able to get flood insurance as many times as you want to pay for it, after you've been flooded umpteen times?

**Response 143.** Mike Honeycutt: That's correct.

**Question 144.** Victoria Taylor: How do you think your homeowners insurance is going to be affected by that?

**Response 144.** Mike Honeycutt: Ma'am, I don't know.

**Question 145.** Victoria Taylor: Because, they do go together.

**Response 145.** Mike Honeycutt: Your flood insurance does have an ICC benefit.

**Question 146.** Unidentified man: How much? What's the limit?

**Response 146.** Mike Honeycutt: Thirty-thousand.

**Question 147.** Unidentified man: Thirty-thousand. I have a 3,000 square foot house and they're going to jack this thing up in the air?

**Response 147.** Mike Honeycutt: There are federal programs that do have funding available. You don't have to get a loan. There are some federal programs for that.

**Comment 148.** Victoria Taylor: Most of these people have mortgages on their homes, some of them are fortunate enough to have worked all their lives to pay for it, while the rest of us are

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enjoying the same thing and following their example. We contribute to the rest of the states around this country with our refineries and our citrus. Why are you going to affect us when we're, living people here, we're paying our taxes and doing what we need to do to help everyone else out? Put the gate at the waterway where the water is, not here, we're there is not any waterfront property, yet.

**Comment 149.** Unidentified man: I just have a question. I went to a meeting a month ago at the middle school, and Billy was going over some of these things with the maps. After the meeting, he said, they have a desk over there, you all can go see the FEMA reps and they'll take a satellite Google Earth pinpoint of your address. I think it was FEMA, who does the flood maps? I asked when the new flood map is going to be available. The reply was when the gate's built, the new flood maps are going to come out. I said what zone? He said, you're right now, currently A, I believe, you're going to be in an A-E zone. I said, what does that mean? He said, well you're grandfathered in, son, you have nothing to worry about, as long as you keep your insurance, you can pass that on. I said, well that's good. What happens to my neighbor, he's got an empty lot next door to me and they want to build a house, what is my flood elevation going to be? It's going to go to 10 feet. If this floodgate is so good for us, are they going to change this FEMA map, so my neighbor can go that high? If I wanted to go 10 feet high, we'd go to Myrtle Grove or Venice. This is the last place we can go here. Do you realize when this is gone; the rest of this parish's property value is going to diminish. I can have a million dollar house but if somebody is going to give me \$100 thousand, that's what its worth. Now, everything north of this, their property has gone up exponentially or whatever. That's going to go up through the roof. My house is worth more than \$250,000. You all need to go up on your insurance, that's crazy. They don't have a regular house for \$250,000 anymore. Right now, when I get flooded I'm going to have to go to 10-feet, if I want to stay in this parish. I don't know if I do anymore. I love this parish. I love it here. I love my big backyard. I like my neighbors. I love my fishing, I get in my boat and I go right down the road. I'm out there fishing. When I come back home, my kids are all over me what'd you catch, what'd you catch? You are going to make us give up our home equity that we sweat for, that we pay for everyday. I apologize for everybody here. Obviously, we're not intelligence enough to read the paper and because all the people here didn't see this notice. They have people here that can read and write and we didn't see it.

**Question 150.** Unidentified male: But, are you going to change that A-E zone? Will that change the zones?

**Response 150.** Mike Honeycutt: Let me tell you about you're A-E zone. You're A, your flood elevation is not going up right now. It doesn't, we don't know how it will go as of yet.

**Question 151.** Unidentified man: Why did your employee write on there your new flood elevation is going to be 10 feet? He wrote that, where'd he come up with that?

**Response 151.** Mike Honeycutt: That's a preliminary proposed map right now. You need to look at what the Corps is presenting. You need to look at the projects that Bill has working with Congress. After that is done, these maps will be re-done. That 10 feet may drop to five feet, we don't know but it depends on what those elevations come out to be after the work is complete.

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**Question 152.** Unidentified man: If we're in such good shape, why is my flood elevation going to go up?

**Response 152.** Mike Honeycutt: It may not.

**Question 153.** Unidentified man: You should say when they build this wall that my flood elevation will change. When somebody new comes in and buys a house that flood elevation is going to be where I'm at right now?

**Response 153.** Mike Honeycutt: That's correct, right now. Yes, it will.

**Question 154.** Unidentified man: No, not right now. When that gate it built.

**Response 154.** Mike Honeycutt: No. Plaquemines Parish had the option to use those new maps. What they did at their last council meeting is they chose not to use those maps. They're using the current ABFE maps and they're using the old maps from 1984, I believe. You don't have a 10 foot elevation right now and that's your parish government choosing that, not FEMA.

**Question 155.** Jesse Meerscheidt: As compared to most of the individuals that are here today, I am transient to this area. I'm military. I understand and appreciate the responsibility and the purpose of the Corps of Engineers, both civilian and military. The issue that I have is the documentation. My notification on this issue arrived just a couple days ago via a flyer set out by the action group in my mailbox. That's how I was notified. I did arrive last summer but that's how I was notified. Now, I am here representing the homeowner because she's currently stationed in South Carolina. She is going to be impacted by this situation. Her home was built after the 1996 act and the 1986 stuff. What about the timeliness of the information on this portion? The problem is when you're having that kind of impact upon the public; the information has to be timelier. That is something that needs to be brought up from within the agency that's conducting the work. I can't go build a new range with information from 1904. You're facing that situation right now. Your information is completely outdated, and that is strictly from my outsider's perspective. I was asked the question about the pumps. Apparently, on the last hurricane, there were problems with those pumps working. Now, I understand, as with the floodgates, those will probably be passed down to the parish to be maintained and operated but if that's the case, and these new pumps are placed both within the levee is there going to be new pumps installed? How are we going to be able to insure that those pumps are maintained? I understand that's a parish issue, what about better pumps? What about a better pumping facility? Anything to that affect.

**Response 155.** Julie Vignes: This project, the Eastern Tie In project is only going to add one additional pump. The reason the pump is being added is that the local drainage is handled by the local drainage district. The Corps has no role in the operation of a local drainage district. The construction of our project is not going to intercept or block the flow of some of that drainage. We don't want to induce flooding or trap it, so we're going to add a pump to move it over the system to flow south as it did before we built the wall. All the other pump stations are local pump stations.

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**Question 156.** Jesse Meerscheidt: Okay. That'll move it into the area without levees?

**Response 156.** Julie Vignes: The same place it's discharging to at this time.

**Question 157.** Jesse Meerscheidt: Personally, I agree with the enclosure of the landfill for this wall. If that sucker gets hit by a surge, then all of that nasty stuff is going to get everywhere in everybody's business. That makes a lot of sense to me. The issue is there are so many homes and people who have established south of here. People buy homes as a legacy, to pass down to their children, and this is being endangered badly. The perception is that it is not being addressed in a quantifiable way. The information that you all are stressing, you keep saying the 1996 act, the 1996 information. All these studies are archaic because the home that I'm living in and renting was built after Katrina. Many people are in the same boat. Why is there not an update or projection of population growth? I didn't see that in the IER 13. I didn't see anything to that affect. Not saying it wasn't there, I just didn't see it.

**Response 157.** Gib Owen: It all goes back to the authorities, again. We looked and we updated our information on the alignment that we have authorized. We have a second project that we're investigating in the economics and everything will be looked at as part of that project.

**Question 158.** Jesse Meerscheidt: If you're authorized at one point to send your five year old to school and your five year old is now 15, you're not going to put him in the same grade level that you're authorized to put him in when he's five. You're facing that situation here. You've got hundreds of people that are down south that are not included in the initial report.

**Response 158.** Gib Owen: That's what we're trying to tell you all tonight. Congress recognized that and that's why they authorized a second project.

**Question 159.** Jesse Meerscheidt: Is there going to be a potential impact between the finalization of the first project and the finalization of the second project?

**Response 159.** Gib Owen: We don't believe so.

**Question 160.** Jesse Meerscheidt: Okay. Well, I know the insurance companies, being money makers that they are, they're going to see that new wall and they're going to go, these guys out here aren't as protected. Then they're going to want to raise rates.

**Response 160.** Gib Owen: This wall only comes into play if this area is flooded. That wall plays no part in any of this unless this area floods. Only if the non-federal system or the federal system, after it's built, overtops does this wall even come into play. It has no impact, whatsoever.

**Question 161.** Jesse Meerscheidt: The house that I'm living in is about 200 feet from the canal. Being that close to that drainage canal with the non-federal levee that's back there, would you be interested in it? I have no stake as a property owner but I've got personal property. I have real property, my family. That's a concern that I have. I send my family packing when a hurricane comes, I have to ride in a five-ton to take my gear and get out of here. In the mean time, as many other people, my livelihood and my goods stay home.

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**Response 161.** Jim Taylor: And we are going to consider those. Those are important.

**Question 162.** Jesse Meerscheidt: Okay. Will Congress listen to you when you tell them that the information used to get this act in place is outdated and it is no longer valid?

**Response 162.** Jim Taylor: Yes, that will be in the report. We've got some people coming back and right behind you, so if you want to come back around again.

**Comment 163.** Vaughn Boudreaux: You keep talking about authorization and what you're hearing from us is it doesn't make sense. Our parish president told us that this state is getting somewhere around \$11 billion for levees, two billion here in Plaquemines Parish but that money has to be spent and our projects have to be finished by 2011. Can you finish by 2011? You're building it because you can get it done and it's authorized. It doesn't make sense to do it and keep going forward just because you can. It's not the right thing to do. It's not going to help them and it's not going to help us. It's not going to help anybody. Like the gentleman said before, if the Barataria Basin overflows and comes in, that isn't stopping anything. You put a 16 foot levee from there all the way down, it might slow it down. That is being built just to be built because you have to spend the money by 2011. You can't build that other levee until 2013, that's what you just told us. That's why you're doing it because that's authorized, you don't have to go pick on nobody to get them to approve it. You're going to go do it because you can make your deadline and can spend the money. It's about spending the money on time. That's all I have to say.

**Question 164.** Donald Landry: Will the delay of the deadline of May 4<sup>th</sup> impact any physical work that is currently being done by the Corps on this project?

**Response 164.** Julie Vignes: There's ongoing work, for us to move forward to construction, we have to complete the environmental process.

**Question 165.** Donald Landry: I heard you waived that.

**Response 165.** Julie Vignes: No, we abbreviated it. That was all done to try to get protection in place as soon as possible. Yes, there are certain activities that cannot begin. We cannot acquire property, we cannot start construction but we're very sensitive to waiting until the time is right, when we've received all the comments we need to receive to make a decision. There is an urgency to move forward, against, a willingness to keep the comment period open.

**Question 166.** Donald Landry: I guess my question really was from a physical point. The current work the Corps is doing, will that be impacted if we get this May 4<sup>th</sup> deadline postponed?

**Response 166.** Julie Vignes: The answer is, yes. Until we get to that milestone certain things can't begin or end.

**Question 167.** Donald Landry: So, will it impact the end date?

**Response 167.** Julie Vignes: Yes.

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**Question 168.** Donald Landry: So, you've got a critical path that if you don't start on May 5<sup>th</sup>, you can't complete by 2011?

**Response 168.** Julie Vignes: Sir, I can tell you that the goal is to finish. The answer is, yes. We have lots of tasks that have to be completed in this critical path.

**Question 169.** Donald Landry: Everybody in this room appreciates all the work that the Corps is trying to do in a limited amount of time. Don't get us wrong, there are many heightened personalities right now but we really appreciate your efforts. How can we get these two projects tied together and alleviate this final floodgate across the highway? It's not the increase in the levee heights or anything else, it's this floodgate. Our fear is once you put this floodgate across the road, Congress may never fund the project. We're funding to federalize the levees all the way to Alliance? Federalize?

**Response 169.** Julie Vignes: Yes. Yes.

**Question 170.** Donald Landry: Okay. So, that's been approved?

**Response 170.** Julie Vignes: Yes.

**Question 171.** Donald Landry: Is the money approved, to fund that?

**Response 171.** Julie Vignes: The property to construct this project or the non-federal levee has not taken place, yet, and that cannot take place until the environmental processes is complete.

**Question 172.** Donald Landry: Somebody can stop it, is what you're saying? In other words, this man said, it's approved, it's a done deal, we're going to get federal levees down to Alliance, is that what you just said?

**Response 172a.** Julie Vignes: What is said is the project, Bill Maloz talked about, they're still looking at alternatives but the money has been appropriated. There has been \$670 something million funded to expend on raising those non-federal levees and in putting them into the federal system. That's done. Where we're at is choosing the right alignment to move forward into construction but the funding is there.

**Response 172b.** Gib Owen: One second, I would like to address the environmental question. We are working on an alternative arrangement which is very new, it's the first time the Corps of Engineers every one in place or ever asked for one. We are not shortcutting the environmental compliant process. It is full and complete. What we were allowed to do under the normal process was an EIS from this point to this point. To get all those pieces arranged, designed, and everything to the point we had finished it, it would've taken years. What we got authority to do is to break it into pieces, and we did that. We broke this Westbank piece into nine pieces, and we moved forward but we did not shorten the environmental compliance process. No. It's under an EIS. It's under a separate authority and a separate study. That project has been underway for two years. We have not been able to finish it because we can't get 16 million yards of borrow to it.

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**Question 174.** Nadine Parker, Jesuit Bend: My family and I moved here back in November 2008. We had no idea there was a floodgate going up. When I got home from my trip on Sunday and I saw that this floodgate was taking place, I was a bit concerned. When I hear the people that have stepped up today as well as the information that I read on the internet from the Corps of Engineers and others, I'm very scared. I'm scared for the safety of my family, property, and of the economic impact. My question is to you, sir, it is my understanding that you have to sign off on this floodgate. Is that correct, on this project? What can we do? I understand the authorization, I understand the process. I've been in the government. I've worked for the government. I understand that more than anybody because I was in the process business. That's what I did I wrote this process, not the ones you're working on. I understand the processes and I understand the importance of following processes. What can I do to get you to go back to Congress and say, maybe this isn't such a great idea? What other comments do you need? I cannot put together all this, do research and say here it is on a platform. I think that it's obvious this is not necessarily the best thing for Plaquemines Parish. What can I do to convince you to at least stand up and say maybe we should re-think this thing?

**Response 177.** Col. Lee: I think earlier, somebody covered it but I'll reinforce it. The most efficient way for you to address this is through your local and state representatives, your local parish, and then the comments that you provided tonight for us to consider when we're making a decision. It's not a done deal. I'm the one that makes the decision; I haven't seen a piece of paper on this project that asks me to approve it. That's what I want people to understand and this is a process. I've heard comments here tonight that people want to extend the process, and I will consider those and make a determination on whether we need to extend the public comment process. My commitment is to evaluate and that's why I came tonight because I knew it was important. I don't come to all the public meetings but I knew this was an important public meeting and that's why I'm here.

**Question 178.** Nadine Parker: We're definitely working through our government. I think everyone here are probably going to be flooding emails and letters or whatever the case to our politicians. The point is this is important to Plaquemines Parish, this is important to the people who live here, and we should do something about his.

**Response 178.** Col. Lee: I hear that loud and clear and it's very effective in everybody's comments tonight.

**Question 179.** Nadine Parker: What is your opinion after hearing this tonight?

**Response 179.** Col. Lee: Well, I mean, I've go to evaluate all the comments. I've heard some of them and they're compelling comments for us to look at this a little more. I'm considering those.

**Question 180.** Jason Kaliszeske: First, I'm a recent new homeowner in Jesuit Bend and I can promise you when driving around looking for houses, if I would've driven past a 17 foot floodwall, or however high it's going to be passed Captain Larry's, I would've made a u-turn and gone back north. There is definitely an economic impact on myself and my family. My other comment was on that pump that you say is not very large. Where exactly is that pumping to? Is

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there an existing canal there or is it pumping into the back of the canal and then will be pumped out by our Ollie pump station?

**Response 180.** Ted Carr: The current location of the pump station is right about here. Also a 48 inch drainage ditch goes into the canal that runs along Mr. Perez's property.

**Question 181.** Jason Kaliszeske: The discharge of this pump is going to go into the canal and is going to have to be pumped out with the Ollie pump station?

**Response 181.** Ted Carr: That drainage is going to the Ollie Canal, just like it currently does.

**Question 182.** Jason Kaliszeske: I understand that but looking at the map, it's common sense that it probably does drain that way, now. Instead of the Hero Canal, is there another possible choice of where the water could drain? Instead of hurting the Ollie pump station that's already hurting now. Why even hurt it more by putting more water in the system to be pumped out twice? Pump out once on the other side of that 56 foot levee.

**Response 182.** Ted Carr: But it is right now.

**Comment 183.** Alan Martin, Jesuit Bend: I am against the floodgate; I do want that stated for the record. What you're leaving us with while we're out fighting for our homes is worthless real estate as of July 1, 2004, there's a disclosure act. I can't sell my property without telling them this. I will be stuck with a piece of property that no one will want to buy. Technically, if this goes through, you're telling me that what I have is what I have. In 1996, had I been aware of any of this, I would've never built in Jesuit Bend. If I wanted to live down the road, I would've moved down the road. I don't appreciate in IRE 13 being referred to as lower Plaquemines. I'm not considered lower Plaquemines. There's a big difference. You have to live here to understand it. My address is Belle Chasse. Thank you.

**Question 184.** Alan Green, Oakville Community Action Group president: My question is to the Corps of Engineers, now, we know that what took place from the previous administration, what can we do, what can our parish do, right now, to put the lower part of the parish within the 100-year protection plan?

**Response 184.** Julie Vignes: I think we spoke a little bit to it earlier but I'll state it again because I know folks have joined us. Contact your local government and your state government as well as your congressional representation to ask them to look into giving additional authority to provide 100-year protection to those areas.

**Question 185.** Alan Green: In other words, you're saying we still have a possibility that having this levee going to the lower part of the Parish?

**Response 185.** Julie Vignes: I'm saying we're trying to move forward with the two projects that we described tonight but beyond that, there's a process of additional authority. Things that can be done to make more protection be authorized and constructed in the future are working with your local, state and congressional delegation.

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**Question 186.** Alan Green: Okay. So, if we talk to our parish president, we still need congressmen? We got to go further?

**Response 186.** Julie Vignes: Right. I didn't make that clear. Congress would have to authorize against the Corps' permission to put a 100-year protection in all the communities south of Oakville that we've heard about tonight. The process isn't that it comes from the people. The people have the right to request, through their Congressional delegation. Now, the Corps' responsibility, when asked by Congress to assess that inquiry, is to produce a report. Even for us to study the feasibility of doing a 100-year project, Congress has to tell us to do that. I know we all have Congressional representation; the way all these things happen is people work with Congress to get it authorized or to ask the Corps to write reports to inform them on the science and the engineering. I understand there are lots of folks that live in that area.

**Question 187.** Donald Landry: Okay. My first comment is to say that we should be included in consideration of the Westbank because when the original authorization was made in 1986 in Jesuit Bend. I moved down here about that time from Belle Chasse. I moved down here to the country. They did have a lot of cattle pastures and a lot of orange groves, in fact, the property I'm on now were once an orange grove. When you got your marching orders authorization on this project there were just pastures but now there's over 600 homes down here. I don't know why we can't amend or include this in that objective.

**Response 187.** Ted Carr: About the numbers and homes, and other property and things like that, that's what we're here for, to get your input.

**Question 188.** Donald Landry: There are 263 houses between Oakville and Ollie Canal.

**Response 188.** Col. Lee: We encourage you to leave that with us and we'd be glad to put that in the records.

**Question 189.** Donald Landry: So, my comment would be to include all of the residence because of the increased population growth since the 1996.

**Response 189.** Jim Taylor: I can guarantee you, we got that.

**Comment 190.** Donald Landry: Before the floodgate would be built, raise the levees and all. Do a true EIS study of the impact on the residence and properties? I counted houses, there's business down there and the evaluation of that land is phenomenal.

**Question 191.** Murray Armstrong: First, a lot of what everyone is alluding to the population increase. I'm from Buras; my family doesn't live in Buras anymore, either by choice from years ago after Camille. They got their teeth kicked in a couple years ago by Katrina and then by all of the insurance stuff that came after that. If this project process is going to be slowed down, if these comments don't get wrapped up by May 4<sup>th</sup>, how much time are they going to give you to look at all of our feedback so this thing can go forward on May 5<sup>th</sup>? Are they going to give you your cup of morning coffee and say, we need your answer, what's the deal?

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**Response 191.** Col. Lee: It's all based on a number of factors. One is how many comments there are. Some of the IER's we've got have had very minimal comments. I'm projecting they'll be quite a few comments here. They have to take all the comments and we have to evaluate them and the project team has to make a recommendation to me. There is nothing we're doing that will jeopardize the public input and evaluation of the comments. May 4<sup>th</sup> is a marker right now, as of today, the public comment period ends on May 4<sup>th</sup>. It's only a date. That doesn't mean I make a decision the next morning with a cup of coffee, that's not what that date's about.

**Question 192.** Murray Armstrong: Well, that being said, I've heard at least 10 people stand up here tonight and ask for more time to consider including Jesuit Bend all the way past Alliance, and even consideration to federalize levees further down into the parish into this same project. Instead of putting up a wall and saying it ends here. If this 100-year storm comes again and hits us in this period, we're sorry it happened in 2012; the project is to be completed in 2014. The last thing I have is this pump station they're going to put back out over here. It's going to pump down to us and it's got to come through the Ollie pump station which is not a large pump station. It probably is stressed enough during a storm to handle rain, much less to handle the storm water from Jesuit Bend. Now we've got to deal with this bilge pump up here that's going to pump everything through this canal. Did anyone do a study on the capacity of the Ollie pump station to see what it handles now, what its load is, and what the affects of this additional load would be on it because I don't think in this additional tie in, this non-federal project, that there's anything in it for an additional pump station. I haven't seen anything. Is there?

**Response 192.** Julie Vignes: We're still working on the design of the pump station that we're proposing. Right now, this area drains through a ditch, south.

**Question 193.** Murray Armstrong: On the outside of a levee.

**Response 193.** Julie Vignes: Right. The water drains this direction south. When we build this levee, we cut off that water's ability to flow south. We don't want the water to start staking up behind the levee system.

**Question 194.** Murray Armstrong: No, ma'am, it's not. It is going to the outside of the existing non-federal levee. When you put a pump station on the corner of where that non-existing, non-federal levee meets where this current project is coming, you're going to pump it into Jesuit Bend.

**Response 194.** Julie Vignes: It's being discharged here.

**Question 195.** Murray Armstrong: No, like I'm saying. Your new pump station is pumping it behind my house.

**Response 195.** Julie Vignes: Let me say this we'll take that comment into consideration and we will look at that but the information we have tells us so the water is already flowing in an open ditch in that direction, and we're going to just pump it over what we build. Based on your

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comment tonight, we're going to look back at that, if that's not that case, we're obligated to make adjustments to address that concern.

**Comment 196.** Murray Armstrong: Well, if you're obligated to make adjustments to address that, maybe you want to add a little time in to make adjustments to this whole project and incorporate it all together.

**Comment 197.** Charlene Martin, Belle Chasse: I'd like to applaud this lady for getting her action done. I don't agree with this. Maybe we need to put a 16 foot wall of people across the highway, get a little national coverage then someone will listen and not smile at me saying they're listening to me. How can this go to another meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> and then all of the sudden on the 5<sup>th</sup> you're going to make a decision? Who's listening to what we're saying? We need somebody to see what we're saying. Yeah, let's stop the seafood, let's stop the refinery, 16 feet of people, arrest us all, and then maybe somebody will listen.

**Question 198.** Unidentified man: What's the email address of all these concerned citizens with the Corps?

**Response 198.** Julie Vignes: Yeah, we do have a slide that shows the ways you can [contact us].

**Question 199.** Unidentified man: Do you have a handout?

**Response 199.** Julie Vignes: Yeah.

**Question 200.** Unidentified man: A lot of people don't have paper and pencils.

**Response 200.** Julie Vignes: We do have handouts in the back, yes.

**Question 201.** Unidentified man: Make sure you get a handout. The email address is on the handout?

**Response 201.** Julie Vignes: There's a Web site, there's a mailing address, some phone numbers, and an email address. We have handouts with those in the back.

**Comment 202.** Jean Guerrera: You need to take all your Corps and Congress people and put yourselves in our shoes. If somebody was coming in your subdivision, in your community, to put a floodgate up that we think is ridiculous, how would you all feel? Could you all sleep? I just want to say, if you all can sleep at night after what you all have been doing to us, I want to thank you for this because a lot of people have lost sleep, a lot of people are sick. People have stopped doing things right now to get involved with this. It's really upsetting to us and we would thank you to look into it a lot more than what you are doing. A class action lawsuit will stop you. If we can't get any other help, we'll have to do it that way. Or, drape ourselves down across the roads.

**Comment 203.** Jamie Stavros, Jesuit Bend: I moved there about the Katrina timeframe, my husband could have retired from the military and we didn't. We were told to come back, be a part of the community, and fight to bring everything back up. This wall is going to be tearing us

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back down. I'm just learning about the Corps, through education now, but you are a military member, right? I've never known the military trying to break-up communities. I thought you're suppose to fight for America, fight for communities, and bring us together, not try to tear us apart. I hope you see the passion here tonight from everybody in this room. I respect people in the military and I hope you respect us, too as a group, a community, and as Plaquemines Parish. We want to stay together and we want you to help us stay together because this is what we're about right here. Please go further than one mile in the future to see what is there because we have a big vivacious community here that you can see tonight. I don't know how it got ignored. I don't have any more words but please fight for us. That is your job as a military member. You guys are supposed to be looking out after us.

**Comment 204.** Julie Olsen, Belle Chasse: I own property in Jesuit Bend. I appreciate that everyone here had a rough job having to face us. I know you had your talking points, they started to sound like repeated rhetoric to us, and we were starting to tune you out because we felt like you were tuning us out and not giving us any direct answers. I wanted to go on the record that I am also against the floodgate. I believe Jesuit Bend to Conoco Phillips should be included in the protected area, it should be protected. I want to second Mr. Landry's recommendation of the proposal for the deadline to be extended beyond May 4<sup>th</sup>, and along with that extension to postpone the meeting that is scheduled at the auditorium this Monday to allow time for us to get our elected representatives to that meeting. If we have the meeting on Monday, and we don't have the representatives there because he's already tried to get them, that really won't help too much in that aspect. We understand we need those people to help fight for us. I wanted to let you know my opinion on it.

**Comment 205.** Stanley Gaudet: I'm very concerned about the people north of the floodgate. I don't think there was a study done. You're putting a pump, a small pump station and when we have a major storm and a major rain event you could create a lot more flooding, especially here in Oakville and north of the floodgate. Have you done a study on the impact that it would have on a major rain event of 14 inches, when we have a southeast wind blowing the head pressure against a small pump or have you considered if you are going to do it putting a pump to pump the water in the river? You could create more problems north of the floodgate as well as south of the floodgate. The floodgate is not a good idea. We don't want the floodgate. I don't think it will impact the community in a positive way and I think you all need to consider that.

**Comment 206.** Robin and Matt Zuvich's presentation

We're trying to educate ourselves on IER 13 and this pertains to the environment, section 3.1, in particular we want you to consider our families and children. We have our school in this area, a nursing home, and many of the people from Oakville other parts of Belle Chasse are there.

This is what we have to do. United we stand, divided we fall. If the wall comes up, people on the south side, we fall. We don't have a choice; we have to try to read the IER 13. This is your proposal which everybody has seen; you had it posted on the internet.

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I want you all to look at this section. This is what really caught my eye when I was trying to learn about this in such a short time. Section 3.1.2.2, Oakville. This is what they say about us. It says, currently the FEMA trailer park has been decommissioned, however, the landowner is allowing recreational vehicles to use this site. This is what they say about us, adjacent areas to the south of Oakville are comprised of pasture lands and scattered citrus groves. Adjacent has three meanings and can be interpreted many different ways. It could be the local area, near a certain point. I would like you to see, the local area near this point. There are various subdivisions, businesses and churches. Plaquemines Parish's citrus industry, agricultural nurseries, and Riverbend Nursing Rehab Home, we are so proud of that home because we don't have to send our elders out of our community. We fought for that for many years. Plaquemines Parish's only nursing home. Belle Chasse's middle school, Conoco Phillips refinery, the refinery is only seven miles south of here.

This is where we start right below Oakville. This is residential areas the study doesn't cover and the people who live on Highway 23. I just took random.

This is going up just a little further. Yes.

To show you people what is there.

This is all the developed areas.

This will all be flooded if that gate goes up. The first major hurricane we have.

These homes range from \$350 thousand to over one million. This is more subdivisions. This is all these subdivisions that have been developed since 1989, when it began. This is our middle school. There's our nursing home, its right by the river, it's a beautiful place. There are oak trees, and our old folks can sit outside and feel the breeze. It's a little piece of heaven on earth. This is residential areas, citrus industry.

One thing about this, you all say it's scattered orange grove. This is a major industry of Plaquemines Parish.

The oranges are the best navels in the world. Tomatoes are coming soon. The Creole tomatoes, you can't beat those Creole tomatoes.

Robin Zuvich: Petroleum industry, Conoco Phillips refinery which services and employs many people in our Parish. That's where we would recommend the levee going.

This is right across from my house.

We're struggling.

It's a place where our children can run and have fun and we feel safe in our neighborhoods. No crime. It's the best place in the world to live and we don't want to give it up.

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That's a local little business right across the street from my subdivision.

There are a lot of churches on the other end, too, that are going to be affected by this.

There's our firehouse. That's one of the nurseries. That's the nursing home. You see the beautiful setting? You can't even see it real well, it's oak trees and it's by the river.

This is one of our local churches. It may be a historical site, I don't know, I'll have to check into that. This is a new church being built. Cemeteries which have been there a while, which is another site to check out.

We know this is your public meeting but we're here to tell you that there's more to this meeting than what you have seen in the past.

We won't stop here. If our local officials don't help you, we'll go to Congress, we'll go to Washington. We'll form a group, raise money, and do whatever we have to do but we're hoping that you can guide us in this. We want your help. We don't want to be enemies; we want you to help us.

You look at this slide, if we get this, if we don't stop this IER 13, this is what we're going to look like. This is Jesuit Bend after post-Katrina.

We didn't get flooded but see how close it was. Some did.

Now, this is showing that we don't want that.

That's Buras, where, and that's where I originally lived, so I've grown up in this area. My parents lost in Betsy, they lost in Camille.

This house, right here, had water 8 foot in the top section. What you're seeing right now is probably five foot deep.

You're probably thinking, well, why would they stay in this area? This is our home.

A 20 foot tidal surge, I don't care what you do, is going to hurt us. By having a 12 foot levee on this side and 16-foot here that is definitely going to hurt us.

Thank you for allowing us to do this, and we can have a copy for you if you would like. We appreciate it.

One more comment. The only people who can help us are our congressmen. I don't have faith in our local government, I don't have any faith, I'm sorry.

**Comment 207.** Pete Stavros: For those who have not seen the Web site, [www.plaquemineslevee.com](http://www.plaquemineslevee.com), will be the way we pass out information about the next meeting. I encourage everybody, if we're going to leave now, to make sure you're here Monday.

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**Comment 208.** Jim Taylor: Yeah, don't leave just yet because we're going to give you the contact information, if you don't have it. It's on the flyers in the back, the e-mail, phone numbers, etc. If you don't find it there, we're going to get the screen up but just come up and see me and I'll make sure you get that.

**Comment 209.** Ted Carr: There are handouts in the back of the room. Feel free to grab one on your way out if you need to get one, and the information is on the Web site if you need to access that.

**Comment 210.** Jim Taylor: All right. Everybody, we enjoyed your company. You've got a lot of information to digest. We all look forward to seeing you Monday at the auditorium unless there's some further development about a postponement. Good luck. God bless. Thank you much.

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## **May 4, 2009 Public Meeting**



# Public Meeting Summary

## Individual Environmental Report 13 Eastern Tie-In and Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levees

**Monday, May 4, 2009**

<b>Location</b>	Belle Chasse Auditorium 8398 Hwy 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037
<b>Time</b>	6:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 p.m. Presentation
<b>Attendees</b>	Approx. 441
<b>Format</b>	Open House Presentation Discussion
<b>Handouts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2008 status map</li> <li>• Borrow Handouts</li> <li>• Presentation</li> </ul>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Ken Holder, public affairs chief

Ken Holder, public affairs chief



Hello, my name is Ken Holder and I am with the Corps of Engineers. Please make sure to sign in at one of the tables so we can communicate with you better. Thank you for attending tonight's meeting on the Westbank and Vicinity Eastern Tie-In project. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> public meeting on this topic. If you attended previous meetings, thank you for being here tonight and providing us with feedback. Tonight we are going to go over the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project and what we went over last week at the Oakville meeting. We have the building until 9 o'clock tonight. I understand there are some presentations in the audience and we have allotted 20 minutes for those presentations at the end of the discussion session. Our intent tonight is to provide an update on current and proposed projects based on the meeting last week. We would like to tell you what we heard last night at the meeting. Tonight we have:

Colonel Alvin Lee	USACE New Orleans District commander
Colonel Mike McCormick	USACE Hurricane Protection Office

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	commander
Rick Kendrick	deputy and chief of the Hurricane Protection Office
Julie Vignes	senior project manager
Ted Carr	project manager
Gib Owen	chief of Ecological Planning and Restoration

To introduce the parish officials here tonight I would like to introduce Parish President Billy Nungesser.

## Billy Nungesser, Plaquemines Parish President

I would like to start by saying Ernest Buttin could not be here tonight but he sends his support. I would like to thank Senator Mary Landrieu, Senator David Vitter and Congressman Melancon for sending representatives down here tonight. I would like everyone to be courteous as possible because we are here to accomplish something and make some changes. Hopefully with the support here tonight we can get this done. A little more than 2 ½ years ago we had a federal levee funded but not fully-funded to be finished on the west bank of Plaquemines Parish. When we went to Washington initially to marry the projects we were told until the project was ready to be finished it could not be considered. Anthony Buras a councilman for this district, he went back with me a few times and we were told the same thing. Throughout the 2 ½ year period trip to Washington both the Corps and the congressional staff said we are close but we could not marry these projects. Today, thanks to a lot of hard work of the Parish employees and consultants, we have hired people to give right-of-way: private citizens and companies have paid to test the dirt to get it ready through a quick process to move the levee through the system in order to federalize the levee. We are trying to find out the elevation of the 100-year level of protection for the levee and were told we would know in 30 days. Then we will know if we can add the money to the levees south and tie the two projects together. We also hope tonight that we can buy a little time to have our congressional staff go back to see if there is a possibility to marry these two projects. The project was started and approved in 2000 without a definition of where the project would be tied in. It is not the Corps fault. In the process, this levee was approved and funded by Congress. They are here to listen and we can make this a better project.

## Ken Holder, public affairs chief

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Thank you President Nungessor. We ask that you allow us to finish the entire presentation before asking any questions. After the presentation we will have a discussion session and our experts will be here to answer your questions. I'd ask that you keep your comments to three minutes per person. I can not stress enough that you ask your question into the microphone. We need and want your input. Please respect each other and allow everyone to have a turn. Before we begin, I would like to introduce our Commander Colonel Alvin Lee.

## Colonel Alvin Lee, USACE New Orleans District Commander



I would like to thank everyone for coming out and I know I met with many of you last week at the Oakville public meeting. There were a lot of questions about the public comment period. It was originally scheduled to end today but I have decided to extend that public comment period for 14 days. I did this because you gave us comments that were valuable. We will go back and consider this input in the document. Tonight I want to receive your comments to make sure we have everything before we go back to make a final decision. The National Environmental Policy Act is a public process that includes your viewpoints and perspectives. The people of the parish understand the parish the most and it is important that we see your point of view and understand the project and proposed action has on your community. I would like to thank you for coming back and bringing more people with you because you are important to the process.

## Ken Holder, public affairs chief



The main reason we are here is to get your input and hear what you have to say. Tonight we will provide a brief status of the risk reduction measures that will benefit Plaquemines Parish south of Oakville in the Non-Federal Levee project and we will discuss the proposed actions that will reduce risk in the English Turn and Belle Chasse area.



NEPA is required of all major federal actions. It requires us to analyze all the impacts to the human and natural environment. The goal is to make a better informed decision. To make these decisions we rely on public involvement. The analysis is then documented in the Individual Environmental Report.

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This slide was shown last time and it illustrates how risk goes down. It starts with the initial risk going down through zoning, and building codes, which is where we are now.



Now I will recap the four main things learned at the last meeting. The four things that were heard repeatedly in the last meeting: request number one was to extend the comment period on Individual Environmental Report 13, Eastern Tie In. The request was granted and two weeks were given; the second request was the proposed floodgate on Highway 23 will flood Plaquemines south of Oakville. The response is the Westbank and Vicinity Project, including the Eastern Tie In floodgate, would not create additional flood risk to Plaquemines south of Oakville when the Plaquemines Non-Federal Levees are completed.



Comment three was that by locating the bridge at Highway 23, we interrupt Oakville community cohesion. The Corps' proposed action is the construction of a floodgate at Highway 23 which will maintain the Oakville community cohesion and traffic safety. There was concern about the ability to access the road (levee) to handle emergency vehicles. The Corps' response is any vehicle that does not need a special permit can safely use the levee which includes fire trucks.

Before we go any further I would like to now go into the Plaquemines Non-Federal Levee project.

Rick Kendrick, deputy chief of the Hurricane Protection Office



Hello my name is Rick Kendrick with the hurricane protection office. The Corps' Non-Federal Levee project is not part of IER 13, it is a separate Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, and we do not have a recommended plan. We will not have a recommendation or a document out until sometime this summer. I would like to talk about how the Non-Federal piece

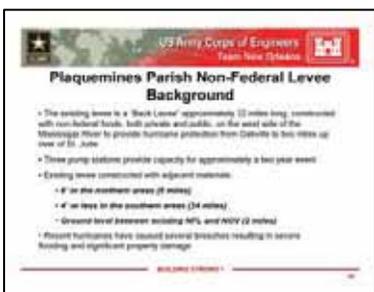
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takes the existing public and private levees and builds them to build better standards. IER 13 is north of Oakville and this project goes from Oakville south to the existing federal levees in Plaquemines Parish.



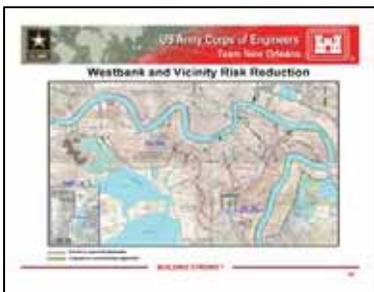
Two key points of the authorization of this project are: that the Corps needs to replace the existing Non-Federal Levees in Plaquemines Parish and incorporate the levees into the existing New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project. The funding is for \$215 million. The second part is from the 6<sup>th</sup> Supplemental Emergency Spending bill for \$456 million that this project was funded to bring the current levees into the federal standards.



The key points are there are 32-miles of levees ranging from 8 feet in the northern areas to ground level between the existing Non-Federal Levees. Our job in the process is to incorporate those levees into the federal standards to make sure we have full federal protection. This is not the 100-year risk reduction system. There have been public meetings on the SEIS but there has not been a decision or a recommendation made. The SEIS process is part of the NEPA process but separate from the IER process.



We have had three public meetings and the last one was in Jan. We will have some more in the future. The recommended action is expected by late summer. There are things we are trying to do to speed up the process, like President Nungesser said about helping find material and getting the right of ways. This is scheduled to start in 2011 with completion in 2013. Currently it is authorized to be brought into the same requirements as the hurricane system.



Ted Carr, project manager



Good evening, thank you for having us here tonight. I am here to discuss the Eastern Tie In project. I want to talk a little more about this slide. This [pointing] is the Algiers and Harvey canals. We are talking about the area from the Algiers Canal, along the north side of the Hero Canal, then along the landfill to cross Highway 23 and tie into the Mississippi River Levee system. IER 13 is the Eastern Tie In and that is what I want to talk to you about tonight.

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We have a couple of Congressional authorizations and the one I would like to discuss authorizes the levee system east of the Algiers Canal. In 1996 the Water Resources and Development Act authorized east of the Algiers Canal extending from Belle Chasse to Oakville in Plaquemines Parish.



IER 13 ties in here [pointing] at the GIWW Western Closure Project, this is the Hero Canal [pointing], and we will raise the levees at that point. On this slide we show the orientation of the project.



Here we are at the Hero Canal [pointing] and this is where the existing levee will be raised. We start here [pointing] where we cross the Hero Canal with a stop-log gate. There were several alternatives looked at but the stop-log gate is in the proposed action. At the stop-log gate there will be a small 150 cubic feet per second pump station. From this point [pointing] to here will be a reinforced levee that is part of the federalized system. In this area is the 150 cfs pump station that will take the existing drainage from Oakville and put it into the Ollie Canal. The existing drainage is going to be pumped over the levee and it is the same drainage as what is currently there now. No additional drainage is associated with this project.

The pump station right here [pointing], we reverse where the old FEMA trailer park is with an earthen levee and transitions to a floodwall. The floodwall crosses Highway 23 with a floodgate. There is a highway and a railroad floodgate. Then there is a transition to another floodwall and continues with an earthen levee to tie into the Mississippi River Levee system.



Ken Holder, public affairs chief



This is a list of additional public meetings coming up and everyone got a chance to see this before we got started.

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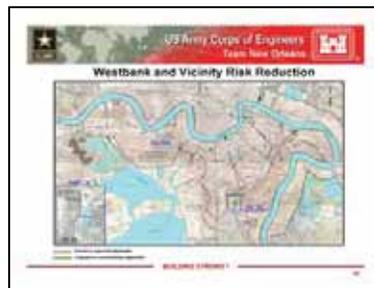
This slide is of the various IER's available for public input.



As a reminder one way to submit comments is at the [nolaenvironmental.gov](http://nolaenvironmental.gov) Web site or by contacting Gib Owen.



You can do these things to accelerate the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project. Thank you for your patience and understanding we are now starting the discussion session.



**Question 1.** Pete Stavros: I found out two weeks ago about this project. This is the report referenced, the draft of project, and its up to us to understand it. In this document it defines the environment of Oakville as everything within 1 mile of the community. There are many references here, for instance, adjacent are pasturelands and citrus groves, which is not adequate

to the people in this room. One that is an eye opener is the picture of the entire Westbank system. Especially the one that extends south through the marsh to the Barataria Bay estuary. Further north there is commercial and residential use. Why is it important that we can clarify this, because we're saying everything north would be protected and that we are worried about the Barataria Basin? I think we need a response to why you only looked at the direct or indirect effects outside one mile?

**Response 1.** Julie Vignes: What we attempted to describe in IER 13 is the area immediately affected. In those chapters we described the existing land use of the area bounded by authority of the Westbank and Vicinity project. We understand property south of the area is not pastureland and we can update the section but the intent is to describe the adjacent area to the IER 13 authorized project.

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**Question 2.** Pete Stavros: We are here because the IER is a substitute for the full EIS. Why the urgency to push through all of these IERs? You are granted the ability to do these IER's verses the EIS. In order for Congress to say we have 100-year risk reduction by 2011, one of the things indicated in the document is a project decision to proceed with these proposed actions. Your completed IER and document completion is followed by the Corps of Engineers. For the preferred reasonable alternatives, we are talking about tying into a federal levee that is 16 foot and at the 100-year level down south. The alternative analysis performed the direct and indirect impacts of the project but we're talking about induced flooding and economic impact to the area, an additional mitigation plan or interim decision is done by the Corps of Engineers. Each IER will identify areas that are incomplete or controversial. The alternative analysis will be based on geography to capture the impacts. We are affected and need to look at the broader picture more than one mile of area.

**Response 2.** Ken Holder: We have captured that in the record.

**Question 3.** Pete Stavros: In the engineering regulations it provides for emergency work to proceed in the NEPA process and that the District Commander Col. Lee is to consider the probable impacts. These facts are not documented. The likelihood of induced flooding outside the system means the district commander has not considered all the problems and impacts. It is up to the Corps to give the information to him. When you leave out the possibility of induced flooding you're allowing Col. Lee to make an incomplete decision. We discussed at Wednesday night's meeting that there were numbers crunched and were told there would be minimal flooding, but I haven't seen it posted as part of the IER. The problem is there is a line of 16-foot levees of 100-year protection from Waggaman south.

**Response 3.** Julie Vignes: The Westbank project extends from the Jefferson/St. Charles line to Waggaman down and the proposed action is to cross the GIWW, tie into the Hero Levee and tie into the Eastern Tie In here.

**Question 4.** Pete Stavros: What I am focused on is a mile south of that point where the affect of flooding the Barataria Bay will have on the back and the reach which normally has drainage that will be on the other side. I have two unofficial assessments of the effect of the system. When you build a 16-foot wall, it will raise the static level of water and the dynamic affect of the wall will cause a funnel just like the MRGO did in St. Bernard Parish. I understand the Corps wants this to be done but I would ask as part of comment period is a full in depth study of the induced flooding be done immediately and reported.

**Response 4.** Julie Vignes: We've looked at the potential for induced flooding south of the gate. We've not only looked at that for the gate across Highway 23. We have looked at what the affect on the storm surge would be coming from the south when we have completed the project with

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the floodgate, the GIWW West Complex Closure and other features. Our information tells us it would have a 2 to 3 inch increase in the storm surge outside of the system.

**Question 5.** Pete Stavros: We are not comfortable with that analysis. We have been trying to be made comfortable by the fact that we are authorized by Congress. On Wednesday night we were told this is out of the Corps hand because it is mandated by Congress and funded with several supplementals. There was \$215 million authorized in 2006 then \$450 million, almost \$700 million. The problem is that because they were not joined the first time you put this up it puts us at risk the moment it's tied in. We'll never make it there because during the storm season we'll be flooded and the money would be used to bail out the credit card companies. When I first found out about this project and started making flyers nobody knew about it. The number one concern for everyone has a varying degree of risk, mine is flood from the levee and in others it is a decrease in property value or availability of insurance. I put out flyers saying part of FEMA's plan is to guarantee 100 year protection that is required. Several people told me I was misinformed and insurance would be available, but several places say this system is required for national flood insurance. Anybody outside the system is not encompassed under the national flood insurance; do you have someone to talk about the flood insurance?

**Response 5.** Mike Honeycutt, FEMA: I was at the Wednesday meeting and I did not have a chance to read the letter. It can be misconstrued but it doesn't say you need a levee to participate. Flood insurance is available if you have a levee or not. Look online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Flood insurance is available because Plaquemines Parish participates in the program. Plaquemines Parish doesn't need a levee to participate. You can buy flood insurance for as long as the federal government provides it. It scores risk. It will depend on your risk rate and that may fluctuate.

**Comment 6.** Pete Stavros: This misinformation and openness communicates to us that the level of risk is still mighty in my mind. It will continue to be mighty until it is publically released of what is going to happen to the flood side of the project. We would like to document it now so that when we are standing on our roofs cutting dry wall that we will still be insured.

**Question 7.** Chris Arbourgh: After Katrina we were asked to come back, rebuild and invest in the community. My family did without hesitation and if I was told then I would have to pay high insurance premiums, be divided by a 16-foot wall and watch my property value slashed; then, I am not sure I would have returned. I am against the proposed location and would like to know if the study on the north side does it drain into the Ollie Canal system?

**Response 7.** Julie Vignes: The proposed 150 cfs pump station at that location is based on the field investigation that tells us to [inaudible] a 48-inch culvert. The water would stop there and our intent is to take the water and pump it over the levee. We could do this a number of ways by either going under or over the levee.

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**Question 8.** Chris Arbrough: Why would you pump the water to another pump, to pump it over the levee? Also, I know that when pumping water we would get more of a flow in a natural route. I also want a copy of the study so when I get flooded I know where to go. I want to know if there has been a proper study completed on the affects of a floodgate on safety of the already dangerous and congested area. I had a family member killed on Highway 23 when a truck pulling a boat pulled out of Captain Larry's parking lot. Personally, I have had to drive off the highway to avoid an accident: once when a child was crossing the highway and another to miss a beer truck pulling out of Captain Larry's parking lot. Thank God there was not a floodgate there because I may not be here talking tonight. Your proposed location is highly congested, poorly lit and has a lot of pedestrian traffic. A floodgate across Highway 23 isn't safe and is asking for trouble. My third comment was to have the public comment period be extended and I appreciate that it has been.

**Response 8.** Julie Vignes: We are working with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development; they were with us when we looked at the impacts of the proposed floodwall and bridge. They were part of the decision-making process and we will continue to work with them.

**Comment 9:** Unidentified woman: [Looked around the audience and proceeded] How long ago was that?

**Response 9:** Julie Vignes: The coordination with the LADOTD and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is ongoing. If many of you remember we met a few months ago when we proposed a floodwall. The DOTD has been on board for many months and participating in the discussion of a floodgate.

**Question 10.** Unidentified woman: I have only known about the gate for one week. How many proposals are in the report?

**Response 10.** Julie Vignes: There are 7 proposals in IER 13.

**Comment 11.** Unidentified woman: I have a proposal number 8. IER 13 shows a lot of zigzagging. Engineers know that every time you zigzag it costs money. If there is a plan to build a Non-Federal Levee south of Oakville and it is in the final design stage then why don't they wait for the design because these levees have to tie in at one point? Why did the Corps not build a straight federal levee **instead of zigzagging to the** freshwater diversion by the **Alliance Refinery** and incorporate it into a good **pumping** station there, you wouldn't need a gate across the railroad to tie into the **federal** levee at the Mississippi River. It would save money. If you already have crews working on the back part that is federalized, then you already have a crew mobilized **to finish the federal levee behind our area to the refinery**. Why don't we save money by **mobilizing and demobilizing**? What assurance do we have that the Non-Federal Levees would be built? The plan I have **proposed** would save money **and** save property. **There are** open pastures **in the back**

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that maybe the company **will** give you **the** land. Then you won't have to buy out property in Oakville. **Don't flood us!** Please help to save money and get good flood protection. The simulations **on the Web site show** you are flooding us, why are you not listening?

Note – wording noted in **red** was updated after a third review of the May 4 public meeting video recording.

**Question 12.** Wendy Keating, Jesuit Bend: I am a licensed insurance agent with 25 plus years of experience. I am concerned about IER 13, from all the information I have received from elected officials, reports, and research the floodgate is not in the best interest of Plaquemines Parish, especially those residents south of Oakville. This would result in economic lost to Louisiana. The basis of project is from 20-year old data. The Corps confirms in the report that only pastures and farmland is 1 mile south, this is false. If the Corps completed the study they would have found a mile in a half down in Jesuit Bend, 4,200 people will be affected financially and psychologically. Our community includes Belle Chasse Middle School, Scottville Firehouse, Riverbend Nursing Home, churches, compressor stations, and Conoco Philips. Conoco produces 25 percent of the jet fuel. Then 75 to 80 percent of the citrus industry is located in lower Plaquemines that produces \$16-20 mill to the local economy, farming, gas stations and convenience stores. This information was given by Anthony Buras and I would like into enter it into the record. This gate will negatively impact our property values, who would want to drive over a 16-foot floodgate to get home. The tax assessor said that the fair market value total of all of the residential structures, trailers and improvement from Oakville to Alliance including Belle Chasse Middle School and the fire station exceed \$862 million. Property owners are concerned about the future availability of flood and homeowners insurance once the gate is built. Where in IER 13 did you address other significant affects specific to induced flood damage and higher insurance cost of unprotected areas? At the last meeting, the FEMA representative told us that flood insurance wouldn't be affected and he added that rates would go down when the levees are raised. I can't recall where rates in a coastal area were reduced. If anything rates continue to increase above inflation. Since Katrina, the National Flood Insurance Program has raised the rates in May 2006, 2007, 2008 and they will be raised in October 2009. Not all of us were affected but the fact remains they were increased. Under the NFIP current rules if your properties are located in a B, C or X zone insured under a preferred risk policy and the property suffers two or more losses over \$1,000 each within a 10-year period regardless of ownership, you will no longer qualify for the preferred risk policy. This means the rates will increase. Another fact regarding flood insurance within a 10-year if the property suffers four or more totaling \$5,000 or two or more separate building payments where the current payments exceed the value of the property you won't qualify for standard flood program. Then you will be put into a severe repetitive loss program and these rates will be much higher. A concerned resident asked about FEMA assistance. Yes, FEMA may come in after a natural disaster and possibly provide financial assistance with final assessments but you must

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agree to purchase flood and hazard insurance. The FEMA representative mentioned to the resident that her flood policy includes an increased cost compliant endorsement and this amount is for \$30,000 to bring damage in compliance with state laws and ordinances. Can you guarantee that \$30,000 will be enough? Currently the NFIP allows loans to be grand-fathered but since NFIP is run by the government they can change rules at any time. Can you guarantee once the floodgate goes up that the rates will remain the same? Can you guarantee us in writing that once the floodgate goes up the flood plain rates won't change? I am very concerned about the availability and affordable of flood insurance in the future. Since Katrina, some insurance companies have canceled or ceased writing homeowners insurance based on current risk factors including major waterways and levee protection. Some companies have set new guidelines not to insure new properties located less than a mile from a waterway. Who can guarantee that insurance companies will not raise rates or renew policies on the new risk factors? Sure we can turn to Louisiana Citizens Fair Plan but these rates are between 30 to 40 percent higher than the normal market. If companies decide that everyone south of the floodgate is considered coastal then our rates could increase even higher. Insurance is a business and wants to turn profit. Look at the bailouts for the car, bank, and insurance companies. I am not opposed to elevation of the levee but we don't need a floodgate dividing the parish. I beg you to save the community and not put a floodgate.

**Response 12.** Ken Holder: Thank you. I want to remind everyone that if we want to get to the presentation then we need to head the 3 minute time limit.

**Comment 13.** Cindy Austin: I have been working with small children for years. Before the decision for the floodgate did you talk to the children? How will they feel being on the wrong side? It is wrong to put a child in that position because it affects their self esteem, spells trouble and mental anguish, what if they were your children? No floodgate but better levee protection.

**Comment 14.** Nicolas Arbough, Jesuit Bend and Belle Chasse Middle School student: For the record I am for the improvement of the levee but against the proposed location of the floodgate. Last week after my homework I read through IER 13 and did research on the Internet. I think it is a shame that I am fourteen years old and can see a better solution than what is being proposed that would affect fewer families in my community.

**Comment 15.** Jean Guererra: You're hurting the children. I beg you to please go back and study this more. Can't you see a lot of people have taken time to study this and they have come up with more solutions? All you want to do is put up a gate.

**Question 16.** Steve Pertuit, Belle Chasse: I have been there for 12 years. During this time we've had new residents and new neighborhoods. There are many people down there now and you have done studies in the past that does not include the new people. One of the biggest problems is the loss in value of property, how would you like it if you had to drive through a floodgate?

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**Response 16.** Ken Holder: I think that is a rhetorical question, but I would know I have better flood protection.

**Question 17.** Steve Pertuit: Currently I am relocating my company and selling my house. Many people know Bonnie Buras, a local realtor, when she did a market analysis of my house she said comparable houses they would go from \$400 to \$600 thousand dollars. Due to the controversy we're in this community, I've had to put my house for \$450,000 not \$600,000 or \$650,000. How would you feel if people were leaving an area because of a floodgate? How do you think these people feel if they have to move? I am going to read the broker analysis: there was a meeting about a floodwall in the area that would leave this property unprotected but the decision has not yet been decided. While this area is doing okay compared to rest of the US a property is taking 12-months to sell, how long do you think it would take to sell when the floodgate is up? About a month and a half ago we had a rain you may recall of 12 years; there was only one time that much water was put in my backyard which is adjacent to the Ollie Canal was for Katrina. Now you are proposing to push water into our canal. I want to show pictures after Katrina in Jesuit Bend there is little draining in this area and we are asking you to reconsider the design. Have you purchased property for this levee yet?

**Response 17.** Julie Vignes: The acquisition of the levee has not been completed at this time.



**Question 18.** Steve Pertuit: So, there has not been any property bought that is on this map?

**Response 18.** Julie Vignes: For this alignment we've acquired an easement to do soil borings and 3 to 5 landowners have given permission to go onto the property but there have been no easement of real property.

**Question 18.** Pete Stavros: There was a contract awarded on Mar. 17 for \$6.9 million and awarded to a firm in Fort Worth. I think it was for preparation for this project.

**Response 18.** Julie Vignes: This project is planned to be constructed for three contracts. The Corps did award a contract a few weeks ago for the GIWW West Closure Complex, the gate and pump station to be constructed just west of this location. The GIWW West Closure Complex project was described in IER 12.

**Question 19.** Pete Stavros: There was something under IER 13 for \$6.9 million contract that pertained to this project.

**Response 19.** Julie Vignes: I am not aware of any contracts unless for survey and activities.

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**Question 20.** Steve Pertuit: I want to commend our parish president Nungessor for everything he has done. I hope the state officials would do the same for us. We heard there is another project to build up the private levee behind the Ollie Canal and marry the two systems together but they are out of sync. You are already designing this phase and have it in your mind that this is a done deal. No matter what is said in the public forum where we are dialoging, but you have set in law you are going to do this. These people don't want it. My concern is we just heard that there is money to elevate the Ollie Canal levee but we're not hearing the elevation. You are giving 14 extra days to comment and then in 30 days we will find out how much to build the levee. What's wrong with that picture?

**Response 20a.** Col. Lee: This IER, as we explained, there are two separate projects and authority. IER 13 is for the Eastern Tie In project and that's what we are focused on. We want your comments and you have given good comments tonight. We'll look and see if we need additional work and are looking at the alternative. This isn't a done deal. I am the decision maker and it hasn't been put in front of me. It's a proposed action that we're proposing it to you so we can get feedback and input.

**Question 21.** Billy Nungessor, Plaquemines Parish president: Could we get the same comment period extended until we know what the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee elevation would be at the 100 year that is said we should have within the 30 days? This way we can possibly marry the two projects.

**Response 21.** Col. Lee: I extended the public period and I will consider the comments and make a decision.

**Comment 22.** Lori Becnel: My family has been living here for 4 generations. They have farmed the land, welcomed everybody to our community. I remember when I was a child and I would drive up the road from Belle Chasse Middle School to the Naval Air Station and there was nothing. My dad had a prophecy that one day this would be a city and we have embraced our new neighbors. It's a shame that you could do that to us. I felt devastated when my friends in south Plaquemines lost citrus groves, a legacy lost due to salt water because the Corps failed to protect them. I don't care about the studies, just go to our hearts because we have been living there with our family and we accept the new people. They deserve something for their homes but you can't put a price tag on my home because my dad gave it to me. It is sad for this parish because to cut off the boot is to change the map of the US.

**Question 23.** Dara Hammer, Jesuit Bend: I might live in Jesuit Bend but I still live in a part of Belle Chasse. This packet I received in the mail May 1 dated Apr. 9, postmarked Apr. 13, asking for permission to go on my land for the survey that you spoke about. My response was due Apr. 30 and I didn't receive it until May 1.

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**Response 23.** Rick Kendrick: The survey is for the design itself. Those levees are lower than the rest of the system and we are trying to bring those up to the standards. The survey is for the design and not part of the EIS.

**Question 24.** Dara Hammer: If we had this notification for the non-levee then why have we not received the announcements for what we are discussing here today?

**Response 24.** Julie Vignes: That is the request to do surveys and is sent to the landowners. We try to notify the public through TV, local papers, Times-Picayune and community grocery store. Some have asked about putting it in water bills and we'll look into it.

**Comment 25.** Dara Hammer: A lot of people know me but you do not. I stand here as a concerned homeowner. Our family has only lived here for 8 months and I am just now learning about the floodgate project pending since 1996 is astonishing. I have always worked hard to give my children advantages which are the reason for my move. Since residency, unfair circumstances and not with only this project but the loss of my son. On Highway 23 in Jesuit Bend tomorrow would make 6 months since my son passed. This is where confusion comes in because I can not even understand how the division of this parish is an option. Plaquemines Parish offered support and raised donations to allow my 13-year old son to be buried. So I ask how can we allow separation of the parish that is so close and share the same moral beliefs in life. You can't allow the floodgate to separate the parish residences that will give us economical distress which will filter through families. When I purchased my home, nowhere was I informed or disclosed in reference of this project because if I would have known this I would have never signed the act of sale that my government doesn't believe is worth protection. I am not a real estate agent but there are property disclosure papers. The paper disclosures did it mention the floodgate. This parish came together for my family. Mr. Billy, to friends and residents I just met, everyone pulled together in favor of raising a levee but it's tearing families apart.

**Question 26.** Cherie Burlette: I am from Plaquemines parish and I have lived here all my life. My grandparents built in Buras before Camille and Betsy and they lost everything. This has been going on and I was wondering, why the Corps hasn't stepped up to protect residents and everyone in Plaquemines Parish?

**Response 26.** Col. Lee: Thanks for your question and I get asked this a lot in area like Houma, too. The Corps has two premises: authority and funding from Congress. Those are the two pieces to make a project a reality. For the Westbank and Vicinity project before Hurricane Katrina it was 40 percent complete and there were gaps. After Katrina, Congress and the administration provided funding to complete the authorizations they had approved. In addition Congress appropriated and authorized all the Non-Federal Levees to become a federal system and funded an additional \$700 million. The Corps of Engineers is willing to do any project for which Congress gives us the authority and funding. We have tried to build both projects as quickly as

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possible and you can help by signing the right of way we talked about. The letter to do the investigation is the types of things that help us to do these to test the grounds and soil to move the projects faster.

**Question 27.** Cherie Burlette: Why not put the money into levees where it needs to be instead of building a floodwall?

**Response 27.** Col. Lee: As the decision-maker I will consider all the comments and incorporate them into the decision record.

**Question 28.** Cherie Burlette: Where you here after Katrina?

**Response 28.** Col. Lee: I was in Afghanistan during Katrina and I was here a year after Katrina.

**Question 29.** Cherie Burlette: So you didn't see the actual damage that was here?

**Response 29.** Col. Lee: I didn't see it physically.

**Comment 30.** Dewell Walker: This meeting is not about the wall, it's about if the Corps knows what they are doing. Do you have a patent on the levees? In the patent it does not say anything about hurricanes and it will never work. Only a beach will work. All ideas tonight are good that concern the levee and wall. One year before Katrina there was 100 foot water with Hurricane Ivan, the water was high in the River and it killed the storm. We should use wisdom. Billy has someone named PJ Hahn he's a costal restoration and I talked to him. Before the levees, were here how did God design it? If you have a picture of Chandler Islands, it is an inverted sea and because of that it [inaudible] water 180 degrees away from the point of impact. So, a category 5 that hits a solid beach turns into a 2.5 in the southeast pass, by the time it gets to New Orleans it will be a category 1. Do you want a category 5 to hit you? The levees won't work. Anyone a hurricane expert here? You should hire a hurricane expert. We had 5 storms before Katrina. There is a reason today why they did not hit us and Katrina did. In southeast Plaquemines we had a storm with the wind at 58 miles an hour. How long until global warming warms the Gulf and we have hurricanes in the winter. The guy said there was 17inches of rain the other day in Plaquemines Parish and that was 86 miles per hour. We have fronts that come across America with tornadoes and everyone concentrates on that. Right now in the Bay of Campeche there is a storm but because the Gulf is too cool it will not build. I want to show a picture of today's storm that created a circulation. I have documentation that everything I have is in history books.

**Comment 31.** Carol Duflechein: Basically, I would like to talk to the elected officials and representatives from Washington, D.C. Maybe this is only IER 13 to you but this is our home. I'm opposed to the project moving forward. Much has changed since 2006, areas are heavily populated, 600-700 residents. The population is within less than 7 miles from the proposed site. No one wants to live outside the lock system. We have major fears from what we heard in the

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past with property loss, value loss, insurance, and the ability to sustain the community. When you look at the lower end of the parish the community is gone. We want to protect what we have because it is like nowhere else. We are afraid of a mass exodus. The solution is not to wait for the Non-Federal Levee project or wait for it to be raised. The solution is to change the alignment that's been proposed before we move forward or spend more of our tax money. Our tax money is being spent to have a negative impact. Households are a large tax base. If we are locked out many will move out. If residents leave this is not just a district 5 issue it is an issue for every business in the parish. I'm a vet, those houses represents animals that won't come back but not just my business community because there would be fewer grocers, dentist, seafood vendors, restaurants and other services that Plaquemines residences' provide for each other. It impacts not just south of Oakville but everyone. This project was created to protect Algiers and Belle Chasse. Belle Chasse has grown southward and the levee alignment needs to change to protect all of us who live in Belle Chasse. This project was started in 1986 and amended in 1996. If it can be amended in 1996 then it can be done in 2009. Our property and life is what we wanted. Our houses are our biggest investments. I worked for 25 years and have nearly paid for my property. I don't have another 25 years to work. For everyone here if the property is paid for or not it's emotional and we're afraid if it goes through all this will happen. We ask Col .Lee to consider not signing and allowing extra time which you've done. We need information of the officials from Washington, D.C. on how to contact elected officials and everyone needs to write today so if it takes an act of Congress.

**Comment 32.** Matt Lewage, Jesuit Bend: This is a copy of the presentation presented at the Oakville meeting. My wife says a picture is worth a thousand words. I would like to read an excerpt from the video on the Web site, "We truly believe we can build a better project if we receive the open input from the public." This is the open input we are giving you to build us a better project. We started these 10 days ago and Pete brought this to our attention. We had a pre-meeting with Billy and the state representatives and we didn't have a good feeling, but seeing all the people I believe we do have a chance.

**Comment 33.** Lewis Hammer, Jesuit Bend: We've been here for 8 months as for the Corps of Engineers; you have been working for a while on this project. I have a lot of family members who work in Jefferson Parish. What I found out is the pumping stations, no more than 5 miles apart, from the Westbank side with walls and levee. All those pump stations are not adequate to get water out. You want levees but no one addressed what pumping station would be put in Plaquemines Parish. We don't have a pump station and I would hate to see the levee and wall when surge comes in when there is no place for the water to go. In Jefferson Parish they have pump stations no more than 5 miles apart from Lake Cataouatche to Planters Road. Everyone wants to keep the water out but no one has addressed how to get the water out once it gets in.

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**Comment 34.** Amos Cormier: My family goes back many generations. Historically speaking, no county or parish in the country has been more cooperative with the Corps of Engineers than Plaquemines Parish. Every time you have wanted to widen the perimeter of the navigation of the river you have come to Plaquemines Parish. You've taken our land, homes, orchards and community identity but we've cooperated. In the 1927 flood, the levee was broken on the east bank, the Carnarvon levee was blown and were flooded. We have been a buffer from a military base, storm, and disease standpoint with Quarantine Bay. We've sacrificed and cooperated in the past. Now we are asking New Orleans, the state and country to give us what we need and not more sacrifice.

**Question 35.** Benny Rouselle: Col. Lee, this project as it stands sits in the hands of your agency, Congress and the federal government. I'd ask you to not make a decision any time soon. What I see here is misinformation floating around. I've heard 1986 and 1996 but this gate hasn't come about until the last 6 months. It's not good to have misinformation and have people's emotions upset. This floodgate has just come about as an alternative since the storm.

**Response 35.** Col. Lee: I do not think there has been any misinformation tonight. I heard Julie mention that we've been working with DOTD on the floodwall and floodgate alternative in the last 6 months. There are two authorizations for this project: the first authorization was in 1986 for the Harvey Canal and the second to include the Algiers Canal in 1996 that included Oakville. There is an evolution over time and if we provided misinformation I want to clarify that information.

**Comment 36.** Benny Rouselle: I heard people come to this microphone and cry because they think it's been in the works for a long time. It is true that in 1986 the West Jefferson Levee District was approved and in 1996 extended to Oakville. A letter you sent recently says the extension of the project beyond the Hero Canal, Eastern Tie In originally will tie in south of Oakville and terminate at Highway 23. This letter was written on Apr 27, 2009. This gate was not in the picture until recently. The solution is not making a decision. I would also ask that the congressional delegation go back to ask for 100-year protection to Myrtle Grove. There is an enormous amount of money appropriated for the project. To pacify the public you are saying you will have protection but not 100-year. We can give the public 100-year protection with cooperation of all three agencies. When looking at the amount of money appropriated you have \$671 million for the Non-Federal Levee project that has nothing to do with the Eastern Tie In. I ask you to do interim protection and ask for federal authorization for 100-year to Myrtle Grove. Then ask the local government to expropriate pastureland in the southern area of the parish that will save \$218 million to \$260 million. The way this is done is simple and the West Jefferson Levee District did it last week. They expropriated property. At the current rate of 32 million cubic yards at seven or eight dollars per cubic yard which equals \$220-\$226 million to dig the dirt. If the local government expropriate the property for \$4,000 or \$5,00 an acre that frees up

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# Public Meeting Summary

\$218 to \$260 million which is enough to protect to cover from Oakville to Myrtle Grove and protect everyone in this room. I ask you to consider this because you're taking comments and input. Don't take it personally because you didn't write the letter and it is in the public's hands right now. I don't like confusing people. The federal delegation needs to get 100-year protection to Congressional authorization, the local government needs to provide the expropriation and additional funds for you to build the levee.

**Comment 37.** Anthony Buras, Councilman 5: I live on the wrong side of the tracks. My comments are direct. I have formally objected to a floodwall being placed across the highway at Oakville to Col. Lee. He's received the copy and there is a copy going to Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter and Senator Melancon. In the letter I requested that the area south of Oakville be included in the 100-year protection. Also, I am going to request that the other members of the council support the resolution to object to the floodwall across Highway 23. I would ask you to call your councilman and urge them to support the resolution.

**Comment 38.** John Rink: I have been paying property taxes to the parish since 1993 when I moved to Jesuit Bend. I would like to say I am a frequent visitor to [Plaqueminesparish.com](http://Plaqueminesparish.com) that something of this magnitude was mentioned for the first time on Apr. 29. I was notified on Apr. 28 when people put road signs on Highway 23 in front of my subdivision. I am incredibly disappointed that somebody made a determination that everyone south of a proposed floodwall is expendable. Now some people know my father and I personally built my house. When he was told about the situation he was overcome and started to cry. That's my issue with him but it seems that something at this magnitude there should have been some type of disclosure. I'm for flood protection and I'm in healthcare. If you protect Barataria Bay with a 100-year flood plan to 16 or 30 feet and lock us out, how high does the water need to go on the other side of the way until the pump can't pump? If you don't have 100 year protection for us and the storm goes up Barataria Bay and reach the floodwall then its going to overcome the levee. How many feet can that pump stop? It was broadcasted on WWL, that's why the pumps in Jefferson Parish failed. The water was pumping into Jefferson Parish because was too high on other side of levee. I was a religious listener to WWL after the storm. Water doesn't care where it goes it will go until it is pushed into a barrier. There was a quick proposal to put a barrier or gate to prevent the water from getting into Lake Pontchartrain. They said why put the floodgates at the canal in Metairie if you stop the water getting from getting into the lake then you do not have to do that. The state of Mississippi said where will it go? Us? And here you are doing the same thing to us, I'm not expendable, I work hard and pay taxes to this parish, to the government. My taxes go to bailout other people have been getting but no one is bailing me out. Instead they are giving me a bucket to bail water out when water comes over levee. You can sit there and say you can give us some protection but it is not going to be the Westbank protection or the 100-year protection. Then we

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will flood because your new pumps will not pump, instead it will give us one big problem here in Plaquemines.

**Comment 39.** Robert Bidot: I live on the north side of the gate. I have seen this parish survive, prosper, show economic growth and repopulate. Col. Lee I call you to the attention to the Corps mission statement to provide vital public engineering service in peace and war to strengthen the nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risk from a disaster. Sir, your decision will have catastrophic effects if you decide to put the levee system across Highway 23 and separate the parish. It will prohibit economic growth, repopulation and prosperity to the citizens of Plaquemines. The decision will be an economic disaster to the lower part of the parish. I implore you to revisit and to restudy this case. Any other decision is reckless and borders being criminal.

**Comment 40.** Donald Landry, Belle Chasse: I would like to thank Col. Lee for extending the deadline and I request it be extended for an additional 30 days for the study. I want to thank the Corps, Senate and congressional representatives. To clarify, the Corps works under a directive from those guys. Congress gives them authorization so we have 14 or 30 days to contact congressman and get proposal changed for a floodgate and extend for the newly federalized levee. In the last meeting it was stated that it is a federalized levee, and let's raise the federalized levee to the 100-year protection. Let's save time and money it would take to build the zigzag levee and floodwall. Instead let's start to build a new levee to the 100 year which is my proposal. I've lived in Belle Chasse my whole life. Our community is a community of core. People feel connected to the community and our community is close. We thank our sheriffs last week because we had zero homicides and we are the only parish with those stats. We have a grocery store that has been around for three generation. I work with youth for 10 years as a scout master for Boy Scout in Belle Chasse troop 106. I have worked 17 years with the youth group at the church because they are the future of our community. The community is built around youth and we need to nourish that resource. I encourage you not to divide the community with a floodgate and consider a new proposal to raise the levee to the 100 year level. Don't separate us mentally and politically.

**Comment 41.** Lonnie Brachot: We live in a great country in the world. We go to war to tear up other countries and rebuild for people who do not like us. We can not spend billions of dollars on rebuilding coastal restoration because levees alone won't a stop a hurricane. I lived in Buras in 2004 and there was a meeting at the Buras Auditorium about another study. Our retirees move out and go to other places. It's a shame because they love the bedroom community we provide but that wall isn't going to accomplish anything but cause misery, flood and ask people to leave. We're the richest parish in the state and treated like red headed step children. We have the best seafood and we have the world's third largest port. We have citrus, oil, and gas but we're the last ones that receive benefits.

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**Comment 42.** Felicia Allen, Port Sulphur: I see signs that say “united we stand, divided we flood” but I’ve seen people of our own parish that just want to move the levee to cover themselves. We were totally devastated by Katrina and have taken this long to build. I do not know why you want to move this floodgate to somewhere else. We’ve been stabbed in the back in south Plaquemines and we don’t deserve it anymore.

**Comment 43.** Tiffany Phillips, Port Sulphur: Even though I didn’t know about the floodgate until I saw the signs on the side of the road. We were really devastated by Katrina and I heard people talk about property value. I understand people have their own agenda but what about my property value, I live in a FEMA trailer that will be gone soon. They say united we stand but just because there is a gate doesn’t mean water won’t come over.

**Comment 44.** Robin Leavage: I want to talk to my friends, family and community because it’s not even two weeks and look what happened. We went to a meeting with our representatives and it didn’t sound good but if it takes an act of Congress we’ll get an act of Congress to get it done. I want to let you know today I went to school it has been very difficult because I haven’t slept. I am representing all of our children and I want you to know that every morning my students stand and say the pledge. They are proud and respect the flag. We live in a free country and the best place in world. So, I leave you with saying one nation with liberty and justice for all.

**Comment 45.** Eleanor Mackey: I beg god to allow me to come back home and rebuild because I want to retire. We won’t win if we separate the parish with a floodwall. It shouldn’t be in Oakville and if not in Boothville then it has no business being anywhere. I want to thank you Col. for fighting in Afghanistan, so please fight for us. We’re still fighting to rebuild from Katrina. My mom hasn’t moved yet because we are still under FEMA. Her oldest brother who is 90 years old and we have never been affected like hurricane Katrina. If we don’t have the technology to prevent another Katrina, what will happen tomorrow? Make sure the 100 year works for all of Plaquemines Parish.

**Comment 46.** Robin Goretti, Jesuit Bend: What I have heard was [inaudible] 1996 and that’s irrelevant. We bought in 2007. We weren’t told that and it wasn’t disclosed. In Oakville we were scolded because these meetings have been happening for two years and we weren’t participating. The point is my husband and I had a choice to work on the Naval Reserve and that base has the opportunity to bring people into the area but they won’t come if the lower part won’t be protected. When I was talking with the Lt. Col. I work for now I was encouraged to car pool from Slidell or Baton Rouge. We have the opportunity to make this right. We can bring people here. My request is that you go back and look at this objectively.

**Question 47.** Emily Burlett, 7<sup>th</sup> grade Belle Chasse Middle School: I have one more year at the middle school and I would like to spend it peacefully without this big thing to go over every time I go to school. My sisters are going to primary school but they are looking forward to their four

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years in the middle school. There is no telling what will happen to our school, will it become the wetlands? What will happen?

**Response 47.** Julie Vignes: The school will be protected and it will be better protected than what it is today. It's south of the gate. The fact is I have two projects, your school is outside of one but is protected by the other. Your school will be better protected than it is today.

**Comment 48.** Unidentified woman: [Inaudible] he said you know last month there was a meeting. We are not going to put a floodgate but we're just talking but you can view the minutes. This was in Feb., how long has the study been going on? The Corps has done wonderful things and these are the names of people working on this project. I hope we remember you for the wonderful things you are going to do for our parish. I feel in my heart that I am a local and I have two boys. Then would we have to move up the road. I say Louisiana you are chopping a community and we want to stay together. I want to live here and tell people to move here because there is no culture like this place. Please don't chop us up but save us and tell your kids you saved a culture and a community. I pray you do the right thing.

**Comment 49.** Jean Guererra: We can remember each of these faces when we fight floods we will remember you didn't help us. What we need is wetlands built up and that will help protect us. Do not treat us like cow pastures. We're close and proud. We will not stop we have stopped the floodgate. We are prepared to go to Congress and to the President. My husband fought for our county and we will fight for our parish.

**Question 50.** Jimmy Borat, Jesuit Bend: I haven't heard the fact that environmental impact studies and environmental programs [inaudible]. What happens after the flood and I come back to toxic waste? Why not put the protection and encompass Alliance and help protect the environment?

**Question 51.** Jennifer, Buras: My comment is to the Belle Chasse people, when the Corps decides to put this in my backyard instead of yours, will you back me?

**Comment 52.** Unidentified man: I still work down the road in Belle Chasse. I had many opportunities to leave when working with the gas companies and I always came back. I don't want to leave. Others don't want to leave. What you are doing to us now we have been fighting for 30 years not to be separate. More people have been getting back together; everybody is working together since Katrina. We can't get people to live here and stay. We hire military when we can. Why are you pushing everybody out of the parish?

**Comment 53.** Lori Swallow, Jesuit Bend: I am not from Louisiana I came from Connecticut. One thing I love about the parish and the people is we look out for each other. For those of you

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from the lower end of the parish, I assure you that I will do everything in my power to protect all of us. We all pay taxes and are American citizens and we all deserve the right protection.

**Comment 54.** Jean Guererra: We are not going to let it go to a certain other area. We don't want any floodgates in this area and we will fight. We moved here eight years ago. I wanted to get away, we were fighting crime in New Orleans, not realizing we had to fight our own government, we beg you to protect us

**Comment 55.** Shelby Martin: For the congressional staff, who vote yeah or nah. Before the Berlin wall you want, everyone who wants the floodgate vote yeah or nah.

**Audience:** Nah!

**Comment 56.** Liz Seiger: There were a lot of wetlands when we first moved here. We watched them go away because we used to go to camp in Port Sulphur. Now there is nothing there if you don't rebuild the wetlands we will never be saved.

**Comment 57.** Robert Brouse: We need dredges and the lower Plaquemines built back up. [Inaudible yelling].

[Clip presentation from the audience]

**Comment 58.** Wes Kungel, Senator Landrieu: I will give you my contact information at my office. This only works when you get involved. There is no simple solution. We have to work with what we have and your entire delegation is unified when it comes to protecting you. Every delegation is together now. We will fight for you.

**Comment 59.** Rachel Perez, Senator Vitter: We had a great meeting before this one and I am looking forward to working with you. We will go back to talk to our senators and will talk about how to incorporate your ideas, that will be beneficial. We are here to listen to your concerns and we look forward to working with you.

**Comment 60.** Lou Terrell, Congressman Melancon: We work for this district and we are listening. As Wes said if we had the answer we wouldn't be sitting here. We're taking this to D.C. to figure this out to appease everyone. We want to protect everyone that we can. It is not about protecting north or lower Plaquemines. We want to protect the most people. You can e-mail and call to give Congressman Melancon your concerns. The more we hear the more we have to take forward. Thanks for the opportunity to be here and we will continue to work for you.

**Comment 61.** Pete Stavros: The Corps is giving an extension already. I think part of that is to see this die out and not make any further comments. Please keep updated on

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plaquemeslevees.com on that Web site so you can continue to stay in touch. We have a plan to meet with their bosses in the future and we won't let this die. We will stay together and won't be divided.

Ken Holder, public affairs chief

We will stick around to answer any other questions. Thanks.

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## **September 19, 2009 Public Meeting\*\***

\*\*Will be posted on [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov) as soon as available

***Appendix B – Agency Comments***



## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
646 Cajundome Blvd.  
Suite 400  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506



March 20, 2009

Colonel Alvin B. Lee  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Lee:

Enclosed is the Draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for Individual Environmental Report (IER) 13 for the proposed Westbank and Vicinity of New Orleans Hurricane Protection Project, East of Algiers Canal, Hero Canal to Oakville Tie-In in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. This draft report is transmitted under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and is being coordinated with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Comments by those agencies will be attached to our final report.

Should your staff have any questions regarding the enclosed draft report, please have them contact Angela Trahan of this office at 337/291-3137.

Sincerely,

James F. Boggs  
Supervisor  
Louisiana Field Office

Enclosures

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX  
FWS, Atlanta, GA (ES/HC)  
NMFS, Baton Rouge, LA  
LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA  
LDNR, CMD, Baton Rouge, LA  
OCPR, Baton Rouge, LA

TAKE PRIDE  
IN AMERICA 

**Draft**  
**Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report**

**West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project  
East of Algiers Canal, Hero Canal to Oakville (TieIn)  
Individual Environmental Report (IER) 13**



PROVIDED TO  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

PREPARED BY  
ANGELA TRAHAN  
FISH AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES  
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA

**MARCH 2009**

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – SOUTHEAST REGION

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## Executive Summary

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has prepared this draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (FWCAR) for the proposed Westbank and Vicinity of New Orleans (WBV) Hurricane Protection Project, East of Algiers Canal, Hero Canal to Oakville Tie-In, Individual Environmental Report (IER) 13. The Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (Corps) is preparing IERs under the approval of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Those IERs will partially fulfill the Corps compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 4321- 4347). IERs are a CEQ approved alternative arrangement for compliance with NEPA that would allow expedited implementation of improved hurricane protection measures. Work proposed in those IERs would be conducted under the authority of Public Law 109-234, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Supplemental 4). That law authorized the Corps to upgrade two existing hurricane protection projects (i.e., WBV and Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity) in the Greater New Orleans area in southeast Louisiana.

This report contains a description of the existing fish and wildlife resources of the project area, discusses future with- and without-project habitat conditions, identifies fish and wildlife-related impacts of the proposed project, and provides recommendations for the proposed project. This report incorporates and supplements our FWCA Reports that addressed impacts and mitigation features for the Westbank and Vicinity of New Orleans (dated November 10, 1986, August 22, 1994, November 15, 1996, and June 20, 2005) Hurricane Protection project, and the November 26, 2007, Draft Programmatic FWCA Report that addresses the hurricane protection improvements authorized in Supplemental 4. Impacts and mitigation needs resulting from government and contractor provided borrow areas have been addressed in an October 25, 2007, and a November 1, 2007, FWCA reports, respectively, therefore this report will not address those project features. This draft document does not constitute the report of the Secretary of the Interior as required by Section 2(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). This draft report has been provided to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA's NMFS), and their comments will be incorporated in the final report.

The IER 13 study area is located in the upper Barataria Basin and includes the Belle Chasse sub-basin along the west bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana. Hero Canal defines the southern boundary of the Belle Chasse sub-basin and portions of the study area, and Oakville is the southernmost community to be included in the study area. Study area wetlands support nationally important fish and wildlife resources including bottomland hardwood wetlands, cypress swamp, and fresh marsh. Factors that will strongly influence future fish and wildlife resource conditions outside of the protection levees include freshwater and sediment input and loss of coastal wetlands. Regardless of which of the above factors ultimately has the greatest influence, emergent wetlands within, and adjacent to, the project area will probably experience losses due to development, subsidence, erosion, and relative sea-level rise. Bottomland hardwood wetlands in the study area are likely to transition to more water tolerant species such as ash and maple.

During the alternatives analysis, the no-action alternative and the alternative to raise the existing hurricane protection system to a 100-year level of protection (i.e., reducing risk from a storm surge that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year) were considered. The no-action alternative would not be implemented because it fails to provide the authorized level of protection. Several additional alternative alignments were evaluated that would afford protection to a combination of the community of Oakville, businesses along Louisiana Highway 23, and/or the Industrial Pipe Inc., landfill.

The preferred alternative includes a combination of earthen levees and “T”-walls, and includes a protected side shift of the existing levee north of Hero Canal. The proposed alignment would cross Hero Canal with a 56-foot-wide stop log gate just west of the Industrial Pipe Inc. landfill. A new levee alignment is proposed south of Hero Canal that would provide the landfill and the community of Oakville the 100-year level of protection. South of the landfill the proposed levee alignment would follow the existing Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee alignment for approximately 780 feet. The proposed levee alignment then turns east to cross Louisiana Highway 23 and the New Orleans and Gulf Coast Railway Company railroad track with a multi-floodgate structure and then connects with the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT) flood protection system. An emergency bypass road is proposed around the multi-floodgate structure, and two pump stations are proposed to facilitate stormwater drainage within the proposed area of protection.

Implementation of the preferred alternative would directly impact 19 and 13 acres of wet and hydrologically-altered (i.e., non-wet) bottomland hardwood habitat, respectively. Approximately 39 acres of swamp habitat would also be directly impacted. According to our Habitat Assessment Methodology (HAM) and Wetland Value Assessment (WVA) analyses, the preferred alternative would result in the direct loss of 18.39 and 28.27 average annual habitat units (AAHUs), of bottomland hardwood forest and swamp, respectively. Mitigation for unavoidable losses of wet and non-wet bottomland hardwood and swamp habitat caused by project features will be evaluated through a complementary comprehensive mitigation IER.

The Service does not object to providing improved hurricane protection to the greater New Orleans area provided the following fish and wildlife conservation recommendations are incorporated into future project planning and implementation:

1. To the greatest extent possible, design (e.g., implementation of “T”-walls in levee designs) and position flood protection features so that destruction of wetlands and non-wet bottomland hardwoods are avoided or minimized.
2. The proposed Oakville pump station should be redesigned to pump storm water into the adjacent forested wetlands as a storm water treatment measure and to enhance those degraded wetlands.
3. The Corps shall fully compensate for any unavoidable losses to wet and non-wet bottomland hardwood habitat (18.39 AAHUs) and swamp habitat (28.27 AAHUs) caused

by project features.

4. Minimize enclosure of wetlands with new levee alignments. When enclosing wetlands is unavoidable, acquire non-development easements on those wetlands, or maintain hydrologic connections with adjacent, un-enclosed wetlands to minimize secondary impacts from development and hydrologic alteration.
5. If a proposed project feature is changed significantly or is not implemented within one year of the March 10, 2009, Endangered Species Act consultation letter, we recommend that the Corps reinitiate coordination with each office to ensure that the proposed project would not adversely affect any Federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat.
6. Avoid adverse impacts to bald eagle nesting locations and wading bird colonies through careful design of project features and timing of construction. A qualified biologist should inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented wading bird nesting colonies and bald eagles during the nesting season (i.e., February 16 through October 31 for wading bird nesting colonies, and October through mid-May for bald eagles).
7. To minimize disturbance to colonies containing nesting wading birds (i.e., herons, egrets, night-herons, ibis, and roseate spoonbills), anhingas, and/or cormorants, all activity occurring within 1,000 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 1 through February 15, exact dates may vary within this window depending on species present). In addition, we recommend that on-site contract personnel be informed of the need to identify colonial nesting birds and their nests, and should avoid affecting them during the breeding season.
8. If a bald eagle nest is discovered within or adjacent to the proposed project area, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary and those results should be forwarded to this office.
9. Forest clearing associated with project features should be conducted during the fall or winter to minimize impacts to nesting migratory birds, when practicable.
10. Acquisition, habitat development, maintenance and management of mitigation lands should be allocated as first-cost expenses of the project, and the local project-sponsor should be responsible for operational costs. If the local project-sponsor is unable to fulfill the financial mitigation requirements for operation, then the Corps should provide the necessary funding to ensure mitigation obligations are met on behalf of the public interest.
11. Further detailed planning of project features (e.g., Design Documentation Report,

Engineering Documentation Report, Plans and Specifications, or other similar documents) should be coordinated with the Service and other State and Federal natural resource agencies, and shall be provided an opportunity to review and submit recommendations on the all work addressed in those reports.

12. If mitigation lands are purchased for inclusion within Federally or State managed lands, those lands must meet certain requirements; therefore the land manager of that management area should be contacted early in the planning phase regarding such requirements.
13. If applicable, a General Plan should be developed by the Corps, the Service, and the managing natural resource agency in accordance with Section 3(b) of the FWCA for mitigation lands.
14. Flood protection water control structures in any watercourse should maintain pre-project cross section in width and depth to the maximum extent practicable.
15. Any flood protection water control structure sited in a canal, bayou, or navigation channel that does not maintain the pre-project cross section should be designed and operated with multiple openings within the structure. This should include openings near both sides of the channel as well as an opening in the center of the channel that extends to the bottom.
16. Flood protection water control structures should remain completely open except during storm events, unless otherwise determined by the natural resource agencies.
17. Flood protection structures within a waterway should include shoreline baffles and/or ramps (e.g., rock rubble, articulated concrete mat) that slope up to the structure invert to enhance organism passage. Various ramp designs should be considered, and coordination should continue with the natural resource agencies to ensure fish passage features are incorporated to the fullest extent practicable.
18. A report documenting the status of mitigation implementation and maintenance should be prepared every three years by the managing agency and provided to the Corps, the Service, NMFS, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), and LDWF. That report should also describe future management activities, and identify any proposed changes to the existing management plan.

## **INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (Corps) is preparing an Individual Environmental Report (IER 13) for 100-year level of protection for the Westbank and Vicinity of New Orleans (WBV) Hurricane Protection Project, East of Algiers Canal, Hero Canal to Oakville, Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana. This section of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (GNOHSDRRS) would also tie into the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT) levee system. IER 13 is being prepared under the approval of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that will partially fulfill the Corps compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347). IERs are a CEQ approved alternative arrangement for compliance with NEPA that would allow expedited implementation of improved hurricane protection measures. Work proposed in IERs would be conducted under the authority of Public Law 109-234, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Supplemental 4) and Public Law 110-28, U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (5th Supplemental). Those laws authorized the Corps to upgrade two existing hurricane protection projects [i.e., WBV and Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV)] in the Greater New Orleans area in southeast Louisiana.

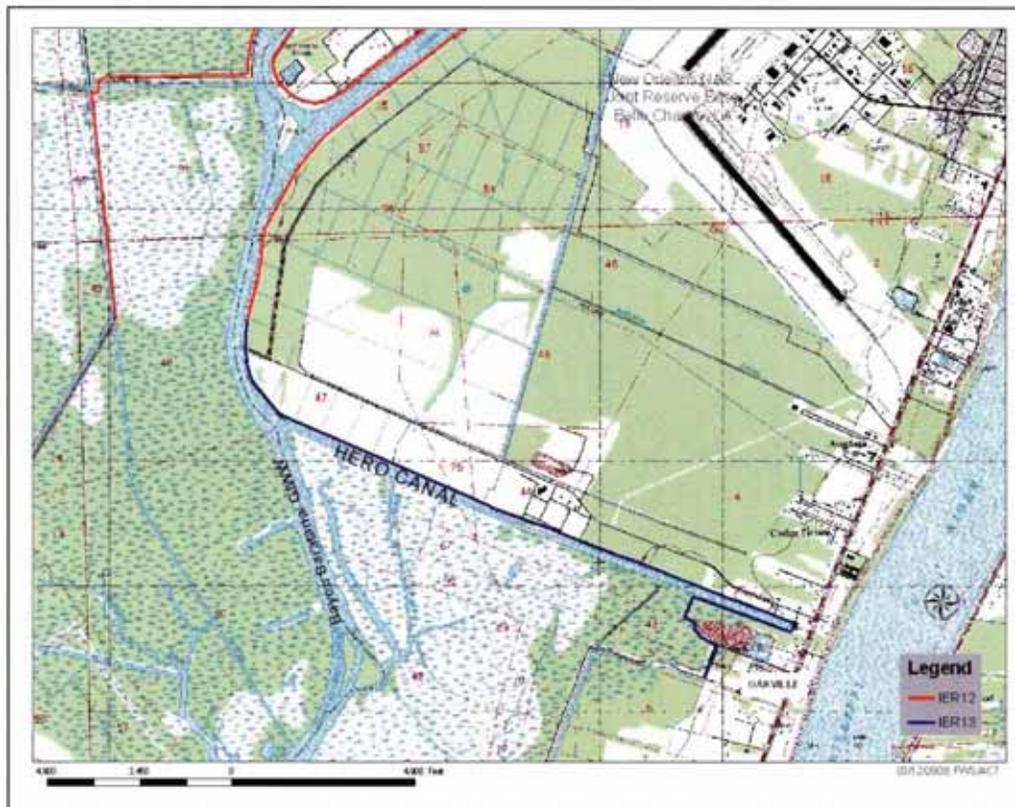
This report contains a description of the existing fish and wildlife resources of the project area, discusses future with- and without-project habitat conditions, identifies fish and wildlife-related impacts of the proposed project, and provides recommendations for the proposed project. This report incorporates and supplements our Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) Reports that addressed impacts and mitigation features for the Westbank and Vicinity of New Orleans (dated November 10, 1986, August 22, 1994, November 15, 1996, and June 20, 2005), and the November 26, 2007, Draft Programmatic FWCA Report that addresses the hurricane protection improvements authorized in Supplemental 4. Impacts and mitigation needs resulting from government and contractor provided borrow areas have been addressed in an October 25, 2007, and a November 1, 2007, FWCA report, respectively, therefore this report will not address those project features. This draft document does not constitute the report of the Secretary of the Interior as required by Section 2(b) of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.). This draft report has been provided to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's, National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA's NMFS), and their comments will be incorporated in the final report.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

The IER 13 study area is located in the upper Barataria Basin and includes the Belle Chasse sub-basin along the west bank of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana. The study area is about 5 miles south of the city of Belle Chasse and is defined by the Mississippi River and Louisiana Highway 23 to the east and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) to the west. Hero Canal defines the southern boundary of the Belle Chase sub-basin and portions of the study area. Oakville is the southernmost community to be included in the study area. A forested and emergent marsh complex is situated west of Oakville and south of Hero Canal. Within the

existing WBV hurricane protection system, natural levees and lower lying wetlands have been leveed and drained to accommodate residential, commercial, and agricultural development. While most of the land within the hurricane protection system along Hero Canal and within the Plaquemines Parish Levee in the vicinity of Oakville has been leveed and drained, a majority of that land remains undeveloped. The Industrial Pipe Incorporated landfill is located adjacent to the community of Oakville and has been involved in Clean Water Act, Section 404 violations due to encroachment into the adjacent swamp habitat.

Figure 1. IER 13 Study Area, WBV, Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana, and Existing Hurricane and Flood Protection Features.



## FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Habitat types in the study area include wet and non-wet bottomland hardwood habitat, cypress and tupelo swamp, scrub-shrub habitat, fresh marsh, open water, and developed areas. Open water areas are associated with the Hero Canal, the GIWW (Bayou Barataria), and interspersed open water areas within the fresh marsh and swamp habitat. Due to urban development and a forced-drainage system, the hydrology of most of the forested habitat within the levee system has been altered. The forced-drainage system has been in operation for many years, and subsidence is evident throughout the areas enclosed by levees.

Wetlands (forested, marsh, and scrub-shrub) within the study area provide plant detritus to coastal waters downstream and thereby contribute to the production of commercially and

recreationally important fishes and shellfishes. They also provide valuable water quality functions such as reduction of excessive dissolved nutrient levels, filtering of waterborne contaminants, and removal of suspended sediment. In addition, coastal wetlands buffer storm surges reducing their damaging effect to man-made infrastructure within the coastal area. Factors that will strongly influence future fish and wildlife resource conditions outside of the protection levees include freshwater and sediment input and loss of coastal wetlands. Regardless of which of the above factors ultimately has the greatest influence, emergent wetlands within, and adjacent to, the project area will probably experience losses due to development, subsidence, erosion, and relative sea-level rise. Bottomland hardwood wetlands outside of the hurricane protection system will transition to more water tolerant species such as ash and maple.

The Service has provided a FWCA Report for the authorized WBV hurricane protection project. That report contains a through discussion of the significant fish and wildlife resources (including those habitats) that occur within the study area. For brevity, that discussion is incorporated by reference herein, but the following information is provided to update the previously mentioned reports and provide IER specific information and recommendations.

On March 10, 2009, the Service determined that the proposed activities would not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species. Our concurrence is based on information that indicates no known threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat are within the study area. Therefore, no further consultation will be required unless there are changes in the scope or location of the project, or construction has not been initiated within one year. If the project has not been initiated within one year, follow-up consultation should be accomplished with this office prior to making expenditures for construction. If the scope or location of the proposed work is changed, consultation should occur as soon as such changes are made.

The project-area forested wetlands do, however, provide nesting habitat for the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and an active bald eagle nest was documented in the vicinity of the study area and west of the Plaquemines Parish levee in 2008. The bald eagle was officially removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species on August 8, 2007. Bald eagles nest in Louisiana from October through mid-May. Eagles typically nest in mature trees (e.g., bald cypress, sycamore, willow, etc.) near fresh to intermediate marshes or open water in the southeastern Parishes. Areas with high numbers of nests include the Lake Verret Basin south to Houma, the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain, and the Lake Salvador area. Major threats to this species include habitat alteration, human disturbance, and environmental contaminants (i.e., organochlorine pesticides and lead).

Breeding bald eagles occupy "territories" that they will typically defend against intrusion by other eagles, and that they likely return to each year. A territory may include one or more alternate nests that are built and maintained by the eagles, but which may not be used for nesting in a given year. Potential nest trees within a nesting territory may, therefore, provide important alternative bald eagle nest sites. Nest sites typically include at least one perch with a clear view of the water or area where the eagles usually forage. Shoreline trees or snags located near large water bodies provide the visibility and accessibility needed to locate aquatic prey. Bald eagles

are vulnerable to disturbance during courtship, nest building, egg laying, incubation, and brooding. Disturbance during this critical period may lead to nest abandonment, cracked and chilled eggs, and exposure of small young to the elements. Human activity near a nest late in the nesting cycle may also cause flightless birds to jump from the nest tree, thus reducing their chance of survival.

Although the bald eagle has been removed from the List of Endangered and Threatened Species, it continues to be protected under the MBTA and the BGEPA. The Service developed the National Bald Eagle Management (NBEM) Guidelines to provide landowners, land managers, and others with information and recommendations to minimize potential project impacts to bald eagles, particularly where such impacts may constitute "disturbance," which is prohibited by the BGEPA. A copy of the NBEM Guidelines is available at:

<<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle/NationalBaldEagleManagementGuidelines.pdf>>.

Those guidelines recommend: (1) maintaining a specified distance between the activity and the nest (buffer area); (2) maintaining natural areas (preferably forested) between the activity and nest trees (landscape buffers); and (3) avoiding certain activities during the breeding season. On-site personnel should be informed of the possible presence of nesting bald eagles within the project boundary, and should identify, avoid, and immediately report any such nests to this office. If a bald eagle nest is discovered within or adjacent to the proposed project area, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary. The Division of Migratory Birds for the Southeast Region of the Service (phone: 404/679-7051, e-mail: [SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov](mailto:SEmigratorybirds@fws.gov)) has the lead role in conducting such consultations. Should you need further assistance interpreting the guidelines or performing an on-line project evaluation, please contact this office.

The study area forested wetlands may also support colonial nesting waterbirds. Colonies may be present that are not currently listed in the database maintained by the LDWF. That database is updated primarily by monitoring the colony sites that were previously surveyed during the 1980s. Until a new, comprehensive coast-wide survey is conducted to determine the location of newly-established nesting colonies, we recommend that a qualified biologist inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented nesting colonies during the nesting season. To minimize disturbance to colonies containing nesting wading birds (i.e., herons, egrets, night-herons, ibis, and roseate spoonbills), anhingas, and/or cormorants, all activity occurring within 1,000 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 1 through February 15, exact dates may vary within this window depending on species present). In addition, we recommend that on-site contract personnel be informed of the need to identify colonial nesting birds and their nests, and should avoid affecting them during the breeding season.

### **Future Fish and Wildlife Resources**

The combination of subsidence and sea level rise is called submergence or land sinking. As the land sinks the wetlands become inundated with higher water levels, stressing most non-fresh

marsh plants, bottomland hardwood plants and even cypress-tupelo swamps leading to plant death and conversion to open water. Other major causes of wetland losses within the study area include altered hydrology, storms, saltwater intrusion (caused by marine processes invading fresher wetlands), shoreline erosion, herbivory, and development activities including the direct and indirect impacts of dredge and fill (Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority 1998). The continued conversion of wetlands and forested habitat to open water or developed land represent the most serious fish and wildlife-related problems in the study area. Those losses could be expected to cause significant declines in coastal fish and shellfish production and in the study area's carrying capacity for numerous migratory waterfowl, wading birds, other migratory birds, alligators, furbearers, and game mammals. Wetland losses will also reduce storm surge protection of developed lands, and will likely contribute to water quality degradation associated with excessive nutrient inputs.

## **ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION**

During the alternatives analysis, the no-action alternative and the alternative to raise the existing hurricane protection system to a 100-year level of protection (i.e., reducing risk from a storm surge that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year) were considered. The no-action alternative would not be implemented because it fails to provide the authorized level of protection. Several additional alternative alignments were evaluated that would afford protection to a combination of the community of Oakville, businesses along Louisiana Highway 23, and/or the Industrial Pipe Inc., landfill.

### **Proposed Action**

The preferred alternative includes a protected side shift of the existing levee north of Hero Canal. For this alternative, a new levee alignment is also proposed south of Hero Canal to provide the landfill and the community of Oakville the 100-year level of protection. The levee segment north of Hero Canal would be raised to approximately 14 to 16 feet elevation [i.e., North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88)] with a 10-foot-wide crown, with a vertical to horizontal distance ratio of 1 to 3 foot (i.e., 1:3) side slopes on the flood side, and 1:4 foot side slopes on the protected side. Approximately 19,000 linear feet of existing levee would be raised. Proposed elevations are based on a target year 2057 design elevations and includes overbuild for settlement.

As proposed, the new levee alignment would cross Hero Canal just west of the Industrial Pipe Inc. landfill. A 56-foot-wide stop log gate would be constructed and would connect to the earthen levees north and south of the gate by "T"-walls. Top elevation would be 14-16 feet (NAVD 88) with a bottom elevation of approximately -12 feet (NAVD 88). A bypass channel would not be required during the construction of the navigational gate, and it is anticipated that barge traffic accessing the Industrial Pipe Inc. landfill would not be interrupted for more than one month on this dead-end canal.

South of the proposed Hero Canal gate a 600-foot-wide earthen levee would be constructed and configured within a cypress swamp and bottomland hardwood wetland complex to incorporate

the Industrial Pipe Inc. landfill and the community of Oakville within the hurricane protection system. This alignment was previously approved for the West Bank and Vicinity hurricane protection project; however, due to improved post-Katrina design standards, the levee design would need to be expanded to a higher elevation and a wider footprint to achieve the 100-year level of protection. The earthen levee would be set back from the landfill approximately 150 feet to the west and 150 feet to the south. The proposed levee alignment would follow along the southern boundary of the landfill and connect to the existing Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal levee, which would also be reconstructed to the 100-year level of protection (i.e., approximately 14 to 16 foot elevation NAVD 1988) using the centerline of the existing parish levee. After reconstructing 780 feet of the non-federal levee, the alignment turns east as an earthen levee for approximately 1,600 feet then transitions into a "T"-wall. The "T"-wall turns south and then immediately east (i.e., doglegs) before connecting with a multi-floodgate structure.

The multi-floodgate structure would include two proposed vehicular gates across Louisiana Highway 23 (a divided state highway) and a railroad gate across the New Orleans and Gulf Coast Railway Company railroad track. Further east the levee transitions into an earthen levee to connect with the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT) levee system. An emergency bypass road is proposed around the gate along existing private and local roadways and along the MRT levee system. This emergency bypass road would detour traffic when the proposed Louisiana Highway 23 floodgates close during a major storm event. Roads incorporated into the emergency bypass would be widened and paved.

Two pump stations are proposed along this section of the hurricane protection system. A 70-cubic-foot-per-second (cfs) pump station would be incorporated at the proposed Hero Canal navigational gate. Closure of the navigational gate and use of this pump station would only be necessary during a major storm event. A 150-cfs pump station is proposed at the southernmost point of the proposed reconstructed non-federal levee segment. This pump station would be designed to facilitate interior drainage during a normal 10-year storm event and would discharge into the existing Oakville drainage canal.

## **EVALUATION METHOD**

Direct impacts to bottomland hardwood and swamp habitat were quantified by acreage and habitat quality (i.e., average annual habitat units or AAHUs) by the Service and are presented in Table 1. The Service used the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) Habitat Assessment Methodology (HAM) to quantify the impacts of proposed project features on non-wet and wet bottomland hardwood habitat and used the Wetland Value Assessment (WVA) methodology to quantify impacts on swamp habitat. The habitat assessment models for bottomland hardwoods within the Louisiana Coastal Zone utilized in this evaluation were modified from those developed in the Service's Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP). For each habitat type, those models define an assemblage of variables considered important to the suitability of an area to support a diversity of fish and wildlife species. The WVA is used to evaluate proposed CWPPRA projects, and is similar to the Service's HEP, in that habitat quality and quantity (acreage) are measured for baseline conditions, and predicted for future without-project and future with-project conditions. As with HEP, the WVA provides a quantitative

estimate of project-related impacts to fish and wildlife resources; however, the WVA is based on separate models for fresh/intermediate marsh, brackish marsh, saline marsh, and cypress swamp. Further explanation of how impacts/benefits are assessed with the HAM and WVA and an explanation of the assumptions affecting habitat suitability (i.e., quality) index (HSI) values for each target year for impacts to bottomland hardwood and swamp habitat are available for review at the Service's Lafayette, Louisiana, field office.

**Table 1: Potential Estimated Impacts for the Preferred Alternative**

<b>PFO2 (swamp)</b>		<b>PFO1R (tidal BLH)</b>		<b>PFO1Ad (hydrologically altered BLH)</b>		<b>Total</b>	
Acres	AAHUs	Acres	AAHUs	Acres	AAHUs	Acres	AAHUs
39	-28.27	19	-10.59	13	-7.80	71	-46.66

Revised acreage values estimated using 2007 aerial photography in ArcGIS and rounded to nearest acre.

As indicated in Table 1, based on our HAM and WVA analyses (Appendix A) project implementation would result in the direct loss of 32 and 39 acres, and 18.39 and 28.27 AAHUs, of bottomland hardwood forest and swamp, respectively.

### **PROJECT IMPACTS**

Proposed project impacts associated with the preferred alternative would result primarily from the construction of new levees, the expansion of the levee right-of-way, and associated features. Although some construction will occur in cleared areas and on existing levees, project implementation will directly impact wet and non-wet bottomland hardwoods and cypress swamp habitat that provide a variable degree of medium to high quality habitat value for diverse fish and wildlife resources (e.g., refugia, food resources, and nesting habitat) depending on the area of influence. Construction staging and processing areas would be sited essentially in cleared areas and on existing levees minimizing impacts to forested habitats. Other alternatives evaluated would avoid impacts to the tidally-influenced forested wetlands all together; however, those alternatives were not considered practicable as they would not provide protection to the landfill or the community of Oakville.

Direct impacts to 13 acres (-7.80 AAHUs) of hydrologically-altered (i.e., non-wet) bottomland hardwood habitat would occur as a result of the preferred alternative. Impacts would be associated with expanding the existing levee along the protected side of the north bank of Hero Canal and expanding the non-federal levee south of the landfill. These impacts are primarily associated with small forested tracts segregated by pasture and rural development which appear to be stressed as a result of hurricane and storm-induced damage.

Direct impacts to 19 acres (-10.59 AAHUs) of tidally-influenced bottomland hardwood habitat and 39 acres (-28.27 AAHUs) of swamp habitat would occur as a result of constructing a new levee west and south of the landfill and expanding the footprint of the non-federal levee to the west. The proposed new levee alignment would be set back 150 feet from the landfill potentially

leaving a forested buffer between the landfill and the proposed levee. This acreage was considered in the WVA impacts analysis as it is unclear of the project intent of the 150-foot setback and due to expected induced development associated with the landfill. Project design goals intended to minimize direct impacts to forested wetlands by aligning the proposed levee along the periphery of the landfill and residential development; however, increased post-Katrina design standards and a 150-foot setback have resulted in an increased flood protection easement and increased impacts. Forested wetlands impacted by this segment provide a high degree of habitat value as well as storm buffering and water quality benefits.

Construction of a navigational gate on Hero Canal would minimally disrupt riparian habitat along the canal and aquatic habitat associated with that man-made dead end canal. Riparian habitats are valuable to wildlife as transition zones between aquatic and forested habitats, and contribute vital elements to fishery resources in the form of detritus, shade, and in-stream cover.

### **FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

The President's Council on Environmental Quality defined the term "mitigation" in the National Environmental Policy Act regulations to include:

- (a) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
- (b) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
- (c) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
- (d) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and
- (e) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

The Service supports and adopts this definition of mitigation and considers its specific elements to represent the desirable sequence of steps in the mitigation planning process. Based on current and expected future without-project conditions, the planning goal of the Service is to develop a balanced project, i.e., one that is responsive to demonstrated hurricane protection needs while addressing the co-equal need for fish and wildlife resource conservation.

Direct and indirect impacts have been minimized by selecting alternative 1 over alternative 3, which extended further west into swamp habitat and enclosed additional forested wetlands. Alternative 1 follows the wetland-non wetland interface to the maximum extent practicable under the post-Katrina design constraints. However, the preferred alternative continues to impact tidally-influence forested wetlands, and the levee footprint has increased from a 500-foot-wide levee during initial analysis to a 750-foot-wide levee since the implementation of the new design criteria. To further minimize impacts to forested wetlands the footprint could be reduced by implementing "T"-walls into the design rather than having the levees constructed of earthen

material along this segment, and by reducing the 150-foot-wide setback as much as safely practicable. The Service recommends that these alternatives be evaluated further.

Currently, the community of Oakville directs storm water runoff into the Oakville drainage canal located within the Plaquemines Non-Federal Levee protection system. As proposed, a pump station would be constructed in the new hurricane protection system and would continue to discharge storm water into that canal. Wetlands function as natural storm water filtration systems. The uptake of nutrients by wetlands would not only treat storm water runoff but would also enhance the quality of the receiving wetlands (e.g., increasing biomass). Those wetlands are deprived of nutrients due to hydrological alteration resulting from the Mississippi River flood protection system. Directing storm water runoff into the adjacent forested wetlands would also maintain those wetlands and their storm buffering qualities providing long-term protection to the proposed flood protection system and to the community of Oakville. We recommend that the pump station be modified to direct storm water into the adjacent wetlands outside of the flood protection system as a means to rectifying degraded swamp habitat.

The Service's Mitigation Policy (Federal Register, Volume 46, No. 15, January 23, 1981) identifies four resource categories that are used to ensure that the level of mitigation recommended by Service biologists will be consistent with the fish and wildlife resource values involved. Considering the high value of forested wetlands for fish and wildlife and the relative scarcity of that habitat type, those wetlands are usually designated as Resource Category 2 habitats, the mitigation goal for which is no net loss of in-kind habitat value. Remaining direct and indirect (i.e., 150-foot set back) project impacts to forested wetlands should be mitigated via in-kind compensatory replacement of the habitat values lost. Degraded (i.e., non-wet) bottomland hardwood forest and any wet pastures that may be impacted, however, are placed in Resource Category 3 due to their reduced value to wildlife, fisheries and lost/degraded wetland functions. Project impacts to wetlands will be minimized to some extent by hauling in material for the levee. The mitigation goal for Resource Category 3 habitats is no net loss of habitat value. Mitigation for unavoidable losses of wet and non-wet bottomland hardwoods and swamp habitat, caused by project features will be evaluated through a complementary comprehensive mitigation IER.

### **SERVICE POSITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Construction of the WBV, Hero to Oakville hurricane protection system would result in direct impacts to 18.39 and 28.27 AAHUs, of bottomland hardwood forest and swamp, respectively. The Service does not object to providing improved hurricane protection to the greater New Orleans area provided the following fish and wildlife conservation recommendations are incorporated into future project planning and implementation:

1. To the greatest extent possible, design (e.g., implementation of "T"-walls in levee designs) and position flood protection features so that destruction of wetlands and non-wet bottomland hardwoods are avoided or minimized.

2. The proposed Oakville pump station should be redesigned to pump storm water into the adjacent forested wetlands as a storm water treatment measure and to enhance those degraded wetlands.
3. The Corps shall fully compensate for any unavoidable losses to wet and non-wet bottomland hardwood habitat (18.39 AAHUs) and swamp habitat (28.27 AAHUs) caused by project features.
4. Minimize enclosure of wetlands with new levee alignments. When enclosing wetlands is unavoidable, acquire non-development easements on those wetlands, or maintain hydrologic connections with adjacent, un-enclosed wetlands to minimize secondary impacts from development and hydrologic alteration.
5. If a proposed project feature is changed significantly or is not implemented within one year of the March 10, 2009, Endangered Species Act consultation letter, we recommend that the Corps reinitiate coordination with each office to ensure that the proposed project would not adversely affect any Federally listed threatened or endangered species or their habitat.
6. Avoid adverse impacts to bald eagle nesting locations and wading bird colonies through careful design of project features and timing of construction. A qualified biologist should inspect the proposed work site for the presence of undocumented wading bird nesting colonies and bald eagles during the nesting season (i.e., February 16 through October 31 for wading bird nesting colonies, and October through mid-May for bald eagles).
7. To minimize disturbance to colonies containing nesting wading birds (i.e., herons, egrets, night-herons, ibis, and roseate spoonbills), anhingas, and/or cormorants, all activity occurring within 1,000 feet of a rookery should be restricted to the non-nesting period (i.e., September 1 through February 15, exact dates may vary within this window depending on species present). In addition, we recommend that on-site contract personnel be informed of the need to identify colonial nesting birds and their nests, and should avoid affecting them during the breeding season.
8. If a bald eagle nest is discovered within or adjacent to the proposed project area, then an evaluation must be performed to determine whether the project is likely to disturb nesting bald eagles. That evaluation may be conducted on-line at: <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/es/baldeagle>. Following completion of the evaluation, that website will provide a determination of whether additional consultation is necessary and those results should be forwarded to this office.
9. Forest clearing associated with project features should be conducted during the fall or winter to minimize impacts to nesting migratory birds, when practicable.
10. Acquisition, habitat development, maintenance and management of mitigation lands

should be allocated as first-cost expenses of the project, and the local project-sponsor should be responsible for operational costs. If the local project-sponsor is unable to fulfill the financial mitigation requirements for operation, then the Corps should provide the necessary funding to ensure mitigation obligations are met on behalf of the public interest.

11. Further detailed planning of project features (e.g., Design Documentation Report, Engineering Documentation Report, Plans and Specifications, or other similar documents) should be coordinated with the Service and other State and Federal natural resource agencies, and shall be provided an opportunity to review and submit recommendations on the all work addressed in those reports.
12. If mitigation lands are purchased for inclusion within Federally or State managed lands, those lands must meet certain requirements; therefore the land manager of that management area should be contacted early in the planning phase regarding such requirements.
13. If applicable, a General Plan should be developed by the Corps, the Service, and the managing natural resource agency in accordance with Section 3(b) of the FWCA for mitigation lands.
14. Flood protection water control structures in any watercourse should maintain pre-project cross section in width and depth to the maximum extent practicable.
15. Any flood protection water control structure sited in a canal, bayou, or navigation channel that does not maintain the pre-project cross section should be designed and operated with multiple openings within the structure. This should include openings near both sides of the channel as well as an opening in the center of the channel that extends to the bottom.
16. Flood protection water control structures should remain completely open except during storm events, unless otherwise determined by the natural resource agencies.
17. Flood protection structures within a waterway should include shoreline baffles and/or ramps (e.g., rock rubble, articulated concrete mat) that slope up to the structure invert to enhance organism passage. Various ramp designs should be considered, and coordination should continue with the natural resource agencies to ensure fish passage features are incorporated to the fullest extent practicable.
18. A report documenting the status of mitigation implementation and maintenance should be prepared every three years by the managing agency and provided to the Corps, the Service, NMFS, EPA, LDNR and LDWF. That report should also describe future management activities, and identify any proposed changes to the existing management plan.

## LITERATURE CITED

Louisiana Coastal Wetland Conservation and Restoration Task Force and the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Authority. 1998. Coastal 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana. Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Baton Rouge, LA. 70898.

## **Appendix A**

### **WVA Analysis**

# COMMUNITY HABITAT SUITABILITY MODEL

## Bottomland Hardwoods

Project..... IER 13 PF01Ad impacts

Acres:

13

Condition: Future With Project

Variable		TY 0		TY 1		TY 20		
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	
V1	Species Assoc	Class 4	0.80	Class 1		Class 1		
V2	Maturity (input age or dbh, not both)	Age 15.04	0.67	Age 1	0.01	Age 1	0.01	
V3	Understory / Midstory	Understory % 54 Midstory % 58	0.96	Understory % 0 Midstory % 0		Understory % 0 Midstory % 0		1.00 0.92
V4	Hydrology	Class 2	0.50	Class 2	0.50	Class 2	0.50	
V5	Forest Size	Class 2	0.40	Class 1		Class 1		
V6	Surrounding Land Use	Values %		Values %		Values %		
	Forest / marsh	60	0.70	60	0.70	60	0.70	
	Abandoned Ag Pasture / Hay	24		24		24		
	Active Ag Development	2 14		2 14		2 14		
V7	Disturbance	Class 2	0.26	Class 2	0.26	Class 2	0.26	
	Type	Class 1		Class 1		Class 1		
	Distance	Class 1		Class 1		Class 1		
		HSI =	0.64	HSI =	0.07	HSI =	0.07	

Project..... IER 13 PF01Ad impacts  
FWP

Variable		TY 50		TY		TY		
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	
V1	Species Assoc	Class 1		Class		Class		
V2	Maturity (input age or dbh, not both)	Age 1	0.01	Age		Age		
V3	Understory / Midstory	Understory % 0 Midstory % 0		Understory % Midstory %		Understory % Midstory %		0.10 0.10
V4	Hydrology	Class 2	0.50	Class		Class		
V5	Forest Size	Class 1		Class		Class		
V6	Surrounding Land Use	Values %		Values %		Values %		
	Forest / marsh	60	0.70					
	Abandoned Ag Pasture / Hay	24						
	Active Ag Development	2 14						
V7	Disturbance	Class 2	0.26	Class		Class		
	Type	Class 1		Class		Class		
	Distance	Class 1		Class		Class		
		HSI =	0.07	HSI =		HSI =		

# COMMUNITY HABITAT SUITABILITY MODEL

## Bottomland Hardwoods

Project..... IER 13 PF01Ad impacts

Acres:

13

Condition: Future Without Project

Variable		TY 0		TY 1		TY 20		
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	
V1	Species Assoc.	Class 4	0.80	Class 4	0.80	Class 4	0.80	
V2	Maturity (input age or dbh, not both)	Age dbh 15.04	0.67	Age dbh 15.32	0.69	Age dbh 15.18	0.68	
V3	Understory / Midstory	Understory % 54 Midstory % 58	0.96	Understory % 54 Midstory % 58	0.96	Understory % 40 Midstory % 45	1.00	1.00 0.92
V4	Hydrology	Class 2	0.50	Class 2	0.50	Class 2	0.50	
V5	Forest Size	Class 2	0.40	Class 2	0.40	Class 2	0.40	
V6	Surrounding Land Use	Values %		Values %		Values %		
	Forest / marsh	60	0.70	60	0.70	60	0.70	
	Abandoned Ag	24		24		24		
	Pasture / Hay	2		2		2		
	Active Ag	14		14		14		
	Development							
V7	Disturbance	Class 2	0.26	Class 2	0.26	Class 2	0.26	
	Type	Class 1		Class 1		Class 1		
	Distance							
		HSI =	0.64	HSI =	0.65	HSI =	0.65	

Project..... IER 13 PF01Ad impacts  
FWP

Variable		TY 50		TY		TY		
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	
V1	Species Assoc.	Class 3	0.60	Class		Class		
V2	Maturity (input age or dbh, not both)	Age dbh 12	0.40	Age dbh		Age dbh		
V3	Understory / Midstory	Understory % 10 Midstory % 30	0.70	Understory % Midstory %		Understory % Midstory %		0.40 1.00
V4	Hydrology	Class 2	0.50	Class		Class		
V5	Forest Size	Class 2	0.40	Class		Class		
V6	Surrounding Land Use	Values %		Values %		Values %		
	Forest / marsh	60	0.70					
	Abandoned Ag	24						
	Pasture / Hay	2						
	Active Ag	14						
	Development							
V7	Disturbance	Class 2	0.26	Class		Class		
	Type	Class 1		Class		Class		
	Distance							
		HSI =	0.50	HSI =		HSI =		



## Bottomland Hardwoods

Project..... IER 13 PFO1R, BLH seasonally tidal (20090310) Acres:

19

Condition: Future With Project

Variable		TY 0		TY 1		TY 50				
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI			
V1	Species Assoc.	Class 4	0.80	Class 1		Class 1				
V2	Maturity (input age or dbh, not both)	Age dbh 13.33	0.53	Age dbh 0.1	0.00	Age dbh 0.1	0.00			
V3	Understory / Midstory	Understory % 83 Midstory % 29	0.89	Understory % 0 Midstory % 0		Understory % 0 Midstory % 0		0.77	0.10	0.10
V4	Hydrology	Class 3	1.00	Class 1	0.10	Class 1	0.10			
V5	Forest Size	Class 4	0.80	Class 1		Class 1				
V6	Surrounding Land Use	Values % 60 Forest / marsh Abandoned Ag Pasture / Hay Active Ag Development 17	0.69	Values % 60 20 3 17	0.69	Values % 60 20 3 17	0.69			
V7	Disturbance Type Distance	Class 1 Class 1	0.01	Class 1 Class 1	0.01	Class 1 Class 1	0.01			
		HSI =	0.55	HSI =	0.01	HSI =	0.01			

Project..... IER 13 PFO1R, BLH seasonally tidal (20090310)  
FWP

Variable		TY		TY		TY	
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI
V1	Species Assoc.	Class		Class		Class	
V2	Maturity (input age or dbh, not both)	Age dbh		Age dbh		Age dbh	
V3	Understory / Midstory	Understory % Midstory %		Understory % Midstory %		Understory % Midstory %	
V4	Hydrology	Class		Class		Class	
V5	Forest Size	Class		Class		Class	
V6	Surrounding Land Use	Values % Forest / marsh Abandoned Ag Pasture / Hay Active Ag Development		Values %		Values %	
V7	Disturbance Type Distance	Class Class		Class Class		Class Class	
		HSI =		HSI =		HSI =	

# COMMUNITY HABITAT SUITABILITY MODEL

## Bottomland Hardwoods

Project..... IER 13 PFO1R, BLH seasonally tidal (20090310) Acres: 19

Condition: Future Without Project

Variable		TY 0		TY 1		TY 20				
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI			
V1	Species Assoc.	Class 4	0.80	Class 4	0.80	Class 4	0.80			
V2	Maturity (input age or dbh, not both)	Age dbh 13.33	0.53	Age dbh 13.56	0.56	Age dbh 11.42	0.34			
V3	Understory / Midstory	Understory % 83 Midstory % 29	0.89	Understory % 80 Midstory % 30	0.90	Understory % 20 Midstory % 60	0.80	0.77	0.80	0.70
V4	Hydrology	Class 3	1.00	Class 3	1.00	Class 3	1.00			
V5	Forest Size	Class 4	0.80	Class 4	0.80	Class 4	0.80			
V6	Surrounding Land Use	Values %		Values %		Values %				
	Forest / marsh	60	0.69	60	0.69	60	0.69			
	Abandoned Ag	20		20		20				
	Pasture / Hay	3		3		3				
	Active Ag	17		17		17				
	Development									
V7	Disturbance	Class 1	0.01	Class 1	0.01	Class 1	0.01			
	Type	Class 1		Class 1		Class 1				
	Distance	Class 1		Class 1		Class 1				
		HSI =	0.55	HSI =	0.56	HSI =	0.49			

Project..... IER 13 PFO1R, BLH seasonally tidal (20090310)  
FWP

Variable		TY 50		TY		TY				
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI			
V1	Species Assoc.	Class 5	1.00	Class		Class				
V2	Maturity (input age or dbh, not both)	Age dbh 18.32	0.89	Age dbh		Age dbh				
V3	Understory / Midstory	Understory % 35 Midstory % 35	1.00	Understory % Midstory %		Understory % Midstory %		1.00		1.00
V4	Hydrology	Class 3	1.00	Class		Class				
V5	Forest Size	Class 4	0.80	Class		Class				
V6	Surrounding Land Use	Values %		Values %		Values %				
	Forest / marsh	60	0.69							
	Abandoned Ag	20								
	Pasture / Hay	3								
	Active Ag	17								
	Development									
V7	Disturbance	Class 1	0.01	Class		Class				
	Type	Class 1		Class		Class				
	Distance	Class 1		Class		Class				
		HSI =	0.69	HSI =		HSI =				



## WETLAND VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY MODEL Swamp

Project..... IER 13, Alt 1 revised 20090310

Project Area.....

39

Condition: Future Without Project

Variable		TY 0		TY 1		TY 20	
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI
V1	Stand Structure	% Cover Overstory 25 Scrub-shrub 24 Herbaceous 81 Class 1	0.10	% Cover Overstory 25 Scrub-shrub 24 Herbaceous 81 Class 1	0.10	% Cover Overstory 35 Scrub-shrub 30 Herbaceous 75 Class 2	0.20
V2	Stand Maturity	Cypress % 79 Cypress dbh 19 Tupelo et al. % 21 Tupelo et al dbh 7.87 Basal Area 58.3	0.91	Cypress % 79 Cypress dbh 19 Tupelo et al. % 21 Tupelo et al dbh 8.13 Basal Area 58	0.92	Cypress % 71 Cypress dbh 24 Tupelo et al. % 29 Tupelo et al dbh 13.87 Basal Area 93.6	1.00
V3	Water Regime	Flow/Exchange Moderate Flooding Duration Permanent	0.45	Flow/Exchange Moderate Flooding Duration Permanent	0.45	Flow/Exchange Moderate Flooding Duration Permanent	0.45
V4	Mean High Salinity	3.0	0.1	3.0	0.1	3.0	0.1
		<b>HSI =</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>HSI =</b>	<b>0.22</b>	<b>HSI =</b>	<b>0.30</b>

Project..... IER 13, Alt 1 revised 20090310  
FWOP

Variable		TY 50		TY		TY	
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI
V1	Stand Structure	% Cover Overstory 45 Scrub-shrub 25 Herbaceous 70 Class 2	0.20	% Cover Overstory  Scrub-shrub  Herbaceous  Class		% Cover Overstory  Scrub-shrub  Herbaceous  Class	
V2	Stand Maturity	Cypress % 60 Cypress dbh 33 Tupelo et al. % 40 Tupelo et al dbh 22.67 Basal Area 156.9	1.00	Cypress %  Cypress dbh  Tupelo et al. %  Tupelo et al dbh  Basal Area		Cypress %  Cypress dbh  Tupelo et al. %  Tupelo et al dbh  Basal Area	
V3	Water Regime	Flow/Exchange Moderate Flooding Duration Permanent	0.45	Flow/Exchange Flooding Duration		Flow/Exchange Flooding Duration	
V4	Mean High Salinity	3.0	0.1				
		<b>HSI =</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>HSI =</b>	<b>#VALUE!</b>	<b>HSI =</b>	<b>#VALUE!</b>

## WETLAND VALUE ASSESSMENT COMMUNITY MODEL Swamp

Project..... IER 13, alt 1 revised 20090310

Project Area.....

39

Condition: Future With Project

Variable		TY 0		TY 1		TY 50	
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI
V1	Stand Structure	% Cover Overstory 25 Scrub-shrub 24 Herbaceous 81 Class 1	0.10	% Cover Overstory  Scrub-shrub  Herbaceous  Class 1	0.10	% Cover Overstory  Scrub-shrub  Herbaceous  Class 1	0.10
V2	Stand Maturity	Cypress % 79 Cypress dbh 19 Tupelo et al. % 0 Tupelo et al dbh 0 Basal Area 58.3	0.79	Cypress % 0 Cypress dbh 0 Tupelo et al. % 0 Tupelo et al dbh 0 Basal Area 0	0.00	Cypress % 0 Cypress dbh 0 Tupelo et al. % 0 Tupelo et al dbh 0 Basal Area 0	0.00
V3	Water Regime	Flow/Exchange Moderate Flooding Duration Permanent	0.45	Flow/Exchange None Flooding Duration Permanent	0.10	Flow/Exchange None Flooding Duration Permanent	0.10
V4	Mean High Salinity	3.0	0.1	0.0	1	0.0	1
		HSI =	0.21	HSI =	0.00	HSI =	0.00

Project..... IER 13, Alt 1 revised 20090310  
FWP

0.21

Variable		TY		TY		TY	
		Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI	Class/Value	SI
V1	Stand Structure	% Cover Overstory  Scrub-shrub  Herbaceous  Class		% Cover Overstory  Scrub-shrub  Herbaceous  Class		% Cover Overstory  Scrub-shrub  Herbaceous  Class	
V2	Stand Maturity	Cypress % Cypress dbh Tupelo et al. % Tupelo et al dbh Basal Area		Cypress % Cypress dbh Tupelo et al. % Tupelo et al dbh Basal Area		Cypress % Cypress dbh Tupelo et al. % Tupelo et al dbh Basal Area	
V3	Water Regime	Flow/Exchange Flooding Duration		Flow/Exchange Flooding Duration		Flow/Exchange Flooding Duration	
V4	Mean High Salinity						
		HSI =	#VALUE!	HSI =	#VALUE!	HSI =	#VALUE!

# AAHU CALCULATION

Project: IER 13, Alt 1 revised 20090310

Future Without Project			Total	Cummulative
TY	Acres	x HSI	HUs	HUs
0	39	0.22	8.46	
1	39	0.22	8.48	8.47
20	39	0.30	11.80	192.65
50	39	0.33	12.68	367.19
		#VALUE!		
			Total	
			CHUs =	568.31
			AAHUs =	28.42

Future With Project			Total	Cummulative
TY	Acres	x HSI	HUs	HUs
0	39	0.21	8.16	
1	0	0.00	0.00	2.72
50	0	0.00	0.00	0.00
		#VALUE!		
			Total	
			CHUs =	2.72
			AAHUs =	0.14

NET CHANGE IN AAHUs DUE TO PROJECT		
A. Future With Project AAHUs =		0.14
B. Future Without Project AAHUs =		28.42
Net Change (FWP - FWOP) =		-28.28

-28.27



Coastal Protection and  
Restoration Authority of Louisiana

July 15, 2009

Colonel Alvin B. Lee  
District Commander, New Orleans District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Lee:

We have reviewed your July 9, 2009 letter to Garret Graves, Chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, regarding the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project levee/highway crossing at Louisiana Highway 23. We understand the Corps of Engineers' need to identify the proper path forward to ensure that protection goals of 2011 are met. As has been stated previously, the preferred method for a levee system that crosses over a highway is first ramps, then bridges, with floodgates considered as a last resort. In light of the fact that the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR) and the Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD) have concerns regarding evacuations, safety, the state's liability, and on-going operation and maintenance issues with the floodgate alternative, it is recommended that the USACE proceed forward with a ramp option. Because of the previous concerns raised over the impacts associated with protection measures at Highway 23 in Oakville, it is necessary that the public be informed of the revised alternative and any remedial measures to offset/mitigate for associated impacts. As DOTD has advised previously, regardless of the method of closing the gap at highways, this will require design exceptions which are subject to the review and approval of its Chief Engineer. We will coordinate with the Corps to ensure that information necessary to approve these design exceptions for the recommended crossing is completed in a timely fashion.

It is requested that the Corps provide confirmation that the highway is considered part of and integrated into the levee section which results in a final levee section of 11.5 feet. We are also requesting that the Corps of Engineers provide confirmation that the ramp/stop log will meet FEMA certification requirements for 100 Year Level Protection. It is also requested that the Corps advise as to the current projections when the 11.5 foot ramp is no longer sufficient for the 100 Year Protection Level requirements which will then facilitate the usage of the stop log structure. As our office has not seen detailed plans on the elevated ramp (11.5 feet), we look forward to working with the Corps in this project as design progresses, including working with the stakeholders to determine a more optimal location.

As an additional note, the OCPR is again requesting that the USACE investigate the option of eliminating/reducing the need for ramps or other flood control structures across LA 23 by raising the planned adjoining non-federal levee to the required elevation of 14 feet.

LA HWY. 23  
July 15, 2009  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (225)-342-4683.

Sincerely,



David Miller, P.E.  
Director of Implementation,  
Office of Coastal Protection & Restoration

cc: Mr. Garret Graves, Chairman, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
Mr. Jerome Zeringue, Acting Executive Director, OCPR  
Mr. David Fruge, Chief, Planning and Project Management Division, OCPR  
Mr. Chris Williams, Administrator, Project Management Branch, OCPR  
Mr. James McMennis, Project Manager, Project Management Branch, OCPR  
Mr. William D. Ankner, Ph.D., Secretary, LADOTD  
Mr. Mike Stack, District Engineer, LADOTD District 02  
Mr. Bill Nungesser, President of Plaquemines Parish  
Mr. Gerald Spohrer, Executive Director, West Jefferson Levee District  
Mr. Ted Carr, Project Manager, USACE

***Appendix C – Public Comments***

**Glen Fleming**  
**Assessor's Office, Plaquemines Parish**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**3 April 2009**

Voicemail Question  
From: Glen Fleming  
To: Gib Owen  
[REDACTED]

Hi Gib this is Glen Fleming with the assessor's office in Plaquemines Parish. I'd like to request a copy of the IER 13 documents please including any maps that may be available as well. If you would send those to the assessor's office in Plaquemines Parish: P.O Box 7129 Belle Chase, Louisiana 70037. Again my name is Glen Fleming you can reach me at 504-297-5261. I'd like a copy of the IER 13 for the Oakville area levee drawings that are included in that report. Thank you very much.

**Geneva P. Grille, P.E.**

[REDACTED]  
**Belle Chasse, LA**

**6 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Geneva Grille [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 12:36 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: IER # 13  
Attn; Mr. Gib Owen:

I would like to be sent a copy of the Individual Environmental Report (IER) # 13, “ West Bank and Vicinity (WBV), Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana “.

Sincerely,  
Geneva P. Grille, P.E.

[REDACTED]

**Ivo Tesvich**  
[REDACTED]  
**8 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----  
From: McLaughlin, Sarah N MVN-Contractor  
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 8:16 AM  
To: Owen, Gib A MVN  
Subject: RE: Message from Owen, Gib A MVN

Ivo Tesvich  
504.398.9913  
Voice Mail

**Unknown**  
**mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil**  
**9 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil [mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil]

Sent: Thursday, April 09, 2009 7:25 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

I firmly believe that by building this floodgate across Highway 23, the Federal Government, The Corps of Engineers and Plaquemines Parish Government has written off the parish from Oakville south to Venice.

You have decided that this area is not worth saving and that basically is that.

Thanks to each and every one of you!

**Blaine Bergeron**



**18 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Bergeron, Blaine (BlaineBergeron) [mailto:BlaineBergeron@chevron.com]

Sent: Saturday, April 18, 2009 10:41 AM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: Proposed project IER13

To:

Gib Owen

Project Management

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

New Orleans, LA 70118-3651

Tel. 504-862-1337

Re: Opposition to proposed project IER13

I'm contacting you to voice my opposition to USACE project IER13. As a resident of Jesuit Bend I have concerns on how IER13 will effect my community and all others that will not be inside of the proposed new levee system as it is currently planned.

Has any research and/or studies been done to determine how it will effect residences outside the system as far as:

- 1) FEMA - standard National Flood policy qualifications.
- 2) Property values.

Any information you can provide prior to the April 29th meeting in Oakville respective to my concerns would be appreciated.

Blaine Bergeron



**Bryant J. Celestine**  
**Historic Preservation Officer**  
**Alabama-Coushatta Tribe**



**23 April 2009**



## ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

571 State Park Rd 56 • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1100

April 23, 2009

Gib Owen  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
CEMVN-PM-RS  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

On behalf of Chief Oscola Clayton Sylestine and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, our appreciation is expressed on your agency's efforts to consult us regarding Individual Environmental Report #13 (IER #13) West Bank and Vicinity; Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus for Plaquemines Parish.

Our Tribe maintains ancestral associations within the state of Louisiana despite the absence of written records to completely identify Tribal activities, villages, trails, or grave sites. It is our objective to ensure any significances of Native American ancestry including the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe are administered with the utmost attention.

Upon review of the April 3, 2009 submission of IER #13 to our Tribe, we concur with the recommendations set forth regarding the absence of impacts to historic properties. Additionally, no impacts to religious, cultural, or historical assets of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas will occur in conjunction with this proposal.

However, in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains and/or archaeological artifacts, activity in proximity to the location must cease and appropriate authorities, including this office, notified without delay. Should you require additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryant J. Celestine".

Bryant J. Celestine  
Historic Preservation Officer

Telephone: 936 - 563 - 1181

[celestine.bryant@actribe.org](mailto:celestine.bryant@actribe.org)

Fax: 936 - 563 - 1183

Denise Tague

[REDACTED]  
**23 April 2009**

From: Don M. Tague [REDACTED]  
Subject: Levee Protection Flood Gate Across Hwy 23  
[REDACTED]

Date: Thursday, April 23, 2009, 9:19 PM

Dear Sir,

I am a resident in Plaquemines Parish and am receiving for the first time tonight a request for a meeting regarding levee protection ending at Oakville which is north of where I live. I as many others have great concern and am completely opposed to the flood gate ending at Oakville. I would like to know how this site was determined? I would also like to know why it is assumed that everyone living in this area does not have the right to flood protection. We all pay taxes to live in this parish and our money as well generates revenue for the parish. I also have concern that all the citizens of this parish have not had informed consent on the nature of this life altering proposal/decision. I also feel this quite compromising to receive a letter with it stating that "this project is in the final planning stages and we are in as 30-day public comment period which ends on May 4th 2009." It seems to me that a notification this late in the game is an insult to those who live here. Those who are in the line of decision making should be putting PROTECTION OF ALL at the top of their agenda.

I would also like to know WHO is funding this project? Have those in charge of accepting allocated monies thought about all the families who are living in the underlying lower part of the parish who have been through the struggle of rebuilding their lives since Hurricane Katrina. Why is it that they as well as my own family have not been selected for protection by those on the levee board? Honestly, I can think of no suitable reason. How can any portion of this parish not be on the agenda in totality? It feels as if this portion of this outstanding section of the parish is being ignored. We are vital to this community. For example, President Nungesser has on several news interviews clearly established Venice as a port for revenue especially in light of the last hurricane which impacted port Fourchon and the parishes surrounding the Houma area: Gustav. Should not all of the remaining area below Oakville be protected from harms way, or is the remainder of the land/homes below Oakville now going to be the "NEW" wetlands which will protect those inside the walls from destruction? In respect to hurricanes Betsy and Camille, environmentalists and all those involved should have been thinking 30- 40 years ago about protection of our cost line.

In light of this possibility this letter/flyer regards loss of home value? Has any governmental body prepared to shell out money to pay the remainder of peoples mortgages who live in this area since the decisions about levee protection were made after the fact of people already residing here? With this type of publicity who will buy these homes for people to move out if so chosen? Also if it is considered to leave us out does the city/parish still expect those with no protection to pay taxes which I have referenced to before supporting this parish? How about the poor of the parish? Who will give them a means to defend and protect their life long ambitions as well as personal property? Where are they going to go? Is the parish prepared to serve a strong possibility of having homeless? They cannot go and live under the Claiborne overpass with a thought of charities to put them up in housing. Local charities funds are exhausted already from the overwhelming homeless population which includes many mentally ill. Is anyone out there thinking of anyone other than their own safety and protection? The world needs to turn from being self centered and start protecting their fellow mankind as it once did. So many families suffering during these depressing economic times.....please do not consider leaving any home or family out of the the vitality and security needed by levee protection. How could a decision of this nature even be a possibility in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA when we are citizens of this country? Our forefathers would be in grave peril to know "we the people, for the people, and by the people," have

established rights and God given graces to help all those including our brother countries in need yet we cannot help our own or least we turn our back on our own.

Gib with the Army Core of Engineers will also be emailed by me as well regarding this matter. Thank you for your time and cooperation in this matter. I am EAGER to hear your response.

Sincerely,

Denise Tague

**Douglas LeBlanc**

**24 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 9:33 AM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

The placing of a levee, and floodgate at Oakville is of great concern to me. What happens to the communities south of Oakville? I live in Jesuit Bend and would not be within the proposed levee system. What will happen to my insurance? Will I still be able to get flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program? Will my Homeowner insurance become unaffordable? What will happen to our property values? What will happen to all of the communities south of Jesuit Bend? I believe that this proposal is unfair, unreasonable, and detrimental to all of Plaquemines Parish!!!!

Douglas LeBlanc

**Unknown**

**24 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 9:13 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

IER 13 - Placing a levee in Oakville and isolating land south of through the Connoco Refinery is a very bad idea. You are building a wall that blocks off a large section of Plaquemines parish that is high ground and did not flood. The impact on tax revenue (Jesuit Bend) and national security (refinery) does not appear to be included in your study.

**Calvin Anticich**  
mailto:[REDACTED]  
27 April 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: Calvin Anticich [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 6:56 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Project IER13

I have reviewed the proposal regarding the IER 13 project and find the project study to be faulty in as much as it does not evidence consideration of the detrimental effects of the proposed project on any of the areas south of the proposed IER 13 project. The study does not discuss the negative effects on the areas south of the proposed project in terms of increased likelihood of flooding, decreased property values, increased cost of flood insurance, increased potential of loss of life, and increased economic loss all due to flooding of the communities south of the project as a direct result of the IER 13 project. Certainly the proposed alternative road, to be used in the advent of the closure of the proposed floodgate across highway 23, would increase evacuation times for the persons and business south of the project and be detrimental to the Oakville community itself. It is noted that the communities south of the IER 13 project represent a diverse racial and socioeconomic population. Businesses south of the project include an oil refinery which strangely enough, given our nation's stated goal toward energy independence, is not mentioned in the project study. The project focuses on a scrap yard and any potential impact without any discussion of the detrimental effects of the project on any of the many more substantial businesses in addition to the aforementioned refinery that are south of the project. Why and how the proposed location of the current project is beneficial to the Plaquemines Parish community as a whole on a cost versus benefit ratio are not included in the study. A reading of the study would lead one to believe that the areas south of the project location are primarily vacant lands, when in fact vibrant neighborhoods exceeding the size and socioeconomic diversity of Oakville exist within a short distance of the Oakville community. While I am certainly in favor of improved flood protection for all communities in southeast Louisiana, I am against the proposed IER 13 project and feel that any such project should encompass a cost versus benefit evaluation of the populated and diverse socioeconomic areas of Jesuit Bend and other areas south of project IER 13. Plaquemines parish should not be arbitrarily divided at Oakville based on past government policies and directives and the current flawed study as indicated in this communication. I would like to think and feel that government entities, policies, studies, and actions in terms of projects relative to flood control should seek to provide the often mentioned 100 year flood protection to as many citizens as possible based on reasonable and rational policies and actions. I am not aware of such flood walls being built in other parishes that would render an equivalent ratio of citizens of the parish as literal afterthoughts in terms of flood protection. I am literally shocked by the ramifications of this proposed project and if it moves forward will contact my local, state, and federal elected officials to voice my concerns and objection.

**Shannon Cooke**  
mailto:  
**27 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Cooke, Shannon   
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 8:23 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

My father, Doug LeBlanc, forwarded your reply to his email regarding the flood gate at Oakville. I live around the corner from my parents. What I don't understand is why the levees South of Oakville are not being built BEFORE the floodgate at Oakville is put up. That's seems to be the more logical.

You stated that this project was authorized in 1985. Since 1985 there has been major residential development in South Plaquemines Parish. Homes in Jesuit Bend are currently valued at \$300,000 to over \$1 million. Was this taken into consideration or was the decision finalized back in 1985?

Thank you.

Shannon Cooke

**Ava Hingle**



**70037**

**27 April 2009**

**AVA HINGLE**

BELL [REDACTED] 0037

April 27, 2009

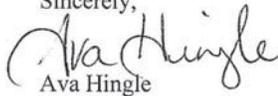
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Gib Owen  
P. O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

As a resident of Jesuit Bend for many years I am extremely unhappy about the Army Corp of Engineers project IER 13 for the 100 year levee protection proposal. This project will put a flood gate south of Oakville crossing LA Hwy 23 to the Mississippi River. I am against this because it would leave out the community of Jesuit Bend which is part of Belle Chasse and has many homes, the Belle Chasse Middle School, The Riverbend Nursing Home, the Becnel Citrus Farms and the Conoco Phillips Refinery on the wrong side of the wall. I would like to see the IER 13 levee and flood gate moved further south below the Conoco Phillips Refinery. Please note that my mailing address is Belle Chasse, LA 70037 but I am not included in the hurricane protection. If they put the wall up in Oakville this will have a major impact on all residents as our homes will be worthless. We will never be able to sell our houses.

Your prompt reply is appreciated as time is running out.

Sincerely,

  
Ava Hingle

**Tara Means**

**27 April 2009**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tara Means [REDACTED]  
Date: Mon, Apr 27, 2009 at 10:24 AM  
Subject: US Corp of Engineers IER #13  
To: richardtara@bellsouth.net

To whom it may concern-

The US Army Corp of Engineers has, very quietly, proposed a project to correct the flooding issues of central Plaquemines Parish. Project Title IER #13 is a plan to build higher levees in areas where flooding has never been a concern and build a 56-foot wide flood gate across Louisiana Hwy 23 at Oakville. This flood gate would be approximately ten miles north from where the levee breaches occurred for Hurricane Gustav. This proposal would essentially flood a heavily populated area in the case of a storm. Water from northern Plaquemines Parish would be forced to build into an area with low-lying non federal levees and large subdivisions. When the entire process began to bring 100 year storm protection to everyone, I truly believed Jesuit Bend would be one of the first areas to be protected. Jesuit Bend is essential to Plaquemines Parish in terms of industry and agriculture. The pending proposal is an effort by the Corp to solve a major problem with a knee-jerk, band-aid solution that not only affects thousands of lives and property but also is detrimental to 120 acres of our cherished wetlands that have protected us in hurricanes past. As a Science teacher, I realize the monumental task of flood control in South Louisiana. What I am asking is to build 100 year storm protection for all of Plaquemines Parish and stop trying to find cost cutting solutions to a problem that is continuing to grow. My house did not flood in Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav or Ike, but if the new proposal were to become real, flooding is imminent. This is an impending reality that my tax dollars are paying for; not to mention the increase of already outrageous house insurance rates. The Corp needs to find a solutions to the issues of flood control without creating new problems. I am asking for your help in defeating the proposed Project Title IER #13. Thank you for anything you can do in regards to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tara Means

**Lela Sercovich**

[REDACTED]  
**Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

**27 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary & Lela Sercovich [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 9:43 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Hwy 23 Floodwall - Plaquemines Parish

My family lives in the community of Jesuit Bend, LA and I think that it is outrageous that the proposal to essentially "cut off" thousands of homes and businesses by building a levee floodwall system is simply not right. To just let these homes flood in the event of a major storm CAN NOT and SHOULD NOT happen. A better plan needs to be proposed, one where it is beneficial to all residents not just some.

Lela Sercovich

[REDACTED]

**Unknown**

**27 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 10:32 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

The information used in determining where the Oakville Flood Gate should be placed is almost 30 years old. There is more than cow pastures south of Oakville. Look at the tax roles for the value of the property that will be destroyed or devalued based on the placement of this gate. It should be further south after the major oil refinery.

**Alaina Loup**  
**River Bend Estates Resident**  
**Belle Chasse, La**

**28 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Alaina Loup [redacted]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 8:04 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Proposed floodgate hwy 23 at oakville , la

I am a citizen of the Jesuit bend community outside this proposed floodgate protection levee. I am very upset that this floodgate maybe being put here where our entire community is unprotected. Please reconsider and include us in the protection levee.

Sincerely Alaina Loup, River Bend Estates Resident, Belle Chasse, La

Sent from my iPhone

**Frank and Linda Giardina**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**28 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Frank Giardina [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 9:33 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: "IER13" Flood Gate Across Belle Chasse Hwy. Corps of Engineers Project

**Frank and Linda Giardina**

[REDACTED]  
Belle Chasse, LA  
70037

Dear Mr. Gib Owen,

We are opposed to the Corps of Engineers project, "IER13," which proposes to build a flood gate across the Belle Chasse Hwy. at the Captain Larry's Seafood/Oakville area. Please cancel this project and consider other means of protection rather than building a flood gate across the Belle Chasse Hwy. at this location.

We live in the Jesuit Bend area, south of Belle Chasse and Oakville, LA. If there is another Katrina-type storm surge, the flood gate will trap water between the Mississippi River Levee on the east and the Back Levee on the west and the land south of there will be flooded. There are thousands of houses south of the proposed flood gate location that will be put into jeopardy if the current project proceeds as planned.

Please consider the probable property loss, probable rise in insurance rates, and many lives that could be negatively affected by the proposed flood gate project.

We implore of you to cease and desist with this project and find other means of flood protection for Oakville, rather than a flood gate at this location.

We thank you for your concern and compassion.

Frank and Linda Giardina

**John H Golden**  
**Staff Drilling Engineer, EPT-W**  
**Shell International E&P Inc.**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**28 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 10:14 AM  
To: Elizabeth\_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov; Amanda\_Behey@Melancon.House.Gov;  
Rachel\_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov; MVN Environmental

Subject: IER 13 - Opposition

I am writing in opposition to the proposed IER13 levee project that crosses LA23 at Oakville.

It is obvious to a casual observer that, as designed, the levee is yet another example of misappropriated taxpayer dollars. The levee meanders through the town of Oakville in what appears to be a politically motivated nonsensical pattern that is the epitome of wasteful spending.

I understand that the levee was designed based on population data from 20 years ago. That data is now grossly out of date.

The construction of the levee has never been adequately communicated to the population living south of the levee. The vast majority of the residences along LA Hwy 23 from the location of the proposed levee south to the Connoco Phillips refinery, did not flood during Katrina. Obviously there will be opposition from that group as to why their "high ground" is being devalued. My guess is that going forward with the project will likely have to contend with litigation originating from that group.

Additionally, the US Government should focus on protecting one of our critical refineries. The plan to federalizing the "back levee" that stretches from Oakville south to the Connoco Philips refinery is the most practical and fiscally responsible way to do that.

Upon completion of the ~10 mile "back levee" system, the Oakville levee becomes obsolete and the time and taxpayer dollars spent on the Oakville levee wasted.

Thank you for your time.

John H Golden  
Staff Drilling Engineer, EPT-W  
Shell International E&P Inc.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Alex Rogers**

**28 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 8:58 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Dear sirs, As a resident of Jesuit Bend, I feel that the levee and flood gate in oakdale would be ill advised. The levee located in oakdale would sacrifice one third of upper plaquemines tax base if this area is destroyed due to your placement of the levee at the current location.. It would be better to relocate it further south of B.P. refinery. This location would keep the refinery going during the energy crunch that we are now in....

**Timothy J. Schotsch**  
**General Manager**  
**Riverside Recycling and Disposal, LLC**

[REDACTED]

**28 April 2009**

Riverside Recycling and Disposal, LLC

[REDACTED]

*A Fully Permitted Construction and Demolition Landfill Serving Greater New Orleans*

April 28, 2009

Mr. Gib Owens  
Department of the Army  
New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

**RE: Comments Regarding the Greater New Orleans Storm Damage Risk Reduction System's  
Planned Levee Location West of Industrial Pipe Landfill.**

Dear Mr. Owens;

We understand and support the goals of the planned levee system to protect residences and businesses in and around the Village of Oakville from hurricane and storm related damage. However, the proposed levee location from the Hero Canal to Oakview will cause needless future economic and environmental hardship. This section of the levee needs to be moved west of the LADEQ Permitted Industrial Pipe Landfill-Phase II area. (West boundary of Phase II Area is shown on the attached photo as N47 degrees 26'55"E, 1061.68 feet.)

Riverside Recycling and Disposal, LLC acquired the operational control and assumed the operations of the Industrial Pipe Type III Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill in Plaquemines Parish on April 1, 2007. The Industrial Pipe Landfill Phase II area will enable us to provide long-term, cost-effective, and environmentally safe construction and demolition waste disposal.

The Industrial Pipe Landfill-Phase II will provide landfill space for 10,000,000 cubic yards of loose C&D debris over several decades. Our customers, the builders and contractors that are responsible for our areas long-term growth, rely on the Industrial Pipe Landfill to provide continuous and uninterrupted disposal services. If the Corps of Engineers constructs the proposed levee within the LADEQ approved Phase II area, the regional economic negative impact will grossly exceed \$50,000,000 in lost revenue, lost employee wages, lost local goods and services purchased, and lost taxes. Replacing lost landfill airspace locally will be environmentally impractical and may be financially impossible.

Therefore, to best meet the goals of the Greater New Orleans Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, we strongly encourage the Corps of Engineers to re-design and re-locate the proposed levee from the Hero Canal to Oakville, directly west of the Industrial Pipe Landfill-Phase II area.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Schotsch  
General Manager

Attachments: Photograph Map of Industrial Pipe.

**Kenny Stewart**

**28 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Tina Stewart  
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 2:09 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Fw:

Dear Gil:

For your information.

Kenny Stewart

**INDUSTRIAL PIPE, INC.**

 70037

April 28, 2009

Dept of the Army  
New Orleans District  
Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans, La. 70160  
Attn: Gib Owen

Gib:

I write to you today in regards to the Oakville Levee Project in Plaquemines Parish, La. My company, Industrial Pipe, Inc. owns several businesses at 11266 Highway 23 in Belle Chasse, La. adjacent to the Hero Canal. The business that is being impacted by the construction of this levee is the Industrial Pipe, Inc. permitted C&D landfill. The intent of this letter is to voice our objection to the design location of the levee alignment.

Industrial Pipe, Inc. began the permitting process for its landfill in 1985. Over the years, as new standards for landfill operation were put into place by the State of Louisiana, my company complied with these new upgrade requirements and specific permits to keep this facility in compliance. The upgrade process was a huge undertaking for a small company such as ours. The process was constantly delayed time after time by environmental groups causing Industrial Pipe to spend ten times the normal costs in permitting, engineering and legal fees. Industrial Pipe Inc. began the process in 1986 and has continued spending time and money over the next 19 years. Industrial Pipe Inc was given its C&D landfill permit on Jan. 7, 2004. In order that Industrial Pipe Inc. could recoup this very expensive investment, we permitted the landfill operation with the State of Louisiana in two phases.

Phase I is the existing landfill operation. Phase I consists of approximately 51 ½ acres. Phase II consists of 25 acres. The Phase II operation was designed to utilize the same infrastructure which is already in place. This would help Industrial Pipe Inc. to recover some of its cost spent on the 19 year process of permitting.

The current levee alignment proposed by the Corps of Engineers will take away the entire area permitted for the Phase II landfill. A landfill business is extremely difficult to permit as I have explained. You just cannot relocate a permitted landfill as you could another business to a new location. The impact to Industrial Pipe for losing this business completely, is to lose the years of great expense it endured. This is a family owned and operated business and Phase II would continue that business for another 20 years.

The benefit of this landfill for Plaquemines Parish was demonstrated over the last 4 years during each hurricane season. Our landfill was opened the day after hurricanes and the immediate clean up of our parish could begin. This cannot be said of other landfills in this area.

The solution to this alignment is simply to move the levee back 1000 ft. The only reason this is not being considered is that the Corps does not want to impact an additional 8 acres of wetlands. The confusing issue about not impacting the additional wetlands is that they are said to be prime wetlands with hardwood bottoms. This is not the case as the Corps discovered when sending contractors in to do soil borings. It was determined that they did not need a crew to cut timbers for the right of way for the soil boring contractor to do his testing. Quite the contrary. There were very few trees in this area. The second reason that this section is not prime wetlands, is the fact that a road approximately 80 ft. wide runs through this 25 acres. This road was built from landfill trash in the 1970s. There is no doubt that this 25 acres of land is severely impacted and disturbed wetlands, disturbed low grade wetlands. Not the prime wetlands described by the Corps. The 25 acres that was disturbed by the landfill trash, played a role in the State of La.'s permitting of Phase II. Since the area adjoins an existing landfill operation and is already disturbed land, it is the sensible choice for permitting a landfill rather than permitting a site in an undisturbed area.

The reasons I have listed are more than enough evidence to relocate the levee alignment by 1000 ft. further back out of the permitted area.

Sincerely yours,



Kennett Stewart

**Tim Schotsch**  
**Riverside Recycling and Disposal, LLC**

**28 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Tim Schotsch [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 5:36 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Cc: avi@disposalexpress.com  
Subject: Comments RE: New Orleans Storm Damage Risk Reduction System

Please see the attached copy of a comment letter that was sent via USPS certified mail to Mr. Gib Owen.

**Riverside Recycling and Disposal, LLC**

*A Fully Permitted Construction and Demolition Landfill Serving Greater New Orleans*

April 28, 2009

Mr. Gib Owens  
Department of the Army  
New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers  
PO Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

**RE: Comments Regarding the Greater New Orleans Storm Damage Risk Reduction System's  
Planned Levee Location West of Industrial Pipe Landfill.**

Dear Mr. Owens;

We understand and support the goals of the planned levee system to protect residences and businesses in and around the Village of Oakville from hurricane and storm related damage. However, the proposed levee location from the Hero Canal to Oakview will cause needless future economic and environmental hardship. This section of the levee needs to be moved west of the LADEQ Permitted Industrial Pipe Landfill-Phase II area. (West boundary of Phase II Area is shown on the attached photo as N47 degrees 26'55"E, 1061.68 feet.)

Riverside Recycling and Disposal, LLC acquired the operational control and assumed the operations of the Industrial Pipe Type III Construction and Demolition Debris Landfill in Plaquemines Parish on April 1, 2007. The Industrial Pipe Landfill Phase II area will enable us to provide long-term, cost-effective, and environmentally safe construction and demolition waste disposal.

The Industrial Pipe Landfill-Phase II will provide landfill space for 10,000,000 cubic yards of loose C&D debris over several decades. Our customers, the builders and contractors that are responsible for our areas long-term growth, rely on the Industrial Pipe Landfill to provide continuous and uninterrupted disposal services. If the Corps of Engineers constructs the proposed levee within the LADEQ approved Phase II

area, the regional economic negative impact will grossly exceed \$50,000,000 in lost revenue, lost employee wages, lost local goods and services purchased, and lost taxes. Replacing lost landfill airspace locally will be environmentally impractical and may be financially impossible.

Therefore, to best meet the goals of the Greater New Orleans Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, we strongly encourage the Corps of Engineers to re-design and re-locate the proposed levee from the Hero Canal to Oakville, directly west of the Industrial Pipe Landfill-Phase II area.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Schotsch  
General Manager

Attachments: Photograph Map of Industrial Pipe.

**Unknown**

**28 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: tiger840@gmail.com

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 5:32 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

As a lifelong resident of Plaquemines Parish and 3 generation farmer, thios proposed floodgate goes against everything that is right about this parish.

The Corp of Engineers capriously drew "a line in the sand" and has written off the lower end of this parish.

I am totally against this action and hope you will reconsider the 1994 alternative of tying into the existing levee with the 100 year levee but NOT affect Oakville or HWY 23 and this residents below this willful and caprious "line in the sand"

**Charlie Burt**

**29 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Burt, Charlie [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2009 7:35 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: West bank Tie In

WE WANT A RE-EVALUATION OF THIS STUDY THAT WAS DONE 20+ YEARS AGO. WHY HAS THIS BEEN HIDDEN FOR SO LONG AND IT IS JUST NOW COMING TO LIGHT. ITS WRONG AND WE WANT OUR VOICES HEARD.

CHARLIE BURT

**Derek & Claudia Nelson**

**29 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: claudianel@aol.com  
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2009 12:31 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Flood wall at Oakville, Plaquemines Parish

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail.

My husband and I only found out about this meeting 2 days ago while we were at our Homeowners Assoc. meeting. Needless to say we were shocked and upset at the idea of a flood wall being placed right across the highway that would put our home on the outside of the 100-year levee system.

Our home is located in Jesuit Bend and the appraised value about 3 years ago was around \$690,000.00. As you can imagine, we are very, very concerned and upset at the possibility that after such a flood wall is erected, should we decide to sell our house, the value of our house will drop drastically because people looking to buy a house will not want to invest that amount of money on a house that is outside the hurricane protection levee. Ours is only one of the many, many houses here in the Jesuit Bend area.

We don't understand how you can just place a wall in front of us as though this will not affect the lives of so many people. My husband and I have been married for 27 years and have worked very hard to get our home. Can you imagine how upsetting it is to us to know that we can lose our life's work because of a flood wall!

The way I understand it, this flood wall is based on studies that were done back in the 1980's when this area was considered "pasture land and citrus land". Well, it is no longer pasture land and citrus land there are real people with real lives that live here with a whole lot of money invested in their homes and properties. Please take that under serious consideration.

Furthermore, about 10 minutes below Jesuit Bend is the Conoco Phillips Refinery, which is one of the largest refineries and if I understand it correctly, is one of the refineries that provide the largest amount of jet fuel for this country. If I'm mistaken, I'm sorry, but is that being taken into consideration? wouldn't you want to protect that?

We are asking that you please find another alternative to this flood wall that would put Jesuit Bend on the outside of the 100-year levee system. If not, and you go through with this, will the government pay us for the value of our homes?

Thank you for giving attention to this complaint. My e-mail address is claudianel@aol.com.

Derek & Claudia Nelson

**John H Golden**  
**Staff Drilling Engineer, EPT-W**  
**Shell International E&P Inc.**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: john.golden@shell.com [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 11:15 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: IER13 Opposition

I am writing in opposition to the proposed IER13 levee project that crosses LA HYW 23 at Oakville. It is obvious to a casual observer that, as designed, the levee is yet another example of misappropriated taxpayer dollars. The levee meanders through the town of Oakville in what appears to be a politically motivated nonsensical pattern that is the epitome of wasteful spending.

Recent interviews broadcast on the nightly news raise concerns that this project is being properly managed in a fiscally responsible way.

I understand that the levee was designed based on population data from 20 years ago. That data is now grossly out of date.

The construction of the levee has never been adequately communicated to the population living south of the levee. The vast majority of the residences along LA Hwy 23 from the location of the proposed levee south to the Connoco Phillips refinery, did not flood during Katrina. Obviously there will be opposition from that group as to why their "high ground" is being devalued. My guess is that going forward, the project will likely have to contend with litigation originating from that group.

Additionally, the US Government should focus on protecting one of our critical refineries. The plan to federalize the "back levee" that stretches from Oakville south to the Connoco Philips refinery is the most practical and fiscally responsible way to do that.

Upon completion of the ~10 mile "back levee" system, the Oakville levee becomes obsolete and the time and taxpayer dollars spent on the Oakville levee wasted.

Thank you for your time

John H Golden  
Staff Drilling Engineer, EPT-W  
Shell International E&P Inc.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Don Heironimus**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: dheironimus@panhandle.rr.com [mailto:dheironimus@panhandle.rr.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 2:40 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

-I have property south of the proposed location of the new levee and flood gate. I am also being told that we will no longer be considered to be in the 100 year flood zone and will subsequently lose our Federal Flood insurance.

-Is this true? If so, then we should have been notified of this long before now and not by some news article or public listing on a website that may meet minimum notification requirements, but does not actually directly notify the residents affected.

-Where is the study that shows what will happen to property values outside the wall. We all have a lot invested in our properties and we have a right to be concerned and somewhat outraged that we are being left out of the process and the protected zone! These are properties that run in the 300k range and above and we all stand to lose if this process goes through without some form of guarantee on the part of the Federal Government.

-I am at a loss as to how we could have our Flood Protection Level changed since the Corps and FEMA updated it after the Hurricane and we were still covered. Since the ground has not subsided in the last two years and the levees are better now than before the hurricane it is inconceivable to me that an arbitrary decision can be made to reverse the last survey.

-Don Heironimus

**Norwood R.Kelly,Jr., O.D.**

[REDACTED]

**30 April 2009**

----- Original Message -----

From: butch kelly <mailto:[REDACTED]>  
To: mnvenvironmental@usace.army.mil  
Cc: pete.stavros@plaquemines.com ; landrieu@landrieu.senate.gov ; mhoss@wwltv.com  
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 2:08 PM  
Subject: IER 13 Hero Canal Tie In  
Dear Mr. Gib Owen,

My name is Norwood R. Kelly,Jr and I live at 242 Sarah Victoria Dr. Belle Chasse,La 70037 in the Jesuit Bend area.

I attended last night's meeting in Oakville. I strongly oppose the Proposed Action: Alternative 1 as it stands now. I came away from the meeting with the following impressions.(1) The flood gate across Hwy 23 was not considered until 6 to 9 months ago.(2) No impact study has been made concerning the personal or economic problems that will occur to the people that live south of the proposed flood gate.(4) There are other proposals that have been rejected by the Army Corps of Engineers .These proposals offer the same amount of levee protection for everyone all the way down to St Jude with the cost being the same or less.(5) Flood insurance will rise dramtically.(6) Property values will decrease dramtically and the resale of homes will be extremely difficult.(7) The Corps is sacrificing everyone south of the flood gate at Oakville in Belle Chasse.

Sinsereely,  
Norwood R.Kelly,Jr., O.D.

[REDACTED]

504-452-0390 cell

**Douglas P. LeBlanc**

[REDACTED]

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Douglas LeBlanc [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 7:24 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Floodgate

I am sending you a copy of the letter that I have sent to all the federal and state congressmen and representatives, and anyone else that I could think of to help us in this matter. As you can see, I am totally against IER 13. Also, I feel that the people of south Plaquemines were not notified properly by some obscure newspaper ad or other means which no one sees. At the very least, we should have been notified by mail! I realize that you have no control over the implementation of these plans, but I would hope that the public review period can be extended in order for us to take action. There will be many frusatrated and angry people at the May 4, 2009 meeting.

Thank you,

Douglas P. LeBlanc

---

April 30, 2009

Dear

On Monday, May 4, 2009, there will be a meeting at the Plaquemines Parish Auditorium to be held by the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the Individual Environmental Report 13 Hero Canal and Eastern Tie In, which proposes (among other things) to put a floodgate across Hwy 23 at Oakville, La. in western Plaquemines Parish. The people south of this floodgate are adamantly opposed to this project. Not only will our insurance rates be raised, our property values will be dropped drastically!!! It will be impossible to sell our homes at a fair market value. I have attended two meetings held to discuss this matter, and there were many upset people in attendance. There would have been even stronger opposition had we been properly notified sooner (but that is another matter). The corps says public involvement is key, and they want to hear from us. They say they want to hear from us for more informed decision making. Well, in the meeting I attended last night, all we heard from Mr. Gib Owen, the project director, was that this is a done deal and nothing could be done about it. Any input by property owners seemed to fall on deaf ears!

This risk reduction project was passed in Congress in 1985, it was amended in 1986 to include Oakville, La, and amended again in 1996. The parish south of Oakville has grown tremendously since then and there are other alternatives to this project that would include Jesuit Bend, the Conoco refinery and more. If this project was amended before, why can't it be amended again? There is much here now than citrus trees and cows as the 1985 proposal stated. There are definitely better ways to provide this protection and it will be using our money more wisely.

Therefore, as your constituent, I am asking you, or one of your representatives, to be in attendance at the meeting on May 4, 2009. If this is not possible, at the very least, I ask you to contact the Corps of

Engineers (Mr. Gib Owen), to discuss this matter as soon as possible! The people of south Plaquemines Parish are very angry, and need someone with more common sense and authority to help us.

Sincerely,

Douglas P. LeBlanc



**Missy Orgeron**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Missy Orgeron  
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 11:39 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NO FLOODGATE IN OAKVILLE!

MR. OWEN,

IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE MEETING THAT WAS HELD IN OAKVILLE LAST NIGHT OPENED MANY EYES.(ESPECIALLY YOURS!) JESUIT BEND IS BELLE CHASSE. MY ADDRESS STATES "BELLE CHASSE". JESUIT BEND IS NOT PASTURES AND OPEN LAND AND CITRUS GROVES. JESUIT BEND IS A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY WITH MANY HOMES AND BUSINESSES THAT MATTER!!!! THE FLOODGATE NEEDS TO BE MOVED FURTHER SOUTH WHERE THE POPULATION IS IN SMALLER NUMBERS! DO MORE RESEARCH. COUNT HOW MANY FAMILIES, HOMES, AND BUSINESSES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS FLOODGATE!

THE PROPERTY VALUE IN THE BELLE CHASSE AREA (YES THIS MEANS JESUIT BEND TOO) IS ONE OF THE HIGHEST IN THE STATE (RESEARCH THAT SO YOU CAN SEE WHAT I MEAN). HOW CAN A FLOODGATE IN ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE PLACES TO LIVE BE PERMITTED???? IT'S A NO-BRAINER, REALLY! RESEARCH THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA, THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN BELLE CHASSE MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE NUMBER OF HOMES, THE NUMBER OF BUSINESSES, THEN TELL ME HOW THIS FLOODGATE CAN BE JUSTIFIED???????

PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO STOP THIS FLOODGATE FROM IT'S LOCATION NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SINCERELY,  
MISSY ORGERON

**Celeste G. Stricklin**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Celeste G. Stricklin [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 9:26 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: IER 13 100 year levee protection

Dear Mr. Owen:

After the meeting last night in Oakville, there seem to be many unanswered questions. I would like to know who approved this "Fast Track" and how we can stop it. How can you continue with putting this wall up knowing that several hundred homes will be left unprotected? It is obvious this wall was planned long before any of us bought our property or built our homes. As shown on the slide show last night what is on the south side of your proposed wall is not pasture and citrus groves. It is several hundred homes with families living in them.

Remember before signing off on the project that you will leave:

- \* Several hundred homes unprotected
- \* The Belle Chasse Middle School unprotected
- \* The River Bend Nursing Home unprotected
- \* All of the citrus groves unprotected
- \* The Conoco Phillips Refinery unprotected

Note that all of the above has an address of Belle Chasse, LA 70037. Your proposal does not protect ALL of Belle Chasse. You are drawing a line and dividing Belle Chasse.

I am all for raising the levees. I am against the wall going across Hwy 23. Why not use the money to raise and federalize the levees all the way down. This is what would make sense. This would make everyone happy

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Celeste G. Stricklin

[REDACTED]

**Unknown**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: pcgeekhead@cmaaccess.com

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 1:45 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Please put be on the list for any upcoming projects or meetings related to the WBNFL project.

Which IER # applies to the West Bank Non-Federal Levee Project?

**Unknown**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 2:13 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Since there was no flooding from waves in Oakville, why is the Tie-in Gate not being placed where the waves actually occurred less than 3 miles away? And, why is the presentation on the project show the gate is to prevent flooding from waves?

**Unknown**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: blue2dog@aol.com

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 2:30 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Re:Ier 13. I think that this project must move forward in order to adequately protect the future of the lower end of Plaquemines parish. Any further delays will just keep us vulnerable to further storm surge. The project is funded, let's go with it. Let's also put phase 2 of the levees which include Jesuit Bend and below on fasttrack.

Unknown

30 April 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: pcgeekhead@cmaaccess.com

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 1:49 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

#### OAKVILLE GATE PROJECT

Was there a study to show the effects on the communities south of Oakville if a Hurricane were to hit and the Hero Canal was blocked and the Oakville gate closed? We think levees should be reinforced behind this wall and to the south of Oakville to prevent flooding that may be caused by the wall and blocking in of Hero Canal during an event.

**Unknown**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 1:50 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

OAKVILLE GATE PROJECT

Why are the minority population between Jesuit Bend and ConocoPhillips Refinery not afforded the same level of protection as the minority population in Oakville.

**Unknown**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 1:51 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

In the past, most of Plaquemines Parish contained plantations. Has the Corps of Engineers determined there are no artifacts in locations south of Oakville, and how was the determination made?

**Unknown**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 1:52 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

**OAKVILLE GATE - ACCESS ROAD**

What type of vehicle will the access road be approved for? Horse trailers? Any trailers? School busses? Heavy equipment? Fire Trucks? Fuel Trucks? What is the weight limit of allowed vehicles?

**Unknown**

**30 April 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2009 8:00 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

RE-IER/13

Will the Corps be planning to purchase my unsellable house? How about when we get flooded the next time? What are you people thinking? This is why I am so happy to have moved out of this unbelievably corrupt state. I just didn't think it would happen in Belle Chasse. Too bad the military folks are aware of how horrible LA is and don't want to move there. Too bad we couldn't unload our house. Thanks for nothing.

**Public Flyer  
April 2009**

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Proposed Flood Gate across HWY 23 at Oakville**

**Once this wall is constructed, and you are OUTSIDE the 16' 100-year protection levee, you will NOT be eligible for flood insurance under FEMA / National Flood Insurance Program!**

**With no outlet to the Intercoastal Waterway, Barataria Bay will be higher than it has been in the past. You will be at a GREATER risk of flooding!**

**What will happen to you during the next big storm?**

**What will happen to your property value?**

**This project is in the final planning stages and we are in a 30-day Public Comment period which ends on May 4th, 2009**

**Come make yourself heard NOW!!**

**You have a VOICE!!**

**April 29th, 2009**

Open House 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Presentation 7 p.m.

St. Paul's Benevolent Association Hall  
128 E. St. Peter St., Oakville, LA 70037

**Visit <http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/> and look for project "IER13" for more details. Visit [www.plaquemineslevee.com](http://www.plaquemineslevee.com) to SHARE information with your neighbors to help stop this before it's too late. The site is new please feel free to publish ideas!**

**Chris Arbourgh**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
1 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: Arbourgh, Christopher: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 3:44 PM  
To: Vedros, Pam MVD  
Subject: Project IER-13

To whom it may concern

My name is Chris Arbourgh and I live at 155 Regina Dr. Belle Chasse La. I want to go on record that I am against the proposed location of the flood wall it should be 6 miles further down Hwy. 23. I also feel the public comment period should be extended. Many questions were not answered at the last meeting and with so many homes being affected I find it hard to believe the public comment period could not be extended. I also think the proposed pump to pump water to Ollie canal from the north side of the wall will cause flooding in my neighborhood and I would like to see the study that proves otherwise.

Thanks' Chris Arbourgh

**Chris Arbourgh**

**Belle Chase, LA**

**1 May 2009**

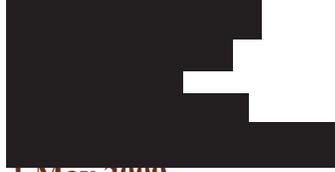
Voicemail Comment

From: Chris Arbourgh

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Hi. My name is Chris Arboro. I was trying to email ya. I had a address evidently it was not the correct email address cause it got kicked back. I'm a Belle Chase resident. I live at 155 Regina Drive and I will be affected by IER 13. I want to go on record to state that I am against, not the project; I'm against the location of the floodwall. I feel it should be six miles further south down the highway. That area in front of Captain Larry's is not the area for this. It affects the property values of too many homes for a little bit as six miles of levee I think that's totally ridiculous. I also think that the proposed pump that ya'll want to put back there to pump the water from the north side of the wall over into Ollie canal will cause severe flooding in my neighborhood. And I would like to see some kind of study that proves otherwise. The capacity of those pumps back there, barely do their job in keeping up with what we have now. In the last meeting ya'll said that area drains to Ollie canal now. It doesn't. I flew over it there is a levee you know. There is a levee between it. I can't see how that water, flying over it, would cause it to run that way. I am gonna take another helicopter flight again on Saturday to look at it some more. But the comments ya'll gave at that meeting I feel were wrong. I do not think that pumping that water to Ollie Canal is the correct answer. I think that's gonna cause severe flooding in my neighborhood, I want to go on record for stating that and I would also like to see the study. And also I cannot understand how this public comment period cannot be extended. There was many questions that were unanswered. And this public comment period should not end on Monday. That is I mean as many families as this proposed deal is affecting I think that's the least we can do is extend the public comment period and give us enough time to get in touch with all our elected officials and our representatives and the people that can fight on our behalf. My home number is 504-656-2929. I'm working all weekend I 'm at the alliance refinery that number is 656-3203. I am available there from six in the morning to five in the evening. Thank you very much and have a good day.

**Kevin Rau**



**1 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 12:37 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Cc: Amanda\_Behey@Melancon.House.Gov; Elizabeth\_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov;  
Rachel\_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov  
Subject: Questions for Mr. Gib Owen

To: US Army Corps of Engineers: Mr. Gib Owen; CEMVN-PM-RS; P.O. Box 60267; New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267  
(504) 862-1337, e-mail: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil, or by fax to (504) 862-2088.

Hello Mr. Owen,

Can you please take the time and answer my questions concerning the IER13 project and its effects on people living to the south of that project.

1. What impact will this larger levee have on the vulnerability of the smaller levees to the south being topped and/or breeched during a tropical weather event?
2. What impact does this flood wall have on the property values that are not included in its protection?
3. How does this impact my flood insurance premiums?
4. If I were to sell my house would the buyer be able to get flood insurance at the same premium rate as I currently do?
5. According to the IER 13 document the authorized alignment was to end at the non federal levee. It shows this in the 2007 view and the 1st drawing in the document. What has changed to cause the levee to pierce this area and not continue south to Alliance?
6. Has the Corps ever ventured past Captain Larry's? If they did, once you have passed the two large farms and the future Idlewild Estates subdivision, you would have noticed a substantial number of residential and commercial properties that should be protected. This whole area is considered the Belle Chasse area. I do not immediately have exact facts about how much private property and dwellings are not being included within this new flood wall but I made a crude attempt to estimate this using Google Maps satellite images.

Within 1 mile south of the flood gate: 22 houses, 42 trailers, at least 3 commercial farms

From 1 mile to 2 miles south of the flood gate: 110 houses, 14 trailers, 1 store, at least 3 commercial farms

From 2 miles to 3 miles south of the flood gate: 198 houses, 30 trailers, Belle Chasse Middle School

Further south to Alliance there are numerous houses, commercial farms, and an oil refinery.

Most of these houses are greater than 2000 square feet and less than 15 years old.

7. Who is being paid off and how much, to make this decision to cut off a large population from 100 year flood protection? The scope of this levee was significantly increased just to include Oakville. I am happy for Oakville to be included but the areas just south should have been included. The more I think about it this looks like another case of reverse discrimination.

8. Explain to me why the Corps could not start the 100 year flood protection levee using the original 1994 alignment? When construction begins they could get approval to continue the 100 year flood protection levee to Alliance. The money that would have been used to build flood gates for Hwy 23 and the railroad at Oakville could be used to levee off Hwy 23 at Alliance with probably some left over to offset the cost of raising the levee between Oakville and Alliance to the appropriate height (no requirement for railroad gate). From what I read the 100 year flood protection levee will be 16 feet. Funds for the non federal levee have already been appropriated to federalize the levee and raise it to 12 feet. So work on the federalized levee could start on time and by the time all the approvals occur you would be in a position to finish the 100 year protection not much longer than the original schedule.

9. Why did the Corps use a picture of a railroad gate, Photo 3 page 21 of the IER13 document that is much smaller than the 16 foot gate that would be placed at the Oakville railroad crossing? Are you trying to be misleading?

10. I noticed in the IER13 document they talk about other options such as raising homes and businesses. Is that an option for us? Will the government either raise our homes or buy us out at current market value?

Thank You

Kevin Rau, home owner, taxpayer, and voter

[REDACTED]  
Input/Output Inc.

[REDACTED]  
Harahan LA 70123

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**Unknown**

**1 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2009 11:41 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Before moving forward with construction of this project, Corps leadership should review the Fox 8 news interview from Wednesday, 4-29-09. Project Manager, Ted Carr, admitted to Val Bracy that this project was not the "best option available". It would be "criminal" to sign off on this project at this time, waisting tax payers hard earned money.

I would like to know specifically what is the projected cost of this project?

**Jason Kaliszeski**

**Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

**Jason.C.Kaliszeski@conocophillips.com**

**2 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Kaliszeski, Jason: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, May 02, 2009 9:57 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: Project IER-13

During the last few major storms, the Plaquemines Parish authorities built a temporary levee across highway 23 just north of the Alliance Refinery. At this point, there is an existing levee that reaches from the Mississippi river levee going west to highway 23 and then from highway 23 to the back levee behind Jesuit Bend. This location has been barricaded several times with large sandbags and mud. The gap is only as wide as the highway. It is an ideal location for a floodgate. There is existing levee from this point all the way to Oakville. There would be no need to purchase property or obtain and new right-of-ways in order to improve the existing levee to this point. It is the only common sense solution to the current problem. Please email me or call me to discuss.

Thank you.

Jason Kaliszeski

[REDACTED]



**Dinah Thompson**

**2 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Roger and Dinah Thompson  
Sent: Saturday, May 02, 2009 7:23 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Levee Heights  
Importance: High

Dear Mr. Gib,

I noticed that the elevation of the Non-federal levees is 12 ft. and in the Corps presentation last week for the Oakville tie-in, the levee would be 10.5 ft. If we are talking this little difference in height, and the flood wall is not designed to protect from flood, why not build all levees to the 12 ft. level and forget about the wall? Am I understanding this correctly?

What is the total cost to place this non-flood protection gate and access road across Hwy. 23? Why are we not waiting to see what the final design looks like for the Non Federal Levees? Don't we have to tie-in to those too?

I am posting this on our website. Would you reply on the website?  
<http://plaquemineslevee.com/5.html>

Thanks,

Dinah Thompson

- > The Corps of Engineers has set up a public meeting on Monday, May 4,
- > 2009, Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA
- > 70037, Open House 6:00 p.m. - Presentation 7:00 p.m. to discuss the
- > Hurricane projects in Plaquemines Parish.
- >
- > The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is working on three hurricane
- > and storm damage risk reduction projects in the Plaquemines Parish
- > area. We are actively proceeding forward with all three of these
- > projects to provide the most reliable and safest hurricane system for
- > the Plaquemines Parish area.
- >
- > The West Bank and Vicinity project is an authorized project that is
- > fully funded that has a segment that will provide 100 year level of
- > risk reduction to the Belle Chasse area. This project terminates at
- > Oakville. Our goal is to have all the construction complete for this
- > area by hurricane season 2011.
- >
- > The Corps has been authorized to spend \$671 million federalizing a
- > levee system from Oakville, South to the existing New Orleans to
- > Venice levee system (St. rose, LA). We are currently working to
- > finalize a proposed action for this project and to locate suitable
- > borrow (approximately 16 million cubic yards) to support this effort.
- > Project would be built to meet post Katrina design standards. The
- > project is authorized to incorporate the current non-Federal levee

> system into the Federal levee system (New Orleans to Venice project).  
> Levees would be constructed to the New Orleans to Venice project  
> authorized elevation of 12 foot (14' with overbuild). The current  
> authorization is not sufficient for the Corps to construct a levee  
> system to a high enough elevation that would meet the requirement for  
> certification under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).  
> Additional Congressional authority would be required to raise the  
> levees to elevations that would meet the NFIP elevations. Our goal is  
> to have all the construction complete for this levee by hurricane  
> season 2013.

>

> The third project being worked by the Corps, is the existing New  
> Orleans to Venice project that is located south of St. Rose LA. We  
> are pursuing plans in this area to upgrade the existing levee to meet  
> post Hurricane Katrina design standards. The elevation of the  
> existing levee would remain unchanged under the current authorities,  
> but the levee would be upgraded to meet the new design standards. We  
> are currently working to finalize a proposed action for this project  
> and to locate suitable borrow (approximately 14 million cubic yards)  
> to support this effort.

>

> Gib Owen  
> US Army Corps of Engineers  
> Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/ HSDRRS  
> Environmental Team Leader New Orleans District  
> 504 862-1337

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: pcgeekhead@cmaaccess.com [mailto:pcgeekhead@cmaaccess.com]

> Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 10:32 PM

> To: MVN Environmental

> Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

>

> The information used in determining where the Oakville Flood Gate  
> should be placed is almost 30 years old. There is more than cow  
> pastures south of Oakville. Look at the tax roles for the value of  
> the property that will be destroyed or devalued based on the placement  
> of this gate. It should be further south after the major oil  
> refinery.

>

**Dinah Thompson**

**2 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Roger and Dinah Thompson [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, May 02, 2009 4:19 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Levee Materials, Assurance & Environmental Testing  
Importance: High

May 1, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader New Orleans  
District  
504-862-1337

Dear Mr. Gib,

Will testing be done on the dirt that will be used for the new Non-Federal levees to make sure there are no hazardous materials or environmental contaminants?

What assurance can you give residents, that the new Non-Federal levees will be built?

I am posting this on our website. Would you reply on the website?  
<http://plaquemineslevee.com/5.html>

Thanks,

Dinah Thompson

**Unknown**

[REDACTED]

**2 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, May 02, 2009 9:41 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

I would like to know the results for the traffic or safety study that was completed for the proposed floodwall at Oakville.

**Unknown**

[REDACTED]

**2 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, May 02, 2009 9:43 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

At a minimum, a new economic impact study must be done to include the homes in Jesuit Bend, LA.

**Unknown**

3 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2009 2:28 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: floodgateoakville

i have lived in belle chasse area for 12 years, east bank area for 6 years and now in jesuit bend for 25 years. the corp wants to save belle chasse, well the right storm in the right direction can also flood that city. during betsy, the waves were topping the levee there also. we never flooded.

my husband and i are in our late 60's, on pension and love our home. we cannot afford to leave ! we cannot run anymore we are too old with medical problems!!

we don't want a " FLOOD GATE "  
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PAY FOR FLOOD INS.

**Norwood R. Kelly Jr., O.D.**

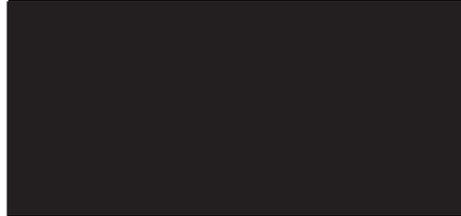
**[REDACTED]**  
**Belle Chase, LA [REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]**  
**[REDACTED]**

**3 May 2009**

NORWOOD R. KELLY, JR., O.D.

MAY 3, 2009



GIB OWEN

PM-RS

P.O. BOX 60267

NEW ORLEANS, LA 70160-0267

REFERENCE: IER 13 HERO CANAL AND EASTERN TIE IN

DEAR MR OWEN,

I SENT YOU AN E-MAIL DATED 4/30/2009 EXPRESSING MY OPPOSITON TO IER 13. IN MY E-MAIL I EXPLAINED THAT I THOUGHT THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WERE SACRIFICING THE PEOPLE THAT LIVEDSOUTH OF THE FLOOD GATE AT OAKVILLE AND THAT THERE WERE OTHER PROPOSALS THAT COULD BE IMPLEMENTED THAT WOULD PROTECT MORE PEOPLE AND BE MORE COST EFFECTIVE.I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE AN 8<sup>th</sup> ALTERNATIVE.

ALTERNATIVE 8 WOULD EXTEND THE WESTERN LEVEE OF ALTERNATIVE 3 FROM THE HERO CANAL AND TIE INTO THE EXISITING LEVEE AT THE OLLIE DRAINAGE CANAL. THE LEVEE FROM OLLIE TO LA REUSSITTE COULD BE RAISED TO THE 12-14 FT LEVEL AND THEN TIED INTO THE MISSISSIPPI LEVEE AT LA REUSSITE. WE ARE ONLY TALKING ABOUT A TOTAL OF NINE MILES FROM THE FLOOD GATE AT THE HERO CANAL TO LA REUSSITE SITE. THE DIRECT IMPACT AND THE INDIRECT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONEMENT WOULD BE EQUAL TO IER 13 AT OAKVILLE. AS YOU KNOW THE SOIL BORINGS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TO RAISE THE OLLIE CANAL LEVEE (BACK BAY LEVEE) AND ARE AT THE LAB FOR ANALYSIS.

THE RAISING OF THE OLLIE CANAL LEVEE IS ONLY A 6-8 MONTHS BEHIND THE START OF IER 13. AT THE MEETING ON APRIL 29<sup>th</sup> THE CORPS STATED THAT THE START OF IER 13 IS MONTHS AWAY. THEN WHY CAN'T THE CORPS COMBINE THE TWO PROJECTS TOGETHER? AS YOU KNOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FLOOD GATE ACROSS THE HERO CANAL IS GOING BE THE LONGEST PART NO MATTER WHAT ALTERNATIVE IS USED. THEREFORE, IMPLEMENTING MY ALTERNATIVE 8 WOULD NOT INCREASE THE TIME SCHEDULE FOR PROTECTING OAKVILLE AND THE REST OF UPPER BELLE CHASSE. ON THE CONTRARY ALTERNATIVE 8 WOULD RESULT IN MORE PROTECTION THAN ALTERNATIVE 3 PROBABLY WITHIN THE SAME TIME PERIOD.

MR. GIBB, I BELIEVE THAT THE CORPS HAS OBLIGATION WHETHER IT IS A MORAL OBLIGATION, A LEGAL OBLIGATION OR A COMMON SENSE OBLIGATION TO STEP BACK AND EVALUATE MY ALTERNATIVE 8 OR ANY OTHER ALTERNATIVE THAT WILL GIVE PROTECTION TO ALL OF THE BELLE CHASSE RESIDENTS THAT LIVE SOUTH OF ALTERNATIVE 3.

YOUR CONSIDERATION WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED TO THOSE WHO WILL BE ADVERSLEY EFFECTED BY IER 13 ALTERNATIVE 3.

SINCERELY,

— NORWOOD R KELLY, JR



**Pam Robeaux**

**3 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, May 03, 2009 9:55 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Flood Gate at Oakville, LA  
Mr. Owen:

I am a resident of Jesuit Bend, LA., a community south of the proposed site of the flood gate in Oakville, LA. I'm very concerned of the consequences if this is erected.

I am fearful of the protection of my home and property during a hurricane. I'm also concerned that insurance rates will sky rocket and that property value will decrease drastically.

Please reconsider the location of this flood gate and include our area.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Pamela A. Robeaux

**Edna J Adolph**

**Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

**4 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil [mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil]

Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 8:57 AM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

As an elderly resident of Jesuit Bend, La., I am very concerned about being excluded from the 100-year levee system. The construction of a flood gate or flood wall across highway 23 in Oakville, LA. will decrease our property value and the value of all properties south of the wall.

As a senior citizen, on a fixed income, I am very concerned that my insurance rates will increase again. Please include our community in the hurricane protection system. Thank you for your consideration in this very serious matter.

Edna J Adolph  
203 Sarah Victoria Drive  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

**Billy Nungesser**  
**Plaquemines Parish President**



**4 May 2009**

# Plaquemines Parish Government

**BILLY NUNGESSER**  
Parish President

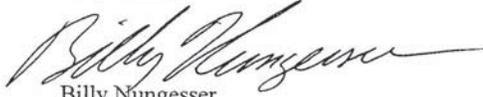
May 4, 2009

Colonel Alvin B. Lee  
District Commander, District Engineer, N.O. District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70118

Dear Colonel Lee:

Over the last two and one-half years we have been back and forth asking you to consider tying the federal levee from West Jefferson into the federal levee heading south behind Jesuit Bend with not much success. We are here tonight to ask you to reconsider. In 2000, although the past administration gave permission for this eastern tie-in levee to be constructed, we do not feel that the Corps was made aware of the increasing value of the property and improvements that are being left out of the eastern tie-in levee. If you look at the values today, it greatly warrants being included in this 100 year protection levee system (see Attachment "A"). With the strong support this project has received over the last several weeks, I hope that the Corps will reexamine the assets together with the cost savings and the money that could be used for the improved levee going south by connecting these two levees thus eliminating the flood wall across Highway 23. We ask you to please look at this closely and we strongly urge you to consider this as a viable option to the planned project.

Respectfully,

  
Billy Nungesser  
Parish President

BN/rve

Attachment

cc: Governor Bobby Jindal  
Senator Mary Landrieu  
Senator David Vitter  
Congressman Steve Scalise  
Congressman Charlie Melancon  
Congressman Rodney Alexander

# Plaquemines Parish Government



**BILLY NUNGESSER**  
Parish President

May 1, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The following is a summary count and value of residential structures, additions, commercial, industrial and public improvements from Oakville to Alliance. The values listed are expressed in both assessed and fair market value. (see attached for more detail)

## Residences & Residential structures

Count	Assessed Value	Fair Market Value
857	8,516,916	85,169,150

## Trailers & Trailer improvements

Count	Assessed Value	Fair Market Value
232	301,525	3,015,250

## Commercial Bldgs

Count	Assessed Value	Fair Market Value
24	678,865	4,525,767

Alliance/Conocophillips Refinery	AV = 112,547,540	FMV = 750,316,933
Enbridge Compressor Station	AV = 1,680,140	FMV = 6,720,056
Belle Chasse Middle School		FMV = 11,020,586
Scottville Fire House		FMV = 1,250,000
<b>Total Improvement Fair Market Value</b>		
<b>Oakville to Alliance, Plaquemines Parish, LA</b>		<b>\$ 862,018,246</b>

Robert R. Gravolet, CLA  
Assessor  
Plaquemines Parish

Sources: Plaquemines Parish Assessor; Plaquemines Parish School Board, Plaquemines Parish Government

# Plaquemines Parish Government



PLAQ ORDINANCE

*uslan*

Parish President  
BENNY ROUSSELLE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
JOHN L. BARTHELEMY JR., DISTRICT 1  
ED THERIOT, DISTRICT 2  
JUDY S. HOONETT, DISTRICT 3  
MIKE MUDGE, DISTRICT 4  
STEVE VAUGHN, DISTRICT 5  
AMOS J. CORMIER, JR., DISTRICT 6  
JOHN TALIANCICH, DISTRICT 7  
JANICE H. AGOSTA, DISTRICT 8  
SAMUEL C. PIZZOLATO, DISTRICT 9  
  
SUSAN T. BECNEL, SECRETARY

MISC

March 1, 2000

RECEIVED

MAR 8 2000

W. J. L. D.

Mr. Clyde H. Sellers  
Chief, Real Estate Division  
Department of the Army  
New Orleans District  
Corps of Engineers  
P. O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

Dear Mr. Sellers:

I am herewith enclosing two certified copies of Ordinance No. 00-28 adopted by the Plaquemines Parish Council at its meeting held on February 10, 2000, authorizing the undersigned for and on behalf of the Plaquemines Parish Council, as governing authority of the West Bank Levee District, to grant right of entry to the West Jefferson Levee District as Executive Agent for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, to a clear and unobstructed right of way for construction of the West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans, Louisiana, Hurricane Protection Project, Hero Canal Reach 1. 1st Enlargement, rights of way, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, as indicated on Map File Number H-8-44522, drawings 1 through 6 of 6, dated July, 199, and drawings 1 through 6 revised February, 2000. *COE*

You are hereby granted right of entry as requested and said right of entry shall remain valid through completion of construction of the project.

Yours very truly,

Plaquemines Parish Government

*Benny Rouselle*  
Parish President

BR:sb

encls.

cc's: Mr. Jack Griffin  
Land Department  
Mr. Harry Cahill, III ✓  
President, Board of Commissioners  
West Jefferson Levee District

ORDINANCE NO. 00-28

The following Ordinance was offered by Council Member Mudge who moved its adoption:

An Ordinance of the Plaquemines Parish Council, authorizing Benny Roussele, Parish President, for and on behalf of the Plaquemines Parish Government, as the governing authority of the West Bank Levee District to grant the West Jefferson Levee District as the Executive Agent for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, a clear and unobstructed right-of-way for construction of the West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans, La., Hurricane Protection Project, Hero Canal Levee Reach 1, 1st Enlargement.

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has developed plans and specifications for the construction of the West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans, La., Hurricane Protection Project, Hero Canal Levee Reach 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Enlargement; and

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has made official request to the West Jefferson Levee District as the Executive Agent for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, a clear and unobstructed right-of-way for the construction of the West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans, La., Hurricane Protection Project, Hero Canal Levee Reach 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Enlargement, all as indicated on the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Map entitled, "West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans, La., Hurricane Protection Project, Hero Canal Reach 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Enlargement, rights of way, Plaquemines Parish, La., File No. H-8-44522, drawings 1 through 6 of 6 dated July, 1999, drawings 1 through 6 revised February, 2000;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PLAQUEMINES PARISH COUNCIL THAT:

SECTION 1

It hereby authorizes and directs Benny Roussele, Parish President, for and on behalf of the Plaquemines Parish Council, as the governing authority of the West Bank Levee District, to grant the West Jefferson Levee District as the Executive Agent for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, a clear and unobstructed right-of-way for construction of the West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans, La., Hurricane Protection Project, Hero Canal Levee Reach 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Enlargement, all as indicated on the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Map entitled, "West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans, La., Hurricane Protection Project, Hero Canal Reach 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Enlargement, rights-of-way, Plaquemines Parish, La., File No. H-8-44522, drawings 1 through 6 of 6, dated July, 1999, drawings 1 through 6 revised February, 2000".

WHEREUPON, in open session the above Ordinance was read and considered section by section and as a whole.

Council Member Hodnett seconded the motion to adopt the Ordinance.

The foregoing Ordinance having been submitted to a vote, the vote resulted as follows:

YEAS: Council Members Judy S. Hodnett, Mike A. Mudge, Steve Vaughn, Amos J. Cormier, Jr., John Talliancich, Janice H. Acosta and Samuel Pizzolato

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Council Members John L. Barthelemy, Jr. and Ed Theriot

PRESENT BUT NOT VOTING: None

And the Ordinance was adopted on this the 10th day of February, 2000.

I hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Plaquemines Parish Council at a meeting held at its office in the Parish of Plaquemines, Louisiana.

RESOLUTION NO. 07-373

On motion of Council Member Theriot, seconded by Council Member Acosta, and on roll call all members present and voting "Yes", the following Resolution was unanimously adopted:

A Resolution of the Plaquemines Parish Council endorsing, supporting and agreeing to be responsible for operation and maintenance of the West Bank, Hurricane Protection Project, East of Harvey Canal Alignment indicated in the Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement dated August, 1994.

WHEREAS, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, through its local sponsor the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, along with the West Jefferson Levee District and the Plaquemines Parish Government intend on constructing the West Bank, Hurricane Protection Project, East of Harvey Canal; and

WHEREAS, both the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the West Jefferson Levee District have participated and supported Plaquemines Parish Government's investigation to arrive at the preferred project alignment indicated in the Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement dated August, 1994;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Plaquemines Parish Council endorses, supports and agrees to be responsible for operation and maintenance of the project alignment indicated in the Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement dated August, 1994, for the West Bank, Hurricane Protection Project, East of Harvey Canal.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Clyde A. Giordano, Parish President, is authorized to execute any and all agreements necessary to assure the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Corps of Engineers of the support of this alignment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Plaquemines Parish Council that the Secretary of this Council is hereby authorized and directed to immediately certify and release this Resolution and that Parish employees and officials are authorized to carry out the purposes of this Resolution, both without further reading and approval by the Plaquemines Parish Council.

I hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Plaquemines Parish Council at a meeting held at its office in the Courthouse, Pointe à la Hache, Louisiana, on October 9, 1997.

*Susan J. Beaud*  
Secretary

**Pamela A Robeaux**

**4 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 8:53 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

As a resident of Jesuit Bend, La., I am very concerned about being excluded from the 100-year levee system. The construction of a flood gate or flood wall across highway 23 in Oakville, LA. will decrease our property value and the value of all properties south of the wall. Growth in our communities south of this wall will become stagnant and insurance rates, which are already unaffordable, will rise again!! Please reconsider and include our community in the 100-year levee system plan. Please---NO flood wall or gate!!! Thank you.

Pamela A Robeaux  
[REDACTED]  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

**Rory A Robeaux**

[REDACTED]

**4 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 9:08 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

I am a resident of Belle Chasse, LA and reside in the northern portion of Plaquemines Parish. However, my parents and grandmothers reside in the Jesuit Bend area (one owns a home and the other is a resident of Riverbend Nursing Home). I am concerned about the Flood Gate or Flood Wall that is being considered to cross Hwy 23 at Oakville, La. This construction will not include their homes and properties. Insurance rates in that area are already a burden for residents and this construction will probably increase their rates even more. People on fixed incomes will be faced with yet another expense in the rising of insurance rates. Please reconsider the building of this flood gate. Thank you.

Rory A Robeaux

[REDACTED]

Belle Chasse, LA 70037

**Dinah Thompson**

**4 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Roger and Dinah Thompson [mailto:[rdthompson@plaquemineslevee.com](mailto:rdthompson@plaquemineslevee.com)]  
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 3:56 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Cc: Times Picayune Troncale, Terri; [60m@cbsnews.com](mailto:60m@cbsnews.com)  
Subject: Assurance that Levees Will Be Built in Plaquemines  
Importance: High

May 4, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader New Orleans District  
504-862-1337

Dear Mr. Gib,

What assurance can you give residents south of Oakville, that the new Non-Federal levees will be built? Why are we not eligible for federal levees?

If the final design of the other non-federal levees is not complete, why are you not waiting for the results of that design? The non-federal levees will require another tie-in point to your proposed federal levee in Oakville.

Why does the Corps of Engineers not show any data about the larger subdivisions just 3 miles south of Oakville? Instead, you are considering us pasture land. I didn't know that the property tax of pasture land was this expensive.

I moved here 9 years ago and at that time, I was not required to have flood insurance. Now, the "federal" levee and tie-in gate that you are building in Oakville will cause me not to be able to buy insurance (or pay through the nose for it).

Why are the citizens south of Oakville being treated as though we hold a lesser value as compared to New Orleans, the Westbank, and Oakville?

Did this project include the value placed on the amount of disaster assistance paid? I would rather spend my tax money on a good flood plan, then disaster assistance. This flood gate is a disaster waiting to happen your own video shows it.

[http://plaquemineslevee.com/resources/U\\_S\\_Army\\_Corps\\_of\\_Engineers\\_New\\_Orleans\\_District\\_Eastern\\_Tie-In.mht](http://plaquemineslevee.com/resources/U_S_Army_Corps_of_Engineers_New_Orleans_District_Eastern_Tie-In.mht)

I am posting this on our website <http://plaquemineslevee.com/5.html>.

Thanks,

Dinah Thompson

**Bobby Wilson**

[REDACTED]

4 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: Bobby Wilson [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 9:26 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: IER 13 - I AM ON YOUR SIDE GUYS!

AS A CONCERNED CITIZEN OF BELLE CHASSE, I AM PLEADING WITH THE CORP TO STAND BY THEIR PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT A GATE JUST SOUTH OF THE HERO CANAL IN ORDER TO PREVENT BELLE CHASSE FROM FLOODING. PLEASE DO NOT LET THAT ANGRY MOB OF LOWER PLAQUEMINES RESIDENTS FROM CHANGING YOUR MINDS. WE (BELLE CHASSE RESIDENTS) NEED TO HAVE HURRICANE PROTECTION FROM A 100 YEAR STORM BY 2011.

THE RESIDENTS OF LOWER PLAQUEMINES HAVE WEAK ARGUMENTS. OF COURSE, THE JESUIT BEND RESIDENTS WOULD BE HAPPY IF THE GATE WAS INSTALLED JUST SOUTH OF THEM. IF THAT WERE DONE, SURE IT WOULD BE OK THEN. THEY WOULDN'T CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS SOUTH OF JESUIT BEND. THE POINT IS, WHERE DOES IT STOP WITH REGARDS TO INSTALLING A GATE. WE WILL NEVER GET FULL HURRICANE PROTECTION IF THIS GETS EXTENDED.

WE HAVE BEEN WAITING 4 YEARS SINCE KATRINA TO SEE THIS HAPPEN. PLEASE DON'T LET THEM PERSUADE YOU OTHERWISE. THEY NEED TO WAIT THEIR TURN JUST LIKE WE DID. WHERE IN THE HELL WERE THEY LAST YEAR WHEN YOU FIRST STARTED HAVING MEETINGS TO DISCUSS.

**Charlie Burt**  
**Manager, Field Operations**  
**Lagasse Inc**



**5 May 2009**

**From:** Burt, Charlie [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 3:55 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** Floodwall IER-13

Build the "Non-Federal Levee's" first, it is the first line to stop a potential flood. The Flood wall is a waste of money and energy and building the levees higher and stronger would be the biggest impact. What does the Corp not see if this. It is very obvious on paper that building a zig-zag wall will not reduce flooding, but merely increase it.

Charlie Burt  
Manager, Field Operations  
Lagasse Inc



**Michael and Angela Carron**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].com

5 May 2009

**From:** Angela Carron [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 8:39 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Cc:** Michael Carron  
**Subject:** Question About the Flood Gate Project  
Mr. Owen,

Please provide for the public the names of the individual landowners that will be affected by this project and what compensation was offered to them in exchange for the use of their land.

Michael and Angela Carron

[REDACTED]

**John Golden**

**5 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 12:06 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Dear Sirs,

I attended the May 4th Public Comment Meeting in Belle Chasse regarding IER13. I understand that the hurricane protection levee is important and required by Congress. I would only ask that you seriously consider alternatives to the proposed floodwall at Oakville. Having worked as a Major Projects Manager for 20 years, it is painfully obvious that IER13 is being mismanaged. Local citizens have presented what appears to be a viable option of tying the levee into the Mississippi river system near Alliance. The project managers could not comment on this alternative. Not only did they not have a cost estimate for the Oakville tie-in, but it appears that they haven't even considered the Alliance tie-in. I ask that you consider Benny Rouselle's proposal, submitted at the meeting, in lieu of the Oakville tie-in. In addition, Col Lee should not finalize any decision on this project until his engineers have given him a competent cost analysis of both options.

**Roxanne Tillotson**

**5 May 2009**

**From:** Roxanne Tillotson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 9:25 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** FOR Floodgate at Oakville

Mr Owen ,

I just wanted to voice my opinion re the proposed floodgate at Oakville in Belle Chasse .

I live in Jesuit Bend and am aware of the fight most residents in this area are bringing forth to the Corps . I just would like to say that I wholeheartedly AGREE that your proposed plan is what needs to be done to protect the most homes . My husband is not a engineer , but has lived in this area for his entire life and knows these waterways/levees like the back of his hand . He agrees that even though we live south of the floodgate , this gate will NOT put us at greater risk for flooding , but will stop the water from spreading and causing total devastation if there is a flood that will flood Jesuit Bend ANYWAY .

I don't know if you visit the <http://www.plaquemineslevee.com> website , but there is a post ( # 80 ) from a engineer that makes perfect sense .I hope you will stick to your plan and finish this project along with the project to raise the levees behind our homes . As I said , I do live in Jesuit Bend , but have a business North of the wall ..... There is far more to lose North of the proposed wall .

Sincerely,  
Roxanne Tillotson

**Unknown**

**5 May 2009**

**From:**

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 5:07 PM

**To:** MVN Environmental

**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

Please plan to hold a public meeting to review and comment on the IER5 document.  
Please confirm via email that you have received this request for a public meeting.  
Thanks.

**Unknown**  
**5 May 2009**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 1:08 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

PLEASE DO NOT STOP YOUR EFFORTS IN COMPLETING THE WESTBANK AND VICINITY PROJECT AS PLANNED AND DISCUSSED IN YOUR APRIL 09 TOWN HALL MEETING. WE NEED THE GATE TO PROTECT UPPER PLAQUEMINES PARISH.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND DON'T LET THE PARISH POLITICS CHANGE YOUR DECISION.

THANKS

**Unknown**

**5 May 2009**

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 6:41 PM

**To:** MVN Environmental

**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

I attended an informational meeting at St Dominick's on Sept 30, 2008 attended by Corps representatives where low profile, high reliability, low maintenance pumps known as " concrete volute casing pumps" where presented, manufactured by KSB (used in Holland, England). They also reviewed the typical New Orleans pumps maintained by the Corps and they appeared archaic and unreliable with large ugly behemoth buildings like the one on I-10 at I-610. I sincerely hope as a resident of Lake Vista that the KSB designs or ones like them are chosen.

**Unknown**

[REDACTED]

**5 May 2009**

**From:**

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 11:07 PM

**To:** MVN Environmental

**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

I have a question for the COE. If this proposed flood gate on the eastern tie-in is for the flood protection for the westbank and vicinity, what are the interim (backup) plans for this protection if there is a hurricane before the flood gate is completed?

**Unknown**  
**mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil**  
**5 May 2009**

**From:** mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil [mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 11:23 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

There were quite a few suggestions to the current IER 13 Eastern tie-in plan that would save millions of our tax payers money and include a much larger area in the 100 year protection plan. This would prevent the induced flooding caused by the proposed flood gate.

**Unknown**  
**5 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil [mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil]

Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 12:08 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

PLEASE DO NOT STOP YOUR EFFORTS IN COMPLETING THE WESTBANK AND VICINITY PROJECT AS PLANNED AND DISCUSSED IN YOUR APRIL 09 TOWN HALL MEETING. WE NEED THE GATE TO PROTECT UPPER PLAQUEMINES PARISH.

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND DON'T LET THE PARISH POLITICS CHANGE YOUR DECISION.

THANKS

**Unknown**  
**mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil**  
**5 May 2009**

**From:** mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil [mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 05, 2009 11:17 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

A revised IER would justify continuing the 100 year protection of the federalized levee down past the Conoco Philips refinery which is only seven miles south of Oakville. It doesn't make sense to sacrifice this vital section of our parish!

**Dinah Thompson**

6 May 2009

**From:** Roger and Dinah Thompson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 06, 2009 12:20 AM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** DRAFT REPORT IER 13 - EXTENSION & MEETING MINUTES  
**Importance:** High

When and where will the minutes from the May 5, 2009, meeting in Belle Chasse be posted?

Will we have subsequent meetings? If so, how many, and where will they be held?

Thanks,

Dinah Thompson

**Dinah L. Thompson**  
**Jesuit Bend Estates**

**6 May 2009**

**From:** Roger and Dinah Thompson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 06, 2009 7:40 AM  
**To:** Garland@wwl.com; Amanda\_Beheynt@melancon.house.gov; Tommy@wwl.com;  
Elizabeth\_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov; 60m@cbsnews.com; Times Picayune Troncale, Terri; MVN  
Environmental  
**Subject:** COMMUNICATION OF IER REPORTS - EQUAL ACCESS FOR CITIZENS  
**Importance:** High

The citizens being affected by all of the IER reports are not getting equal access.

Please address questions in the attached letter.

May 6, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section  
HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader  
New Orleans District  
Phone 504-862-1337 Fax (504) 862-2088  
mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil

**COMMUNICATING MEETING MINUTES, VIDEO, AND SUBSEQUENT IER DRAFT REPORTS – EQUAL ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

SITE WHERE REPORTS ARE BEING POSTED: <http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/>

**QUESTIONS:**

1. When and where will the minutes from the May 5, 2009, IER 13 meeting in Belle Chasse be posted?
2. Since you have a video of the IER 13 meeting, will you put it on the Corps web site, so that the seeing impaired can hear it as it was spoken? After all, you've displayed video on how our community will be affected.
3. Since we have a strong Vietnamese fishing community down the road, will you give them free access to hear and see all the comments from the May 4 IER 13 meeting and subsequent meetings? Will you get a Vietnamese translator?
4. Some of the residents of Buras, Port Sulfur, and Diamond do not have computers, how will you communicate the meeting video and meeting notes from IER13 with them?

5. Your report is vividly showing graphics in color. Some people living in the fishing community down the road may not have computers that print in color. Will you provide them with paper copies of your graphic depictions in color?
6. Will we have subsequent meetings for IER 13, if so, how many, and where will they be?
7. Individual Environmental Report West Bank and Vicinity Western Tie-In Jefferson and St. Charles Parishes, Louisiana IER #16 is almost 14 MB in size and contains 354 pages. My computer locked up while I was trying to review it. My printer does not have enough memory to print it out. How will you get this to people in communities that cannot review the reports or who may not have computers? They need to see the information vividly in color.
8. If you have the reports posted and people are allowed only 30 days, why can't you start posting where these meetings will be held on the same date that you post these reports that are "Issued for Comment?"

Sincerely,

Dinah L. Thompson  
Jesuit Bend Estates  
[REDACTED]  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

CC: letters@timespicayune.com

CC: 60m@cbsnews.com

CC: [REDACTED]

CC: Mary Landrieu via email to:Elizabeth\_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov & Fax (202)224-9735

CC: David Vitter via email to: Rachel\_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov & Fax (202) 228-5061

CC: Charlie Melancon via email to:Amanda\_Beheynt@melancon.house.gov & Fax (202) 226-3944

CC: Office of Public Liaison via website <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/opl/>

**Unknown**

**6 May 2009**

Vicemail Comment

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Hey, Mr. Gib. I am calling in reference to the floodwall over in Oakville. I believe that you guys should move forward with the project. It's gonna protect the west bank. I went to the meeting the other night and I understand that it's not to protect its not for what it's not gonna protect or hurt. But it's actually to protect the west bank. We definitely need protection. And I feel that this project should move forward in order for us to get the required protection further down the line. And I'm just giving you my opinion and I think that this project should move forward. I actually live below the wall and I'm for the wall.

Thank you.

**Dinah Thompson**

7 May 2009

**From:** Roger and Dinah Thompson  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 07, 2009 9:24 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Cc:** Times Picayune

**Subject:** Willfully Designing and Carrying out a Poor Design  
**Importance:** High

IER #13

[http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/projects/usace\\_levee/IER.aspx?IERID=13](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/projects/usace_levee/IER.aspx?IERID=13)

COMMENTS TO DRAFT REPORT DATED APRIL 2009

WEST BANK AND VICINITY HERO CANAL LEVEE AND EASTERN TERMINUS  
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA

Who can we hold responsible for damages if our homes are properties flood, like the simulation in the Corps' video and there was no wave that caused our flooding, or barge hitting a levee (because I did not see a barge in the simulation)? Who is responsible? If local contractors are building the non-federal levees and it butts right up against a federal levee, how do we determine who is responsible for the damages? Billy Nungesser did tell us in our Jesuit Bend neighborhood meeting that he wanted the back levees behind us to get going, because he was afraid they would not get done timely and he wanted local contractors to get the jobs. So who is responsible? Was the Corps ever planning for us to have a federal levee system where the parish is suggesting this non-federal levee go? Can I see and receive a copy of every insurance bond from every contractor that works on both of these levees? I want to see and understand how I can hold them accountable for my damages.

Why is the US Corps of Engineers not combining these levee systems into one federalized system to save with demobilizing and mobilizing of construction crews? It seems to me, we could save some money by having this be one project, do you agree? It also seems to me, if the Corps did

not have all these zig-zagging directions in their preferred plan, we could also save money, do you agree?

Does the government have to buy us out, since we are clearly not included in the Corps of Engineers' flood protection plan? We would really like to be in the 100 year protection plan with federal levees behind us, rather than be bought out.

Have you read all the information on how the government can hold a private engineer responsible for wrongfully engineering designs, while he knows it may cause damage? It can borderline being a criminal act with heavy jail time and fines. Would you provide me with the names and license numbers of all the engineers that have placed their stamp on the designs of IER 13?

We are not going away.

Dinah Thompson

COPY TO:

Valerie B. Jarrett, President Obama's Senior Advisor and Assist., Office of Public Liaison, Washington

Via web site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/opl/>

**Roger and Dinah Thompson**

7 May 2009

**From:** Roger and Dinah Thompson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 07, 2009 1:00 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** POLICY QUESTION TO THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
**Importance:** High

COMMENTS TO IER 13, IER 16 AND ALL THE DRAFT REPORTS ON YOUR WEBSITE THAT ARE DISPLAYED FOR COMMENT TODAY, MAY 7, 2009 AT 12:00 PM AMERICAN STANDARD TIME.

Please respond to our questions in the attached letter to the President of the United States and the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Also, how have you afforded the Vietnamese speaking people of Plauemines Parish the same access/availability to review all of the IER Draft Reports currently on display at the US Army Corps of Engineers' website, when they need translators?

Also, how have you afforded the Spanish speaking people of Plauemines Parish the same access/availability to review all of the IER Draft Reports currently on display at the US Army Corps of Engineers' website, when they need translators?

How do you expect people in the community to respond to these IER Reports when they are linked on a site, and their computers are crashing due to the file sizes? They need to also see the vivid colors of your graphs to really get the picture. Will you chop your reports into sections of a smaller size so communities all across the Westbank can download the information? Why not chop the file for easier access?

Don't tell me they were available at the community meetings, when your sign-up sheet was nowhere to be found "after the meeting" when you told me I could sign it. It was not available for me to sign.

Why don't you publish the US Corps of Engineers video tapes as part of the official record, since you are taking so long to get the minutes together?

Do you not want the public to hear our outcry. They will, because ---- it's coming!

May 7, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section  
HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader  
New Orleans District  
Phone 504-862-1337 Fax (504) 862-2088  
<mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil>

**IER #13 [http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/projects/usace\\_levee/IER.aspx?IERID=13](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/projects/usace_levee/IER.aspx?IERID=13)**  
**COMMENTS TO DRAFT REPORT DATED APRIL 2009**  
**WEST BANK AND VICINITY HERO CANAL LEVEE AND EASTERN TERMINUS**  
**PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

RE: Policy Question

Everything that Congress authorizes has to be published in the Federal Register. Would you please provide references to where the HSDRRS, and specifically the WBV work, was authorized or was published in the Federal Register?

How can a federal levee tie into a non-federal levee? Non-federal levees do not meet the requirements for Federal Levees, and we know they don't because they might not be as high or made of the right materials. Would you consider building federal levees as far south as feasibly possible so that our population of Belle Chasse and South of Belle Chasse can be protected from a flood?

Why do I, everyone in Oakville, and everyone South of Oakville have to justify our existence in order to save the Westbank and New Orleans? Why are we being excluded from the Federal Flood Protection Plan? Why can't we have 100 year protection as far south as possible? We have buffer land here! We want our marshes built-up for flood protection. We want good pumping capacity to bail out in case we flood.

The Plaquemines Levee Group stands united. We do not want to be divided.  
<http://plaquemineslevee.com/5.html> . We know it takes a community, but now we need the president.

Dinah Thompson  
Jesuit Bend Estates

CC: Tommy Tucker, WWL Radio  
CC: Billy Nungesser, Plaquemines Parish Government via email to: [bnungesser@plaqueminesparish.com](mailto:bnungesser@plaqueminesparish.com)  
CC: Anthony L. Buras, Jr. Council District 5, via email to: [lois\\_jeune@plaqueminesparish.com](mailto:lois_jeune@plaqueminesparish.com)  
CC: [letters@timespicayune.com](mailto:letters@timespicayune.com)  
CC: [60m@cbsnews.com](mailto:60m@cbsnews.com)  
CC: [Pete.stavros@plaquemineslevee.com](mailto:Pete.stavros@plaquemineslevee.com)  
CC: Mary Landrieu via email to: [Elizabeth\\_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov](mailto:Elizabeth_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov) & Fax (202)224-9735  
CC: David Vitter via email to: [Rachel\\_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov](mailto:Rachel_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov) & Fax (202) 228-5061  
CC: Charlie Melancon via email to: [Amanda\\_Behey@melancon.house.gov](mailto:Amanda_Behey@melancon.house.gov) & Fax (202) 226-3944  
CC: Valerie B. Jarrett, President Obama's Senior Advisor and Assist., Office of Public Liaison, Washington  
Via web site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/opl/>

May 7, 2009

Ms. Valerie B. Jarrett  
Senior Advisor and Assistant to the President  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
Washington  
Via web site: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/opl/>

**IER #13 [http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/projects/usace\\_levee/IER.aspx?IERID=13](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/projects/usace_levee/IER.aspx?IERID=13)**  
**COMMENTS TO DRAFT REPORT DATED APRIL 2009**  
**WEST BANK AND VICINITY HERO CANAL LEVEE AND EASTERN TERMINUS**  
**PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

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Why do I, everyone in Oakville, and everyone South of Oakville have to justify our existence in order to save the Westbank and New Orleans? Why are we being excluded from the Federal Flood Protection Plan? Why can't we have the 100 year level of protection as far south as possible? We have buffer land here! We want our marshes built-up for flood protection. We want good pumping capacity.

The Plaquemines Levee Group stands united. We do not want to be divided.  
<http://plaquemineslevee.com/5.html> . We know it takes a community, but now we need the president.

Dinah Thompson  
Jesuit Bend Estates

CC: Tommy Tucker, WWL Radio  
CC: Billy Nungesser, Plaquemines Parish Government via email to: [bnungesser@plaqueminesparish.com](mailto:bnungesser@plaqueminesparish.com)  
CC: Anthony L. Buras, Jr. Council District 5, via email to: [lois\\_lejeune@plaqueminesparish.com](mailto:lois_lejeune@plaqueminesparish.com)  
CC: [letters@timespicayune.com](mailto:letters@timespicayune.com)  
CC: [60m@cbsnews.com](mailto:60m@cbsnews.com)  
CC: [Pete.stavros@plaquemineslevee.com](mailto:Pete.stavros@plaquemineslevee.com)  
CC: Mary Landrieu via email to: [Elizabeth\\_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov](mailto:Elizabeth_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov) & Fax (202)224-9735  
CC: David Vitter via email to: [Rachel\\_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov](mailto:Rachel_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov) & Fax (202) 228-5061  
CC: Charlie Melancon via email to: [Amanda\\_Beheyt@melancon.house.gov](mailto:Amanda_Beheyt@melancon.house.gov) & Fax (202) 226-3944  
CC: Office of Public Liaison via website <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/opl/>

**Bobby Wilson**

**7 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Wilson, Robert F [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2009 2:32 PM  
To: AskTheCorps MVN  
Subject: Belle Chasse Resident Concerns in NOT completing IER 13 as planned and scheduled

Colonel Lee

I've attended a number of the meetings held by the Corp for the past couple of years pertaining to IER 13 and have been looking for the day that I can tell my family that we, as residents of upper Belle Chasse (Woodland Highway area), will feel safer than ever before with the new 100 year Hurricane Protection system in place. I have geared up my family that construction will be completed by 2011 as scheduled by the Corp based on the current proposal to install a gate in Oakville. I currently feel that my hopes for this happening is slowly diminishing due to the political pressures that I am sure the Corp is faced with both from the citizens south of Oakville as well as from the local authorities. I attended the meeting in Oakville a couple of weeks ago and felt for your group there conducting the presentation. I believe that your group gave a great presentation. I don't believe however that anything said could have convinced the citizens of Jesuit Bend that help is on the way for those living south of Oakville, even though it will take place as part of another totally separate project. I left that meeting, quite frankly ill thinking that my dreams of living in a safer Belle Chasse was slowly diminishing. I didn't attend the last meeting held at the Belle Chasse auditorium because quite frankly, I didn't want to hear the screams and outrage comments coming from residents of South Plaquemines. I can understand where they are coming from, however, I will never be able to understand why the Parish Government would be willing to risk flooding all of Plaquemines Parish as compared to some of the parish.

This issue has been near and dear to the hearts of my wife, kids and I. Reason is that I moved here to Belle Chasse in November, 2005. Prior to that, I lived in St. Bernard Parish and was forced to move because we were flooded with 9 feet of water due to Katrina. We literally lost everything except the "shirts off our backs". We moved to Belle Chasse thinking that the chances of this type of devastation would be far less than staying in St. Bernard.

Please consider this memo in the next couple of weeks and keep us in mind before making a decision. We strongly encourage the Corp to maintain their current proposal of installing a gate (or levee) across Belle Chasse Highway in Oakville that ties into the Mississippi River Levee. In talking with other residents of Belle Chasse, I do not believe that the Parish Government officials have properly communicated this issue to the residents of upper Belle Chasse. I don't believe that the residents of upper Belle Chasse fully understand the significance of the decision that the Corp will be making. The Corp has communicated well however the Parish Government should have played a bigger role in communicating the issues to ALL residents of Plaquemines Parish, not just those from South Plaquemines.

Any replies back from the Corp would be greatly appreciated.

With Kind Regards

Bobby Wilson

[REDACTED]  
Belle Chasse, LA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Dinah Thompson**

8 May 2009

**From:** Roger and Dinah  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2009 3:52 AM  
**To:** MVN Environmental

esouth.net;  
@bellsouth.net;  
llsouth.net;  
ff@bellsouth.net;  
com;  
bellsouth.net;  
@bellsouth.net;  
gmail.com;  
;

**Subject:** CORPS POLICY ON NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC  
**Importance:** High

COMMENTS TO DRAFT REPORT DATED APRIL 2009  
IER #13  
[http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/projects/usace\\_levee/IER.aspx?IERID=13](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/projects/usace_levee/IER.aspx?IERID=13)

WEST BANK AND VICINITY HERO CANAL LEVEE AND EASTERN TERMINUS  
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA

Would you provide me with a copy of the policy approved by the US Army Corps of Engineers that shows how to notify the public about these review meetings?

There were two meetings, Apr. 29 and May 4. Did the Corps follow the same protocol of notification for both of these meetings?

Our Jesuit Bend Group were passing out flyers on the corner of Belle Chasse and Woodland Highway during the weekend of May 2 in order to get the word out. Most people we came in contact with did not know anything about it until receiving our flyers. Some of these people were as far south as Boothville.

When does the Corps plan to have the minutes from that meeting available to the public? How do you plan to provide the answers to every question posed in that meeting?

Dinah Thompson

via email: Tommy@wwl.com Tommy Tucker, WWL Radio

via email: letters@timespicayune.com

via email: 60m@cbsnews.com

via email: Pete.stavros@plaquemineslevee.com

via email: Mary Landrieu via email to:Elizabeth\_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov  
& Fax (202)224-9735

via email: David Vitter via email to: Rachel\_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov & Fax  
(202) 228-5061

via email: Charlie Melancon via email to:Amanda\_Behey@melancon.house.gov  
& Fax (202) 226-3944

via website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/opl/>

Valerie B. Jarrett, President Obama's Senior Advisor and Assist., Office  
of Public Liaison, Washington

**Roxanne Tillotson**

**8 May 2009**

**From:** Roxanne Tillotson [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2009 11:55 AM  
**To:** LUKE.THERIOT@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV; RACHAL\_PEREZ@VITTER.SENATE.GOV;  
Wes\_Kungel@landrieu.senate.gov; MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** We DO need the Floodwall !!!!

Hi

I am a resident of Jesuit Bend La . I was at the meeting on May 4th . I want to let you know that we DO need IER13 to move forward as planned ! IT IS A GOOD THING ! The people who are protesting this do not know what they are fighting for . They are severely mis-informed ! I was disappointed that the Corps didn't properly explain WHY we will not have increased flooding due to the wall, at the last meeting . I will copy a letter that was written by an engineer ( someone who really knows what is going on with this project ) who also lives in Jesuit Bend . The people protesting are NOT engineers !! They have NO clue as to how this will work . All they know is that they are on the other side of a wall . ONE person who isnt even from here has started this MAYHEM !! I would just hate for ALL of us to suffer for their ignorance ! Please read this engineers perspective, with whom I wholeheartedly agree :

Great turnout at the meeting last night, it is good to see the community getting involved in the government process. I've been to three meetings on this floodwall and I really need to get a few of my thoughts off my chest, I hope I do not offend anyone as that is not my intention but I feel I need to approach this floodwall from another angle, I'm an Engineer and this is from an Engineer's perspective. Without regard to feelings or emotions I have to say that the floodwall makes perfect engineering sense in the location that is chosen, this is based upon the cost vs. The amount of homes and property it protects. The engineering solution may have some minor flaws such as the location of the 150 GPM pump station but overall it is a sound solution. The analogy of this floodwall design is the same concept of ships and submarines, we don't want to lose the entire ship if one section floods, that is why there are sealable bulkheads throughout the vessel. Elected parish officials need to weigh the importance of this project as it is a ridiculous argument not to protect the most homes and revenue at the expense of a small minority of homes, property and businesses south of this floodwall.

If this floodwall isn't constructed and a major storm hits the Houma area we (Jesuit Bend) would be wiped out with upper Belle Chasse, including the Naval Air Station and Chevron Oronite. Going back to 1992, Hurricane Andrew wiped out Homestead AFB in Florida. Based upon the severity of damage the military walked away from the base leaving the community with a huge economic loss. What do you think would happen if the Naval Air Station flooded under 6'-8' of water? It is more economically feasible to BRAC (Base Realignment And Closure) the base and turn the land back to its owner. The Federal Government does not own the land on which the air station resides; they have a long term lease agreement.

My other concern is that delaying this project will also delay any work being done on the levees behind us in Jesuit Bend and we certainly don't want that.

So, who should we be angry at? The Corps of Engineers? Congress? Local Government? FEMA? Many of us bought homes and built homes in the Jesuit Bend area and were never told about this potential floodwall, we should have been notified about this when building permits were issued, so fault lies there. We were also not told of the elevations and potential for levee failure behind Jesuit Bend on a levee system that had not been properly maintained. The current parish administration is doing the right thing by attending these meetings and giving us the information that we need to make informed decisions but they also need to ensure the safety and protection for the majority of the parishioners, this majority resides

in upper Belle Chasse.

A much easier pill to swallow would be if this project was in multiple phases; all including floodwalls so there would not be a North/South issue, we would all be in a consolidated floodwall protection system extending all the way down past Myrtle Grove.

In the interim time if our flood insurance cost increase because of this floodwall, we should be able to bring our statements to the Assessor's office and have our property tax reduced for the increased premium as well as the value of our home reassessed.

Hopefully I haven't poked the bear, as I stated above, this is not my intent. I stand to lose financially on this deal as well as everyone with the possibility of a devalued home and increased flood insurance cost. If we flood, I'm temporarily without a house, but if the Naval Air Station floods, I'm without a job. Without a job here, I have no house here!

Once again, don't take this wrong as I don't want or intend to offend anyone, I think we all share the common goal for flood protection for our area.

I've received some pretty hateful e-mails because of my posts. All I ask is if you do e-mail me with some of the distasteful comments (as some have) please leave your name. I have not hidden my views behind a false identity.

I remember coming back to the Parish after Katrina, I was with the National Guard and got back here right after the storm. Going to Port Sulphur and seeing the devastation, the muck, the smell. It haunted me that we were so close to having the same fate here in Jesuit Bend. Some of us did have flooding from the Mississippi River but a lot of homes were spared. I went to St. Bernard and saw the devastation there as well, the smell. Infrastructure ruined. This flood wall will protect a portion of Belle Chasse from the same fate, I cannot understand why anyone could be in opposition to this. I don't want to drive by a flooded Balestra's, Don's Donut Shop, OLPH Church/school, Belle Chasse High School, Baptist Church, Methodist Church, Salvo's, Lil G's, Dairy Dip, Jeanfreau's, Adam's Catfish, Dollar General, Blue Angel Bar, Tire Shack, Pivach, etc, etc, etc. It is as if the mentality is that if we in Jesuit Bend are going to flood, then everyone has to flood. This defies logic.

Sincerely  
Roxanne Tillotson

**Steven P. Kennedy**

**10 May 2009**

**From:** *Steven P. Kennedy*

5/10/09

**Senator's** Landrieu, Vitter,

**Congressman** Melancon

**US Army Corp of Eng.** Gib Owen

**Plaq. Parish** Mr. Billy Nungesser, Councilman Buras

RE: IER13 Hwy 23 crossing.

As a resident of Jesuit Bend since 1982, a property owner, and Business owner I am writing to voice my strong opposition to construction of a flood block-aid across hwy 23.

While many projects of flood protection improvements have been undertaken with minimal direct impact to community foundation or divide, such as pump stations in New Orleans or flood walls on peters road, most pre existing or in commercial sectors. Residents understand the task the Corps is placed in the protection and manage role.

There is no doubt the walls and gate in Harvey and vicinity will force waters into pimco canal and south thus, the need to design a further defense.

I respectfully submit that a direct crossing a sluice gate/.stop log structure tying into our Back levee (which will/can be built to a higher standard) is a better design .

A wall across Hwy 23 *is unacceptable*,... pumping into Olie, which is already overburdened with the significant population growth of this area, compounding the effluent from residents with no sewer system *is unacceptable*.

Raise and widen our back levee and run the wall gate into it.

I respectfully ask that you as elected or appointed official have the opportunity to refine the design.

*Steven P Kennedy*

Coating Systems & Supply Inc.\* Horn Island

**Bobbie Stockwell**

**11 May 2009**

Voicemail Comment

Hi Gib, this is Bobbie Stockwell. I live about 2 miles south of the proposed floodgate in Plaquemines Parish. And I'm calling out of concern of course. But Billy Nungazer just gave a proposal to the colonel about another option. And I'm encouraging ya'll to consider it and hopefully agree to it or consider giving us about a year to change the law regarding the federal levee. Please consider what I've just suggested it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Michelle Weatherford**

11 May 2009

**From:** Michelle Weatherford [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2009 2:34 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** Ref: IER13 Public Meetings  
**Importance:** High

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you over my concern for this project and the impact it will have on many lives. I understand the comment period has been extended and we appreciate that, thank you. I also understand that it was broadcasted on channel 6 after the last meeting and according to information given to the parish president's office, there was suppose to be 2 more meetings held to hear more public comment. I have left several messages with your office and have contacted the parish president's office and no seems to be able to give me the information as to when these meetings will be held. Since there is only 8 days left for the duration of this public comment period, I would assume that these meetings should be held soon, but again, have not been given any information regarding this.

any assistance you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

Michelle Weatherford

**Unknown**

**11 May 2009**

**From:**

**Sent:** Monday, May 11, 2009 8:54 PM

**To:** MVN Environmental

**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

I am in opposition to the proposed flood gate crossing highway 23 at Oakville in Plaquemines Parish Louisiana. I would like to see the levee tie into the non-federal levee south of Oakville and continue south past Jesuit Bend to Myrtle Grove. I would like to see the non-federal levees federalized and raised to the height of 16.5 feet. This will protect the community and will not divide Plaquemines Parish. This would protect an additional 1000 plus residents. If we can spend millions of tax dollars in foreign countries we can certainly spend these dollars to protect the people of Jesuit Bend and Myrtle Grove who have paid their taxes and built this community to what is is today.

**John M. Adams**

12 May 2009

**From:**

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 7:07 PM

**To:** MVN Environmental

**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

I am in opposition to the proposed flood gate crossing highway 23 at Oakville in Plaquemines Parish. I would like to see the levee tie into the non-federal levee south of Oakville and continue south past Jesuit Bend to Myrtle Grove. I would also like to see the non-federal levees to the west of Jesuit Bend area federalized and raised to the height of 16.5 feet. This will protect the community and will not divide Plaquemines Parish. This would protect an additional 1000 plus residents. If we can spend millions of tax dollars in foreign countries we can certainly spend these dollars to protect the people of Jesuit Bend and Myrtle Grove who have paid their taxes and built this community to what is today. A SAFE place to raise a family. Thank's John M. Adams

**Cindy Austin**  
**Belle Chase, LA**

[REDACTED]  
**12 May 2009**

Voicemail

From: Cindy Austin

To: Mr. Owens

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Hello Mr. Owens. My name is Cindy Austin and I live in Belle Chase, Louisiana. I've actually been trying to reach you all morning and the lines have been overwhelmed. I'm calling in regarding the IER13 project. I am asking you actually I am begging you to please amend the project and do not include a flood gate. We need a hundred year levee protection. Please don't divide our parish, our children, our families all need the same protection. We need equal protection for everyone. I'm sure that you can understand our plea and please keep us in your consideration. Thank You. Bye.

**Heidi Rink LDN, RD**  
**Health Educator/ Nutritionist, ACTION!**  
**Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine**  
**Dept. of Biostatistics**

[REDACTED]  
**New Orleans, LA**

[REDACTED] fax [REDACTED]

**12 May 2009**

**From:** Rink, Heidi M [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009 1:37 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** Re: IER13

Mr. Owen,

My husband recently attended the Corps meeting re: floodgate in Plaquemines parish. I was not able to attend as I was at home caring for our 2 small children. This meeting was the first time we heard about your plan; we live in the Jesuit bend area. My husband spent his entire life savings on paying for our house ( I am 40 yrs old and he is 43). We do not have large retirement plans or savings accounts and feel that the value of our house is all that we own at this time. We are saddened by the lack of information that we received regarding this plan as my husband states that he would not have built our house in the Jesuit Bend area if he would have known that a flood gate was planned for that area. We feel as if our voices (and our children's voices-they are our future) are not being heard by the local government; we would have liked to have voted on this ISSUE as it will affect our lives forever if it is built.

Heidi Rink LDN, RD  
*Health Educator/ Nutritionist, ACTION!*  
Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine  
Dept. of Biostatistics

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Jamie Stavro** |

[REDACTED]  
12 May 2009

VoiceMail Comment

From: Jamie Stavros

To: Gib Owens

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Yes, my name is Jamie Stavros and I'm actually calling to get the, see if I can find out what the substantive complaints how many of them that you guys are actually looking at from both meetings that we had for the Plaquemines floodgate. And also trying to figure out what happened to the website that showed all the options for where the floodgate should go in Oakville. That seems to be taken down. I'm kind of finding out why. If you could call me back that'd be fantastic. My name is again Jamie Stavros, [REDACTED] Thank you.

**Cory and Stephanie Lott**

[REDACTED]

**Jesuit Bend, LA 70037**

[REDACTED]

**13 May 2009**

Cory and Stephanie Lott



VIA FACSIMILE – 862-2088

Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Gigi Colston

To Whom It May Concern:

Hi, I am a resident of Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. There is currently a plan to place a Flood Gate (IER 13) approximately 3 miles north of my home. My husband and I have been life long residents of Plaquemines Parish and moved to the Jesuit Bend area approximately 5 years ago. We currently are not in a flood zone and for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike our home did not receive any flood damage whatsoever. We are strongly opposed to the proposed flood gate (IER 13) project. Our concern with the proposed flood gate (IER 13) is that not only will our property value be lessened, our flood insurance increased but also that a large part of our parish will be left unprotected should a future storm approach the Louisiana coast again. This unprotected area also includes the Connoco-Philip refinery and the IMT Coal Plant not to mention the many citrus groves that have provided produce to our State for over 40 years. Both Connoco-Philip Refinery and IMT Coal Plant provide products utilized throughout the United States. They are not just local expendable businesses. Both of these companies have been staples for our community and country for over 20 years. When this plan was first approved in 1986 the area south of Oakville, Louisiana was largely rural and farm land. This is no longer the case. You have a very large thriving community whom have built their dream homes in this area. This land is no longer cow pastures and expendable rural farm land. I urge you to reconsider the location of this project. I also urge you to not fast track this project and do a new thorough study of the current economic impact this will have on our entire parish. It is my understanding that yours studies are 20 years old. This project needs to be re-evaluated.

It is my further understanding that there is another flood gate also in the works which will be located on Hero Canal off of Walker Road, also in Plaquemines Parish. It is my understanding that this flood gate will protect Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, while sacrificing not only the Jesuit Bend and lower Plaquemines area but also the Lafitte /Barataria area which is located in Jefferson Parish. Both of these communities are the heart of the seafood industry and citrus industry that provides seafood and produce throughout the United States. Please don't write these areas off so easily. These are areas that have been inhabited by people who have made their livelihoods' living off of the land while providing a product and service to others. If the government blatantly allows this project to push forward with no regard for the loss so many will suffer that is unforgivable. We just want equal protection for all residents.

With all the undeserving automakers and lending institutions that have been saved by the governmental bailouts, surely there must be some bailout money available for the Corps and the Government to extend the federalized levee protection system to protect the honest hardworking citizens who have been part of the backbone of this Country and to include us in the 100 year

Cory and Stephanie Lott



Hurricane Protection Plan. To purposely shut off this area by a flood gate that will cause our area (a lot of which has **NEVER** flooded before) to flood should the unthinkable happen, would be a slap in the face when so many companies have been bailed out after they misappropriated their company's spending and offered loans to high risk buyers or extended large bonuses to executives making six figures and over a year.

One final note, I am not only a resident located below the proposed site of the flood wall but I am also a business owner with businesses located both in northern Belle Chasse and Harvey, Louisiana. Both of my business locations are located within the protected area, but I do not want these businesses protected at the expense of so many others.

I truly hope all of my concerns as well as the concerns of so many other residents of Plaquemines Parish will not fall on deaf ears.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephanie C. Lott".

Stephanie C. Lott

**Virginia Williams**

**15 May 2009**

Voicemail Comment

From: Virginia Williams

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

This is Virginia Williams I live at 12540 Highway 11 in Belle Chase Louisiana. I live in the Jesuit Bend area. And I am very concerned about the 16 foot wall you want to put up down by captain larry's. cause it will be effecting many people. And I think ya'll can find a better use with the money that ya'll trying to put into that project. We do not want to be left out. We do not want a wall between our parish, dividing our parish. And if you would like to talk to me I'm available at [REDACTED] area code 504. Please take this into consideration.



Geneva P. Grille, P.E.

17 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, May 17, 2009 12:30 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

GENEVA P. GRILLE, P.E.  
110 NOBLE DRIVE  
BELLE CHASSE, LA 70037

May 17, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen  
PM-RS  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: Draft Individual Environmental Report  
West Bank and Vicinity  
Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus  
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana  
IER #13

Dear Mr. Owen:

I am a resident of Belle Chasse and am very concerned with flooding from an open gap in the levee system south of Belle Chasse. This is a problem that has existed for far too long. I am also very concerned about FEMA de-certifying any levee system that doesn't meet its new 100 levee certification guidelines by 2011. If this happened in the Belle Chasse area, I feel that it would totally devalue my property along with the entire area.

First, I want some type of acceptable 100-year closure south of Hero Canal in place to provide closure to the West Bank and Vicinity Flood Reduction System by 2011. I am a professional civil engineer, retired from DOTD, and have over 40 years experience working on flood control, drainage and highway projects in this area. I was the DOTD engineer charged with assisting the West Jefferson Levee District (WJLD) with the federalization of the West Bank Hurricane Project in 1986 and the Post Authorization Changes for East of Harvey and Lake Cataouatche Levee. Because of the magnitude of this project in three parishes, the State of Louisiana, through DOTD, became the local funding sponsor of the project, with WJLD as the administrator.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the West Hurricane and Vicinity was designed by the Corps for a 300-year return frequency storm. Pre-Katrina, the area that includes Belle Chasse, English Turn and Lower Coast

Algiers was a separate polder in the East of Harvey system. All that changed post-Katrina. New hydraulic models were run and the entire project was reanalyzed. The Corps design methodologies and safety factors changed and the entire system was redesigned to conform to new flood protection elevations required for 100-year levee certification for FEMA requirements in the "Risk Reduction System". Now in order to achieve this 100 year level of protection, a new sector gate and pumping station must be built in Bayou Baratavia connecting the Belle Chasse Levee into the V-line Levee. This is necessary because it is not feasible to raise the levees along the Harvey and Algiers Canals high enough. Neither is the original tie into the non-federal levee in Oakville acceptable to provide the 100 year level of protection and the southern closure must be made to the Mississippi River Levee. The separate polders north and south of the Algiers Canal and west of the Harvey Canal are now all interconnected. It appears to me that failure to provide a complete 100-year system wide level of protection to this project affects the integrity of the entire project and is not just a Belle Chasse and Oakville issue. I did not see this adequately addressed in IER #13.

On May 7, 2009, I attended the 24th Annual Workshop Conference for Levee Board Commissioners and Staff in Baton Rouge, where Mr. Gary Zimmerer of FEMA gave a presentation on levee certification. This is a very hot issue in the State of Louisiana at this time and hopefully I have a misunderstanding of this issue. It is my understanding that under the present post-Katrina FEMA guidelines, if a levee system does not meet current FEMA guidelines for a 100-year flood system, it will be de-certified and removed from the D-FIRM map. Any existing properties with existing flood insurance policies would be grandfathered in with their existing flood insurance policies and rates as long as they were kept continuously in effect, but the areas would be remapped as if no levee were in place. This would essentially put previously leveed off areas into velocity zones. Any new construction would be totally incongruous with the existing development. Could this possibly be true? I believe this certification affects the entire project as a system, not only Belle Chasse in Plaquemines Parish, but also all the areas with the confines of the West Bank and Vicinity Risk Reduction Project in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. This really needs to be addressed in the IER by the Corps so that Plaquemines Parish Government and all stakeholders can make the most informed decisions. I did not see this adequately addressed in the IER.

Sincerely,

Geneva P. Grille, P.E.

**Susan Becnel Levasseur**

17 May 2009

**From:** Susan Levasseur  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 17, 2009 5:45 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** Floodgate Hwy 23 Plaquemines Parish

United States Army Corp. of Engineers,

I am a 4th generation Plaquemines Parish resident, whose family has lived in this parish since approximately 1860. I am writing today to inform you that I am 100% against the floodwall that is proposed for Hwy 23 in the Oakville area. Not only am I opposed to this floodwall, but to any floodwall that would impact any portion of the community. That is not to say I'm against 100 year flood protection. To the contrary, there are better ways to achieve this goal than putting a barrier across a major highway that will divide a parish and ultimately sacrifice many communities.

I understand, by reading IER 13, that the Corp intends to extend 100 year flood protection by building a levee and tying that levee into 2 floodgates (one crossing Hwy 23 and another railroad floodgate) ultimately tying the levee system into the Mississippi River Levee (MRL). Furthermore, I understand that the floodgate is intended to be 16 feet in height. How is this going to solve the problem, when the MRL is only 14 feet in height? The two will not marry at the same height and will not provide the protection intended.

A better solution would be to marry the newly authorized federal levee project from Oakville to West Pointe-a-la-Hache and have those levee heights in agreement to provide the 100 year protection we all seek, thus avoiding a floodgate.

I noticed some further discrepancies in the data in IER 13 used to make the determination of the levee/floodgate placement. In one section of the document it refers to the area below the proposed floodgate as, "Adjacent areas to the south of Oakville are comprised of pasturelands and scattered citrus groves."

Has anyone from the Corp recently looked into and studied the flood side of the proposed floodgate? There is much more to protect than pasturelands and scattered citrus groves. There are communities with hundreds of homes, which house men, women and children who contribute to the success of the parish and state. Many of these homes are currently worth in excess of \$300,000. There are schools, Riverbend Nursing Home, Conoco Phillips Refinery, and yes, citrus groves. The citrus industry was devastated by Hurricane Katrina, are we going to sacrifice the remaining industry? In an article written on February 11, 2009, published in the Delta Farm Press Daily it states the following:

"According to the 2007 LSU AgCenter Louisiana Agriculture Summary, 20 citrus nursery stock growers are based in Plaquemines Parish. One hundred producers raise fruit on 500 acres and harvest more than 150,000 bushels of navel oranges, satsumas and other citrus. The gross farm value of the fruit is \$4.1 million."

The above stated assets are just too valuable to lose, just as the protected side of the proposed floodwall is too valuable to lose. Both should be protected equally and no one should be adversely impacted.

I await your reply on this very important matter that will impact the lives of hundreds of my fellow Plaquemines Parish residents.

Sincerely,  
Susan Bechel Levasseur



**Toddy Orgeron**

[REDACTED]

**17 May 2009**

**From:** ORGERON, TODDY J [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 17, 2009 11:05 AM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** Oakville Floodwall--No Way!

Mr. Owen,

I have been to all of the public comment meetings that have been held in the past few weeks. Many valid points have been brought forward to you. With all that you've heard, as a human being, there is no possible way you can choose to go through with the proposed Oakville floodwall. If you really have "the people's" best interest at heart, you will come up with a different way to protect us all.

***THE MOST POIGNANT COMMENT, OUT OF THE MANY THAT HAVE BEEN MADE, WAS THE ONE WHERE YOU STATED THAT YOU FOUGHT FOR US IN IRAQ. THANK YOU FOR THAT SIR. FIGHTING IN A WAR FOR ONE'S PEOPLE AND COUNTRY TAKES A BIG MAN. AS THE WOMAN WHO STOOD AT THE MICROPHONE TOLD YOU, WE NOW NEED YOU TO FIGHT FOR US!!! WE NEED YOU TO FIGHT LOCALLY FOR US; HERE AND NOW!!! THAT FLOODWALL IS OUR ENEMY FOR MANY REASONS!!!!***

You must change the proposal, sir. You must. For our children, our families, our lives, our homes, our property, our investments, our businesses, our schools, and our nursing home where many of our family members live, or will live someday! We are depending on you! Please don't let us down.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Toddy Orgeron

[REDACTED]

Belle Chasse, LA. (PLEASE NOTE MY CITY IS BELLE CHASSE, NOT JESUIT BEND!!)

**Kevin Bernard**

**Belle Chase, LA 70037**

**18 May 2009**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 2:38 AM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

IER 13 is flawed in to many ways to mention.

the people of plaquamines parish deserve the same regard as any other area of the country. We have been discounted in this report, the only way for us to correct this is to go back to congress with the transcripts and cyps of all the flaws we have documented in your reports.

we welcome the chance to take this project back to congress.

We are a busy working class people, honest and hardworking, old fashioned and we will stand up against this.

So before you go foward with this wall, make sure you read all your reports. cross your I's and t's, because we will be checking evey inch of the way.

HOW CAN ANY PERSON IN THERE RIGHT MIND DISCOUNT A WALL 16 FEET HIGH AND 700 TO 2200 FEET LONG, AS NOT HAVING ANY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON A COMMUNITY?

ALSO JUST A SHORT WAYS ABOVE THIS SITE THE HERO CANAL LEVEE IS ONLY ABOUT 450 FT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

WOULDNT THAT BE MUCH MORE COST EFFECTIVE?

THIS IS A MINIMAL PROTECTION LEVEE ACORDING TO YOUR 100 YEAR DESIGN MAP.

PLEASE RETHINK YOUR DONE DEAL.

LAST COMENT/ QUESTION

YOUR 5 MILLION DOLLAR PR FIRM NEEDS TO GO.

THEY ARE MAKING YOU AN EVEN BIGGER EMBARASMENT THAN ALL THE LEVEE FAILURES COMBINED.

THANK YOU  
KEVIN BERNARD

[REDACTED]  
will look foward to your reply

**Carroll & Patricia Boudreaux**  
**Belle Chasse, LA**  
**18 May 2009**

**From:** Boudreaux [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 11:36 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** Oakville Flood Gate

Please stop the Flood Gate-Wall at Oakville in Plaquemines Parish.

This will not only endanger my family and my home to flooding, it will decrease the value of my home and skyrocket my insurance.

Ninety percent of the people in the Jesuit Bend area formally lived in lower Plaquemines parish and have migrated North due to Hurricane Katrina and prior hurricanes to be in a safer area. Most of us have invested our life savings in our homes after losing everything we owned in the Southern area of the parish. Just when we think we are going to be safe you start planning a wall just north of us and again we will be in harms way. PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS DECISION.

If you still think the flood wall is necessary, there is a levee from east levee to the west levee separated only by Hwy 23 just above Alliance (the siphon area). This would be the most economical site since there is a levee already there to start with.

The parish built a temporary levee across the road in that spot for the last hurricane. If it must be please consider this location.

Carroll & Patricia Boudreaux  
Belle Chasse, LA

Anita Conovich

[REDACTED]

18 May 2009

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Anita Conovich, 5 [REDACTED] Opposes floodgate because of induced flooding to those south of the floodgate.

**Judy Daigle**

[REDACTED]  
**18 May 2009**

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Judy Daigle, [REDACTED] Opposes floodgate.

**Joseph Futch**

**18 May 2009**

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Joseph Futch, [REDACTED] He is a business owner who lives in Jesuit Bend, he supports the floodgate because he'd rather have something protected than nothing. He is happy about the gate option instead of the ramp option that would hurt businesses. He says that the floodgate is needed to backup the southern levees because during Ike there were at least 8 breaches in the Plaquemines levee system. Better to save some of the parish if there is flooding.

**Francis Glaeser**  
**840 Jason Drive**  
**Jesuit Bend, LA 70037**  
**18 May 2009**

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Opposed to the floodgate across Hwy 23 at Oakville.

**Donald Landry**

18 May 2009

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 1:44 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** IER 13 Floodgate at Oakville Proposal

Attached is my comments for the proposed floodgate at Oakville. Please read and forward to Col. Alvin Lee.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment

Donald Landry

I want to go on the record as being against the floodgate crossing Louisiana Hwy 23 in the Belle Chasse area! The Army Corps of Engineers has proposed this floodgate as a quick fix for the expedited closure of IER 13 project. This will divide our Belle Chasse community, physically, mentally, and politically. Saying that the people who have built homes below the proposed floodgate are not worth as much as the people above it. This will be the straw that breaks the camel's back. If this floodgate is built, the Belle Chasse community below it will die!!! We all want hurricane protection and don't think we should have to sacrifice 25% of our community to get it! The solution to the problem is not a floodgate that divides our community but too continue the 100 year protection for the new federalized levee at least down to where the current levee ties into the river levee at Naomi. I implore you to look into this issue. Please do not make the final decision on the floodgate by Oakville. We are just a group of citizens trying to learn how, what, & where to get someone to extend the 100 year protection to include the whole community. Our local government voted unanimously against the floodgate.

I think we sometimes get so focused on the issue at hand that we miss the larger picture. I have lived in the Belle Chasse community all my life (55 years). I would like to address the big picture first and then look at the pieces after everyone understands the overall problem.

Hurricanes have been occurring for thousands of years. Nature has a way of taking care of itself, that is, until man makes major changes that can destroy an entire ecosystem. We would not be having this discussion had we not, as a nation, caused this disaster. There would be 32 miles of healthy marsh between my community and the Gulf of Mexico. Katrina has reminded us how much protection the natural marshes once provided and now levees must provide that protection.

Don't get me wrong, I don't want to start a blame game. I think we all need to unite to correct these major issues. I'm sure no one foresaw the catastrophic impact when it was done. Louisiana has the largest environmental disaster that man has caused in this country (by a factor of 100's, maybe 1000's of times larger than any other environmental disaster like strip coal mining or cutting old growth forest, etc.). The exploration and production of cheap Louisiana oil & gas, on and offshore, has caused the loss of hundreds of square miles of marsh and land. I'm not saying that we should not have developed and used these resources, I am saying that the resources could have, and should have, been developed without cutting hundreds of pipeline canals straight across the marshes. This was just the cheaper and easier way to develop these resources. This disrupted the natural flow of fresh water that kept salt water at bay. The pipeline canals have allowed salt water through daily tidal movement to just flow directly up these canals and kill the living marsh. When the marsh dies it decomposes just like any living thing and sinks. Louisiana has the largest estuary system in the world, but is loosing land faster than anywhere. Estuaries

are a delicate ecosystem where fresh water meets salt water and a rich ecosystem supports an abundance of life. Yes, it would have been a little more expensive to do it right the first time, but we can not go back, the damage is done. Now the cost to protect and repair should be financed by everyone in this country, for this country owes a large part of its overall prosperity to oil & gas that crosses Louisiana's marshes. Everyone in the United States has a better life because of energy that passes through Louisiana's marshes. Our nation grew and prospered for generations because of cheap energy from Louisiana. It is time for the nation to take responsibility & ownership and pay for the protection and rebuilding of Louisiana's marshes (estuaries).

We as a united community are working hard with Congress to expedite the second project and get the Corps authorization to continue the 100 year protection for the new Federalized levee, negating the need for a floodgate.

Thank you for your effort. Please don't divide our community.

Sincerely,  
Donald Landry

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area, with a smaller white rectangular cutout at the bottom left corner.

**Ned F. Malley Sr.**

[REDACTED] net

**18 May 2009**

**From:** Paula Rasberry [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 7:24 AM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** flood wall

I am opposed to the building of a flood wall in the north end of Plaquemines Parish. What makes our homes so less important that we can't have the flood protection everyone else deserves. My name is Ned F. Malley Sr. My phone # is [REDACTED]

**Cindy Mancuso**

**18 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Mancuso, Cindy [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2009 4:37 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: IER #13

Attached please find a letter from Speaker Jim Tucker expressing opposition to the proposed flood wall and flood gate at Hwy. 23, north of Jesuit Bend - IER #13, West Bank Vicinity Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus, Plaquemines Parish. He would like to be sure his letter is included in the public comments. Should you have any questions or have trouble opening the attached, please call ([REDACTED])



STATE OF LOUISIANA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JIM TUCKER  
SPEAKER

May 19, 2009

[REDACTED]  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804  
[REDACTED]

Colonel Alvin B. Lee  
District Commander  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District  
Executive Office  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: IER #13, West Bank Vicinity Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus, Plaquemines  
Parish, Louisiana

Dear COL Lee:

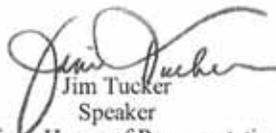
I am writing to express my fierce opposition to the proposed flood wall and flood gate at  
Highway 23, north of Jesuit Bend.

It obvious that the proposed project would endanger lives and residential and commercial  
property to increased flooding south of the project. Since the project was authorized in the mid-  
90's, residential construction expanded in this area until there is now an estimated 1,600 homes.  
That will be 1,600 home denied 100-year flood protection. Not only will these residents endure  
the increase risk in flooding, they will also see their insurance rates increase and their once high  
property values decrease.

The Conoco-Phillips facility south of the project is also put at greater risk of flooding. Damage  
at that facility would have a huge economic impact on either side of the project and the state as a  
whole.

It is my understanding that your own modeling shows an increase in storm surge as a result of  
this project. Again, I oppose this proposed project and I strongly urge you to reevaluate the  
location of this project to afford 100-year flood protection to the residents and businesses south  
of the proposed location.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Tucker  
Speaker

Louisiana House of Representatives

**Kevin Rau**  
**Input/Output Inc.**

18 May 2009

**From:** Kevin Rau [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 2:46 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental; Amanda\_Beheytt@Melancon.House.Gov;  
Elizabeth\_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov; Rachel\_Perez@Vitter.Senate.Gov; al.b.lee@usace.army.mil;  
Lee, Alvin B SAM  
**Subject:** IER13 Opposition - No Flood Wall

Hello,

I am opposed to a flood wall or a levee across Hwy 23 in Oakville. If the 100 year flood protection cannot be continued south, at least past the Belle Chasse Middle School, I would prefer to be bought out at current market value.

I have worked hard all my life and have tried to do the right thing in my personal and business dealings. I bought a home within my means. I make timely payments to the mortgage company but at the same time have seventy percent equity built up in the property and dwelling according to the last appraisal. I have flood insurance, while I can afford it, even though I was not required to carry flood insurance when I closed on my house. (I would have never guessed that I would have this kind of problem considering I was paying about the same amount for flood insurance as my parents who are located in Algiers.) I pay my fair share of taxes and right now I believe I am paying way too much for the benefits I receive. If the flood wall crosses Hwy 23 at Oakville, my equity in my property will drop drastically. I estimate my equity will drop to around twenty to thirty percent of what it is presently, so much for the American dream!

I realize now that part of this was in the works since 1984 and that the levee was funded to connect to the non federalized levee in the 1994 version of the plan. It seems just recently they arbitrarily chose to cross the highway at Oakville, at least encompassing the Oakville residents. However, it is very evident that the Army Corps of Engineers made the decision to cross Hwy 23 at Oakville without updating the 1984 data.

According to the IER13 document, the only thing outside of the proposed floodgate is pasture land and citrus farms. In 1984 I would believe that statement. However, as early as 1994 the area immediately south of the proposed floodwall was already being developed (Belle Chasse Middle School was already operational). I bought my lot in 1994 and built in 1995. I was one of the last on my street and the Jesuit Bend Estates subdivision was well under development with few lots left for sale and at least eighty percent of the houses already built.

Please do not allow IER13 to be completed as proposed. I believe there are other better alternatives available. If you are interested in the other alternatives I would propose I would gladly make them available to you. If IER13 must be completed as proposed, please consider giving the option to be bought out at current market value. If I would have known that EIR13 was a possibility in 1994 I would have never bought and built at this location. I would also request that somebody have the Corps respond to the questions I have sent previously.

Please get the House of Representatives and Senate to help us.

Thanks,

Kevin Rau taxpayer, voter

[REDACTED]

Input/Output Inc.

[REDACTED]

Harahan LA 70123

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**Monica Senner**

**18 May 2009**

**From:** Monica Senner [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 12:55 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** IER13  
Mr. Gib Owens,

I resident of Jesuit Bend and I am opposed to the alignment of IER13. My home is excluded from the 100 year levee protection. This protection will be crucial in the affordability of insurance and sustainability of home values. We are a populated area.

What I am most appalled by, is the fact that Plaquemines parish is one of the largest suppliers of the clay needed to form these levees and is the least protected in the New Orleans area parishes. You are stripping our natural resources to protect others.

How can you justify the impact IER13 will have on our community without compensation or inclusion?

Please reconsider this alignment. The consequences form this project will be much more devastating than you realize.

Thank you,

**Monica Senner**

**Jennifer Shelley**  
[REDACTED]  
**18 May 2009**

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Jennifer Shelley, [REDACTED] Lives in Jesuit Bend, she wants the Corps to continue with the IER 13 floodgate across Hwy 23. She says we should keep it up so that if there is flooding, at least some of the schools, stores, etc would remain protected.

**Peter D. Stavros**

[REDACTED]

**18 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Stavros [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2009 11:28 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Cc: Holder, Ken MVN; Owen, Gib A MVN  
Subject: SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS on IER13  
Mr. Owen,

Here are my comments on IER13.  
I am asking for your full consideration of my claims/statements.  
Could you please reply to this email to acknowledge receipt?

Respectfully,

Pete Stavros  
[REDACTED]

-----  
\*Response from Gib Owens

Mr. Stavros,  
I have received your e-mail with two attachments. We will include this e-mail and the attachments as a comment to IER 13.

Gib Owen  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/  
HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader  
New Orleans District  
504 862-1337

-----  
May 18 , 2009

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, NE Orleans District  
c/o Gib Owen, CEMVN  
P.O.Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160

RE: Comments on the Draft Individual Environmental Report for the Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus Project in Plaquemines Parish dated April 2009

Dear Mr. Owen:

Please accept and make part of the official record these comments regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Draft Individual Environmental Report for the Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Tie Terminus project in Plaquemines Parish (Draft IER #13).

Our first objection is the lack of meaningful notice and opportunity to have input at earlier stages of the proposed project. On 12 Feb 09, my wife Jamie called the USACE and spoke with Larry York and John Thompson in reference to a rumored floodgate in Plaquemines Parish. At that time, she was told that it had been mentioned in one of their meetings, but that the Corps knows that this would negatively affect a LOT of people, and that an in-depth study would be required, and that restitution would need to be paid to compensate loss of value in properties. In short, this would take years to accomplish, and was NOT in the works at that time. Other than a small public notice in the classified section of the newspaper, there has been no attempt to communicate the project to the people most affected by such a project. Nowhere was there EVER a mention in the media that a flood gate was proposed at Oakville. From Times Picayune reporting on the protection of New Orleans and vicinity, there was NEVER a mention of a flood gate as late as March 2009. This was an outreach from the Corps to the media to update the citizens on status of projects, and the proposed floodgate was not once mentioned. The Draft IER report states that specific property owners who could substantially be impacted by the project were contacted in order to discuss the project and receive their input. Those contacted included the owner of the Hero Canal who leases property along the canal to three salvage businesses; the three salvage business owners; and the owner of the Boomtown Belle which is docked in the eastern end of the canal. Little meaningful notice was provided to those immediately to the south of the project.

The second objection is to the interpretations of the ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS published in March 2007. At both of the two public hearings (29 April 09 and 4 May 09), we were told that Congress authorized the alternative arrangements, and that many items were waived. It was stated that the USACE is not obligated to do a full study because they are exempted under Alternative Arrangements. While these arrangements are intended to accelerate the process, it is NOT intended to waive the rights which protect us.

I believe that a closer inspection of the ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS is needed, particularly paragraph 4, which states that "Each IER will identify areas where data was incomplete, unavailable, and areas of potential controversy. Alternatives analysis will be based upon a geographic segment of the area that is large enough to encompass any impacts directly and indirectly attributable to the proposed action." IER13 does not evaluate enough geographic area affected to be in compliance with the ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

The purpose of this comment letter is to identify a number of significant and substantive flaws and omissions in the Draft IER, as set forth below:

1. USACE policy, as described in Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100, requires that the decision document display the National Economic Development (NED) plan. The NED plan is not displayed in the report. The NED costs of the project are not set forth in the report. ER 1105-2-100 also requires justification for not selecting the NED plan as the recommended alternative. A decision reached decades ago to deviate from standing policy is not sufficient. The report should display the full range of alternatives considered, display the NED costs and benefits of each alternative, identify the NED plan and explain why the NED plan was not selected.
2. ER 1105-2-100 requires that the report display the Regional Economic Development (RED) impacts of the selected alternative. No RED impacts are addressed in the report.

3. ER 1105-2-100 requires that the full range of alternatives be evaluated using a risk-based framework, and specifically requires the use of HEC-FDA, the Corps' standard risk-based analysis package for flood damage risk studies. The assumptions, data and outputs from HEC-FDA are not shown in the report.

4. ER 1105-2-100 requires that the damages caused by induced flooding be displayed and addressed. The IER makes no mention whatsoever of induced flood damages. Construction of a levee system in the area will increase the water surface profiles in the areas not protected, thus increasing flood stages across the stage-frequency curve. Simply stating that the computer model doesn't indicate there would be any induced risk is NOT enough. A thorough model of the flood risk is needed.

5. ER 1105-2-100 does not state that non-structural alternatives MAY BE considered. According to that regulation and USACE policy, non-structural alternatives MUST BE considered. The report fails to display non-structural alternatives properly. There are no costs associated with the alternatives considered, no estimated benefits, no Benefit-Cost-Ratios (BCRs) and no justification for why these alternatives were rejected. Merely stating that these alternatives fail to provide authorized levels of protection is insufficient justification.

6. Executive Order 12898 (EO 12898) dated February 11, 1994 focuses Federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in the minority and low-income communities, and case law specifically prohibits unnecessary impacts to minority and low income communities. Public participation and access to information in this regard is critical. Agencies are specifically required to ensure that the public documents, notices and hearings relating to human health or the environment are concise, understandable and readily accessible to the public. EO 12898 calls for the prevention or avoidance of unnecessary or harmful effects on the disadvantaged, low income and minorities. The area south of and outside of the project area have both low-income and minority community members who will suffer from induced flood damages. The IER contains no discussion whatsoever of how these impacts will be addressed and does not comply with EO 12898. These induced flood damages need to be mitigated and an EIS is required.

7. The floodplain inventory is not displayed.

8. Induced risk of flooding will increase immediately south of the proposed levee. Construction of a 16-foot levee, a pumping station putting water back over the levee and floodgate across the Intracoastal Waterway will result in water no longer flowing where it has in the past. The static water level of water will be higher and there will be a dynamic stacking of water along the levee. The foreseeable result is that a tidal surge will top the 5-foot levee 2 miles south of the project. Effects due to winds pushing water against this proposed levee alignment have not been analyzed and wave actions will top the levees south of Oakville. Again, based on the need for mitigation the submission of an EIS is required.

9. Impact south of the project were addressed only for property 1 mile south of the proposed levee/gate, yet high density residential zone exists 1.7 to 7 miles south of the project. The 1-mile definition of community impact is completely arbitrary and does not address the true risk to the population. Belle Chase Middle School and a nursing home will be similarly impacted. Risk to the Alliance Refinery and its workforce were similarly not addressed.

10. The psychological effect of "driving through a flood gate" will mean a significant drop in property values. Further FEMA will most likely change the floodplain rating and raise the Base Flood Elevation (BFE). This will affect the insurability under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Even if rates are grandfathered in for existing construction, this will certainly affect those who have not

yet begun construction, or if policies lapse, NFIP may not be available. Over a period of storm events, due to increased flood risk, many homes will be subject to repeat claims and may be dropped for NFIP. Within the 7 miles south of the flood gate there are more than 600 homes, ranging in value from 30 thousand to 1.5 million dollars. The effects of decreased property values and significantly increased insurance rates will be to remove equity held by individual property holders and to cripple the tax base for the community.

12. ER 1105-2-100 requires that estimates of nonphysical losses be derived from specific independent economic data for the interests and properties affected. Estimates of nonphysical losses include income losses and emergency costs. Emergency costs include costs of evacuation and reoccupation; flood fighting; administration costs of disaster relief; and increased costs of police, fire or military patrol. The report contains a vague reference to altering evacuation routes for the area south of the project. The dense property residential zone, schools, nursing home and Alliance Refinery are all south of the flood gate on LA 23, which will be closed in a storm event. There is no definition of the planned evacuation route(s), and there is no discussion of the estimates of nonphysical losses.

13. The structure-to-content value ratios are not displayed.

14. Stage damage, discharge frequency, stage frequency and damage frequency curves are not displayed.

15. The recommended alternative for the project calls for impacts to prime tupelo and cypress swamps and high quality wetlands, and the report states that these impacts will require mitigation. Mitigation of impacts implies impact significance, and significant impacts require the preparation of an EIS. The need for an EIS is clear. Only one of the alternatives has little significant impacts to wetlands. Any selected alternative with wetlands impacts MUST be part of an EIS.

16. ER 1105-2-100 requires that the decision document display and address the Other Significant Effects (OSE) caused by implementation of the recommended plan. The IER fails to display or address the OSE. Specific OSE's include induced flood damages, higher insurance costs of unprotected areas and potential violation of EO 12898.

17. No documentation of independent technical review (ITR) is provided. Who, independent of the New Orleans District, reviewed the technical reports? What, if any, were their comments? Where are the ITR team's comments addressed?

The Draft IER is seriously flawed. There are substantial and substantive problems with the proposal, including, but not limited to, the fact that there is no EIS as required (even through Alternative Arrangements) and there is clear noncompliance with EO 12898 and ER 1105-2-100.

Based on the environmental, social, health, cultural, safety, economic and other impacts of the proposed project, together with the lack of economic justification for the project, it is our strong conviction that the Corps (USACE) should select the "no action" alternative and recommend that Congress align this project with the project which will federalize the levees south of Oakville proposed for Plaquemines Parish. Authorization for this second project to be brought to 100-year must be recommended and sought from Congress.

The project must be reworked to include the densely populated area south of the proposed Oakville border by hooking the Hero Levee to the existing levee(s) to the south. Your reports must contain a full examination of the cumulative impacts to the physical and human environment. We demand an EIS to address these concerns, and full compliance with EO 12898 and ER 1105-2-100.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter D. Stavros

[REDACTED]  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037  
[REDACTED]

FR Doc E7-4515

[Federal Register: March 13, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 48)]

[Notices]

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[DOCID:fr13mr07-28]

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Adoption of Alternative Arrangements Under the National  
Environmental Policy Act for New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage  
Reduction System

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Public notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) is implementing Alternative Arrangements under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1506.11) in order to expeditiously complete environmental analysis of major portions of a new 100-year level of Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction effort authorized and funded by the Administration and the Congress. The proposed actions are located primarily in southern Louisiana and relate to the Federal effort to rebuild the Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction system following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The USACE consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), as required under 40 CFR 1506.11 and the USACE Environmental Quality Procedures for Implementing the NEPA (33 CFR 230), concluded on February 23, 2007 with the CEQ approving the Alternative Arrangements. The Alternative Arrangements request was also coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Environmental Protection Agency, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer.

During the consultation, the USACE and CEQ hosted four public meetings in New Orleans metropolitan area to assess the request and gather input on the proposed Alternative Arrangements. The input received during the course of the discussions and meetings provided strong support for Alternative Arrangements that allow for expedited decisions on actions to lower the risk of floods and that restore public confidence in the hurricane storm reduction system so that the physical and economic recovery of the area can proceed as citizens return and rebuild. It was also made clear that the Alternative

Arrangements should provide the USACE a way to proceed that complements other ongoing and proposed hurricane protection and coastal restoration efforts.

These Alternative Arrangements apply to certain proposed actions included in the 100-year Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction measures authorized under Public Law 109-234, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (4th Supplemental). The Alternative Arrangements will allow decisions on smaller groups of proposed actions to move forward sooner than under the traditional NEPA process. An in-depth analysis and consideration of potential environmental impacts will be completed and negative environmental impacts will be addressed. Detailed information on the Alternative Arrangements can be downloaded from the USACE New Orleans District Web site at:  
[http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/Envir\\_Processes\\_NEPA/Index.htm](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/Envir_Processes_NEPA/Index.htm).

**DATES:** See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for meeting dates.

**ADDRESSES:** See SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section for meeting addresses.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Questions concerning the emergency Alternative Arrangements should be addressed to Gib Owen at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, phone (504) 862-1337, fax number (504) 862-2088 or by e-mail at [mvnenvironmentalpd@mvn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:mvnenvironmentalpd@mvn02.usace.army.mil).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Emergency Alternative Arrangement Process: In order to meet the needs of the people of southern Louisiana in a timely manner that is appropriate to the level of imminent threat, CEMVN will comply with the NEPA by using the following emergency Alternative Arrangements.

1. CEMVN is placing this public notice of the NEPA Alternative Arrangements in the Federal Register along with a description of the proposed actions that will be analyzed in Individual Environmental Reports (IERs) and a Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED).

2. Scoping Process: a. This Federal Register notice is initiating the scoping process with a thirty-day public comment period for the IERs described in this notice. CEMVN will also host a series of public scoping meetings, followed by thirty-day comment periods, in the New Orleans metropolitan area to gather public comments on the proposed actions. Additional scoping meetings may be conducted in other locales in the United States if deemed necessary.

b. Concurrent with this Federal Register notice, CEMVN is placing public notices in broadcast media, local newspapers and a newspaper with national distribution publicizing the dates and location of the public scoping meetings, describing each proposed action that will be analyzed in the IERs, and providing thirty days for written comments to be mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to a point of contact at CEMVN. The information for each proposed action will also be mailed and e-mailed to all interested stakeholders, including state and Federal resource agencies. The Corps will make its best effort to reach the citizens of New Orleans, including, to the extent feasible, persons who have relocated to other areas. The comments received will be compiled and e-mailed to appropriate Federal and state agencies for coordination.

c. CEMVN will establish and maintain a Web page that provides details for each IER and other proposed actions being investigated or projects that are being constructed in the area by the USACE. The Web site will contain a description of the Alternative Arrangements CEMVN is following to achieve NEPA compliance. Additionally, information or links from other Federal and state agencies conducting operations in the New Orleans area will be available on this Web site. This will include, where available, links to proposed actions and ongoing environmental analyses, and references and available links to environmental analyses previously conducted in the area.

d. Interagency environmental teams are being established for each IER. Federal and state agency, local governmental and tribal staff will play an integral part in the project planning and alternative analysis. Interagency teams will be integrated with USACE Project Delivery Teams to assist in the planning of each proposed action and in the description of the potential direct and indirect impacts of each proposed action that will be used in the development of any needed mitigation plans. Team members will be provided with new information concerning the proposed action as quickly as possible in order to allow for the expedient review and analysis of each proposed action. Teams will rely heavily upon hydrologic models and the best engineering judgment of CEMVN Engineering Division staff to develop appropriate mitigation plans.

e. CEMVN will hold monthly meetings with agencies to communicate overall developments and allow for agency feedback. All proposed work would be closely coordinated with the ongoing Federal and state efforts to design a coastal restoration and protection plan.

f. CEMVN will host monthly public meetings during the preparation and completion of the IERs and CED included in these Alternative Arrangements. The monthly meetings will keep the stakeholders advised of IER and CED developments and provide the public opportunities to comment during the meetings and to submit written comments after each meeting for a 30-day period. Meetings will be advertised at least one week prior to each meeting and meeting times and locations will be selected to accommodate public availability.

3. CEMVN will actively involve the Federal and state agencies, local governments, tribes, and the public in mitigation planning for unavoidable impacts at the onset of the planning process. Quantitative analysis of the acreages, by habitat type, determined to be potentially impacted directly or indirectly by each reasonable alternative will be prepared. Proposed actions to mitigate adverse environmental effects and mitigation plans will be based upon existing methodologies utilized for water resource planning and analyzed in one or more IERs that will consider reasonable mitigation alternatives, including pooling compensatory mitigation, consistent with proposed coastal restoration initiatives. It is CEMVN's intent to implement compensatory mitigation as early as possible in the process once unavoidable impacts are determined. All mitigation activities will be consistent with standards and policies established in the Clean Water Act Section 404 and the appropriate USACE policies and regulations governing this activity.

4. Prior to any decision to proceed with proposed actions, CEMVN will complete an IER that documents the decision-making process followed by the USACE, the preferred and all other reasonable alternatives, the alternatives analyses that were performed, the direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action, an initial description of the cumulative impacts of the proposal, an initial mitigation plan, and any interim decisions made by the USACE. Each IER will identify areas where data was incomplete, unavailable, and areas of potential controversy. Alternatives analysis will be based upon a geographic segment of the area that is large enough to encompass any impacts directly and indirectly attributable to the proposed action.

5. The IERs will be posted on the USACE CEMVN Alternative NEPA Arrangement Web page for a 30-day public review and comment period. A notice of availability will be mailed/e-mailed to interested parties advising them of the availability of the IER for review in addition to placing a notice in newspapers and other media selected to reach residents of New Orleans including those who have relocated to other areas. The IERs will also be made available during the monthly public meetings.

6. Public meetings to discuss a specific IER will be held if requested by the stakeholders involved in the review process. Upon completion of the comment period, and after any meetings, an IER

addendum responding to comments received will be completed and published for a 30-day public review period. Notice will be provided in newspapers and other media, posted on the Web site, and a notice of availability mailed/e-mailed to interested parties.

No sooner than 30 days after publication of the IER addendum, or an IER in the event no comments or requests for meetings are received during the public review and comment period, the District Commander will issue a decision describing how USACE will proceed.

7. At a time when sufficient information is available from IERs analyzing proposed actions in the New Orleans area, CEMVN will produce a draft Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED). The CED will

incorporate the IERs by reference and address the work completed and the work remaining to be completed on a systemwide scale and a final mitigation plan. Updated information for any IER, or IER addendum, that had incomplete or unavailable data at the time the District Commander made a decision on how to proceed will be provided and the CED will identify any new information associated with long term operations and maintenance of the approved actions analyzed in the IERs. The CED will include a discussion of how the individual IERs are integrated into a systematic planning effort. A cumulative effects analysis will analyze any indirect impacts due to altered hydrology or induced development that resulted from the actions taken by the USACE and the relationship of the proposed actions covered in the IERs with other proposed and reasonably foreseeable proposals for hurricane protection measures located within the Lake Pontchartrain and West Bank Hurricane Project areas and proposed and reasonably foreseeable proposals for hurricane protection and coastal restoration measures identified in the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Study and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana's Master Plan. An external engineering peer review of the proposed levees and floodwalls work analyzed in the IERs will be made available as soon as practicable and no later than publication of the draft CED.

8. The draft CED will be posted on the USACE web page for a 60-day public review period. A notice of availability will be posted on the Web site and mailed/e-mailed to interested parties advising them of the availability of the draft CED for review in addition to placing a notice in newspapers and other media. Public meetings would be held during the review period if requested by the stakeholders involved in the process.

9. Upon completion of the 60-day review period, all comments will be appropriately addressed in a final CED. The final CED will be published for a 30-day public review period. Notice will be provided in newspapers and other media, posted on the Web site, and a notice of availability will be mailed/e-mailed out to interested parties.

No sooner than 30 days after publication of the final CED, the District Commander will issue a decision describing how CEMVN will proceed. This decision will be made available to stakeholders by posting it to a Web site, mailing/e-mailing notices of availability, public notices in newspapers and news releases to other media such as radio and television stations.

Description of Proposed Actions: CEMVN will analyze the proposed hurricane and storm damage reduction actions for the sub-basins within the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) and West Bank and Vicinity (WBV) Hurricane Protection Project areas in a series of IERs. Each IER will identify the proposed actions and will investigate alternatives, direct, indirect, cumulative impacts, and mitigation for impacts to the human environment. Exact alignments and work to be completed will be determined as a part of the NEPA process. IERs will also be prepared for proposed borrow material and mitigation plans. Further information on the IER's can be downloaded from the USACE New Orleans District Web site at: [http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/Envir\\_Processes\\_NEPA/Index.htm](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pd/Envir_Processes_NEPA/Index.htm).

IER 1: LPV, LaBranche Wetlands Levee, St. Charles Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 8.7 miles of earthen levees, replacement of 6,400 linear feet of floodwalls, and fronting protection to five

existing drainage structures.

IER 2: LPV, West Return Floodwall Jefferson--St. Charles Parish, LA--Proposed action: Replacement of 17,900 linear feet of floodwalls.

IER 3: LPV, Lakefront Levee Jefferson Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 9.5 miles of earthen levees, upgrading foreshore protection, replacement of two floodgates, and fronting protection to four pump stations.

IER 4: LPV, New Orleans Lakefront Levee, West of Inner Harbor Navigational Canal, Orleans Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 4.4 miles of earthen levee, replacement of 7,600 feet of floodwalls, 16 vehicle access gates, and one sector gate.

IER 5: LPV, Outfall Canal Closure Structures, 17th Street Canal, Orleans Avenue Canal and London Avenue Canal, Orleans Parish, LA--Proposed action: Construction of pump stations and closure structures on the three outfall canals.

IER 6: LPV, Citrus Lakefront Levee, Orleans Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 4.1 miles of earthen levees, replacement of 10,662 linear feet of floodwalls, and four floodgates.

IER 7: LPV, New Orleans East Levee, Maxent Canal to Michoud Slip, Orleans Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 19.1 miles of earthen levee and replacement of three floodgates.

IER 8: LPV, Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou Dupre Control Structures, St. Bernard Parish, LA--Proposed action: Replacement of 1,000 linear feet of floodwalls and two navigable floodgates.

IER 9: LPV, Caernarvon Floodwall, St. Bernard Parish, LA--Proposed action: Replacement of two floodgates, replacement of 1,500 feet of floodwall, and possible realignment of levee.

IER 10: LPV, Chalmette Loop Levee, St. Bernard Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 22 miles of earthen levees and the replacement of 1,500 linear feet of floodwalls.

IER 11: LPV, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Navigable Floodgates, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes, LA--Proposed action: Construction of gated navigable closure structures to protect the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal.

IER 12: WBV, Harvey and Algiers Canal Levee and Floodwalls, Jefferson, Orleans, and Plaquemines Parishes, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 31 miles of earthen levees, replacement of 18,800 linear feet of floodwalls, modifications to 18 existing gates, and fronting protection modifications to nine pump stations.

IER 13: WBV, Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus, Plaquemines Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 22,000 linear feet of earthen levees and construction of 1,500 linear feet of floodwalls.

IER 14: WBV, Harvey to Westwego Levee, Jefferson Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 12 miles of earthen levee, construction of 7,013 linear feet of floodwalls, and modifications to three pump stations.

IER 15: WBV, Lake Cataouatche Levee, Jefferson Parish, LA--Proposed action: Rebuilding of 8 miles of earthen levee and fronting protection at one pump station.

IER 16: WBV, Western Terminus Levee, Jefferson Parish, LA--Proposed action: Construction of western terminus earthen levee section.

IER 17: WBV, Company Canal Floodwall, Jefferson Parish, LA--Proposed action: Replacement of 13,442 linear feet of floodwalls and fronting protection for two pump stations.

IER 18: Borrow, Government Furnished, Multiple sites--Proposed action: Analyze information supplied from a variety of governmental sources to determine appropriate Government Furnished borrow locations. Sources could be from sites throughout southeast Louisiana.

IER 19: Borrow, Pre-Approved Contractor Furnished, Multiple sites--Proposed action: Analyze information supplied from a variety of non-governmental sources to determine appropriate Pre-Approved Contractor Furnished borrow locations. Sources could be from sites throughout the southern United States.

IER 20: LPV, Mitigation Pool--Proposed action: Analyze alternatives to determine appropriate mitigation is implemented for unavoidable impacts to the human environment.

IER 21: WBV, Mitigation Pool--Proposed action: Analyze alternatives to determine appropriate mitigation is implemented for unavoidable impacts to the human environment.

#### Scoping Meeting Schedule

All nine of the meetings start at 7 p.m. and are scheduled to conclude at 9 p.m. Dates and locations of the meetings are as follows:

March 27, 2007--Lake Cataouatche Sub-Basin: Lake Cataouatche/Jefferson Parish Dougie V's Restaurant--Banquet Hall, 13899 River Road, Luling, LA

March 28, 2007--Harvey-Westwego Sub-Basin: Westwego City Council Chamber, 419 Avenue A, Westwego, LA

March 29, 2007--St. Charles Parish Sub-Basin: American Legion Hall, Post 366, 12188 River Road, St. Rose, LA

April 3, 2007--Gretna-Algiers Sub-Basin: Our Lady of Holy Cross College, 4123 Woodland Drive, New Orleans, LA

April 4, 2007--Chalmette Loop Sub-Basin: 8201 West Judge Perez Road, Chalmette, LA

April 5, 2007--Jefferson East Bank Sub-Basin: Jefferson Parish Regional Library, 4747 W. Napoleon Avenue, Metairie, LA

April 10, 2007--Belle Chasse Sub-Basin: Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA

April 11, 2007--New Orleans East Sub-Basin: Avalon Hotel & Conference Center, 830 Conti Street, New Orleans, LA

April 12, 2007--Orleans East Bank Sub-Basin: National WWII Museum, 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, LA

Coordination: The USACE will continue to obtain concurrence, permits, and any other authorizations necessary to be in compliance with all other environmental laws prior to the initiation of any proposed actions. This includes, but is not limited to, complying with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Water Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Dated: March 2, 2007.  
Richard P. Wagenaar,  
Colonel, U.S. Army, District Commander.  
[FR Doc. E7-4515 Filed 3-12-07; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-84-P

**Roxanne Tillotson**

**18 May 2009**

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Roxanne Tillotson, [REDACTED] The floodgate is a good idea although she lives in Jesuit Bend she thinks there is a lot of misinformation (height of the floodwall, overwhelming Ollie drainage canal, induced flooding) going around about impacts that are not true. She says that if the water got to Oakville that means she would already be under water from surge/flooding and doesn't think the floodgate would cause flooding. She supports the compartmentalization approach for the upper part of the parish.

**Danny Trosclair**

[REDACTED]  
**18 May 2009**

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Danny Trosclair, [REDACTED] He supports the project and says that protection is more important than losing property value. He says we shouldn't marry the NOV and IER 13 projects because it would leave the whole parish open to flooding/surge. He says don't listen to the complaints of a few, help the majority of the parish that lives in the north. Take both sides into consideration. Protect Plaquemines.

**Lori Trosclair**

**18 May 2009**

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Lori Trosclair, [REDACTED] A resident of Jesuit Bend, she is for the floodgate. She says we should save some of the parish now and provide protection to the south as soon as we can.

**Corinne Van Dalen**

50 [REDACTED]

**18 May 2009**

Voice-mail Comment

Hi this is Corinne Van Dalen calling from the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic. You probably don't hear this a lot but want to submit comments on behalf of Oakville Community Action Group that supports basically everything that's in the draft IER. So it's going to be short were just going to agree. But I want to make sure it gets in the record and I see that I can hit the little thing that says comment. And post my comment that way to your website I guess or maybe it's an email. Or I can mail it. But what I'm most concerned about is that it makes it into the record. And want to know if I have all of today to do it. It says that the deadline it the 18<sup>th</sup>. So in other words I may you know finish it this evening and want to know if that's ok or I know sometimes the state has a deadline of like noon or something like that. If you get a chance to call me that would be great. My number [REDACTED] Thank you.

**Corinne Van Dalen, La. Bar. No. 21175**  
**Supervising Attorney**

**New Orleans, LA 70118**

**On Behalf of Counsel for Oakville Community Action Group**  
**18 May 2009**

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 9:50 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

May 18, 2009  
Via Email  
Mr. Gib Owen, PM-RS  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267  
RE: Oakville Community Action Group Comments on IER # 13

Dear Mr. Owen:

Oakville Community Action Group agrees with and supports the proposed action evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District ("the Corps") in its draft Individual Environmental Report # 13 (IER # 13).

Oakville Community Action Group is a non-profit corporation whose members live, work, own property, recreate, and enjoy the environment in and near Oakville. The purpose of the organization is to preserve, protect, and enhance the environmental, health, and safety interests of its members, the Oakville community, and its surroundings. IER # 13 evaluates the potential impacts associated with the proposed enlargement to the Hero Canal levee, and construction of the Eastern Tie In portion of the West Bank and Vicinity, Louisiana Project. The purpose of this proposed action is to provide hurricane and storm damage risk reduction to Oakville and other communities in Plaquemines Parish. Because the proposed action directly affects Oakville, Oakville Community Action Group has actively participated in several public meetings held by the Army Corps on IER # 13 where it has voiced its concerns about various levee alignments and other project details. Oakville Community Action Group is pleased that the proposed action addresses its concerns by protecting the Oakville community without requiring the relocation of its residents and by minimizing impacts to the wetlands in the area.

Specifically, Oakville Community Action Group supports the proposed project because it protects all Oakville residents by including the entire community within the levee system, while leaving all residences and community structures in place. Oakville is a community with a strong sense of unity bound by community leaders (both civic and spiritual), familial connections, and a shared history. Freed slaves from nearby plantations founded Oakville after the abolishment of slavery. Indeed, the very same subdivision layout exists today as that which its founders designed in 1871. And, many of today's

Oakville residents can trace their ancestry to those who first lived in Oakville. Because of Oakville's history and strong community ties, Oakville Community Action Group is especially pleased that the Army Corps chose an alternative that will allow the community to remain whole and protected.

In addition, Oakville Community Action Group supports the proposed project because it minimizes wetland loss. The area to the east of Oakville is a forested swamp comprised of bottomland hardwoods that offers many benefits, some of which are wildlife habitat, storm surge buffer, and flood control. Therefore, Oakville Community Action Group supports the Army Corps decision to eliminate the alternative 3 that would have resulted in the destruction of an additional 53 acres of this valuable forested swamp.

Oakville Community Action Group thanks the Army Corps for taking its concerns into consideration and proposing a project that will enhance the future of the Oakville community.

Respectfully submitted this 18th day of May, 2009 by,

TULANE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC

/s/

---

Corinne Van Dalen, La. Bar. No. 21175

Supervising Attorney

[REDACTED]  
New Orleans, LA [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

On Behalf of Counsel for Oakville Community Action Group

**Peggy Willy**  
[REDACTED]  
**18 May 2009**

IER 13 Verbal Comments taken over the Phone

Peggy Willy, [REDACTED]: She says that levees in south Plaquemines should be done first and made higher before any floodgate should be thought of. The gate is bad, it has to be closed ahead of time which means people have to evacuate sooner and spend more on hotels and food. Upper Belle Chasse can't handle any more water but lower Belle Chasse can handle water. If the floodgate is built it will put more water on lower Belle Chasse after flooding when they open the gate to drain. Protect the whole parish, not just the top 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Peggy Willy**

**18 May 2009**

Voicemail Comment

Hi this is Peggy Willie. I'm at 5 [REDACTED]. I was calling for information about the possible floodwall in the Jesuit bend area. If there was any new news about it or if whether ya'll were still taking comments about it. The Oakville floodgate and call me whenever you get a change that's Peggy at 504-656-2394. Thank you, bye.

Unknown

18 May 2009

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, May 18, 2009 6:49 AM

**To:** MVN Environmental

**Subject:** NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Please re-look at the proposed floodwall. The front line of defense is levee protection, not a flood wall. The wall is a waste of tax payer money and the money could be used to stop the real problem of flooding, the LEVEE. No WALL , NO WAY.

**Geneva P. Grille, P.E.**

**19 May 2009**

**From:** Geneva Grille  
**To:** Owen, Gib A MVN  
**Sent:** Tue May 19 13:58:26 2009  
**Subject:** IER #13 Comment

I can't seem to send this on the web site. Please replace my previous comment letter of 5/17/09 with the revised letter of 5/19/09; I'm sorry but I left out some words in the previous letter. Should I fax or mail in a signed copy of this letter? FYI – I sent a copy of this letter to the Congressional delegation and CRPA.

**Geneva P. Grille, P.E.**

GENEVA P. GRILLE, P.E.  
110 NOBLE DRIVE  
BELLE CHASSE, LA 70037

May 17, 2009 (revised 05/19/09)

Mr. Gib Owen  
PM-RS  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: Draft Individual Environmental Report  
West Bank and Vicinity  
Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Terminus  
Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana  
IER #13

Dear Mr. Owen:

I am a resident of Belle Chasse and am very concerned with flooding from an open gap in the levee system south of Belle Chasse. This is a problem that has existed for far too long. I am also very concerned about FEMA de-certifying any levee system that doesn't meet its new base flood (100-year) levee certification guidelines by 2011. If this happened in the Belle Chasse area, I feel that it would totally devalue my property along with the entire area.

First, I want some type of acceptable 100-year closure south of Hero Canal in place to provide closure to the West Bank and Vicinity Flood Reduction System by 2011. I am a professional civil engineer, retired from DOTD, and have over 40 years experience working on flood control, drainage and highway projects in this area. I was the DOTD engineer charged with assisting the West Jefferson Levee District (WJLD) with the federalization of the West Bank Hurricane Project in 1986 and the Post Authorization Changes for East of Harvey and Lake Cataouatche Levee. Because of the magnitude of this project in three

parishes, the State of Louisiana, through DOTD, became the local funding sponsor of the project, with WJLD as the administrator.

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, the West Hurricane and Vicinity was designed by the Corps for a 300-year return frequency storm. Pre-Katrina, the area that includes Belle Chasse, English Turn and Lower Coast Algiers was a separate polder in the East of Harvey system. All that changed post-Katrina. New hydraulic models were run and the entire project was reanalyzed. The Corps design methodologies and safety factors changed and the entire system was redesigned to conform to new flood protection elevations required for 100-year levee certification for FEMA requirements in the "Risk Reduction System". Now in order to achieve this 100 year level of protection, a new sector gate and pumping station must be built in Bayou Barataria connecting the Belle Chasse Levee into the V-line Levee. This is necessary because it is not feasible to raise the levees along the Harvey and Algiers Canals high enough. Neither is the original tie into the non-federal levee in Oakville acceptable to provide the 100 year level of protection and the southern closure must be made to the Mississippi River Levee. The separate polders north and south of the Algiers Canal and west of the Harvey Canal are now all interconnected. It appears to me that failure to provide a complete 100-year system wide level of protection to this project affects the integrity of the entire project and is not just a Belle Chasse and Oakville issue. I did not see this adequately addressed in IER #13.

On May 7, 2009, I attended the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop Conference for Levee Board Commissioners and Staff in Baton Rouge, where Mr. Gary Zimmerer of FEMA gave a presentation on levee certification. This is a very hot issue in the State of Louisiana at this time and hopefully I have a misunderstanding of this issue. It is my understanding that under the present post-Katrina FEMA guidelines, if a levee system does not meet current FEMA guidelines for a 100-year flood system, it will be de-certified and removed from the D-FIRM map. Any existing properties with existing flood insurance policies would be grandfathered in with their existing flood insurance policies and rates as long as they were kept continuously in effect, but the areas would be remapped as if no levee were in place. This would essentially put previously leveed off areas into velocity zones. Any new construction would be totally incongruous with the existing development. Could this possibly be true? I believe this certification affects the entire project as a system, not only Belle Chasse in Plaquemines Parish, but also all the areas with the confines of the West Bank and Vicinity Risk Reduction Project in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. This really needs to be addressed in the IER by the Corps so that Plaquemines Parish Government and all stakeholders can make the most informed decisions. I did not see this adequately addressed in the IER.

Sincerely,

Geneva P. Grille, P.E.

**Roxanne Tillotson**

19 May 2009

**From:** Roxanne Tillotson [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2009 8:16 PM  
**To:** MVN Environmental  
**Subject:** Please FWD to Col Alvin Lee : RE The Floodgate

Hi Mr Owen,

Can you Please forward this email , which I sent to Senators Vitter and Landrieu and also sent to Charlie Melacon .... To Col Alvin Lee .

Thanks

Hello

I am a resident of Jesuit Bend in Belle Chasse La . I would like to comment on the floodwall that is being proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers . Although most of my neighbors are fighting AGAINST the floodwall ,I am here to comment that I think the floodwalL is a GOOD THING . I do NOT believe that this wall will cause us to flood. I will be on the south side of the wall but I understand how things work and feel confident that this floodgate will PROTECT the majority of Plaquemmines parish if our levees are breached or topped. In that case we would flood ANYWAY ..... However,the floodgate will stop the water from going into Belle Chasse where 95% of our businesses and schools are. Of course, I do not want my home to flood. But I also do NOT want to lose our entire infrastructure like much of St Bernard and Orleans parish did after hurricane Katrina. I realize that this floodwall will prevent us from losing our infrastructure in case our levees fail . I would like you to support the Army Corps of Engineers proposal FOR the floodgate at Oakville . This project is also tied in with the project to federalize the levees behind my home in Jesuit Bend. I fear that if this project is changed or delayed, so will the increased protection of lower Plaqueminnes Parish be delayed. Please SUPPORT the Corps in this project. Thank You.

Roxanne Tillotson

Unknown

5 [REDACTED]  
19 May 2009

Voice-mail Comment

Hi Mr. Owen I am calling to see if the public comment period for the floodgate at Oakville has been extended. I heard that it was extended to June 1<sup>st</sup>. But I don't know if that is just a rumor or not. So I am calling about that. And While I have your voicemail I'll go ahead and leave a comment. I'll leave my comment with Gigi on yesterday. But I just wanted to let you know. That I live in Jesuit bend and I am not against the floodgate. I do think that it is a good thing. And I think that it's something that needs to be done at that location and also possibly later on down the road another gate at the alliance would be a good idea. I do understand the reasoning behind the gate. And that if our levees are breached it will, we will flood anyway but the whole parish will not flood and I certainly do not want my home to flood but I don't think that the gate is gonna cause us to flood. And if it's something that is gonna save the parish the rest of the parish then I am in agreement with that. But if you could call me back please to let me know if the public comment period has been extended or if that is just a rumor. I would appreciate it. My number is 6 [REDACTED] Thank you bye-bye. Oh and if I don't answer there you can try my cell which is [REDACTED] thank you bye-bye.

**Kevin Pedeaux**

20 May 2009

**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Kevin Pedeaux

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2009 3:09 PM

**To:** MVN Environmental

**Subject:** IER13

Hi, I'm Kevin Pedeaux with the Plaquemines Gazette. I'm looking for your media guy, I think his name is Ken. I'm just looking for comment on the current status of IER13.

Thanks

Kevin

**Bobby Wilson**

**20 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Bobby Wilson [mailto: [REDACTED]]

Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 9:44 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: PLEASE FINISH THE EASTERN TIE-IN AS SCHEDULED!!!!

Gib

Please express to the Corp that we, the residents of Belle Chasse and English Turn, want the Corp to complete the Eastern Tie-In as planned and scheduled. We can't afford to wait beyond 2011.

Don't let the local politics get in the way of completing what the Corp is known for, providing public safety.

We need the GATE. Don't disappoint us!

An acknowledgement of this email and even the smallest hint that the Corp will not change their minds would be greatly appreciated.

Regards,  
Bobby Wilson

Unknown

20 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: In the Bend [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2009 5:59 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Post directed to Pete Stavros

Mr Owen,

Please see below a email/post that was posted by me to Pete Stavros on his forum about the floodgate . Please enter this as my comment re the floodgate at Oakville and please fwd to Col Lee . Thanks Jesuit Bend resident

-----  
I am a resident of Jesuit Bend. I have sat back and watched how all of this has unfolded and am very disgusted and disappointed with the amount of false information that you are putting out there. Most of you dont even know what you are fighting for!

First..When you say that the residents of Oakville were opposed to the levee .You are not telling the whole story. Did you know that the first plans were that the Corps was going to build the levee just as they are now , but instead of a floodgate , they were going to put a levee across Hwy 23 with an overpass going OVER the levee. Whether its a floodwall, or a levee , both ideas would have crossed hwy 23 to tie into the Miss river levee. The residents were opposed to the overpass over that levee for various reasons. The Corps then changed it to a floodgate across the highway instead. In my opinion this is a much better solution as this can be opened and closed when needed.

2nd... the floodgate will NOT be 16 ft tall. The land where the proposed gate sits is 5-6 feet above sea level. The floodgate will be 16 ft above sea level , therefore the floodgate will be 10- 10.5 ft high .So I think your sign needs to be changed.

Next .. I have heard that our property values are going down already because of this floodgate. That is so untrue. Property prices are going down due to the ECONOMY. Check the prices of houses in Springwood . They are SIGNIFICANTLY lower than they were 1-2 yrs ago. And they are not selling . Its the economy . I sat in the meeting and heard how a JB resident claimed that his home was put on the market at a lower price due to the floodgate. This same JB resident claimed he just found out about the floodgate 2 weeks prior , yet his home was put on the market in MARCH . How then was his home put on the market for a lesser value ( his words that Bonnie Buras told him ) due to the floodgate , when he just learned about the floodgate 2 weeks ago?? Hmmmmm

Now most importantly , the floodgate . I have been reading the posts by engineer Mike Scorsone and wholeheartedly agree with the design of the wall and that it will NOT "cause" us to flood. The floodgate is designed as added protection in CASE there is a levee breach , which if that were to happen , Jesuit Bend would flood ANYWAY . The floodgate would just prevent the water from spreading all the way through north Belle Chasse which would cause our entire infrastructure to be GONE . Are you guys THAT selfish to say that if \*I\* flood ....so should the rest of Belle Chasse, English Turn ect ?? Of course , like everyone else ,I do not want my home to flood . If I thought the wall would INDUCE flooding , then

I would understand the "fight". Please educate yourselves and listen to the experts ( engineers ) on this project . Go back and re read Mikes posts . He gave some very good analogies using the ship .

Most of the spearheads of this "fight" are not from here . I will venture to say that they do not know the waterways here . For if they did , they will KNOW that you cannot just build a levee from the North all the way to south Plaq. and that will be the solution . Sure , it sounds great , but what happens when a part of that levee fails ? What happens when a Katrina event comes a little more west and hits us directly ? Do you think that ANY levee will be high enough to protect us ? There absolutely SHOULD be stopping points at various locations to prevent TOTAL DEVASTATION . I believe that the floodgate at the proposed location is a good idea. I believe a second floodgate at Alliance should be erected .I also believe that the levees should be built up to 100 yr protection for ALL of us . I also believe that Coastal restoration is THE KEY to saving our parish. ALL of this needs to happen . But by you guys fighting for something that you dont even understand , you will ruin this for ALL of us ! Please educate yourselves and KNOW what you are fighting for ! STOP putting false information out there . This floodgate will not hurt us . Its only a added protection to prevent total devastation in a catastrophic event . I am not that selfish to believe that if I flood , so should my childs school, the grocery store I visit a few times a week , the many businesses I support in this parish , the base that protects us , the church I belong to ect ect. Wake up people ! Thank You

Unknown

k

21 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] m [ma [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 7:56 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Please make sure this project is completed. We need this Flood Gate to maintain the value of our property. This is going to help homes in Belle Chasse and English Turn. we definitely this project to complete our 100 year plan.

Unknown

[REDACTED]

21 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 8:06 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

If Plaquemines Parish misses getting included with hundred year protection through IER13 now we won't see this opportunity again in our or our children's lifetimes.

Nobody wants to see lower property values and make it impossible to get Flood Insurance. By not supporting IER13 that is what we are saying we want? Are we really so ignorant?

Unknown

21 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From:

Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 8:00 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

Anyone opposed to this has not read it in all its details. This is win-win for Plaquemines Parish especially in our current economy with the ongoing federal spending. Now is the time to get on board or we will miss out completely just as we did with Gaming. We let Mississippi beat us then. Are we going to lead in our area or allow the uninformed to mislead us?

We need IER13 and have a chance to get on board NOW!

Unknown

25 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2009 2:26 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

BUILD THE FLOODGATE! Those South of the Gate have been wiped out three times in my lifetime and three times others bore the brunt of rebuilding. This is madness. And now they want to stop a floodgate protecting Belle Chasse only because they don't want anyone living on safer ground to have better protection than they have. Spite and nonsense.

Build the floodgate. Do what can be done for the lower end of the parish but not at a half million dollars or so per person down there.

And, re-flood the marsh. If not, we are ultimately doomed anyway. The Corps should stop the delaying tactics and institute massive muddy water flow into the marshes, letting it flow where it will. The Corps starved the marshes and it is immoral and dishonest not to un-do the damage the Corps has done. You need a definite change in policy.

**Unknown**

[REDACTED]  
**25 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2009 8:06 AM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Not supporting IER 13 would be like allowing our child to drown without putting any rescue tools anywhere near the pool. IER 13 contains many alternatives any one of which is agreeable. No support is stupid. We MUST decide which alternative and move forward. "NO ACTION" is not an alternative.

**Guerrera**



**LA 70037**



**com**

**28 May 2009**

MAY 28, 2009

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
RE: IER-13 Project

PAGE 1 OF 2

To whom it may concern,

My husband AND I ARE VERY MUCH AGAINST THIS IER-13 flood wall. OUR MAJOR CONCERNS ARE INCREASING RISK OF FLOODING, INCREASED FLOOD AND HOME INSURANCE AND DECREASING HOME VALUES.

This project is outdated AND NEEDS TO BE RECONSIDERED. THERE ARE NO LONGER PASTURELANDS AND CITRUS GROOVES, BUT PEOPLE, HOMES, BUSINESSES AND A BEAUTIFUL PROPEROUS PARISH TO PROTECT!

THE GOVERNMENT MAKES MILLIONS JUST FROM OAKVILLE TO ALLIANCE AND THERE ARE MUCH HISTORICAL VALUE FURTHER SOUTH, LIKE OAKVILLE, AND ALSO ALL THE WONDERFUL CITRUS AND CREOLE TOMATOES THAT IS PRODUCED BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL SOIL THAT ONLY OUR PARISH HAS. WHERE WILL ALL THE PEOPLE THAT HARVEST ALL THE WONDERFUL SEAFOOD, THAT YOU EAT, BE ABLE TO LIVE!?

THERE ARE TOO MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ALSO, AGAINST THIS FLOOD WALL, FOR ONE OF MANY, LOUISIANA STATE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE TIM TUCKER, WHO WROTE A LETTER TO COL. AL LEE OPPOSING THIS FLOOD WALL PROJECT.

WE NEED TO GO BACK AND DO THIS PROJECT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME AND PROTECT ALL THE PEOPLE!!

CONT. →

PAGE 2

WE ALL DESERVE AND EXPECT TO BE  
100 PERCENT PROTECTED!!

PLEASE WORK TO A BETTER PROJECT TO BETTER  
PROTECT US ALL!! THANK YOU.

CONCERNED BELLECHASSE RESIDENT.

JEAN GUERRERA  
Frank Guerrero

JEAN & FRANK GUERRERA



**Christie Lauff**

28 May 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: Cmlauff

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 9:37 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: Re: Oakville levee/gate of the USACE Westbank & Vicinity Project

The Westbank & Vicinity Project developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers is projected to begin soon. The final day for public comment is May 4, 2009. The planning objective of the proposed action is to provide 100-year level of risk reduction to the IER #13 project area, part of the Westbank & Vicinity hurricane and storm damage risk reduction system. Reading through the report, "Areas south of the Hero Canal near the GIWW (Gulf Intracoastal Waterway) consist primarily of marsh habitat." "Adjacent areas to the south of Oakville are comprised of pasturelands and scattered citrus groves." This may have been true in 1986 when the USACE District Engineer completed a Feasibility Report and EIS entitled, "West Bank of the Mississippi River in the Vicinity of New Orleans, La." However, 2.1 miles south of the proposed levee site is 3 large subdivisions of homes, with homes distributed within this 2.1 miles. We are very concerned about the impact of this flood levee and gate to our communities, families and home and property values. We are aware of another project to raise our levees along, but are extremely concerned about our increased risk of flooding between the differing finish dates of both of these projects. For the most part, residents were unaware of this project. There have been multiple meetings but none involved Jesuit Bend and surrounding areas below "Historic Oakville." Please look at our website, [www.plaquemineslevee.com](http://www.plaquemineslevee.com) <<http://www.plaquemineslevee.com/>> , for more information regarding this project and help us in any way possible to protect our homes and families. The video under the MAPS link is extremely upsetting to all who have viewed it.

The Corps of Engineers has set up a public meeting on Monday, May 4, 2009, Belle Chasse Auditorium, 8398 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, LA 70037, Open House 6:00 p.m. - Presentation 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Hurricane projects in Plaquemines Parish.

Jesuit Bend Resident,

Christie Lauff

**Gerald Raynal Jr, CMSgt , LA ANG**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**28 May 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Raynal, Gerald CMSgt USAF ANG 159 AMXS/LG [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 12:12 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: Plaquemines Parish Levee Proposal IER13

Mr. Owen,

My name is Gerald Raynal Jr. I reside at 150 River Bend Dr. Belle Chasse La. I am opposed to the seven current options being discussed pertaining to IER13. It is my understanding that the environmental study is based on mid 1980s data. Much has changed in the Jesuit Bend area since that time. This area has seen extensive growth during the last 25 years. I ask that the proposal include additional options which incorporate the protection of the Jesuit Bend community, the River Bend Nursing Home, and Belle Chasse Middle School.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I can be reached at [REDACTED]

Gerald Raynal Jr, CMSgt , LA ANG

[REDACTED]

**Monica Senner**

[REDACTED]

**Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

[REDACTED]

**28 May 2009**

To: Mr Gib Owen  
504-862-2088

From: Monica Senner

Re: IER13

May 28, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Owen,

I am a resident of Jesuit Bend and I am opposed to the location of IER13 at Oakville. I drive Highway 23 daily. One of the most congested areas south of the Navy base is the area around Captain Larry's.

There are many distractions around this area. 18 wheelers, cars, trucks/SUVs pulling boats, and pedestrian traffic come in and out of their parking lot. I have personally seen cars swerve into the median or off the shoulder to avoid an accident. Unfortunately, there have been some serious accidents and even some fatalities in this area. Now they will have a floodwall near the highway to contend with.

I don't understand why you would build such a large structure straddling a busy traffic area. Will it obstruct the view we now have when traveling down Highway 23? Will we have enough time to react to a pedestrian who is obstructed from our view by this floodwall? Will it cause further congestion? What exactly are your plans?

Pedestrian traffic will continue to cross the highway. The people living across Hwy 23 from Capt. Larry's who do not have transportation have no choice but to shop there for essentials. It is their way of life. 18 wheelers will continue to park along the shoulder and use it to gain speed before they enter traffic on Hwy.23. Fishermen will continue to purchase bait and supplies for their fishing trips. They have a hard enough time maneuvering a trailer in and out of the parking lot. These are just some of the distractions already placed in this area.

I think a floodwall at this location will be a safety hazard. This alignment for IER13 needs serious reconsideration. The safety of the citizens you are trying to protect will be at a greater risk with this alignment.  
Thanks, Monica Senner 115 Nancy Ct. Belle Chasse-

[REDACTED]

LA 70037

[REDACTED]

29 May 2009

Stricklin

5

P.1

CELESTE G. STRICKLIN

May 29, 2009

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Gib Owen  
P. O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

*VIA FAX*

I am a resident in Jesuit Bend and would like to express my concern for the location of the proposed floodgate in Oakville.

I am worried that if I am below this gate my insurance will be unaffordable. I will support this concern with a statement made by Julie Vignes in the January 8, 2009 meeting. She says "The Corps is authorized to build a system to be certified. If we do not get this system built and authorized it would inhibit the people from getting affordable insurance. The urgency behind the 2011 deadline is for insurance reasons. Congress appropriated the money to improve the system but it is not going to be equal to be certified for risk reduction." This is telling me that if you are not included in the 100 year protection your insurance will be unaffordable.

What about the fact that the wall will induce flooding. I saw an interview Channel 6 did about the tie in and they talked to several people about what happens. Billy Marchal an engineer with The Flood Protection Alliance said "Wherever you have a barrier, water is going to stack up against that barrier. Anybody outside of that barrier is going to be affected somewhat ..." This is telling me that we would probably have more water than if there were no wall.

At the January 8, 2009 meeting several people expressed their concerns for the proposed flood gate, many are on the record asking why the levees couldn't be raised all the way south. Has any of this been considered?

I would still like to know how such a project can go forward based on old data. Data that states everything adjacent to the wall is pasture and scattered citrus. At the time of the study this may have been correct but 20 years after the fact it is not. Not all the proper testing has been done. For this project to move forward would be criminal.

This needs to be revisited. We the people of Jesuit Bend have brought up many very good issues and I have yet to hear them be addressed. Please make the right decision.

Sincerely,

*Celeste G. Stricklin*

**Leander H. Perez, III**

**31 May 2009**

From: LHPerez3  
To: alvin.b.lee.col@usace.army.mil  
CC: gib.a.owen@usace.army.mil  
Sent: 5/31/2009 4:58:24 P.M. Central Daylight Time  
Subj: IER 13

Colonel Lee,

My name is Leander H. Perez, III. My wife and I reside at 11422 Highway 23, Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037. Our property is "Ground Zero," the first piece on the south side of the proposed IER 13 alignment crossing Hwy. 23. This is the side the Corps frighteningly labels "The Flood Side."

We have attended all the public meetings hosted by the Corps. We also have listened to the public's suggestions, concerns and fears. There is not much more we could add for they are all legitimate.

At one of the hosted meetings, I recall a lady standing up and addressing the audience and the Corps saying, "When I am asked where is Plaquemines Parish, I tell them Plaquemines is south of New Orleans and is the boot that extends out into the Gulf of Mexico." She went on to say that if IER 13 alignment is implemented, years from now there will no longer be a boot and Venice would be located at Oakville.

This also hits home in a different twist. My son is a river pilot. His run is from New Orleans to Pilot Town, south of Venice, and back. If there were no longer a east or west side of Plaquemines, what would happen to shipping and other related traffic on the Mississippi River? If the river is impaired, the United States and the world will be affected.

Coastal restoration is also a vital part of the equation to protect the River and Plaquemines Parish.

I am very aware of the two projects and their differences. I know I can speak for the whole parish in asking the Corps to consider suggesting to Congress to scrape the IER 13 segment and tie the 100 Year Protection Levee into the Non-Federal Levee at Oakville and continue it to run south past the Alliance Refinery. The reasons have been stated in the past hosted meetings and numerous public correspondences with the Corps and Congress. A frightening concern I have with the Non-Federal Levee project is the following. For over a year the Parish Government and the public have been led to believe from the Corps that the Non-Federal Levee from Oakville south would be 12 to 12.5 feet high. At the last meeting in Oakville, a Corps representative stated he was not sure how high the levee would be. That led people to believe the Non-Federal Levee (Back Levee) could be much less than 12.5 feet high. This would definitely wash away the lower portion of the parish starting at Oakville.

My family has been living in Plaquemines Parish in the Oakville area and below for generations. For the past 70 years, my family has been instrumental in building this parish to where the citizens still say, "This is God's country and I am proud to live here."

Colonel Lee, you and the Corps' representatives have heard and seen this first hand. Please help our citizens to continue their proud heritage and convince Congress to scrape IER 13 and run the 100 Year Protection Levee further south of Oakville.

It is difficult to express to you my heritage and family's history in a short letter. Kindly do not let their hard work and dedication go to waste.

Please help me and our citizens in protecting our future existence and convince Congress to implement an alternative solution than IER 13.

Thank you for your time and understanding.

Leander H. Perez, III

**Sydney Perez**

31 May 2009

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2009 9:32 PM  
To: Lee, Alvin B COL MVN  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Flood Wall at Oakville

Dear Colonel Lee,

My name is Sydney Perez and I am a resident of Plaquemines Parish.

After attending all of the Corps meetings in regards to IER 13, we are both well aware of how the residents of Plaquemines Parish feel about this issue. Plaquemines Parish is a key element not only to Louisiana but to the entire United States. As a citizen, I plead to you, the Corps, and the Congress of our great Nation to keep us from disappearing. The impact of knowing in advance we will lose our homes is devastating, and there is nothing we can do to stop it.

I realize Congress made this decision but you are the sole man in charge who can do something about changing it. Please do whatever you can to help the residents of Plaquemines Parish.

Thank you kindly,

Sydney Perez

**Jeffrey Robichaux**

**31 May 2009**

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Sunday, May 31, 2009 8:18 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: IER 13

I agree with Congressman Charles Melancon in that "We need to do this right the first time and find a solution that will provide the highest level of protection to the greatest number of people possible, without causing further delays and obstacles."

Please afford all of Plaquemines this increased level of storm protection. The plan as it is currently proposed segregates Belle Chasse as well as Plaquemines Parish.

**Dionne & Armand Daigle**

**1 June 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Dionne Daigle [mailto: ]  
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 9:52 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: FLOODGATE

We would appreciate it if you would consider tying in the Hero Canal levees with the levees south of Oakville (New Orleans to Venice project) to give 100-year protection for everyone, eliminating the need for the floodgate at Oakville. Below seems to say that it is possible to make changes to the projects. Thanks for your consideration.

From the Summary of the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) Technical Report (March 09 DRAFT, page 31): To the extent possible, a comprehensive plan for coastal protection and restoration should be implemented through coordinated use of existing authorities. In some cases, the authorities will need to be modified to ensure consistency among similar projects and across the coast. Additionally, since the success of plan development depends on the ability to compare like metrics among individual projects, and some existing authorities' do not afford the ability to conduct investigations to inform those metrics under normal policy (which in many cases uses dollars as the only metric), it therefore may be necessary to modify the authority to allow multi-criteria evaluation similar to LACPR.

In general, if authorization exists, the USACE is allowed implementation of the recommended plan with such modifications as the Chief of Engineers may deem advisable in the interest of the purposes specified.

Procedures for adoption of proposed project changes differ depending on whether they may be approved by the Chief of Engineers using such delegated discretionary authority or must be submitted to Congress for consideration and legislative modification of the existing authorization.

Where proposed changes are significant, they must be documented in a Post Authorization Change Report submitted to USACE Headquarters coupled with supplemental environmental documentation to address any changes in impacts, expansion of the impact area, and consideration of cumulative effects. If it is determined after review that the proposed changes are not within delegated authority but are of sufficient importance to warrant a recommendation for modification of the project authorization, procedures and further reporting requirements for processing such a recommendation to the Congress would be selected as best suits that specific case.

The basis for the possible use of an existing authority seems appropriate whenever there are proposed LACPR features such as levees and/or control structures that are common to plan features outlined in the existing project authority or there is a shared goal under the authority and the LACPR plans to provide risk reduction to an area. The authorities listed below correspond to alternatives in the final array that could be employed to implement those alternatives through the Post Authorization Change report process:

Flood control projects:

- Pearl River Basin, St. Tammany Parish
- Mississippi River and Tributaries
- Atchafalaya Basin
- Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control

Hurricane and storm surge risk reduction projects:

- Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity
- West Bank and Vicinity

- New Orleans to Venice
- Grand Isle and Vicinity
- Larose to Golden Meadow
- Morganza to the Gulf of Mexico
- Morgan City and Vicinity

Coastal restoration projects:

- Louisiana Coastal Area
- Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

Studies:

- Donaldsonville to the Gulf (multi-purpose)
- Southwest Coastal Louisiana Feasibility Study (multi-purpose)
- West Shore Lake Pontchartrain Study (flood control, hurricane risk reduction)
- Lower Atchafalaya Basin Reevaluation Study (hurricane risk reduction)
- Louisiana Coastal Area Comprehensive Plan (coastal restoration)

A comprehensive review of all existing authorities will be needed to determine the applicability of each authority to investigating LACPR planning objectives. In view of the age of many of the authorities, it will be necessary to reexamine the objectives of the authorities and evaluate how well the supporting designs accomplish those objectives when analyzed using the latest available engineering technologies and statistical results.

Dionne & Armand Daigle

**Edmond H. Fitzmaurice, III**  
**Trustee, CKCC Trusts**

**1 June 2009**

From: ehfiii@aol.com  
To: Lee, Alvin B COL MVN  
Sent: Mon Jun 01 14:31:11 2009  
Subject: IER 13 Alignment

Dear Colonel Lee,

I am the trustee of the CKCC Trusts which own a portion of Live Oak Plantation. This portion is 4 arpents in width by 40 arpents in depth fronting Highway 23, immediately south of that property owned by Patrick Becnel. This property is located in Section 1: *Hero to La Reussite* in the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee proposals.

In my view, your project should certainly extend south past the Alliance Refinery.

When this project was envisioned the demographics of the area were inadequately described. Today, the data is completely outdated. Many of the farmlands and citrus orchards have been replaced by subdivisions and expensive homes. The effects of urban sprawl have come to Plaquemines Parish.

Were you to attempt to protect what was intended to be protected when this project was envisioned many years ago, you would include all of the developments upriver from, and including, the Alliance Refinery. Just because a project seemed to make sense many years ago does not mean that it makes sense today.

I have heard you say on television that this proposal is not a "done deal." Please consider my views in reaching your decision.

Very Truly Yours,

Edmond H. Fitzmaurice, III  
Trustee, CKCC Trusts

**Nadine Parker**

[REDACTED]

**1 June 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Nadine Parker [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 7:31 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: Project IER 13 - Oakville Floodgate

I am writing regarding the Army Corp of Engineers' proposal to build a floodgate south of Oakville, LA as part of Project IER13.

I have many concerns to include potential increased risk of flooding & cost of insurance. However, I am most concerned with the very real fact that Hwy 23 provides the only way in and out of Plaquemines Parish south of the proposed floodgate. Traffic will be directed to go around the floodgate via a route which utilizes the Mississippi River Levee. Not only will this impair the flow of traffic for evacuees, it will also inhibit the ability for emergency vehicles to pass. I am concerned if saturated, the Mississippi River Levee, will not be able to withstand this type of stress, therefore impacting the safety of the citizens of Plaquemines Parish.

I would appreciate a response to let me know how this issue will be addressed within the project.

Thank you,  
Nadine Parker

[REDACTED]

Belle Chasse, LA 70037

[REDACTED]

**Sydney Perez**  
**1 June 2009**

**From:** SYD PEREZ  
**To:** Lee, Alvin B COL MVN  
**Sent:** Mon Jun 01 10:50:36 2009  
**Subject:** Fwd: Flood Wall at Oakville

Dear Colonel Lee,

My name is Sydney Perez and I am a resident of Plaquemines Parish.

After attending all of the Corps meetings in regards to IER 13, we are both well aware of how the residents of Plaquemines Parish feel about this issue. Plaquemines Parish is a key element not only to Louisiana but to the entire United States. As a citizen, I plead to you, the Corps, and the Congress of our great Nation to keep us from disappearing. The impact of knowing in advance we will lose our homes is devastating, and there is nothing we can do to stop it.

I realize Congress made this decision but you are the sole man in charge who can do something about changing it. Please do whatever you can to help the residents of Plaquemines Parish.

Thank you kindly,

Sydney Perez

**Gerald Raynal Jr**

cc

1 June 2009

-----Original Message-----

From: gerald raynal

Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 5:53 PM

To: MVN Environmental

Subject: IER 13

To whom it may concern<

Please reconsider IER 13 to encompass all levees between Oakville and Venice. It appears that the USACOE has the option to change course from the dated study data to provide 100 yr flood protection to include all westbank Plaquemines Parish residents.

Thanks for your time and consideration  
Gerald Raynal Jr

**Peter Stavros**

**1 June 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Stavros [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 11:41 PM  
To: 'Stavros'; MVN Environmental  
Cc: Holder, Ken MVN; Owen, Gib A MVN  
Subject: SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS on IER13  
Mr. Owen,

Here are several new comments on IER13.  
I am asking for your full consideration of my claims/statements.  
Could you please reply to this email to acknowledge receipt?

Respectfully,

Pete Stavros  
[REDACTED]

1 Jun 09

Col Lee,  
Here are three comments on IER13 that I feel are substantive, and warrant thorough consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Pete Stavros  
[REDACTED]

(1) The IER is incomplete and does not analyze the environment affected by the project. Specifically, no effects of the project and the ENTIRE Greater New Orleans HSDRRS, have been addressed concerning the environment (and the inadequate levees which protects it) immediately south of Hero Canal Levee. This is not in keeping with the Alternative Arrangements for the IER process, which is designed to protect us, not force a project through without consideration.

From the alternative arrangements for the IER PROCESS:

"The Emergency Alternative Arrangement Process: In order to meet the needs of the people of southern Louisiana in a timely manner that is appropriate to the level of imminent threat, CEMVN will comply with the NEPA by using the following emergency Alternative Arrangements....

4. Prior to any decision to proceed with proposed actions, CEMVN will complete an IER that documents the decision-making process followed by the USACE, the preferred and all other reasonable alternatives, the alternatives analyses that were performed, the direct and indirect

impacts of the proposed action, an initial description of the cumulative impacts of the proposal, an initial mitigation plan, and any interim decisions made by the USACE. **Each IER will identify areas where data was incomplete, unavailable, and areas of potential controversy. Alternatives analysis will be based upon a geographic segment of the area that is large enough to encompass any impacts directly and indirectly attributable to the proposed action."**

REFERENCE: FR Doc E7-4515

[Federal Register: March 13, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 48)]

[Notices]

[Page 11337-11340]

From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]

[DOCID:fr13mr07-28]

(2) The induced flood risk is not addressed in IER13. Verbally hydrologists acknowledge that there will be a 2-3 inch static water rise, but full storm surge modeling would indicate that wind pressure against the HSDRRS levee system will increase the risk of water topping of the levees south of Oakville.

ADCIRC (ADvanced CIRCulation) modeling of the entire system of hurricane protection, as shown in the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) Technical Report (March 2009), indicate that storm surge will be higher along the proposed IER13 project than if the system was not in place. [See Louisiana Coastal Protection And Restoration Technical Report Evaluation Results Appendix, Planning Unit 2, pages 17-19]

(3) The environment has changed over the lifetime of this authority. Modification of the Authority is needed to maintain consistency of these projects across the coast. Recommend POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORT be submitted.

***"Existing USACE Authorities Available to Support Implementation***

The USACE does not envision the need for a new, broad authority to implement the alternatives contained in this report. To the extent possible, a comprehensive plan for coastal protection and restoration should be implemented through coordinated use of existing authorities. In some cases, the authorities will need to be modified to ensure consistency among similar projects and across the coast. Additionally, since the success of plan development depends on the ability to compare like metrics among individual projects, and some existing authorities' do not afford the ability to conduct investigations to inform those metrics under normal policy (which in many cases uses dollars as the only metric), it therefore may be necessary to modify the authority to allow multi-criteria evaluation similar to LACPR.

In general, if authorization exists, the USACE is allowed implementation of the recommended plan with such modifications as the Chief of Engineers may deem advisable in the interest of the purposes specified. Procedures for adoption of proposed project changes differ depending on whether they may be approved by the Chief of Engineers using such delegated discretionary authority or must be submitted to Congress for consideration and legislative modification of the existing authorization. Where proposed changes are significant, they must be documented in a Post Authorization Change Report submitted to USACE Headquarters coupled with supplemental environmental documentation to address any changes in impacts, expansion of the impact area, and consideration of cumulative effects. If it is determined after review that the proposed changes are not within delegated authority but are of sufficient importance to warrant a recommendation for modification of the project authorization, procedures and further reporting requirements for processing such a recommendation to the Congress would be selected as best suits that specific case. The basis for the possible use of an existing authority seems appropriate whenever there are proposed LACPR features such as levees and/or control structures that are common to plan features outlined in the existing project authority or there is a shared goal under the authority and

the LACPR plans to provide risk reduction to an area." (LACPR Draft Summary Report, Mar 09, p 31)

"A comprehensive review of all existing authorities will be needed to determine the applicability of each authority to investigating LACPR planning objectives. **In view of the age of many of the authorities**, it will be necessary to reexamine the objectives of the authorities and evaluate how well the supporting designs accomplish those objectives when analyzed using the latest available engineering technologies and statistical results." (LACPR Draft Summary Report, Mar 09, p 32)

**Celeste G. Stricklin**

[REDACTED]  
**Belle Chasse, LA 70037**

**1 June 2009**

-----Original Message-----

From: Celeste G. Stricklin [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2009 4:56 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: letter to the Army Corps-5-29-09

celeste.g.stricklin

[REDACTED]  
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

[REDACTED]  
May 29, 2009

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: Gib Owen  
P. O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

I am a resident in Jesuit Bend and would like to express my concern for the location of the proposed floodgate in Oakville.

I am worried that if I am below this gate my insurance will be unaffordable. I will support this concern with a statement made by Julie Vignes in the January 8, 2009 meeting. She says "The Corps is authorized to build a system to be certified. If we do not get this system built and authorized it would inhibit the people from getting affordable insurance. The urgency behind the 2011 deadline is for insurance reasons. Congress appropriated the money to improve the system but it is not going to be equal to be certified for risk reduction." This is telling me that if you are not included in the 100 year protection your insurance will be unaffordable.

What about the fact that the wall will induce flooding. I saw an interview Channel 6 did about the tie in and they talked to several people about what happens. Billy Marchal an engineer with The Flood Protection Alliance said "Wherever you have a barrier, water is going to stack up against that barrier. Anybody outside of that barrier is going to be affected somewhat ..." This is telling me that we would probably have more water than if there were no wall.

At the January 8, 2009 meeting several people expressed their concerns for the proposed flood gate, many are on the record asking why the levees couldn't be raised all the way south. Has any of this been considered?

I would still like to know how such a project can go forward based on old data. Data that states everything adjacent to the wall is pasture and scattered citrus. At the time of the study this may have been correct but 20 years after the fact it is not. Not all the proper testing has been done. For this project to move forward would be criminal.

This needs to be revisited. We the people of Jesuit Bend have brought up many very good issues and I have yet to hear them be addressed. Please make the right decision.

Sincerely,

Celeste G. Stricklin

**Chris Arbourgh**

**Jesuit Bend, LA**

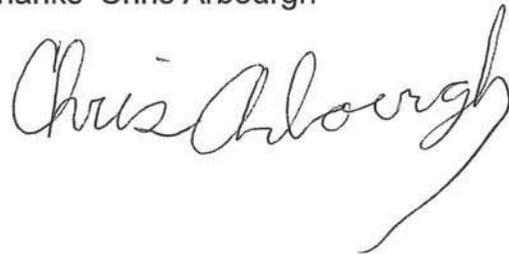
Hi my name is Chris Arbourgh I live at [REDACTED] in Jesuit Bend. After Katrina we were asked to come back rebuild and invest in our community and my family did without hesitation. If I would have been told to come back to pay these ridiculously high insurance premiums, be divided from the rest of my family and community by a 16 foot high wall and watch my property values get slashed I am not sure I would have returned. With that being said I would like to go on record that I am for the improvement of our levees but against the proposed location of the flood gate in Oakville.

First I would like to know if a study has been done to show the effects your project will have on the Ollie canal drainage system. Currently the North side does not drain into our drainage system. What's going to happen when you pump the water over the wall to Ollie canal a system already at capacity?

Second I would like to know if a proper study has been completed on the effects your floodgate will have on the safety of Hwy. 23 an already dangerous and congested area. I had a family member killed their in an accident when a vehicle towing a boat pulled out of Capt. Larry's parking lot. Also I personally on two occasions had to drive off the highway onto the neutral ground to avoid an accident. Once to avoid a child and dog crossing the highway to go to the store and another time to miss a beer truck pulling out of Capt. Larry's parking lot. Thank God a floodgate was not their either time. Or maybe I would not be talking to you tonight. Your proposed location is highly congested, poorly lit, has a lot of pedestrian traffic crossing from one side of the highway to the other, and prone to heavy fog. A floodgate across Hwy. 23 at Oakville is not safe and asking for trouble.

Last I would like you to extend the public comment period. Our representatives have not had time to review our request and I do not feel you have satisfactory answered all off our questions. With a potential to affect so many families there is no reason why any reasonable person would not extend it.

Thanks' Chris Arbourgh

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Arbourgh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

**Nicholas Arbourgh**



**Belle Chase, LA 70037**



NICHOLAS ARBOURGH  
[REDACTED]  
BELLE CHASSE, LA 70037  
[REDACTED]

HELLO, MY NAME IS NICHOLAS ARBOURGH, AND I LIVE AT [REDACTED] IN JESUIT BEND. I AM A STUDENT AT BELLE CHASSE MIDDLE SCHOOL, WHICH IS THE ONLY ONE OF THREE BELLE CHASSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEING LEFT OUT OF THE 100 YEAR PROTECTION.

FOR THE RECORD, I AM FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OUR LEVEES, BUT AGAINST THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF THE FLOOD GATE. ALL LAST WEEK AFTER I COMPLETED MY HOMEWORK, I READ THROUGH THE 100 PLUS PAGES OF THE IER #13 AND ALSO DID RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET. I AM ONLY 14 YRS OLD AND I FEEL *that* IT IS A SHAME THAT I CAN SEE THAT THERE ARE BETTER ALTERNATIVES THAN WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED THAT WOULD EFFECT LESS FAMILIES IN MY COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU.

Mrs. A.W. Austin

Belle Chase, LA 70037

Individual Environmental Report  
Public Comment

Comments: Before the decision to put up a flood gate, did you consider the children of the parish? How do you think they will feel being on the wrong side of the wall? It's morally wrong to put a child in that position. What about their self esteem and their well being? When children lose stability and consistency in their lives it spells TROUBLE. It also creates mental anguish for the parents and grandparents who are devoted to their families. What if they were YOUR children? Please give all the children the same protection. NO FLOOD GATE but better levee protection!

Name Mrs. A.W. Austin (Cindy) Affiliation

Andrew P. Boudreaux



Individual Environmental Report  
Public Comment

Comments: I am Against Flood Wall. My Request is to move Flood Gate South of  
Hero Canal use Hero Canals Gate Harbor for Boats During Storm. My Second Request  
is to Put Flood levee Across Road, put road over levee like in Diamond LA.  
My Third Request is to Move Flood Levee South of Tronton LA. That  
is The Only Road Hwy 23 That Floods for High water

My Work is in the newer end of Parish for last Hurricane  
Gustave + Ike Water was over Road for Weeks Many Companies  
and Workers, Had to relocate to other States, and have  
not Come Back to Plaquemines, [Live with Flood levee, Not Floodwall]

Name Andrew P. Boudreaux Affiliation Life long Resident



Melinda Boudreaux



Julie Vignes has no clue. Do a study. Have her read up on it,  
Stop misleading our people and our youth. listen to us.

Individual Environmental Report  
Public Comment

Comments: "Congress Intent" would be different if they knew # of  
residents, elderly, public school, refinery are where they think airbus trees  
& cows exists  
Economic impact study should be mandatory. We need flooding impact study.  
Include 7 more miles of levee now; more cost effective, reduces  
future flooding of homes, nursing home, refinery, public school  
& businesses & churches. No guarantee that non-federal levee will be built  
1996 Act was amended - this can be too; Put NEPA to work on this!  
Feedback from Jan 8th meeting resulted in change, this can too  
Upcoming meeting dates do not include non-federal levee; no wall until  
non-federal levees are raised or compensation for property values going  
down & buyouts.

Name Melinda Boudreaux

Affiliation Resident



Dana Castoe



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Individual Environmental Report  
Public Comment

Comments:  If a flood gate were put into effect, who would be in control of opening or closing it  
Louisiana - State - Feb - etc

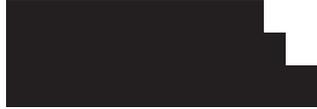
Name Dana Castoe Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
[www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

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**Liz Jackson**



Dear Sirs,

I attended the May 4th Public Comment Meeting in Belle Chasse regarding IER13. I understand that the hurricane protection levee is important and required by Congress. I would only ask that you seriously consider alternatives to the proposed floodwall at Oakville. Having worked as a Major Projects Manager for 20 years, it is painfully obvious that IER13 is being mismanaged. Local citizens have presented what appears to be a viable option of tying the levee into the Mississippi river system near Alliance. The project managers could not comment on this alternative. Not only did they not have a cost estimate for the Oakville tie-in, but it appears that they haven't even considered the Alliance tie-in. I ask that you consider Benny Rouselle's proposal, submitted at the meeting, in lieu of the Oakville tie-in. In addition, Col Lee should not finalize any decision on this project until his engineers have given him a competent cost analysis of both options.

Liz Jackson



Springfield, VA 22153  
UNITED STATES

Parishes: Plaquemines

Type: Notice of Availability

Specific notice type(s): Environmental Assessments, Alternative NEPA Arrangements, Environmental Impact Statements, Public Notice

Email notification: Yes



**Wendy W. Keating**

**Belle Chase,**

I am a very concerned resident of Jesuit Bend, Louisiana regarding this IER13 Project. From all the information I have received from elected officials, reports and research, this FLOOD GATE is not in the best interest of the Plaquemine Parish residents especially those that reside SOUTH of that flood gate including myself. Furthermore, this will cause an economic loss to the State of Louisiana.

The basis of this project is from twenty (20) year old data. The COE confirmed in the report that their study finds only pastures and farm land one mile south of the potential gate site. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE!!!! If the COE would have completed their impact study, you would have found that just 1.5 miles south in Jesuit Bend and the surrounding areas there are approximately 4278 people that will be affected both financially and psychologically. Our community also consists of Belle Chasse Public Middle School, Scottville Fire House, Riverbend Nursing Home, churches, Enbridge Compressor Station, Alliance/ConocoPhillips Refinery that produces 25% of the nation's jet fuel, 75-80% of Plaquemines citrus industry which produces 16-20 million dollars to the local and state economies and, farming crops, agricultural land, gas stations and convenient stores. This information was given to me by Councilman, Anthony Buras (District 5) and I would like you to enter this document\* as evidence.

This flood gate will negatively impact our property values. Who will want to drive over a sixteen foot flood gate to get to their home? Tax Assessor, Robert Gravolet has detailed that the TOTAL IMPROVEMENT FAIR MARKET VALUE of all residences, residential structures, trailer, trailer improvements, commercial buildings from Oakville to Alliance/ConocoPhillips including Alliance/ConocoPhillips Refinery, Enbridge Compressor Station, Belle Chasse Middle School and the Scottville Fire House exceeds over \$862,000,000. I would like to enter this document\*\* into evidence as well.

Another concern that the property owners SOUTH of Oakville have is the future availability of Flood and Homeowner Insurance and the cost of such insurance once this gate is built. Where in the Individual Environmental Report #13 did you address the OTHER SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS (OES) specific to induced flood damages and higher insurance costs of unprotected areas?

At the last public meeting held in Oakville, we were told by the FEMA representative that our flood insurance would not be affected. He further added that once OUR LEVEES are raised, our rates **should** go down. In my 25 + years in the insurance industry, I cannot recall a situation where "community rates" in a coastal area were REDUCED. If anything rates continue to increase far above inflation. Just since KATRINA, NFIP raised their rates; May 2006, May 2007 and May 2008 in certain zones. AND GUESS WHAT, I have confirmed that there will be another rate increase Oct 2009!!!! Granted, maybe not all of us were affected by these rate increases every time, but the fact remains that rates were increased!

Under the NFIP **current rules**, if your property is located in a B, C, or X zone and you are insured under the Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) and the property suffers 2 or more losses that paid out over \$1000 each within a 10 year period, regardless of ownership you

will no longer qualify for the PRP. This means that YOUR RATES WILL INCREASE. Another fact regarding flood insurance is that within a ten year period if your property suffers 4 or more separate claim payments of \$5,000 each (including building and content payments) or 2 or more separate claim payments (building payments only) where the total of the payments exceeds the current value of the property, you will no longer qualify for the standard flood program. You will be put into the SEVERE REPETITIVE LOSS PROGRAM. Again, these rates will be much higher than the standard rates.

A concerned resident asked at the last public meeting about FEMA assistance. Well, let me just share this information, yes FEMA may come in after a natural disaster and possibly provide you with financial assistance, but in order to receive this assistance, you must agree to purchase flood and or hazard insurance. This also is true for SBA loans.

The FEMA representative from the last meeting mentioned to the same resident that her flood policy provides an ICC (Increased Cost Compliance) endorsement. Did you realize that under the current guidelines, this amount is only for \$30,000 to bring a flood-damaged, insured building into compliance with state or local floodplain management laws or ordinances. CAN YOU GUARANTEE US THAT \$30,000 WILL BE ENOUGH TO ACCOMPLISH THIS? I think not!

Currently, NFIP guidelines allow for zones to be grandfathered and policies to be assigned to new buyers but keep in mind that since NFIP is run by the government, <sup>and they</sup> can change the rules INCLUDING THE GRANDFATHER RULES AT ANYTIME!!! CAN YOU GUARANTEE US THAT THE CURRENT RULES AND RATES WILL REMAIN FOREVER? I didn't think so.

Can you guarantee us in writing that once this flood gate goes up; our local floodplain management people will not change our flood zones, rates and grandfather rules. I didn't think so, **therefore, I am very concerned about the availability and/or the affordability of FLOOD INSURANCE in the future!!!**

I would like to submit documents\*\*\* from NFIP's flood manual as evidence to support my findings.

**NOW LETS ADDRESS HOMEOWNER INSURANCE:** Since Katrina, some insurance companies have ceased writing Homeowner insurance or even cancelled Homeowner insurance based on current risk factors that include but are not limited to major waterways and levee protection. Some companies have also set new guidelines not to insure new properties located less than a mile from a major waterway. Who can guarantee us that once this Flood Gate is built, insurance companies WILL NOT RAISE OUR RATES OR NON-RENEW OUR POLICIES based on the new risk factors. NO ONE CAN!!!!!! Sure, if we lose our major insurance company, we can always turn to LA CITIZENS FAIR PLAN for insurance. But let me assure you, these rates are between 30-40% higher than the normal market. And if a company decides after this flood gate goes up, that everyone SOUTH is considered COASTAL, then our rates could

increase even higher. Remember an insurance company is a BUSINESS and like any business wants to turn a profit.

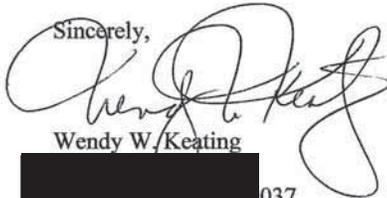
No one can predict the future.....not even the government. Look at the situation we are currently in with all the BAILOUT MONIES!! Would we have ever guessed we would be bailing out banks, car factories, and insurance companies?

I am not opposed to the elevation of the levee system, but we DO NOT NEED A FLOOD GATE DIVIDING OUR PARISH!!!

PLEASE SAVE OUR COMMUNITY AND DO NOT PUT UP A FLOOD GATE!!!!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Sincerely,



Wendy W/Keating

037

/wwk

Encls: DOC 1: Email from Anthony Buras\*  
DOC 2: Letter from Robert Gravolet\*\*  
DOC 3: Three pages from NFIP Manual\*\*\*

Document #1

Wendy W Keating

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 02, 2009 10:40 AM  
**To:** Wendy W Keating  
**Subject:** FW: alliance/oakville  
**Attachments:** Public.doc

Wendy,

The attachment is information I received from Bobby Gravolet late yesterday afternoon. I believe it contains everything you are looking for. I also compiled the following that I think may help.

actual retail businesses in area we believe to be 5  
citrus industry 25-30 growers/nursery (families)  
16-20 million dollars per year economic impact  
75-80% of Pla. citrus industry in this area  
population yr 2000 3,059 March 08 est. 4,278

If you need anything else, please let me know.

Anthony Buras

----- Forwarded Message: -----  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW: alliance/oakville  
**Date:** Fri, 01 May 2009 21:34:43 +0000

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 01, 2009 4:31 PM  
**To:** Lois LeJeune  
**Subject:** alliance/oakville  
  
Lois  
Attached is the information you requested  
Ann Fox

5/4/2009

Document # 2

May 4, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The following is a summary count and value of residential structures, additions, commercial, industrial and public improvements from Oakville to Alliance. The values listed are expressed in both assessed and fair market value. (see attached for more detail)

Residences & Residential structures

Count	Assessed Value	Fair Market Value
857	8,516,916	85,169,150

Trailers & Trailer improvements

Count	Assessed Value	Fair Market Value
232	301,525	3,015,250

Commercial Bldgs

Count	Assessed Value	Fair Market Value
24	678,865	4,525,767

Alliance/Conocophillips Refinery

AV = 112,547,540

FMV = 750,316,933

Enbridge Compressor Station

AV = 1,680,140

FMV = 6,720,056

Belle Chasse Middle School

FMV = 11,020,586

Scottville Fire House

FMV = 1,250,000

**Total Improvement Fair Market Value**

**Oakville to Alliance, Plaquemines Parish, LA**

**\$ 862,018,246**

Robert R. Gravolet, CLA

Assessor

Plaquemines Parish

Sources: Plaquemines Parish Assessor, Plaquemines Parish School Board, Plaquemines Parish Government

Document # 3

Pg 1 of 3

**PREFERRED RISK POLICY**

**I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Preferred Risk Policy (PRP) offers low-cost coverage to owners and tenants of eligible buildings located in the moderate-risk **B, C, and X Zones** in NFIP **Regular Program communities**.

For residential properties, the maximum coverage combination is \$250,000 building and \$100,000 contents. Up to \$100,000 contents-only coverage is available.

For non-residential properties, the maximum coverage combination is \$500,000 building and \$500,000 contents. Up to \$500,000 contents-only coverage is available.

Only one building can be insured per policy, and only one policy can be written on each building.

**II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**A. Flood Zone**

To be eligible for building/contents coverage or contents-only coverage under the PRP, the building must be in a B, C, or X Zone on the effective date of the policy. However, for the purpose of determining the flood zone, the agent may use the FIRM in effect at the time of application and presentment of premium. The flood map available at the time of the renewal offer determines a building's continued eligibility for the PRP. (See V. RENEWAL.) NFIP map grandfathering rules do not apply to the PRP.

**B. Occupancy**

Combined building/contents amounts of insurance are available for owners of all eligible occupancy types—one- to four-family properties (including individual condominium units in

condominium buildings), other residential properties, and non-residential properties.

Contents-only coverage is available for tenants and owners of all eligible occupancies, except when contents are located entirely in a basement.

**C. Loss History**

A building's eligibility for the PRP is based on the preceding requirements and on the building's flood loss history. If one of the following conditions exists within any 10-year period, regardless of any change(s) in ownership of the building, then the building is **not eligible** for the PRP:

- 2 flood insurance claim payments, each more than \$1,000; or
- 3 or more flood insurance claim payments, regardless of amount; or
- 2 Federal flood disaster relief payments (including loans and grants), each more than \$1,000; or
- 3 Federal flood disaster relief payments (including loans and grants), regardless of amount; or
- 1 flood insurance claim payment and 1 Federal flood disaster relief payment (including loans and grants), each more than \$1,000.

In reviewing a building's flood loss history for PRP eligibility, be aware that:

- A flood insurance claim payment (building and/or contents) and a Federal flood disaster relief payment (including loans and grants) for the same loss are considered a single payment.
- Federal flood disaster relief payments (including loans and grants) are considered only if the building sustained flood damage.

**THE PRP AT A GLANCE**

COVERAGE TYPE	MAXIMUM LIMITS BY OCCUPANCY TYPE		
	1-4 Family	Other Residential	Non-Residential
Combined Building/ Contents	\$250,000/ \$100,000	\$250,000/ \$100,000	\$500,000/ \$500,000
Contents Only	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$500,000

Page 2 of 3

## GUIDANCE FOR SEVERE REPETITIVE LOSS PROPERTIES

### I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the severe repetitive loss (SRL) properties strategy is to eliminate or reduce the damage to property and the disruption to life caused by repeated flooding. Approximately 8,000 insured properties have been identified with a high frequency of losses or a high value of claims. As these policies come up for renewal, they will be transferred to the NFIP Servicing Agent's Special Direct Facility (SDF).

The close supervision the SDF provides the group of policies, and the attention the group of properties receives when mitigation decisions are made, contribute to attaining the strategy's primary objective. The SRL group consists of any NFIP-insured residential property that has met at least one of the following paid flood loss criteria since 1978, regardless of ownership:

1. Four or more separate claim payments of more than \$5,000 each (including building and contents payments); or
2. Two or more separate claim payments (building payments only) where the total of the payments exceeds the current value of the property.

In either case, two of the claim payments must have occurred within 10 years of each other. Multiple losses at the same location within 10 days of each other are counted as one loss, with the payment amounts added together.

The loss history includes all ownership of the property since 1978 or since the building's construction if built after 1978.

Severe repetitive loss properties with renewal dates of January 1, 2007, and later will be afforded coverage (new business or renewal) only through the SDF.

The agent of record will remain in that capacity while the policy is in the SDF. The NFIP Servicing Agent will pay the agent of record the standard 15 percent commission that is paid on all NFIP Direct business.

### II. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Policies that renew on or after January 1, 2007, and meet the criteria for severe repetitive loss will be transferred to the SDF for policy issuance.

Any policy that meets the SRL criteria during the current term will be transferred to the SDF with the subsequent renewal. As requests for review (discussed in "III. Dispute Resolution" below) are successful, and FEMA or its designee approves properties for mitigation, policies will be transferred out of the SDF.

When policies are to be transferred to the SDF, the NFIP Bureau and Statistical Agent will notify WYO companies and the NFIP Servicing Agent at least 150 days prior to the expiration date. The companies will notify the affected policyholders, their agents, and their lenders 90 days before expiration of the policy. This notice will explain that the policies are ineligible for coverage outside of the SDF. (See agent, lender, and policyholder SDF Notification Letters on pages SRL 3-8.) Offers to renew will be issued by the SDF approximately 45 days prior to the expiration date.

### III. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The designation of a property as SRL is based on the data on file with the NFIP. If the policyholder believes the claims history is inaccurate, or if the property has already been mitigated to reduce future flooding, the designation may be challenged.

When a policyholder has documentation that the NFIP-insured property has not sustained the losses reported, a request for review may be presented, *in writing*, to the NFIP Bureau and Statistical Agent. All documentation to substantiate the review must be included with the request letter. The policy will remain in the SDF during the review.

The policyholder and agent will be notified of the results of the review. If the policyholder's request for review is successful, and the policyholder requests that the policy be returned to the previous carrier, the SDF policy will be canceled and the full premium will be returned to the former carrier. Otherwise, the policy will be set up for release from the SDF at its next renewal. The carrier will write the policy using the SDF's effective dates. If, however, a loss occurs both in the current term and before the policy can be returned to the former carrier, the SDF will continue to service the claim and will return the policy at the next renewal cycle, unless the new claim qualifies the property for the SDF.

storm or hurricane event will begin the watch for possible single adjuster response. When the storm is 48 hours from landfall, this will initiate FEMA's approval of the SAP response.

During that time, the NFIP Bureau and Statistical Agent's General Adjusters will be deployed to strategic areas close to where the storm is predicted to strike. At landfall, they will be able to immediately assess the damage impact from the storm. No later than 24 hours after landfall, the WYO Companies will be advised by telephone, fax, or e-mail through their designated Single Adjuster Liaison, as to the areas and state(s) that will be activated. At that point, the WYO Companies will be asked to immediately notify their agents of the SAP procedures in reporting the claims.

The NFIP Bureau and Statistical Agent will notify the WYO Companies by telephone, fax, or e-mail to have their agency staff submit all flood losses that are reasonably believed to involve wind and flood damage to the State Coastal Plans (i.e., Windpool, Fairplan, Beachplan).

The NFIP will notify all SAP Liaisons of the Claims Coordinating Office's (CCO) location, telephone number, fax number, and address, if the CCO does not co-locate with the State Coastal Plans.

When the CCO is operational, the WYO companies will be notified of all assigned claims. Notice of losses reflecting the assigned adjusting firms will be faxed each day. Once the assignment is made and communicated to each company, the WYO Company will manage its own loss adjustment. However, the Catastrophe CCO will ensure that the adjuster receives a copy of the loss assignments, the name of the WYO Company, and the SAP Liaison telephone number.

#### **B. Training**

The NFIP Bureau and Statistical Agent Claims Coordinator and FEMA will annually conduct coordination training sessions, both pre- and post-event, in conjunction with the State Coastal Plans, adjusters, state and local officials, and insurers to train all participants. These training sessions will include regional issues, the State Coastal Plans' procedures, confirmation of coverages for SAP losses, closed without payment (CWOP) procedures, adjuster resources, and duplicate assignments, etc.

The NFIP Bureau and Statistical Agent will continue to provide training for specific problems

and situations that may arise during a catastrophe event. FEMA suggests that within the first 48 hours, or whenever applicable, an adjuster briefing should be conducted for all SAP adjusters and adjusting firms to ensure that they understand program procedures.

Guidelines contained in the NFIP *Adjuster Claims Manual* provide details to address particular claims issues. The manual can be accessed at <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/claimsadj.shtml> under "Information for Claims Adjusters."

#### **C. Producer Responsibilities**

1. When directed by FEMA, the producer will have no authority to assign any losses involving a flood policy when there is a reasonable belief that there is flood and wind damage, and will report the losses on the *combined Wind/Flood* loss notice to the Stationary CCO, with wind coverage information.
2. NFIP/WYO insurers insuring both the flood and the wind loss should not report the combined loss to the CCO, but will assign their own single adjuster.
3. The producers will report their flood losses via fax to the established CCO, along with wind coverage information in every instance except those mentioned above. In all cases the producer should send a copy of the loss notice to the insurer.
4. All separate wind losses insured by a WYO company where a flood policy exists will be reported to the CCO for assignment to qualified adjusting firms at the CCO.
5. Upon loss assignment, the insurer will be advised of the assigned adjusting firm by modem transfer, fax, or mail.
6. These procedures relate to assignment of claims only. Insurers may perform other procedures in accordance with their standard business practices.

#### **IV. INCREASED COST OF COMPLIANCE (ICC) CLAIMS**

The NFIP policy will pay a qualified policyholder up to \$30,000 of Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) benefits to bring a flood-damaged, insured building into compliance with state or local floodplain management laws or ordinances. To adequately advise clients at policy inception, and to assist them in the event of a claim, the producer should become familiar with ICC.

[REDACTED]

LA 70037

[REDACTED]

Army Corps of Engineers  
Re: IER13 Westbank & Vicinity Project

To whom it may concern,

I've attached copies of meeting summary's for this project and an article from WDSU. I've highlighted the area pertinent to my comment for you to read and refer to.

In the May 08 meeting, Ms. Vignes says that area south of the proposed Oakville gate would be flooded and be "storage...all the way to the Gulf of Mexico." "The water has tens of thousands of acres of land to be dispersed over as opposed to the narrow canal." This tells me that Jesuit Bend and below will flood due to the proposed gate in Oakville. The video on the IER-13 webpage gave me a good interpretation of this as well.

She is then contradicted in the Recap of Previous Public Meetings from 04 May 09, when Response 2 states "The Westbank and Vicinity Project, including the Eastern Tie In floodgate, would not create additional flood risk to Plaquemines south of Oakville when the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levees are completed." As we were also shown on page 11 of this presentation, the Non-Federal Levee construction is due to begin in 2011 and complete in 2013. The proposed Oakville floodgate is due to be complete in 2011. From this information, I gather that there is a two year time frame that my home in Jesuit Bend will be at an increased risk of flooding.

This leads me to the 08 Jan 09 Public Meeting Summary in which Julie Vignes says "If we do not get this system built and authorized it would inhibit the people from getting affordable insurance." Since my home is in Jesuit Bend, outside of the proposed floodgate and 100-year risk reduction system, I understand this to tell me that I will not be able to get affordable insurance. Who is going to help me pay for this "unaffordable insurance," of which I never expected when I built my home 7 years ago? As I had no knowledge of a flood barrier to be constructed 2 miles before my home. Who am I going to turn to for assistance when my home floods and I potentially can not continue to obtain this insurance?

I would lastly like to mention a comment from Mr. Billy Marchal, an engineer with the Flood Protection Alliance, in an article on [www.wdsu.com](http://www.wdsu.com) entitled Massive Corps Project to Address West Bank Flooding Construction On West Closure Complex To Begin Soon. He states, "Wherever you have a barrier, water is going to stack up against that barrier. Anybody outside of that barrier is going to [be] affected somewhat ..."

This is very upsetting; as we all know insurance rates have steadily risen over the years, especially after Hurricane Katrina. I have yet to flood and feel as though I will be extremely vulnerable if this floodgate is constructed. I would appreciate your consideration for my home and family as well as others in the area south of the proposed floodgate. Thank-you for accepting my comment.

Jesuit Bend resident,  
Christie Lauff

*Christie Lauff*



## Public Meeting Summary

**Response 37.** Ted Carr: The whole thing is about 4.5 miles with no set cost because we are still in the design phase.

**Comment 38.** Dewell Walker: If you build the levee down in lower Plaquemines Parish you would not need the one here. We need to put our money and concerns on the beach. We need to think about these beaches and quite with these small projects. We live in the great state of Louisiana and do not want to go through this again.

**Response 38.** Rene Poche: This is not to put fear into anyone but this is a reality. Tell me something absolute in life? Coastal Restoration and the current projects can help to reduce risk but we can not say we can provide 100 percent of your protection. Listen to your public officials when they tell you to evacuate the area and leave when a storm is approaching.

**Question 39.** Danny Trosclair: I suggest you strongly consider a flood gate to eliminate 100 percent of what we are talking about here tonight. It would be a lower cost than the ramp being proposed. The time frame would be reduced by putting a floodgate and we could work together to make the impacts less for businesses, community, safety and traffic. Traffic needs to be considered in this location. Do you have a projected start date? Do you have a projected time for bidding? What is the projected time frame for construction?

**Response 39.** Ted Carr: There are some caveats. Work needs to be done to get real estate and right of way. We are looking to have design plans in the August timeframe. After this time, the real estate can begin. To make the 2011 timeframe these projects are moving quick but does not mean we are not going to have the required work done to get to where we want to be.

**Question 40.** Danny Trosclair: I know the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project is a few years behind and you are shooting to make the 2011 deadline. Is there any consideration for the Non-Federal Levee to be federalized in a couple of years?

**Response 40.** Julie Vignes: The Corps is authorized to build a system to be certified. If we do not get this system built and authorized it would inhibit the people from getting affordable insurance. The urgency behind the 2011 deadline is for insurance reasons. Congress appropriated money to improve the system but it is not going to be equal to be certified for risk reduction.

**Question 41.** Danny Trosclair: Seems like a lot of money to spend going to build something across the highway when it could go south, all the way down.

**Response 41.** Julie Vignes: There is another team working on the Non-Federal Levee system. The issue is certification of the system. Things are still on the table but a lot of people were against flood gates. The DOTD will look at traffic and liability on this large high speed highway. There are adverse impacts to putting a floodgate. As we get more input and look at the impacts

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.



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



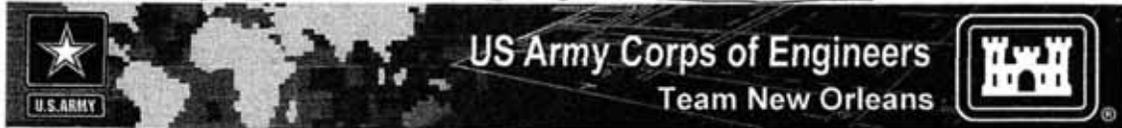
## **Recap of Previous Public Meetings**

**Request 1. Extend comment period on Individual Environmental Report 13, Eastern Tie In**

**Response 1. Granted, IER 13 comment period will now end May 18, 2009**

**Comment 2. Floodgate proposed on Hwy 23 will flood Plaquemines south of Oakville**

**Response 2. The Westbank and Vicinity Project, including the Eastern Tie In floodgate, would not create additional flood risk to Plaquemines south of Oakville when the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levees are completed**



## Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee The Path Ahead

- Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) in development - three public meetings to date, your comments count
- Draft SEIS ready for public review this summer
- Record of Decision (ROD) this fall
- Project Partnering Agreement
- Acquisition of Right of Way
- Construction Begins 2011
- Construction Complete in 2013

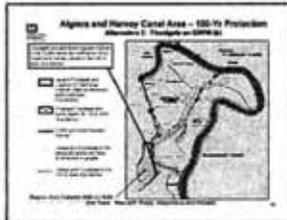
## Public Meeting Summary

**Response 30a.** Connell: All of it was taken into consideration. The numerical models have determined the hydraulic conditions and decided that the storage capacity here fills up extraordinary rapidly.

**Response 30b:** Maj. Kurgan: Like I said, it is like a cup that needs to fill up. Once you fill that cup up the safe elevation of water is mimicked by the gate and so the factor of the gate here on these levels does not change. The models still shows it needs to be elevation 14 for 100-year protection in 2057.

**Question 31.** Margie Leclere: And you can't go below the wetlands because the soils are unstable in the wetlands?

**Response 31.** Connell: Well this is just a natural point of convergence. Where we have the existing Hero Canal Levee, there is a short narrow part. This project takes out about 41 percent of the levees of the whole Westbank project. When you put this structure here [pointing] you take out 27 miles of levees and you take out the uncertainty. A relative reliability analysis was done and there will be a further risk analysis done by experts in the field. They've concluded this on a relative scale that compared to parallel protection this is a more reliable way to provide protection.



**Question 32.** Margie Leclere: If it was placed lower, it wouldn't be stable enough because that levee is low and not rising any further than what it is currently?

**Response 32a.** Vignes: If it was put any lower then we would have to build more to tie into it.

**Response 32b.** Connell: It has been modeled and the model shows that it does not have the effect of pushing water higher.

**Question 33.** Margie Leclere: So does a floodgate make Oakville more vulnerable?

**Response 33.** Maj. Kurgan: The floodgate would not increase the risk to Oakville.

**Question 34.** Man: The more you block there, the more build up you would have below?

**Response 34.** Maj. Kurgan: It has a negligible impact. If you look at the land mass there verses the land mass south of there, it is miniscule.

**Question 35.** Man: The land mass south of there would fill up because you stopped the flow and then it would build up from Oakville south?

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

## WDSU.com

### Massive Corps Project To Address West Bank Flooding

#### **Construction On West Closure Complex To Begin Soon**

POSTED: 2:11 pm CDT May 20, 2009  
UPDATED: 6:10 pm CDT May 20, 2009

**NEW ORLEANS** -- Hurricanes Gustav and Ike proved that the west bank is vulnerable to flooding, but a \$1 billion federal flood protection project hopes to change that.

**Also:**  
**Is 100-Year Flood Protection Enough?**  
**Inner Harbor Navigational Canal Project Under Way**

Related To Story



**Video: Project Aims To Address West Bank Storm Flooding**

Flood protection experts are waiting and watching as the West Closure Complex -- one of the largest projects ever undertaken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- has yet to start construction.

"Of course we would like to have had all that work done in the first year," said Bobby Turner with the Flood Protection Authority East. It is a tremendous amount of work ... it is moving forward."

The West Closure Complex will be built on the west bank, south of the juncture of the Algiers and Harvey canals, across the Intracoastal Waterway.

"(They're) building one of the world's largest pumping stations -- 20,000 cubic feet per second -- in a 225-foot navigation gate," said Billy Marchal, an engineer with the Flood Protection Alliance.

The idea is to protect more than 245,000 residents on the west bank of the Mississippi River from hurricane storm surge.

"All the hydraulic modeling in that area shows us the best solution for surge protection is to put in a surge barrier," said Army Corps spokeswoman Karen Durham-Aguilera. "So it'll be two gates similar to the (Inner Harbor Navigational Canal) as the best way to keep water from coming into that area, instead of trying to do things like raise the flood walls further at the Harvey and Algiers canals."

The fully funded project is expected to run between \$600 million and \$1 billion. Marchal said it could have been done for less than that many years ago.

"In 1994 they decided that instead of building that pumping station, down south of the junction of the Harvey and Algiers canal ... they went up and built the flood gate at Lapalco. So here we are 15 years later, doing it correctly," Marchal said.

The Corps of Engineers just awarded the construction contracts to four firms. Construction is expected to begin in June.

The Corps will try to limit the impact on environmentally sensitive areas like Bayou Aux Carpes and Jean Lafitte National Park. But the West Closure Complex is not without its critics.

"In the west bank project, Lafitte has a concern about it," Marchal said. "Wherever you have a barrier, water is going to stack up against that barrier. Anybody outside of that barrier is going to be affected somewhat ... It may raise the water levels in Lafitte a foot or two, but you'd already have 10 feet of water in Lafitte. So if 12 feet is that much worse, then I don't know."

And Turner, along with Levees.org founder Sandy Rosenthal, says that the project still only provides 100-year flood protection, which is not enough.

"In a 50-year period, there is a 40 percent chance of flooding, which is too high," Rosenthal said. "We should be asking for 500-year or 1,000-year protection."

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**Ned F. Malley Sr.**

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Paula Rasberry [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2009 6:24 AM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Subject: flood wall

I am opposed to the building of a flood wall in the north end of Plaquemines Parish. What makes our homes so less important that we can't have the flood protection everyone else deserves. My name is Ned F. Malley Sr. My phone # is 5 [REDACTED]

**Claudia Nelson (sp?)**

[REDACTED]

**Belle Chase, LA 70037**

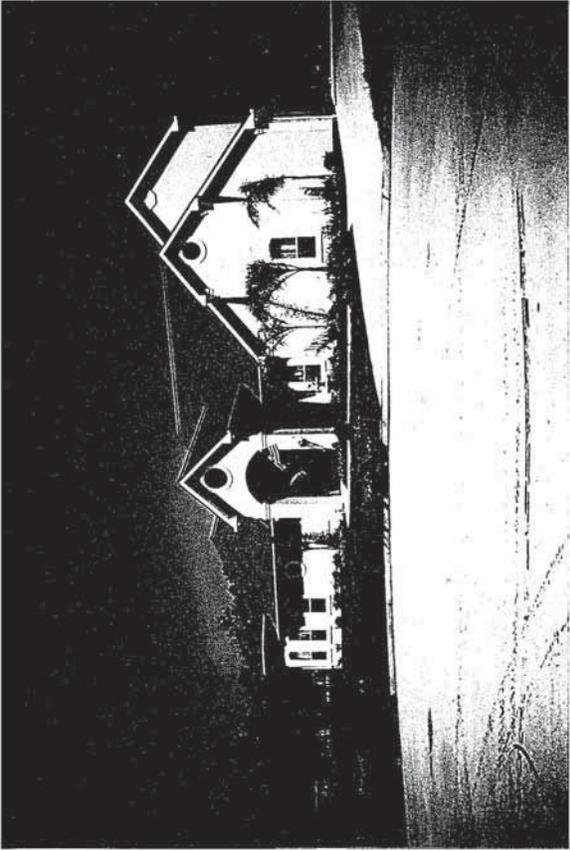
[REDACTED]

email: claudine@pacal.com

This is my house located @  
[redacted]  
Bell Chase, LA 70037  
(Geant Bend)

This is what I want to  
protect and what I'm fighting  
for  
Claudia  
[redacted]

[redacted]



Mario Popich

Belle Chase, LA 70037

Individual Environmental Report  
Public Comment

Comments: "IER 13", FLOOD GATE ACROSS HWY 23  
SHOULD BE MOVED FURTHER SOUTH TO CONOCO PHILLIPS  
REFINERY AREA TO INCLUDE "JESUIT BEND"  
OR IT SHOULD NOT BE CONSTRUCTED AT ALL.  
UPDATE YOUR STUDIES

Name MARIO POPICH Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Documents Available at [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

Pamela Robeaux

Belle Chase, LA 70037

Individual Environmental Report  
Public Comment

Comments: As a resident of Grand Bend, La. I am very concerned about being excluded from the 100-year levee system. The construction of a flood gate or flood wall across Highway 23 in Oakville, La. will decrease our property value & all properties south of the wall. Health in our community will become stagnant and nuisance rats, which are already unaffordable, will rise again. Please reconsider & include our community in the 100-year levee system plan. Please ~~NO~~ Flood wall or gate! Thank you!

Name Pamela Robeaux Affiliation

Street

City, St

E-mail

Environmental Documents Available at [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

**Bobby Stockwell**

[REDACTED]

A message was passed onto me last night from a resident, Bobbie Stockwell (phone [REDACTED] wanting to know if a decision had been made about the floodgate in IER 13.

Please give her a call.

Thank you,

Stacy

Stacy Mendoza

Public Affairs Contractor

Hurricane Protection Office

7400 Leake Ave

New Orleans, LA 70118

Office [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Tiffany Vickneer**



Voicemail Comment

Hi my name is Tiffany Vickneer and I am for the floodwall. Thank you.

**Ty Zigner**



Voicemail Comment

Hey my name is Ty Zigner. Just calling to say that I have some property off of barrier road and I'm for the floodwall. Thank you.

Unknown

Individual Environmental Report  
Public Comment

Comments: *I* You'll want to protect Belle Chasse well during Betsy the water was splashing over the levee. The right hurricane coming up the river will also flood Belle Chasse. We need the 100 year protection levee's. I've lived in Plaquemine parish most of my life & never went under water, except; we got water for Katrina. It came & it went. My grandparents were here for the 1927 hurricane. They were farmers & help build this parish

Name Parish Residents Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Documents Available at [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

Unknown

Individual Environmental Report  
Public Comment

Comments: Why BELIEVE The Corps. you DYNAMITED CARNARON when  
IT WAS NOT NECESSARY. you BUILT MARGO AGAINST THE WISHES OF VIRGINIA  
ALL OF ST. BERNARD AND IT PROVED TO BE USELESS BECAUSE ACCESS TO THE  
RIVER WAS LIMITED BY OUTDATED LOCKS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN UPDATED FIRST.  
NOW YOU WANT TO BLOCK OFF MORE THAN HALF OF OUR PARISH YOU  
TELL US WE WON'T FLOOD BECAUSE OF THE LEVEES + LOCKS YOU HAVE BUILT  
WHERE DO YOU THINK ALL THIS TRAPPED WATER WILL GO?

Name Parish Resident Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Documents Available at [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

## **Petition Signatures Against IER 13**



24. AGAINST: Paul Helm
25. AGAINST: Alvin Davis
26. AGAINST: Alfred Gross
27. AGAINST: Edith Gross
28. AGAINST: Ralph H. Hannon
29. AGAINST: Henry White
30. AGAINST: Marlene White
31. AGAINST: James J. J. J. J.
32. AGAINST: Robert J. J. J.
33. AGAINST: John J. J. J.
34. AGAINST: Rae Nell Hunter
35. AGAINST: Reggie Whit
36. AGAINST: Thyllis Di Zebbo
37. AGAINST: Susan E. Harvey
38. AGAINST: Long Baudrey Jr.
39. AGAINST: Matt Zurch
40. AGAINST: Robin Zurch

44. AGAINST: Budget Christopher
45. AGAINST: Senna R. Holard
46. AGAINST: Timothy D. Holard
47. AGAINST: Marc J. Holard
48. AGAINST: Timothy D. Holard
49. AGAINST: Jacob J. Holard
50. AGAINST: Ray D. Holard
51. AGAINST: J. H. Holard
52. AGAINST: Ray D. Holard
53. AGAINST: Ray D. Holard
54. AGAINST: Ray D. Holard
55. AGAINST: Tim W. Suvorich
56. AGAINST: Bug Stecher
57. AGAINST: Tim W. Suvorich
58. AGAINST: Tim W. Suvorich
59. AGAINST: Eric Ball
60. AGAINST: Cynthia Austin

65. AGAINST: Wendy A. Katz
66. AGAINST: Cheryl Dawson
67. AGAINST: Penny Lasquet
68. AGAINST: Jamie Stewart
69. AGAINST: PO STAVES
70. AGAINST: Jamie Stewart
71. AGAINST: Stewart Perreault
72. AGAINST: Bryan Perreault
73. AGAINST: Mary A. Caprice
74. AGAINST: Shannon Frankovich
75. AGAINST: anthy tk
76. AGAINST: Notable Martin
77. AGAINST: Melanie Hinkel
78. AGAINST: Mark C. Hinkel
79. AGAINST: Grace Palmisano.
80. AGAINST: DWAYNE PALMISANO
81. AGAINST: Becky Kaliszole

- 85. AGAINST: Kene Murphy
- 86. AGAINST: Cathy Murphy
- 87. AGAINST: Chla
- 88. AGAINST: Yun Ra
- 89. AGAINST: John M. Adams
- 90. AGAINST: Blaine Bergeron
- 91. AGAINST: Jim R. Adams
- 92. AGAINST: Anna Zayna
- 93. AGAINST: John Brooker
- 94. AGAINST: Ryan Matting
- 95. AGAINST: Herald Raymond
- 96. AGAINST: Marie Brooker
- 97. AGAINST: Dan Musmanno
- 98. AGAINST: Lona Musmanno
- 99. AGAINST: Marie Rehner
- 100. AGAINST: Rudolph Rehner
- 101. AGAINST: Mari Kutor

106. AGAINST: Joseph E. Connelly
107. AGAINST: Bernadette Courcelle
108. AGAINST: Theresa G. Kelly
109. AGAINST: Tony O'Connell
110. AGAINST: Genevieve Mather
111. AGAINST: Jan Mather
112. AGAINST: Edith Sercovich
113. AGAINST: May Sercovich
114. AGAINST: Amy Sercovich Jr.
115. AGAINST: Toughen De Rosa
116. AGAINST: Mary Logan
117. AGAINST: James Logan
118. AGAINST: Bill DeWert
119. AGAINST: Dodd DeWert
120. AGAINST: Jeff Sam
121. AGAINST: Priscilla Ruse
122. AGAINST: Bonnie Tate

126. AGAINST: Mary Jane Scanlon
127. AGAINST: Donald Scanlon
128. AGAINST: Kevin Scanlon
129. AGAINST: Alveta B. Strickland
130. AGAINST: Anita Garac Cognovich
131. AGAINST: Dinah L. Thompson
132. AGAINST: Roy Thompson
133. AGAINST: Laurie D. Sale
134. AGAINST: John C. Sale
135. AGAINST: Arvin James A
136. AGAINST: Arvin James CJT.
137. AGAINST: Karen Ingolda
138. AGAINST: Erin Ingolda
139. AGAINST: Jane Steppes
140. AGAINST: Timothy Steppes
141. AGAINST: Bronson Lemi
142. AGAINST: Guy Fawcett

147. AGAINST: Chad Bond
148. AGAINST: Evan Aloek
149. AGAINST: Nola Kebab
150. AGAINST: Joseph Kebab Jr. M.H.
151. AGAINST: Kevin Barthelmy Sr.
152. AGAINST: Monique Bartley
153. AGAINST: William Ochutka
154. AGAINST: Marion C. Boatman
155. AGAINST: Shirley Boatman
156. AGAINST: David Murr
157. AGAINST: Tammy Murr
158. AGAINST: Martha Murr Sr.
159. AGAINST: Chelsea Paul
160. AGAINST: Theera Szym
161. AGAINST: Christopher C. Stappert III
162. AGAINST: Rebecca Deal
163. AGAINST: Raquel Fisher

167. AGAINST: Calvin Hunt
168. AGAINST: Vanessa Dunt
169. AGAINST: Robert A. Smith
170. AGAINST: Donna D. Smith
171. AGAINST: Elizabeth Yette
172. AGAINST: Gene Yette
173. AGAINST: Andre Yee
174. AGAINST: Damon Yee
175. AGAINST: Michael Roberts
176. AGAINST: Paula Roberts
177. AGAINST: Freda Adolph
178. AGAINST: Jennie Gaudin
179. AGAINST: Randy Gaudin
180. AGAINST: Helen Martin
181. AGAINST: Lillian Kelly
182. AGAINST: NORWOOD Kelly Jr.
183. AGAINST: Chuck Kelly III

- 188. AGAINST: Vickie Tierney
- 189. AGAINST: Raven Chantir
- 190. AGAINST: Gene R Bures
- 191. AGAINST: Nancy C Smith
- 192. AGAINST: John W. [unclear]
- 193. AGAINST: Anna Vaughn
- 194. AGAINST: Jedie S Rollo
- 195. AGAINST: Wayne A Rollo
- 196. AGAINST: Madeline Benat
- 197. AGAINST: [unclear]
- 198. AGAINST: Michael J. Conroy
- 199. AGAINST: Johnny Comaru
- 200. AGAINST: [unclear]
- 201. AGAINST: Leah Mistic
- 202. AGAINST: Heidi Mistic
- 203. AGAINST: Danae Burt
- 204. AGAINST: Chloe Burt

208. AGAINST: Rahit Trest III
209. AGAINST: Pam Prest
210. AGAINST: Donna Prest
211. AGAINST: Kyle Sweet
212. AGAINST: Dani Leigh Prest
213. AGAINST: Leslie R. Prest
214. AGAINST: John Brustkotter
215. AGAINST: Donna Brustkotter
216. AGAINST: Denick Dybeck
217. AGAINST: Harvey Hobert
218. AGAINST: Lamonia Regas
219. AGAINST: Kelanna Regas
220. AGAINST: Joni Corrie
221. AGAINST: Deise S. Smith
222. AGAINST: Courtney Mier
223. AGAINST: Jay Robbins
224. AGAINST: Shoni Hines

229. AGAINST: Fulton Hamer
230. AGAINST: Spencer Harvey
231. AGAINST: B. Powell
232. AGAINST: Lois Hammen
233. AGAINST: Paul V. Hamer
234. AGAINST: James B. Baker
235. AGAINST: Clifford J. Bussard
236. AGAINST: Robert Powell
237. AGAINST: Robert Va. Metz
238. AGAINST: Clement J. Parker Jr
239. AGAINST: Emergency Provisions
240. AGAINST: Nicky Lopez
241. AGAINST: Lutz Bamberger
242. AGAINST: Boyd Carrasella
243. AGAINST: Art Slap - ANTHONY LLOYD
244. AGAINST: Paula Rella
245. AGAINST: Jean Leff

- 249. AGAINST: Kathy Williams
- 250. AGAINST: Anthony Johnson
- 251. AGAINST: Mike
- 252. AGAINST: ERIK W. NEWMAN
- 253. AGAINST: Judith & Charles Hutzler
- 254. AGAINST: Allen & Charlene Martin
- 255. AGAINST: Bryan & Vanessa Fisher
- 256. AGAINST: Chelsea B. Martin
- 257. AGAINST: Elizabeth Clausen
- 258. AGAINST: Nami Plaxman
- 259. AGAINST: Ming Crosby
- 260. AGAINST: Charles Hendry III
- 261. AGAINST: Anna Mayfield
- 262. AGAINST: Kyle Hancock
- 263. AGAINST: Bridgett Tranter
- 264. AGAINST: OSCAR & KAREN V. BROOKS
- 265. AGAINST: J.P. Milse

← 2 NAMES  
 ← 2 NAMES  
 ← 2 NAMES

← 2 NAMES

270. AGAINST: Janna Anderson
271. AGAINST: Mona Pawajko
272. AGAINST: Mouca Dexner
273. AGAINST: Andrea Burk
274. AGAINST: Guanita Ross
275. AGAINST: Sam Letell
276. AGAINST: Mal R Kelly
277. AGAINST: Joy Vaughn
278. AGAINST: Ralph G. Vaughn
279. AGAINST: Deborah Escalade
280. AGAINST: Lester Escalade
281. AGAINST: Russell King
282. AGAINST: Hughes Sanders
283. AGAINST: Pamela Black
284. AGAINST: Barbara Winder
285. AGAINST: Oscar K. Anderson
286. AGAINST: Mr & Mrs. Jules Anderson Jr. E 2 NAMES

290. AGAINST: George W. Ross
291. AGAINST: Russell Hainey, Sr.
292. AGAINST: Carolyn Hainey
293. AGAINST: Russell Hainey, Jr.
294. AGAINST: Pam Hainey
295. AGAINST: David Gault
296. AGAINST: Angela Gault
297. AGAINST: Diane Landry Means
298. AGAINST: Tom Medup
299. AGAINST: Kim R. Medup
300. AGAINST: Brian Medup
301. AGAINST: Billy Medup
302. AGAINST: Danni Kennair
303. AGAINST: Todd Kennair
304. AGAINST: Sette Kennair
305. AGAINST: Jo Ann Lloyd
306. AGAINST: Juliana Carrell

- 311. AGAINST: Alex E. Rozen
- 312. AGAINST: Patsy M. Rozen
- 313. AGAINST: Suey B. Rainal
- 314. AGAINST: G. G. P.
- 315. AGAINST: Donna M. Reed
- 316. AGAINST: Yvonne P. Stulle
- 317. AGAINST: Leon J. Stulle Jr.
- 318. AGAINST: Stephanie Tell
- 319. AGAINST: Cay Tell
- 320. AGAINST: Samuel Guisich
- 321. AGAINST: Frank Guisich
- 322. AGAINST: Charles Kapp
- 323. AGAINST: Deborah Kapp
- 324. AGAINST: Melina Rodriguez
- 325. AGAINST: James Rodriguez
- 326. AGAINST: Joshua Rodriguez
- 327. AGAINST: Derek Nelson

331. AGAINST: Denise Jague
332. AGAINST: Kent P. Leardina
333. AGAINST: Linda Leardina
334. AGAINST: D. [unclear]
335. AGAINST: A. [unclear]
336. AGAINST: Mary K. Cozie
337. AGAINST: Nick Mithun
338. AGAINST: Sam St. De
339. AGAINST: Ronnie St. De
340. AGAINST: Melina Roubel
341. AGAINST: Norman C. Roubel
342. AGAINST: Carl Melha
343. AGAINST: Pt P. Oj
344. AGAINST: Man B. D
345. AGAINST: Christie Layff
346. AGAINST: King Layff
347. AGAINST: Haligh S Jones

352. AGAINST: Brady Miller
353. AGAINST: Grace Miller
354. AGAINST: Tracy Miller
355. AGAINST: Lenore Miller
356. AGAINST: Whondy Wheeler
357. AGAINST: Lavintha Burren
358. AGAINST: Evelyn Stricklin
359. AGAINST: Jean Crawford
360. AGAINST: Joan Reinhart
361. AGAINST: Becky Reigh
362. AGAINST: Canell Boudreau
363. AGAINST: DM LaRosa
364. AGAINST: Emily LeMan
365. AGAINST: Shoeme Anderson
366. AGAINST: Les Galls
367. AGAINST: Darleen Galls
368. AGAINST: Lois Landry

372. AGAINST: Francis W. Parker
373. AGAINST: Mario Poyich
374. AGAINST: Tihana Dragobrdur
375. AGAINST: James Bunn
376. AGAINST: Jens Mathison
377. AGAINST: Grace Parker
378. AGAINST: Clement Parker
379. AGAINST: Mikela Moses
380. AGAINST: Christopher Moses
381. AGAINST: Vicki Parker
382. AGAINST: Kashona Woodcock
383. AGAINST: Molly LaFrance
384. AGAINST: William Price
385. AGAINST: John P. McGinn
386. AGAINST: Lucinda McCom
387. AGAINST: Gerald Reynold Skye
388. AGAINST: Brenda Williamson

393. AGAINST: RAY JOHNSON
394. AGAINST: Kathy Weldon
395. AGAINST: Christ Weldon
396. AGAINST: Paula A Johnson
397. AGAINST: Linda Johnson
398. AGAINST: Lita Johnson
399. AGAINST: Ryan Johnson
400. AGAINST: Leah Johnson
401. AGAINST: Karen Johnson
402. AGAINST: Kristy Johnson
403. AGAINST: John Weyand
404. AGAINST: Mandor Manning
405. AGAINST: Robert R. Luter Jr
406. AGAINST: Lore Culburn
407. AGAINST: William Heger
408. AGAINST: James R. Hill
409. AGAINST: Chris Roberts

616. AGAINST: Jeffrey D. Brown

617. AGAINST: James A. Hebert

618. AGAINST: John P. Blasco

619. AGAINST: Leonard Johnson *Graded School* ← 2nd floor

620. AGAINST: Monica Vogt-Hertz

621. AGAINST: Gaynell Ott

622. AGAINST: Susan Brossard

623. AGAINST: Kathy Busan

624. AGAINST: Robin Vogt

625. AGAINST: Patricia Basco

626. AGAINST: William J. Basco

627. AGAINST: Philip Simmons

628. AGAINST: Patty Vogt

629. AGAINST: Joseph LeBoeuf

630. AGAINST: John J. Vogt III

631. AGAINST: Joseph Neal

632. AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

633. AGAINST: Lloyd Off

634. AGAINST: Jody Sly's

635. AGAINST: John Bann

636. AGAINST: Joe Vairon

637. AGAINST: Bob Hark

638. AGAINST: Harry Hark

639. AGAINST: Charmoir Cosse

640. AGAINST: Earl Armstrong

641. AGAINST: Lynn Armstrong

642. AGAINST: Lester Taylor

643. AGAINST: Chris Deal

644. AGAINST: Merab Gers

645. AGAINST: Garth Jones

646. AGAINST: Andrew Du

647. AGAINST: Liffania Bly





680. AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_
681. AGAINST: Michael J. Brasel
682. AGAINST: Barbara W. M.
683. AGAINST: Phil Landry
684. AGAINST: Nat. D. J.
685. AGAINST: P. J. Speight
686. AGAINST: Gerald Kimble Jr.
687. AGAINST: J. B. Hebert
688. AGAINST: Rola Hebert
689. AGAINST: Frank P. J.
690. AGAINST: Jeanne Comery
691. AGAINST: Sonny Adams
692. AGAINST: Carl Dermansky
693. AGAINST: Jose Hermuley
694. AGAINST: Cindy Schmitt
695. AGAINST: Polina Adams

697. AGAINST: De [unclear]
698. AGAINST: Paula Sussner
699. AGAINST: Michael Wilkins
700. AGAINST: Cody Brockhoff
701. AGAINST: Mimi Smith
702. AGAINST: Jane Wathen
703. AGAINST: Alice Higgins
704. AGAINST: John Cheney
705. AGAINST: Robert Brown
706. AGAINST: Christina Fredinich
707. AGAINST: E. Dale Landy Jr
708. AGAINST: Junior H. H. H.
709. AGAINST: Kate Mowery
710. AGAINST: Melba Riddle
711. AGAINST: William Riddle

713. AGAINST:

James Branton

714. AGAINST:

Cheryl Kanatza

715. AGAINST:

C. Lata

716. AGAINST:

By Calabroni

717. AGAINST:

Blafis

718. AGAINST:

Chelsea Sinclair

719. AGAINST:

Elaine Mayfield

720. AGAINST:

Alto Sabate

721. AGAINST:

Larry Samison

722. AGAINST:

~~Therman~~

723. AGAINST:

Therman

724. AGAINST:

~~Therman~~

725. AGAINST:

By Lena Devance

726. AGAINST:

Lasaniel Bartholemy

727. AGAINST:

Gary Bartholemy

728. AGAINST: ~~Sharon Fritz~~
729. AGAINST: Sharon Fritz
730. AGAINST: Vickery Avist
731. AGAINST: Rickey Barthelmy
732. AGAINST: Ann Reels
733. AGAINST: Mary Prout
734. AGAINST: Mama Riley
735. AGAINST: Larry Sumner
736. AGAINST: Ed A. Balto
737. AGAINST: Brigitte Balto
738. AGAINST: Alke Ragan
739. AGAINST: Matthew Wallace III
740. AGAINST: Carl Ward
741. AGAINST: Troy Easton
742. AGAINST: Sybilby Sybr
743. AGAINST: Renda Marlin

745. AGAINST: Leslie Hyatt
746. AGAINST: Buddy Hyatt
747. AGAINST: Jaclynn Hyatt
748. AGAINST: Garret Hyatt
749. AGAINST: Natalie Cesse'
750. AGAINST: Ryan Cesse'
751. AGAINST: Don Mills Jr.
752. AGAINST: Layton Coco Jr
753. AGAINST: Don Mills
754. AGAINST: Tom H
755. AGAINST: C. KANCEWICK
756. AGAINST: R. KANCEWICK
757. AGAINST: A. KANCEWICK
758. AGAINST: C. Decker
759. AGAINST: John Canyon



776. AGAINST: 1/1/1
777. AGAINST: Glenn W. Scheffnyder
778. AGAINST: Barbara L. Scheffnyder
779. AGAINST: ~~Barbara L. Scheffnyder~~
780. AGAINST: Barbara Furbush
781. AGAINST: Susan Reagan
782. AGAINST: Wren Reagan
783. AGAINST: No
784. AGAINST: Bird Reagan
785. AGAINST: Amy Dornith
786. AGAINST: Gregory Dornith Jr.
787. AGAINST: Robert J. Forest
788. AGAINST: Bob J. Forest
789. AGAINST: Peggy Adams
790. AGAINST: Alan Adams
791. AGAINST: Sony Adams

792. AGAINST: STANLEY M. KIRKWOOD

793. AGAINST: SMH

794. AGAINST: Maria Spangola

795. AGAINST: Angela

796. AGAINST: Kouy Yuen

797. AGAINST: Bianca

798. AGAINST: Joy Dyer

799. AGAINST: H.P.

800. AGAINST: Kit Commins

801. AGAINST: Bernadette Walker

802. AGAINST: John Walker

803. AGAINST: Jack Hicks

804. AGAINST: Pat Hicks

805. AGAINST: Gene Strick

806. AGAINST: Edith Strick

807. AGAINST: Dorrie Wadsworth

808. AGAINST: William D. D'Amico
809. AGAINST: George W. Walsh
810. AGAINST: William D. D'Amico
811. AGAINST: Buragandy Mulkey
812. AGAINST: Adam Mulkey
813. AGAINST: Lucille J. Anderson
814. AGAINST: Harold Sanders
815. AGAINST: Naomi
816. AGAINST: Frank R. Rusk
817. AGAINST: Robert D. Dunge
818. AGAINST: James P. Anderson Sr.
819. AGAINST: Salon L. Beemel Jr.
820. AGAINST: Salon L. Beemel Sr.
821. AGAINST: Carole Beemel
822. AGAINST: Matthew B. Beemel
823. AGAINST: Paul M. Mankia



2. AGAINST: Howard Hawkey
3. AGAINST: Ivy Hawkey
4. AGAINST: Jarvis Hawkey
5. AGAINST: Jamie Hawkey
6. AGAINST: Louisa W. James
7. AGAINST: Kim Hawkey
8. AGAINST: Dionne Landry
9. AGAINST: Debbie Landry
10. AGAINST: Darinda Landry
11. AGAINST: Rose Hreac
12. AGAINST: Allison Sylve
13. AGAINST: Myra Sylve
14. AGAINST: Louis Reddick
15. AGAINST: Kerwin Davis
16. AGAINST: Mrs. Warner
17. AGAINST: Ray Palmer

52. AGAINST: Timothy Bartholomew Sr
53. AGAINST: Terren Ann Bartholomew
54. AGAINST: Kahala Bartholomew
55. AGAINST: Briana Bartholomew
56. AGAINST: Debrae Garrison
57. AGAINST: Alvernia Bartholomew
58. AGAINST: Drucilla Ancar
59. AGAINST: Patrick Ancar
60. AGAINST: Lalia Ancar
61. AGAINST: Lynce Ancar
62. AGAINST: Aleta Garrison
63. AGAINST: James Garrison
64. AGAINST: Jamie Garrison
65. AGAINST: Janaka Clark
66. AGAINST: Martha Ragas
67. AGAINST: Antoine Ragas

- 69. AGAINST: Reasia Shanks
- 70. AGAINST: Antel Jason
- 71. AGAINST: Shely Jason
- 72. AGAINST: Janet Wells
- 73. AGAINST: Marie Wilson
- 74. AGAINST: Sharon Everage
- 75. AGAINST: Chris Everage
- 76. AGAINST: Creedence Wallace
- 77. AGAINST: Daniel Jones
- 78. AGAINST: Sheila Freeman
- 79. AGAINST: Kath Kef
- 80. AGAINST: Fallie Kef
- 81. AGAINST: Amanda Ragan
- 82. AGAINST: Cedric Ragan
- 83. AGAINST: Malinda Barthelmy
- 84. AGAINST: Johnny Williams

86. AGAINST: Barbara Kraetz
87. AGAINST: Cathy Williams
88. AGAINST: Rose Baptiste
89. AGAINST: Natalie Uva
90. AGAINST: Noma Sylve
91. AGAINST: Melvin Sylve
92. AGAINST: Shellee Sylve
93. AGAINST: Nia Sylve
94. AGAINST: Cynthia M. Rojas
95. AGAINST: Ricky D. Rojas
96. AGAINST: Henry J. Inman
97. AGAINST: Ira A. Reddick
98. AGAINST: Kasey Bartholomew
99. AGAINST: Narisa Bartholomew
100. AGAINST: Jeffrey Bartholomew
101. AGAINST: Ira W. Dove

103. AGAINST: Sherry Borden
104. AGAINST: Jamie Borden
105. AGAINST: Lisa Torgerson
106. AGAINST: Meagan Phillips
107. AGAINST: Ronald Encalade
108. AGAINST: Georgiana Sylve
109. AGAINST: Jiffany Phillips
110. AGAINST: Georgette Mackey
111. AGAINST: Garnis Mackey
112. AGAINST: Denise Lalomb
113. AGAINST: Robert Labr
114. AGAINST: Brandon McCain
115. AGAINST: Dan [Signature]
116. AGAINST: Shannon Roshto
117. AGAINST: Celste J. Green
118. AGAINST: Ailena McDonaldson

120. AGAINST: Kimerick Page
121. AGAINST: Mary Gibson
122. AGAINST: Rosp Mackey
123. AGAINST: Bill Mackey
124. AGAINST: Felicia Allen
125. AGAINST: Shannon Allen
126. AGAINST: Adele Gallet
127. AGAINST: Ray Gallet
128. AGAINST: Neil Gallet
129. AGAINST: Natalie Touchet
130. AGAINST: Christie Barrois
131. AGAINST: Terrod Barrois
132. AGAINST: Joyce Clark
133. AGAINST: Joseph Clark
134. AGAINST: Ruane Clark
135. AGAINST: Isabelle Ellis  
Against: Manuel J. Treadway R

137. AGAINST: Merletha Merrick

138. AGAINST: Emma Rigaud

139. AGAINST: Lisa Kelso

140. AGAINST: Wesley Kelso

141. AGAINST: Alicia Kelso

142. AGAINST: Calvin Riggs

143. AGAINST: Otto Rigaud

144. AGAINST: Joshua Seiferman

145. AGAINST: Lewis A Reddick SR

146. AGAINST: Danielle Duncan

147. AGAINST: Harold Syle, Jr.

148. AGAINST: Erin Hoke

149. AGAINST: Barbara Syle

150. AGAINST: Rachel Syle

151. AGAINST: [Signature] 

152. AGAINST: [Signature]

- 154. AGAINST: Joseph Sabell
- 155. AGAINST: Dorothy Demelle
- 156. AGAINST: Dondella Haines
- 157. AGAINST: mel u. Hunt
- 158. AGAINST: Stewart Williams
- 159. AGAINST: Percy J. Parker
- 160. AGAINST: Anita Henry
- 161. AGAINST: Conditia Duplessis
- 162. AGAINST: Caprice Henry
- 163. AGAINST: Delwanda Reddick
- 164. AGAINST: Jamie Kelly
- 165. AGAINST: Shelley Phillips
- 166. AGAINST: Hele Williams
- 167. AGAINST: Joseph Bohleny <sup>with kids</sup>
- 168. AGAINST: Matthew Kelly
- 169. AGAINST: Michael Davis

171. AGAINST: Rachel Peoples
172. AGAINST: Robert G. Hingle Jr
173. AGAINST: Juliana B. Phillips
174. AGAINST: Jason J. Wise
175. AGAINST: Heaton C. Wise
176. AGAINST: Marionne Turner
177. AGAINST: Wendell Turner
178. AGAINST: Rose B. Thuri
179. AGAINST: Julie Dydmar
180. AGAINST: Donald B. Demuth
181. AGAINST: John S. France #1
182. AGAINST: Jamez Brewer Sr
183. AGAINST: Markel H. C
184. AGAINST: Steve J. Sun
185. AGAINST: Connie R. Treadway
186. AGAINST: Melba C. Treadway

188. AGAINST: Tracy Allen
189. AGAINST: Nita Daago
190. AGAINST: Mary Lou Gueray
191. AGAINST: Wayne Gueray
192. AGAINST: Rein Fomin
193. AGAINST: Sharon Wallace
194. AGAINST: Dianna Tiser
195. AGAINST: Sarah Ylce
196. AGAINST: Effat Ylce
197. AGAINST: Rendra Ylce
198. AGAINST: Tommy Lindy
199. AGAINST: Olete Reppelle
200. AGAINST: Benny Williams
201. AGAINST: Sumi Matthews
202. AGAINST: Fuley Adolph
203. AGAINST: Jim Billeod

- 205 - Mary Naphin
- 206 Juanita Bantley
- 207 Mary Ancan
- 208 Amy Peoples 504-75



5

205. AGAINST: Kristina Donaldson
206. AGAINST: Martha Harvey
207. AGAINST: Paul Harvey
208. AGAINST: Connie Williams
209. AGAINST: Wale Williams
210. AGAINST: Shelly Henry
211. AGAINST: Peggy Prest
212. AGAINST: Mark H -
213. AGAINST: Adolph Anean
214. AGAINST: Alice Anean
215. AGAINST: Jozette Anean
216. AGAINST: Norman Espadero
217. AGAINST: Shelby Barthelemy
218. AGAINST: Genea Barthelemy
219. AGAINST: Gracelia Barthelemy
220. AGAINST: Shirley Barthelemy

- 222. AGAINST: Karl Bartholomey
- 223. AGAINST: Deelle Lyke
- 224. AGAINST: Stephon Jefferson
- 225. AGAINST: Wallace Picout
- 226. AGAINST: Janique Piquet
- 227. AGAINST: Cheryl Bartholomeu
- 228. AGAINST: Lita Phillips
- 229. AGAINST: Ivy Bartholomey
- 230. AGAINST: Jessica Mackey
- 231. AGAINST: Elroy Mackey
- 232. AGAINST: Andrea Gonzales
- 233. AGAINST: Akeira Abres
- 234. AGAINST: Barry Abres
- 235. AGAINST: Aline Cosse
- 236. AGAINST: Jimmy Cosse
- 237. AGAINST: Holly Abca

239. AGAINST: Douglas Edwards Jr.
240. AGAINST: Allen Barthelmy
241. AGAINST: Wanda Barthelmy
242. AGAINST: Stephanie Barthelmy
243. AGAINST: Joanne Miller
244. AGAINST: Ron Miller
245. AGAINST: Wayne Antonio
246. AGAINST: Wilfred Antonio Sr
247. AGAINST: Renda Antonio
248. AGAINST: Kimberly Antonio
249. AGAINST: Nelliee Antonio
250. AGAINST: Verissa Antonio
251. AGAINST: Danna Duplessis
252. AGAINST: Tom Duplessis
253. AGAINST: Mariah Syre
254. AGAINST: Vinny Syre

256. AGAINST: Maeve Ancar
257. AGAINST: Kendra Espadron
258. AGAINST: Penny Turner
259. AGAINST: Carl Ancar
260. AGAINST: Christen Williamson
261. AGAINST: Linda Espadron
262. AGAINST: Jeffrey Espadron
263. AGAINST: Dennis Espadron
264. AGAINST: Megan Barthelmy
265. AGAINST: Constance Barthelmy
266. AGAINST: Sandra Barthelmy
267. AGAINST: Hayle Refrance
268. AGAINST: Olen Barthelmy
269. AGAINST: Stephanie Barthelmy
270. AGAINST: Dominique Barthelmy
271. AGAINST: Felix Barthelmy

273. AGAINST: Ken Davis
274. AGAINST: Desiree Mackey
275. AGAINST: Wanda Mackey
276. AGAINST: Kendra Murch
277. AGAINST: Cordera Mackey
278. AGAINST: Brycen Casbon
279. AGAINST: Peggy Lytell
280. AGAINST: James Lytell
281. AGAINST: Patrick Sylva Jr
282. AGAINST: Rachel Sylva
283. AGAINST: Kenneth Sylva
284. AGAINST: Joyce Brooks
285. AGAINST: Jawana Brooks
286. AGAINST: Deoye Brooks III
287. AGAINST: Bruce Gains Jr.
288. AGAINST: Mary Roberts

290. AGAINST: Anthony Roberts
291. AGAINST: Sue Denise
292. AGAINST: Martin Denise
293. AGAINST: Carol B. Williams
294. AGAINST: Charles Wagner
295. AGAINST: Sue Sorioney
296. AGAINST: C. Parker
297. AGAINST: [Signature]
298. AGAINST: Harriet S. Martin
299. AGAINST: Harlette Martin
300. AGAINST: Tracey Treadway
301. AGAINST: Virkie Treadway
302. AGAINST: Engine Treadway
303. AGAINST: Doty Blangie
304. AGAINST: Elin Blangie
305. AGAINST: Louana Phillips

307. AGAINST: Carlton LaFrance Sr
308. AGAINST: Carlton LaFrance Jr
309. AGAINST: Ashley LaFrance
310. AGAINST: Joshua LaFrance
311. AGAINST: John LaFrance Sr
312. AGAINST: Anthony LaFrance Sr
313. AGAINST: Anthony LaFrance Jr
314. AGAINST: Mary Sanders
315. AGAINST: Wesley Williams
316. AGAINST: Angela Barthelmy
317. AGAINST: Augusta Barthelmy
318. AGAINST: Jane Duplessis
319. AGAINST: Christopher Hany
320. AGAINST: Joseph Duplessis
321. AGAINST: Dennis Alexis
322. AGAINST: Mary StAnn

324. AGAINST: Jeremy Sylve
325. AGAINST: DARCELL Sylve Sr.
326. AGAINST: Cassie B Sylve  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~
327. AGAINST: Denzel Sylve
328. AGAINST: John Phillips
329. AGAINST: Barbara Sylvia
330. AGAINST: Desi Sylve
331. AGAINST: Catherine Sylve
332. AGAINST: Harold Sylve Sr.
333. AGAINST: Ryan Sylve
334. AGAINST: Ronald Hagar
335. AGAINST: Latasha Carol
336. AGAINST: Mafine B. Carson
337. AGAINST: Blake Sylve
338. AGAINST: Morris Sylve Jr
339. AGAINST: Camille Meques

341. AGAINST: Kennell Syle Jr.
342. AGAINST: Lauri Metz
343. AGAINST: Keith Metz Sr
344. AGAINST: May D Syle
345. AGAINST: Gavin Syle
346. AGAINST: Madys Syle
347. AGAINST: Kyle Waccay
348. AGAINST: Claude Phillips Sr
349. AGAINST: Samantha Narciso
350. AGAINST: Kermit Narciso
351. AGAINST: Betty Bartholomeo
352. AGAINST: Toni Anon
353. AGAINST: Salo Anon
354. AGAINST: Beth Ann Anon
355. AGAINST: William Anon Jr.
356. AGAINST: Nedra Anon

- 358. AGAINST: Josentia Ancari
- 359. AGAINST: Magen Ancari
- 360. AGAINST: Randy Ancari
- 361. AGAINST: Daphne Ancari
- 362. AGAINST: Billy James
- 363. AGAINST: Andria Barthelmy
- 364. AGAINST: Lorne L. Landry
- 365. AGAINST: Antoinetta Sylve
- 366. AGAINST: Eric Jones, Sr
- 367. AGAINST: Freutta Henry
- 368. AGAINST: Joseph Henry
- 369. AGAINST: Vernon Duncan, Jr
- 370. AGAINST: Steven Duncan
- 371. AGAINST: Claude Jones
- 372. AGAINST: Thomas Sylve, Sr
- 373. AGAINST: Dail Sylve

375. AGAINST: Amy Ague
376. AGAINST: Ronald Ahe
377. AGAINST: Glenda Barthelony
378. AGAINST: David Barthelony
379. AGAINST: Graketh Ahean
380. AGAINST: Shanna Ahe
381. AGAINST: Marie Aguis
382. AGAINST: Jared Bartholomeu
383. AGAINST: Wally Bartholomeu
384. AGAINST: Christoph Felt Jr.
385. AGAINST: Lockett Felt
386. AGAINST: Charlotte Bartholomeu
387. AGAINST: Dervine Syler
388. AGAINST: Larry Sylve Sr.
389. AGAINST: Bernadette Bartholomeu
390. AGAINST: Randy Ahean

392. AGAINST: Joell Syle
393. AGAINST: Americ Syle
394. AGAINST: Janasa Bartholomew
395. AGAINST: Jeffrey Bartholomew Sr
396. AGAINST: Kasey Bartholomew
397. AGAINST: Whitney Bartholomew
398. AGAINST: Jeffrey Bartholomew Jr
399. AGAINST: Kasi Rogers
400. AGAINST: Marian Rogers
401. AGAINST: Kimi Rogers
402. AGAINST: Rhonda Rogers
403. AGAINST: Ashley Atkris
404. AGAINST: Shawn Atkris
405. AGAINST: Brandy Johnson
406. AGAINST: Stanley Johnson
407. AGAINST: Wanda C. Bartholomew

409. AGAINST: Patricia A. Chanson
410. AGAINST: Andrew Williams
411. AGAINST: Shank Edgeman
412. AGAINST: A. Campagne
413. AGAINST: Sharon Campagne
414. AGAINST: Doreen Campagne
415. AGAINST: Tom Duthu
416. AGAINST: Dennis Duthu
417. AGAINST: Anna Vaughn
418. AGAINST: Michael Vaughn
419. AGAINST: Michelle Vaughn
420. AGAINST: Darren Diver
421. AGAINST: Latun D. Solis
422. AGAINST: Andrew Solis
423. AGAINST: Sherry Moss

841. AGAINST: Fred Schenck
842. AGAINST: James W. Adams
843. AGAINST: Brett Sommer
844. AGAINST: Carol Duke
845. AGAINST: Loren Duster
846. AGAINST: Casey Parker
847. AGAINST: John T. Brown
848. AGAINST: Gail M. Petrovich
849. AGAINST: Joy R. Petrovich Sr.
850. AGAINST: Karla Petrovich
851. AGAINST: Joy R. Petrovich Jr.
852. AGAINST: Dena Phillips
853. AGAINST: Joy Phillips
854. AGAINST: Lenille Jones
855. AGAINST: Ross Phillips



872. AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_  
873. AGAINST: Catherine Arenales

874. AGAINST: Regina Arenales

875. AGAINST: Grace Miller

876. AGAINST: Thud Mass

877. AGAINST: Le Thuy Nguyen

878. AGAINST: Tran Duong

879. AGAINST: John Sarovich

880. AGAINST: Lisa Sarovich

881. AGAINST: AGAO

882. AGAINST: Kevin McCig

883. AGAINST: Mamie O'Connor

884. AGAINST: Kevin O'Connor

885. AGAINST: FA Still

886. AGAINST: Dr. Toward Still

887. AGAINST: Bonnie Still



905. AGAINST: Dotter Cavet

906. AGAINST: Chuck Cavot Jr

907. AGAINST: Charles S Cavot SR

908. AGAINST: Sue Brue

909. AGAINST: Onegm, Paly

910. AGAINST: Francis Paulature Bailey

911. AGAINST: Jim Dip

912. AGAINST: BH

913. AGAINST: Katie Adams

914. AGAINST: K. B.

915. AGAINST: Katelyn Adams

916. AGAINST: J. B. Archin's

917. AGAINST: Sandra Guindrie

918. AGAINST: Theresa Cuthbert

919. AGAINST: Dani's Cuthbert

← 2 NAMES

920. AGAINST: ~~John J. Jones~~
921. AGAINST: Marilyn C Zeto
922. AGAINST: Robert H. Carter
923. AGAINST: Walter R. Kern
924. AGAINST: Glenn B. Key
925. AGAINST: W. S. Brown
926. AGAINST: John Brown
927. AGAINST: Henry Bayle
928. AGAINST: Wm R. Bayle
929. AGAINST: William Sauty
930. AGAINST: Gage Sauty
931. AGAINST: Roland Breen
932. AGAINST: Constance Breen
933. AGAINST: Floyd Faulk
934. AGAINST: Mott Mitech
935. AGAINST: Betty Mitech

AGAINST: Phillipe Rosa

AGAINST: Tornel Jackson

AGAINST: Vince Kaliszski

AGAINST: Dennis Robinson

AGAINST: Jan Kaliszski

AGAINST: Billy Hingle

AGAINST: Samet Hingle

AGAINST: Calvin Kaliszski

AGAINST: \_\_\_\_\_

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

May 18, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen, PM-RS  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: Oakville Community Action Group Comments on IER # 13

Dear Mr. Owen:

Oakville Community Action Group agrees with and supports the proposed action evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District ("the Corps") in its draft Individual Environmental Report # 13 (IER # 13).

Oakville Community Action Group is a non-profit corporation whose members live, work, own property, recreate, and enjoy the environment in and near Oakville. The purpose of the organization is to preserve, protect, and enhance the environmental, health, and safety interests of its members, the Oakville community, and its surroundings. IER # 13 evaluates the potential impacts associated with the proposed enlargement to the Hero Canal levee, and construction of the Eastern Tie In portion of the West Bank and Vicinity, Louisiana Project. The purpose of this proposed action is to provide hurricane and storm damage risk reduction to Oakville and other communities in Plaquemines Parish. Because the proposed action directly affects Oakville, Oakville Community Action Group has actively participated in several public meetings held by the Army Corps on IER # 13 where it has voiced its concerns about various levee alignments and other project details. Oakville Community Action Group is pleased that the proposed action addresses its concerns by protecting the Oakville community without requiring the relocation of its residents and by minimizing impacts to the wetlands in the area.

Specifically, Oakville Community Action Group supports the proposed project because it protects all Oakville residents by including the entire community within the levee system, while leaving all residences and community structures in place. Oakville is a community with a strong sense of unity bound by community leaders (both civic and spiritual), familial connections, and a shared history. Freed slaves from nearby plantations founded Oakville after the abolishment of slavery. Indeed, the very same subdivision layout exists today as that which its founders designed in 1871. And, many of today's Oakville residents can trace their ancestry to those who first lived in Oakville. Because of Oakville's history and strong community ties, Oakville Community Action Group is especially pleased that the Army Corps chose an alternative that will allow the community to remain whole and protected.

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

6329 Freret St., Ste. 130, New Orleans, LA 70118-6231 tel 504.865.5789 fax 504.862.8721 www.tulane.edu/~telc  
Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

6329 Freret St., Ste. 130, New Orleans, LA 70118-6231 tel [REDACTED] fax [REDACTED] www.tulane.edu/~telc

In addition, Oakville Community Action Group supports the proposed project because it minimizes wetland loss. The area to the east of Oakville is a forested swamp comprised of bottomland hardwoods that offers many benefits, some of which are wildlife habitat, storm surge buffer, and flood control. Therefore, Oakville Community Action Group supports the Army Corps decision to eliminate alternative 3 that would have resulted in the destruction of an additional 53 acres of this valuable forested swamp.

Oakville Community Action Group thanks the Army Corps for taking its concerns into consideration and proposing a project that will enhance the future of the Oakville community.

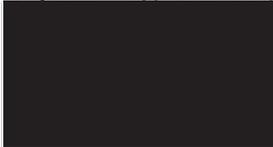
Respectfully submitted this 18th day of May, 2009 by,

TULANE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CLINIC



Corinne Van Dalen, La. Bar. No. 21175

Supervising Attorney



118

Email:



*On Behalf of Counsel for Oakville Community  
Action Group*



New Orleans to Venice, LA (NOV) Plaquemines Parish Federal Levee  
Public Scoping Comment

Comments: Thank you for the information and  
the photo taken. I would  
like to see the color photo on pump  
gate flood gate used. Those two  
look better.  
I am glad that the non federal levee will be  
raised.

Name Jane Smith Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_

[www.mvn.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil)

[www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

New Orleans to Venice, LA (NOV) Plaquemines Parish Federal Levee  
Public Scoping Comment

**Comments:**  **IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT THE OAKVILLE FLOODWALL BE INSTALLED FOR MORE REASONS THAN ONE!!!** In addition, I agree that the levees below Oakville should be federalized to a 100-year storm protection level but it makes good sense to compartmentalize the entire levee system to protect the entire parish from flooding in the event of a breach or levee failure. As was experienced by Hurricanes Katrina and Gustov, levees can be breached and compromised for one reason or another and compartmentalizing the levee system protects other zones in the event of a breach anywhere in the parish. Oakville and below would be protected in the event that Belle Chasse were to flood as well as Belle Chasse would be protected from a levee breach below Oakville. The floodwall has a dual purpose and makes good common sense to proceed with it installation regardless of the upgrading of the levee system below Oakville!! Ships are built with that same idea in mind that if one compartment is flooded, it is sealed off and the entire ship does not flood sink.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
WWW.VENICE.FLORIDA.GOV

**From:** [Owen, Gib A MVN](#) on behalf of [MVN Environmental](#)  
**To:** [Vignes, Julie D MVN](#); [Holder, Ken MVN](#); [LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN](#); [Eagles, Paul MVK](#); [Maloz, Wilson L MVN](#); [Coulson, Getrisc MVN](#); [Carr, Jr Theodore D MVN](#); [Wiggins, Elizabeth MVN](#)  
**Cc:** [Podany, Thomas J MVN](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sept 19th Meeting and Workshop  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2009 6:20:38 AM

---

All,  
FYI - Feedback from Saturdays meeting.  
Gib

Gib Owen  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/  
HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader  
New Orleans District  
504 862-1337

-----Original Message-----

From: Bobby Wilson [mailto:[\[REDACTED\]](#)]  
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2009 11:38 PM  
To: MVN Environmental  
Cc: Joan Wilson  
Subject: Sept 19th Meeting and Workshop

Dear Mr. Owen

I want to personally express my gratitude in the way that the Corp presented the current status of the EIR-13 Eastern Tie-In and the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Projects on September 19th. I thought the main presentation as well as the workshops that were conducted were done effectively and I believe that it couldn't have been presented any better.

I originally expressed some doubts as to whether this exercise of communication was worth the time and effort. I was wrong.

I have written to you in the past and you have always responded with information that has been both helpful and comforting to me and I appreciate this.

I wanted to make two additional comments regarding this past meeting and the options presented and hope that you would relay this back to Colonel Lee. The first comment is a communication concern that I have which was not a responsibility of the Corp but more of a responsibility of our Parish Officials.

1. If you hadn't noticed, the audience that attended the meeting on Saturday was primarily those that reside south of Oakville. This does not come to any surprise to me. I live in Belle Chasse and I work as an engineer at the ConocoPhillips Refinery just south of Jesuit Bend. In this past week, there was not one parish sign, billboard or electronic message board posted in Belle Chasse which alerted the

residences of Belle Chasse of the Sept 19th Meeting. There wasn't even a displayed message on the Parish Government Building in Belle Chasse. On the other hand, there was a large blinking Roadside Electronic Message Board that was placed on Hwy 23 in the Jesuit Bend area at least four days ahead of the meeting alerting residences of and south of Jesuit Bend of this meeting. I'm not going to speculate why this happened. I just wanted to make sure that Colonel Lee and yourself were aware of this and not be swayed in the notion that the Oakville gate was opposed by all residences of Plaquemines Parish. I assure you that it's not. The audience that attended the Saturday meeting was made up primarily of residences south of Oakville because of reasons that I don't want to speculate on however I believe you know what these are without saying.

2.Regarding the four options at Oakville, in my opinion as well as those who attended the same workshops that I attended, the most favorable and desirable of the four options is the Ramp Option. This appears to be a more permanent solution and least likely to be tampered with by those who oppose a gate or levee there. The least favorable option is the "invisible gate option". Our main concern here is (1) we would be relying upon parish workers to construct this gate. We are very concerned about this. (2) We would be relying upon our Parish officials (some of whom are opposed to any type of gate) to decide when and if the gate should go up in the event of an approaching hurricane. We are equally concerned about this one.

Please be so kind as to send me an email response on any upcoming changes or milestones that affect our Hurricane Flood Protection Projects.

With Kind Regards,

Bobby Wilson

[REDACTED]

Belle Chasse, LA

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

**From:** [Owen, Gib A MVN](#)  
**To:** [Coulson, Getrisc MVN](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Eastern Tie-In @ Oakville  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 23, 2009 8:26:21 PM

---

Gigi

Please include Mr. Perez comment as a comment for IER 13 AR.

Thanks

Gib

Gib Owen

USACE, Chief, Ecological and Restoration Section, New Orleans District  
Solutionear with device stuck in my right hand.

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From: LHPerez3@aol.com <LHPerez3@aol.com>  
To: Lee, Alvin B COL MVN  
Cc: Owen, Gib A MVN; LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN; bnungesser@plaqueminesparish.com  
<bnungesser@plaqueminesparish.com>  
Sent: Wed Sep 23 19:09:28 2009  
Subject: Eastern Tie-In @ Oakville

Colonel Lee,

Thank you for the Corps hosting the Public Workshop at the Belle Chasse High School on September 19, 2009. I feel it was a significant step forward for most residents in understanding the Corps and the reason for the Eastern Tie-In at Oakville.

I strongly support and urge the Corps and the Plaquemines Parish Government working together and proceeding on the fast tract to have the NFL from Oakville to La Reussite be included in the 100 year protection.

At the Workshop, the Corps outlined four options as to an Eastern tie-in crossing Highway 23 at Oakville. I would appreciate my opinion on this matter to be of record. My first choice would be the "Invisible" Floodwall followed by the Roller Gate, and my third choice would be the Swing Gate option. These three options would serve equally as well based upon the Corps' presentation in which all the options included an emergency bypass.

I would suggest the storage building for the components of the Invisible Floodwall placed on the north "protected" side of the wall. Therefore, the building, components of the wall, and any machinery would be protected in an unfortunate event.

I reside in the Oakville vicinity at 11422 Highway 23. My home and property are adjacent to the Eastern Tie-In on the south side or "Flood" side as the Corps refers to it. I would like to go on record as strongly opposing the Eastern Tie-In Ramp Option. I speak for myself and other family members who live and have property that will be adversely affected by the Ramp Option. There are many reasons why we oppose this Option, but the main and most important is SAFETY. If the Ramp Option is implemented, there would be enormous safety problems for vehicular and pedestrian traffic on both sides of Highway 23. In Oakville, St. Peter Street and Oakville Street are crossed numerous times a day from East to West and back. Residents attending churches and the community park would encounter a greater risk traveling back and forth across Highway 23. Pedestrians, automobiles, school buses, eighteen wheelers and larger trucks, as well as tractor trailers transporting oil field equipment and other materials, pass through Oakville twenty-four hours a day. Some of these stop at Captain Larry's Seafood and others continue north or south. This is one of the most high risk portions of Highway 23. If the Highway is altered in any fashion such as narrowing lanes, installing barriers, sloping shoulders, ramping, big turn arounds, and other modifications, it would be a sure disastrous situation impacting SAFETY. It would be dangerous to encounter these obstacles during normal daylight hours, and magnified by the darkness of night, or with rain or fog. There have been two fatalities directly in front of my home and others nearby.

At the Corps sponsored meetings held at Oakville Town Hall, St. Paul's Benevolent Association Building, the residents unanimously opposed any such overpass or ramp tie-in options crossing Highway 23. Colonel Lee, in making your selection as to a Tie-In, please consider the opinion of the residents

within this community rather than someone who lives miles away from the site.

Thank you,  
Leander H. Perez, III

I am definitely not in favor of the invisible floodwall being used in lieu of a roller gate or swing gate for the eastern tie-in at Oakville/Belle Chasse. At the breakout session the Corps stated that it would take 10 days to erect. This floodwall has been used for riverine flooding in the north. As far as I'm concerned it should only be used as an emergency flood fight technique for that purpose and not as a permanent feature in any hurricane levee project that is supposed to be certified to provide 100 year protection. The assembly and removal is labor intensive and time consuming and must be repeated every time a storm is in the Gulf. Neither does this design have any proven performance for hurricane protection in this area. Since there are so many miles of levees, floodwalls, floodgates and pumping stations to deal with in both Plaquemines Parish and in the Westbank Hurricane System, this option should not be considered. Logically and practically some of the wall components would have to remain in place during the entire hurricane season, therefore it would not be invisible after all. Continued erection and dismantling of the wall would also subject the components to loss or damage. From my 40 years experience dealing with flood control, I really do not think this option should have ever been considered for a permanent installation. Unfortunately, it's apparently Plaquemines Parish's choice.

Additionally, at the outset of the meeting, President Nungesser told everyone present, that they would not see any floodgate or floodwall built in Oakville because he would build the 100 year levee from Jesuit Bend to La Reussite first. While the Corps officially promises to continue to construct the Eastern Tie-in in Oakville by June 1, 2011, I have no confidence that any of the Corps closure options would be utilized by the Parish. With all the indecision of even completing the authorized 100 year plan by Plaquemines Government, what assurance is there that the invisible floodwall would be erected or that gates would be closed at this particular location? The ramp crossing is absolutely the best solution for this location and some consideration should be given to the structural merit of including the roadway structure as an integral part of the protection. After anyone entertains the idea of using the invisible wall, surely the superiority of the highway ramp on LA23 must be apparent to all and the ramp is not subject to political indecision. This ramp would also intelligently divide polders when the new levee protection is being constructed and completed in the Jesuit Bend area. This is no different from what the Jesuit Bend residents want for their southern road closure at La Reussite.

While this controversy continues on, we in the Belle Chasse and English Turn Area still lack the 100 year protection that was originally authorized in 1996 and re-engineered after Katrina. The eastern tie-in location at Oakville presently provides a ground elevation of approximately +5 ft. and provides a significant and unacceptable low gap in the WestBank Hurricane Project for us. The average ground elevations in the Belle Chasse and English Turn areas is approximately - 5.0 ft. in elevation; approximately 5 ft. lower than the average ground elevations in the Jesuit Bend area. Unfortunately, continued failure to close this lowest gap in our area puts all of our area at irresponsible and unnecessary risk for even storms of less than 100 year intensity.

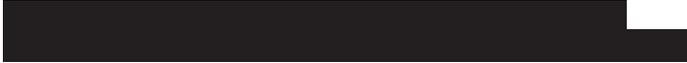
In the past year, the residents of the Jesuit Bend area have discovered that their area was not included in the authorized Westbank Hurricane

Project, and want no floodwall or floodgate separating their area from Belle Chasse. As a 22 year resident of Belle Chasse, I have been awaiting 100 year protection for my area for well over 20 years, and it still does not exist. I realize all the necessary changes for levee certification post-Katrina, and meeting the deadlines. I also know how long it takes to construct these projects. I personally was the DOTD Engineer charged by the Governor to assist West Jefferson Levee District after Hurricane Juan in 1985 with the repair of the levees, federal authorization and post authorization changes, surveys and engineering, and worked on the same until 2003. Please make the correct engineering decisions regarding these matters.

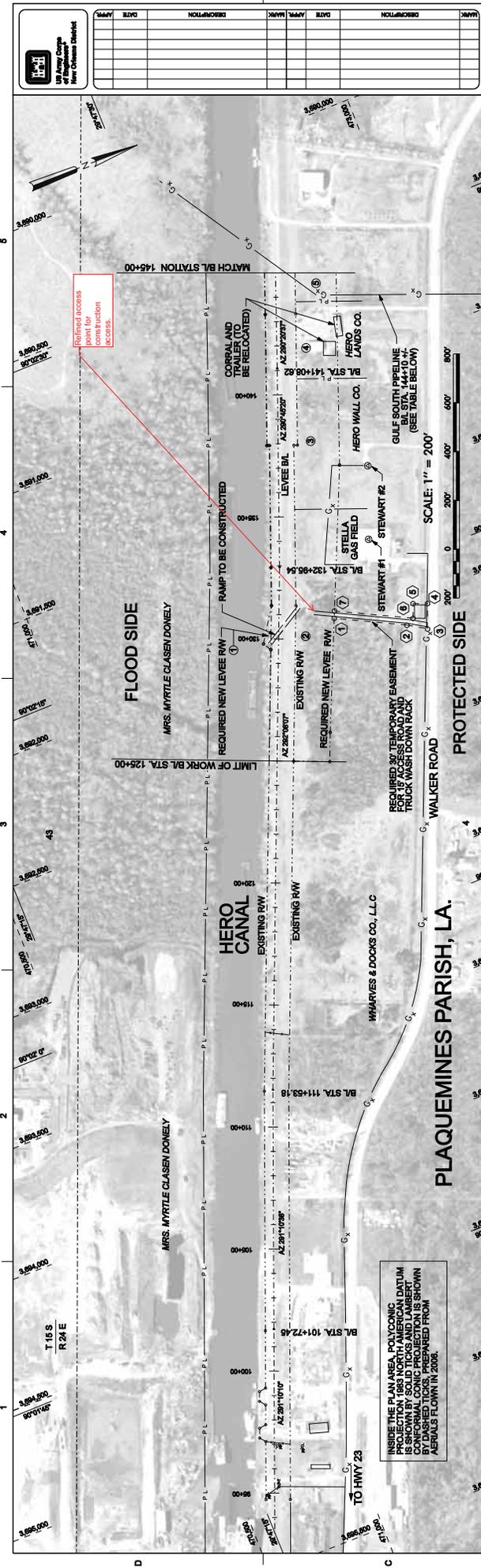
Sincerely,

Geneva P. Grille, P.E.

Retired DOTD District Design, Water Resources and Development Engineer



***Appendix D - Detailed Project Footprint Plates***



REQUIRED NEW LEVEE RIGHT OF WAY SUMMARY		OWNER	
R/W SECTION	BL STATION LIMITS	AREA (ACRE)	OWNER
①	125+65.83 TO 131+38.44	0.08	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO., L.L.C.
②	125+00.00 TO 135+30.00	3.75	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO., L.L.C.
③	135+30.00 TO 140+65.00	2.17	HERO WALL COMPANY
④	140+65.00 TO 145+80.43	1.22	HERO WALL COMPANY
⑤	143+80.43 TO 145+00.00	0.46	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO., L.L.C.

EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS		NEW RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS	
BL STATION	OFFSET	FLOOD SIDE OF BL	OFFSET AZIMUTH
94+73.07	35.00 LT		
97+41.63	35.00 LT		
97+92.07	60.00 LT		
97+48.07	60.00 LT		
97+80.50	35.00 LT		
98+51.63	35.00 LT		
98+76.07	60.00 LT		
98+16.07	60.00 LT		
99+30.50	35.00 LT		
101+65.52	35.00 LT		
111+46.70	35.13 LT		
131+38.44	30.82 LT		
132+82.12	34.82 LT		
137+82.84	35.91 LT		
137+82.84	45.81 LT		
143+30.48	45.09 LT		

EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS		NEW RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS	
BL STATION	OFFSET	FLOOD SIDE OF BL	OFFSET AZIMUTH
125+00.00	67.77 RT		
125+00.00	215.98 RT		
125+16.98	216.20 RT		
137+06.75	250.06 RT		

EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS		NEW RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS	
BL STATION	OFFSET	FLOOD SIDE OF BL	OFFSET AZIMUTH
94+73.07	65.00 RT		
101+65.52	65.00 RT		
111+46.70	64.97 RT		
131+38.44	60.08 RT		
132+82.12	66.04 RT		
137+82.84	64.19 RT		
137+82.84	78.19 RT		
143+30.34	78.91 RT		

TEMPORARY EASEMENT TABULATIONS		TEMPORARY EASEMENT TABULATIONS	
POINT	BL STATION	OFFSET	OFFSET AZIMUTH
①	130+67.59	226.61 RT	
②	130+63.76	524.74 RT	
③	130+49.69	609.60 RT	
④	131+82.86	608.26 RT	
⑤	131+51.91	548.68 RT	
⑥	130+91.66	549.42 RT	
⑦	131+17.82	227.28 RT	

TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT = 0.387 ACRES	
POINT	BL STATION
①	130+67.59
②	130+63.76
③	130+49.69
④	131+82.86
⑤	131+51.91
⑥	130+91.66
⑦	131+17.82

**INSIDE THE PLAN AREA, POLYGONIC DATUM IS SHOWN BY SOLID TICKS AND LAIBERT CONFORMAL CONIC PROJECTION IS SHOWN AERIALS FLOWN IN 2005.**

**LEGEND:**

- - GAS WELL
- - GAS LINE
- - - - PROPERTY LINE
- - - - BASELINE
- - - - REQUIRED RW
- - - - EXISTING RW
- - - - TEMPORARY EASEMENT
- - - - PROPOSED TRUCK WASH/DOWN TRACK
- - - - WASH/DOWN
- - - - R/W PI
- - - - SECTION LINE
- - - - TOWNSHIP/RANGE
- - - - FENCE
- - - - UTILITY POLE

**OWNER AND REPRESENTATIVE TO BE NOTIFIED**

UTILITY, PIPELINE OR STRUCTURE	APPROXIMATE BL STATION	ELEVATION	OWNER AND REPRESENTATIVE TO BE NOTIFIED	DISPOSITION
STELLA GAS FIELD GAS LINE FROM HANCOCK COMPANY TO STEWART #2	134+00 137+00	+2.5'	MR. JEFF HYDE HANCOCK COMPANY P.O. BOX 227, SCOTT, LA 70583 OFFICE: 337-888-9451 EXT. 208	TO BE RELOCATED BY OWNER CONCURRENT TO CONSTRUCTION
12' GULF SOUTH GAS PIPELINE	144+10	+2.5'	GULF SOUTH PIPELINE MR. JEFF PENDLETON 111 PARK PLACE, SUITE 100 COVINGTON, LOUISIANA, 70433 985-888-1012	TO BE CUT & PLUGGED BY CONTRACTOR DURING CONSTRUCTION
CORRAL AND TRAILER	142+00	+8.0' ±	UNKNOWN	TO BE RELOCATED BY OWNER PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION

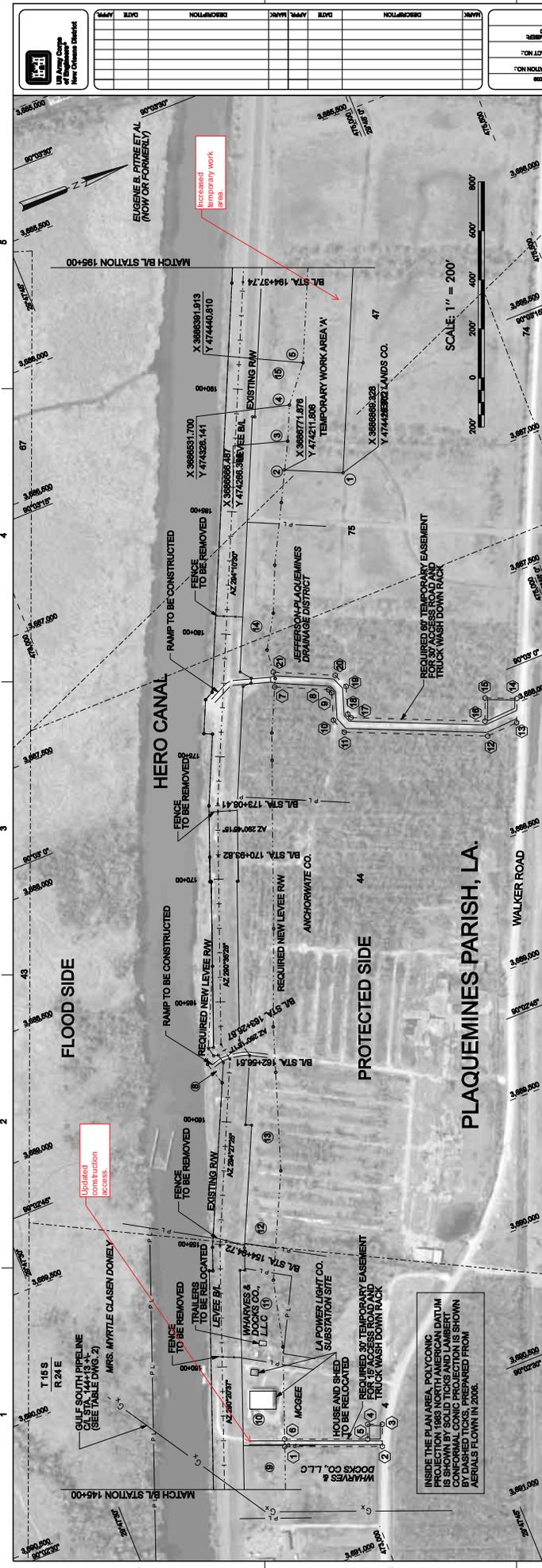
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY WATERWAYS DIVISION  
1000 PINE BLVD., SUITE 100  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119  
DATE: 08/11/2011  
DRAWN BY: JLM  
CHECKED BY: JLM  
DESIGNED BY: JLM  
SCALE: 1" = 200'

**RIGHT OF WAY PLAN**  
FOR STA. 122+35 TO 145+00  
East of Algiers Canal, Hero Canal, and  
Stewart #1 and #2 Gas Lines  
Paragardenes Parish, Louisiana

**HNTB**  
1000 PINE BLVD., SUITE 100  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119  
PHONE: (504) 586-1000  
FAX: (504) 586-1001  
WWW.HNTB.COM

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY WATERWAYS DIVISION  
1000 PINE BLVD., SUITE 100  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119  
DATE: 08/11/2011  
DRAWN BY: JLM  
CHECKED BY: JLM  
DESIGNED BY: JLM  
SCALE: 1" = 200'

**FILE NUMBER**  
104-6670  
**DWG. 2 OF 4**



POINT	BL. STATION	OFFSET	TEMPORARY EASEMENT TABULATIONS		NORTHING	
			EASTING	OFFSET AZIMUTH	EASTING	OFFSET AZIMUTH
1	146+71.46	248.44 RT	3,894,478.02	472,758.87	472,758.87	
2	146+64.07	945.71 RT	3,890,923.07	473,128.89	473,128.89	
3	147+54.68	647.40 RT	3,890,516.84	474,161.67	474,161.67	
4	147+56.17	997.77 RT	3,890,516.84	473,108.15	473,108.15	
5	148+56.17	298.84 RT	3,890,516.84	473,094.02	473,094.02	
6	147+91.47	248.48 RT	3,890,419.90	472,789.12	472,789.12	
7	177+94.99	208.90 RT	3,897,579.98	473,851.10	473,851.10	
8	177+93.76	423.17 RT	3,897,571.29	474,051.55	474,051.55	
9	177+92.04	442.06 RT	3,897,567.28	474,068.60	474,068.60	
10	176+70.88	454.11 RT	3,897,793.64	474,023.97	474,023.97	
11	178+24.18	900.77 RT	3,897,855.54	474,047.42	474,047.42	
12	178+38.48	1084.78 RT	3,898,083.28	474,585.25	474,585.25	
13	178+98.71	1198.71 RT	3,898,075.40	474,714.77	474,714.77	
14	177+95.89	1168.03 RT	3,897,993.44	474,722.07	474,722.07	
15	177+91.18	1097.04 RT	3,897,994.91	474,832.40	474,832.40	
16	176+98.20	1075.82 RT	3,898,022.87	474,986.98	474,986.98	
17	178+84.71	925.11 RT	3,897,810.09	474,084.41	474,084.41	
18	178+98.34	611.49 RT	3,897,792.08	474,067.58	474,067.58	
19	178+11.10	469.25 RT	3,897,984.20	474,122.88	474,122.88	
20	178+53.86	462.54 RT	3,897,986.24	474,097.40	474,097.40	
21	178+65.04	200.82 RT	3,897,551.77	473,868.04	473,868.04	

ROW SECTION	REQUIRED NEW LEVEE RIGHT OF WAY SUMMARY		OWNER
	BL. STATION LIMITS	AREA (ACRES)	
1	181+58.37 TO 189+45.60	0.19	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO. L.L.C.
2	145+00.00 TO 148+78.49	0.69	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO. L.L.C.
3	146+78.49 TO 150+35.71	1.33	MCGEE
4	150+35.71 TO 154+00.00	1.30	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO. L.L.C.
5	154+00.00 TO 159+10.00	0.29	LA POWER LIGHT CO.
6	159+10.00 TO 173+39.83	5.60	ANCHORWATE CO.
7	173+39.83 TO 184+80.00	3.20	JEFFERSON-LAQUIMINES DRAINAGE
8	184+80.00 TO 185+00.00	3.86	HERO LANDS CO.

UTILITY, PIPELINE OR STRUCTURE	APPROXIMATE BL. STATION	ELEVATION	FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN RIGHT OF WAY	
			OWNER AND REPRESENTATIVE TO BE NOTIFIED	DISPOSITION
HOUSE AND SHED	148+60	+12.6%	MARK MCGEE, 719 WALKER ROAD BELLE CHASE, LA 70037, 504-865-7798	TO BE RELOCATED BY OWNER PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION
TRAILERS	160+00	+8.0%	UNKNOWN	TO BE RELOCATED BY OWNER PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION
FENCE	159+42, 159+52, 172+74, and 186+72	+8.0%	UNKNOWN	TO BE REMOVED BY OWNER PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION

EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS		PROTECTED SIDE OF BL		NEW RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS	
BL. STATION	OFFSET	BL. STATION	OFFSET	BL. STATION	OFFSET
153+43.00	45.50 LT	183+63.06	79.00 RT	161+68.37	28.32 LT
153+46.01	30.50 LT	153+63.06	99.00 RT	162+46.41	98.04 LT
154+48.96	30.54 LT	154+63.96	99.47 RT	169+43.60	30.00 LT
162+40.86	26.86 RT	159+82.44	102.76 RT	159+77.68	248.72 RT
162+40.86	32.13 LT	159+82.57	77.76 RT	163+40.83	214.99 RT
163+42.52	49.91 LT	162+56.51	81.72 RT	169+13.11	231.15 RT
163+42.52	53.89 LT	163+02.46	72.61 RT	162+12.46	189.06 RT
163+26.87	32.25 LT	169+00.53	76.00 RT	163+96.24	213.63 RT
169+00.53	30.00 LT	169+00.53	80.00 RT	167+95.10	221.21 RT
169+00.53	35.00 LT	172+96.39	79.42 RT	173+15.84	222.06 RT
170+90.53	35.00 LT	172+96.39	80.01 RT	174+95.68	212.94 RT
172+90.53	35.99 LT	177+90.36	80.01 RT	176+08.43	208.43 RT
174+90.53	35.00 LT	179+06.00	112.00 RT	176+26.17	209.35 RT
176+06.00	70.04 LT	179+06.00	112.00 RT	179+43.76	188.75 RT
177+26.12	70.04 LT	179+48.97	65.01 RT	182+90.93	185.30 RT
177+46.36	44.98 LT	189+00.51	66.02 RT	185+48.74	199.57 RT
184+30.82	44.98 LT	189+00.51	75.02 RT	187+68.45	213.88 RT
		194+30.70	75.02 RT	189+43.88	212.88 RT
				191+20.37	260.35 RT

EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS		PROTECTED SIDE OF BL		NEW RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS	
BL. STATION	OFFSET	BL. STATION	OFFSET	BL. STATION	OFFSET
161+68.37	28.32 LT	183+63.06	79.00 RT	161+68.37	28.32 LT
162+46.41	98.04 LT	153+63.06	99.00 RT	162+46.41	98.04 LT
169+43.60	30.00 LT	154+63.96	99.47 RT	169+43.60	30.00 LT
159+77.68	248.72 RT	159+82.44	102.76 RT	159+77.68	248.72 RT
163+40.83	214.99 RT	159+82.57	77.76 RT	163+40.83	214.99 RT
169+13.11	231.15 RT	162+56.51	81.72 RT	169+13.11	231.15 RT
162+12.46	189.06 RT	163+02.46	72.61 RT	162+12.46	189.06 RT
163+96.24	213.63 RT	169+00.53	76.00 RT	163+96.24	213.63 RT
167+95.10	221.21 RT	169+00.53	80.00 RT	167+95.10	221.21 RT
173+15.84	222.06 RT	172+96.39	79.42 RT	173+15.84	222.06 RT
174+95.68	212.94 RT	172+96.39	80.01 RT	174+95.68	212.94 RT
176+08.43	208.43 RT	177+90.36	80.01 RT	176+08.43	208.43 RT
176+26.17	209.35 RT	179+06.00	112.00 RT	176+26.17	209.35 RT
179+43.76	188.75 RT	179+06.00	112.00 RT	179+43.76	188.75 RT
182+90.93	185.30 RT	179+48.97	65.01 RT	182+90.93	185.30 RT
185+48.74	199.57 RT	189+00.51	66.02 RT	185+48.74	199.57 RT
187+68.45	213.88 RT	189+00.51	75.02 RT	187+68.45	213.88 RT
189+43.88	212.88 RT	194+30.70	75.02 RT	189+43.88	212.88 RT
191+20.37	260.35 RT			191+20.37	260.35 RT

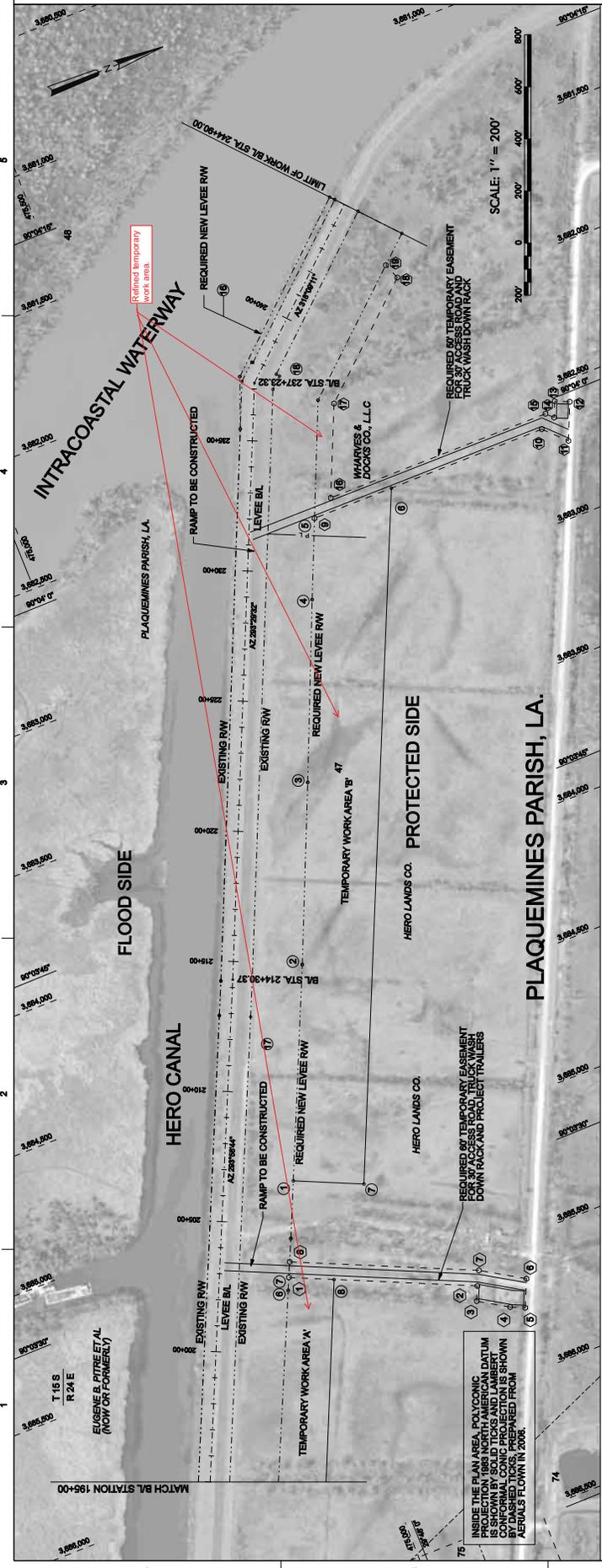
TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'A'	
BL. STATION	OFFSET AZIMUTH
1	188+40 448°
2	188+40 205°
3	187+48.45 213.68°
4	189+45.88 212.88°
5	191+20.37 260.35°

NOTE: TEMPORARY WORK AREA = 3.92 ACRES

NOTE: TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT @ MCGEE'S HOUSE = 0.367 ACRES

NOTE: ALL OFFSETS ARE PERPENDICULAR TO THE BL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



**LEGEND:**

- GAS WELL
- GAS LINE
- C — PROPERTY LINE
- P.L. — BASELINE
- REQUIRED RW
- EXISTING RW
- TEMPORARY EASEMENT
- PROPOSED TRUCK WASH DOWN
- BIL PI
- SECTION LINE
- TOWNSHIP/RANGE LINE
- FENCE
- UTILITY POLE

**EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS**

BIL STATION	FLOOD SIDE OF BIL		OFFSET AZIMUTH
	OFFSET	OFFSET	
212+40.73	44.94 LT	47.72 LT	*
214+23.19	44.93 LT	60.74 LT	110°47'28.38"
237+23.32	45.07 LT	62.86 LT	*
237+48.79	45.09 LT	41.05 LT	*
246+88.35	41.33 LT	266.50 RT	*
212+40.15	75.06 RT	204+47.56	204+47.56
214+23.74	75.07 RT	204+47.56	204+47.56
237+40.09	72.06 RT	221+47.75	204.17 RT
237+48.95	74.91 RT	239+48.38	251.62 RT
237+40.23	60.06 RT	239+48.38	246.38 RT
246+88.78	58.68 RT	244+80.00	247.05 RT
246+88.78	58.68 RT	244+80.00	58.98 RT

**NEW RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS**

BIL STATION	FLOOD SIDE OF BIL		OFFSET AZIMUTH
	OFFSET	OFFSET	
236+43.94	47.72 LT	47.72 LT	*
237+23.32	60.74 LT	110°47'28.38"	*
244+80.00	62.86 LT	110°47'28.38"	*
202+48.06	266.50 RT	202+48.06	202+48.06
204+47.56	204.17 RT	204+47.56	204+47.56
221+47.75	204.17 RT	221+47.75	204.17 RT
239+48.38	251.62 RT	239+48.38	251.62 RT
239+48.38	246.38 RT	239+48.38	246.38 RT
244+80.00	247.05 RT	244+80.00	247.05 RT
244+80.00	58.98 RT	244+80.00	58.98 RT

**TEMPORARY EASEMENT TABULATIONS**

POINT	BIL STATION	OFFSET	EASTING		NORTHING
			OFFSET AZIMUTH	OFFSET	
1	202+47.64	266.51 RT	3,885,316.48	474,828.46	475,077.379
2	202+47.61	890.62 RT	3,885,612.68	475,927.84	475,412.994
3	202+49.00	590.62 RT	3,885,688.24	475,584.02	475,887.573
4	202+22.11	1119.97 RT	3,885,794.24	475,676.34	475,959.418
5	202+22.10	1177.86 RT	3,885,797.77	475,726.23	476,082.030
6	203+33.61	1177.87 RT	3,885,656.89	475,773.56	476,202.000
7	203+57.61	894.04 RT	3,885,263.78	474,951.11	476,386.878
8	203+11.88	248.48 RT	3,882,640.70	478,082.03	476,565.418
9	236+45.30	108.60 RT	3,882,640.70	477,016.79	476,748.464
10	236+44.44	121.30 RT	3,882,719.51	477,097.60	476,931.633
11	236+44.44	121.30 RT	3,882,561.74	477,167.38	477,116.379
12	236+94.62	115.20 RT	3,882,568.70	477,104.28	477,298.464
13	236+94.68	115.31 RT	3,882,568.70	477,104.28	477,420.000
14	236+31.78	1154.35 RT	3,882,616.33	477,079.27	477,545.418
15	236+45.05	1120.63 RT	3,882,580.70	477,083.64	477,670.000
16	232+22.19	308.51 RT	3,882,580.70	476,188.46	477,845.418
17	236+54.87	308.34 RT	3,882,257.79	476,312.63	478,020.000
18	243+31.13	308.03 RT	3,881,896.17	476,716.37	478,195.418
19	243+33.62	247.24 RT	3,881,856.88	476,891.67	478,370.000

**EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS**

BIL STATION	FLOOD SIDE OF BIL		OFFSET AZIMUTH
	OFFSET	OFFSET	
212+40.73	44.94 LT	47.72 LT	*
214+23.19	44.93 LT	60.74 LT	110°47'28.38"
237+23.32	45.07 LT	62.86 LT	*
237+48.79	45.09 LT	41.05 LT	*
246+88.35	41.33 LT	266.50 RT	*
212+40.15	75.06 RT	204+47.56	204+47.56
214+23.74	75.07 RT	204+47.56	204+47.56
237+40.09	72.06 RT	221+47.75	204.17 RT
237+48.95	74.91 RT	239+48.38	251.62 RT
237+40.23	60.06 RT	239+48.38	246.38 RT
246+88.78	58.68 RT	244+80.00	247.05 RT
246+88.78	58.68 RT	244+80.00	58.98 RT

**TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'A'**

PI	BIL STATION	OFFSET	AZIMUTH	NORTHING	
				OFFSET	AZIMUTH
1	202+47.64	266.51	3,885,316.48	474,828.46	475,077.379
2	202+47.61	890.62	3,885,612.68	475,927.84	475,412.994
3	202+49.00	590.62	3,885,688.24	475,584.02	475,887.573
4	202+22.11	1119.97	3,885,794.24	475,676.34	475,959.418
5	202+22.10	1177.86	3,885,797.77	475,726.23	476,082.030
6	203+33.61	1177.87	3,885,656.89	475,773.56	476,202.000
7	203+57.61	894.04	3,885,263.78	474,951.11	476,386.878
8	203+11.88	248.48	3,882,640.70	478,082.03	476,565.418
9	236+45.30	108.60	3,882,640.70	477,016.79	476,748.464
10	236+44.44	121.30	3,882,719.51	477,097.60	476,931.633
11	236+44.44	121.30	3,882,561.74	477,167.38	477,116.379
12	236+94.62	115.20	3,882,568.70	477,104.28	477,298.464
13	236+94.68	115.31	3,882,568.70	477,104.28	477,420.000
14	236+31.78	1154.35	3,882,616.33	477,079.27	477,545.418
15	236+45.05	1120.63	3,882,580.70	477,083.64	477,670.000
16	232+22.19	308.51	3,882,580.70	476,188.46	477,845.418
17	236+54.87	308.34	3,882,257.79	476,312.63	478,020.000
18	243+31.13	308.03	3,881,896.17	476,716.37	478,195.418
19	243+33.62	247.24	3,881,856.88	476,891.67	478,370.000

**REQUIRED NEW LEVEE RIGHT OF WAY SUMMARY**

R/W SECTION	BIL STATION LIMITS	AREA (ACRE)	OWNER
16	236+43.94 TO 244+80.00	0.40	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO., L.L.C.
17	195+00.00 TO 231+45.00	15.67	HERO LANDS CO.
18	231+46.00 TO 244+90.00	5.13	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO., L.L.C.

**TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'B'**

PI	BIL STATION	OFFSET	AZIMUTH	NORTHING	
				OFFSET	AZIMUTH
1	206+88.8	266.51	3,884,876.377	475,077.379	475,412.994
2	214+88.00	284.92	3,884,216.678	475,887.573	475,959.418
3	221+87.75	280.17	3,883,676.039	476,082.030	476,202.000
4	229+48.38	251.62	3,882,826.148	476,386.878	476,565.418
5	233+11.88	249.48	3,882,640.688	476,748.464	476,931.633
6	233+38.19	540.07	3,882,540.686	476,931.633	477,116.379
7	238+68.8	588.30	3,882,086.703	476,525.415	477,298.464

**TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT = 1.511 ACRES**

**NOTE: TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT = 1.511 ACRES**

**TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT = 2.725 ACRES**

**NOTE: TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT = 2.725 ACRES**

**TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'A'**

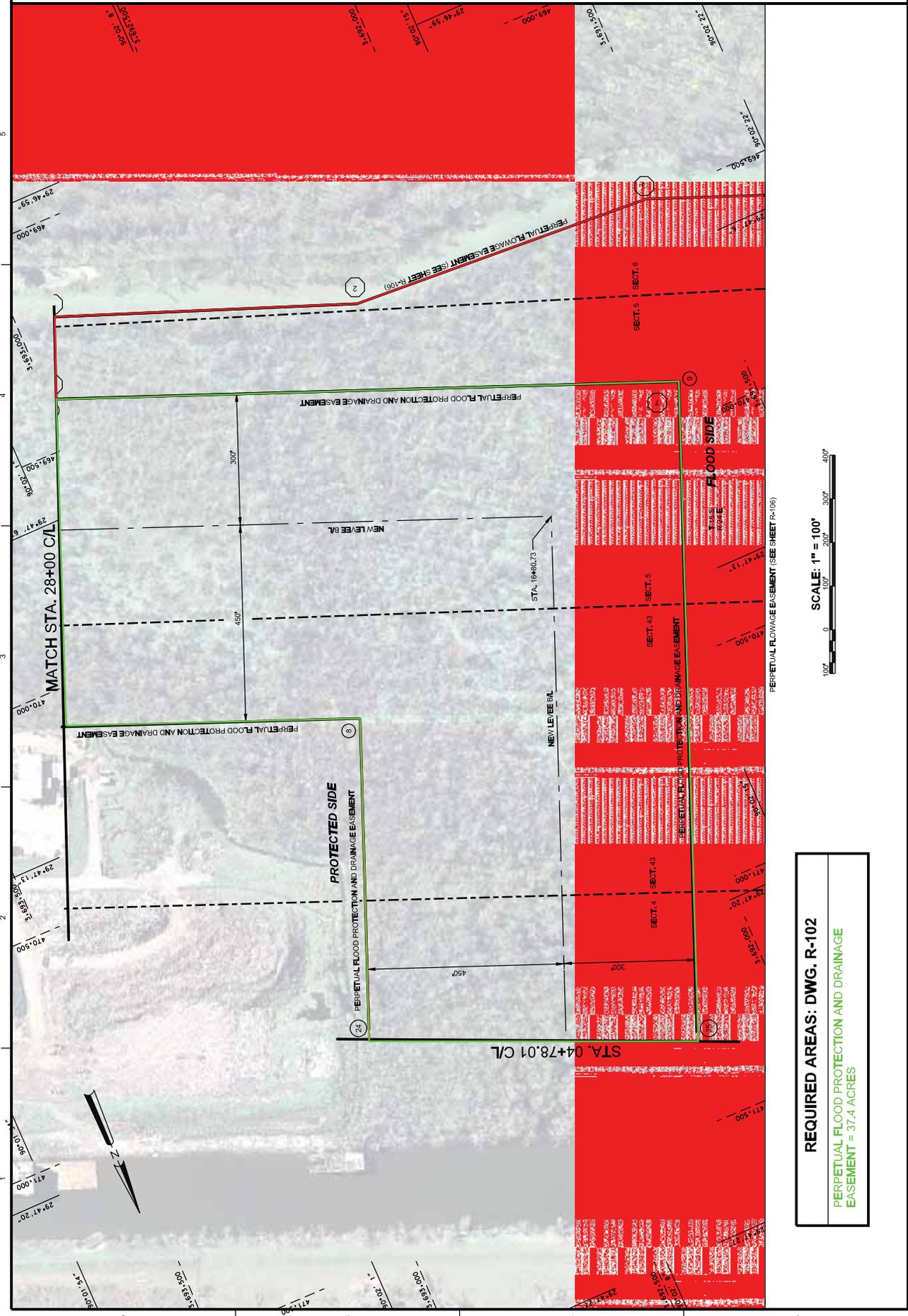
**NOTE: TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'A' = 1.38 ACRES**

**TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'B'**

**NOTE: TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'B' = 16.56 ACRES**

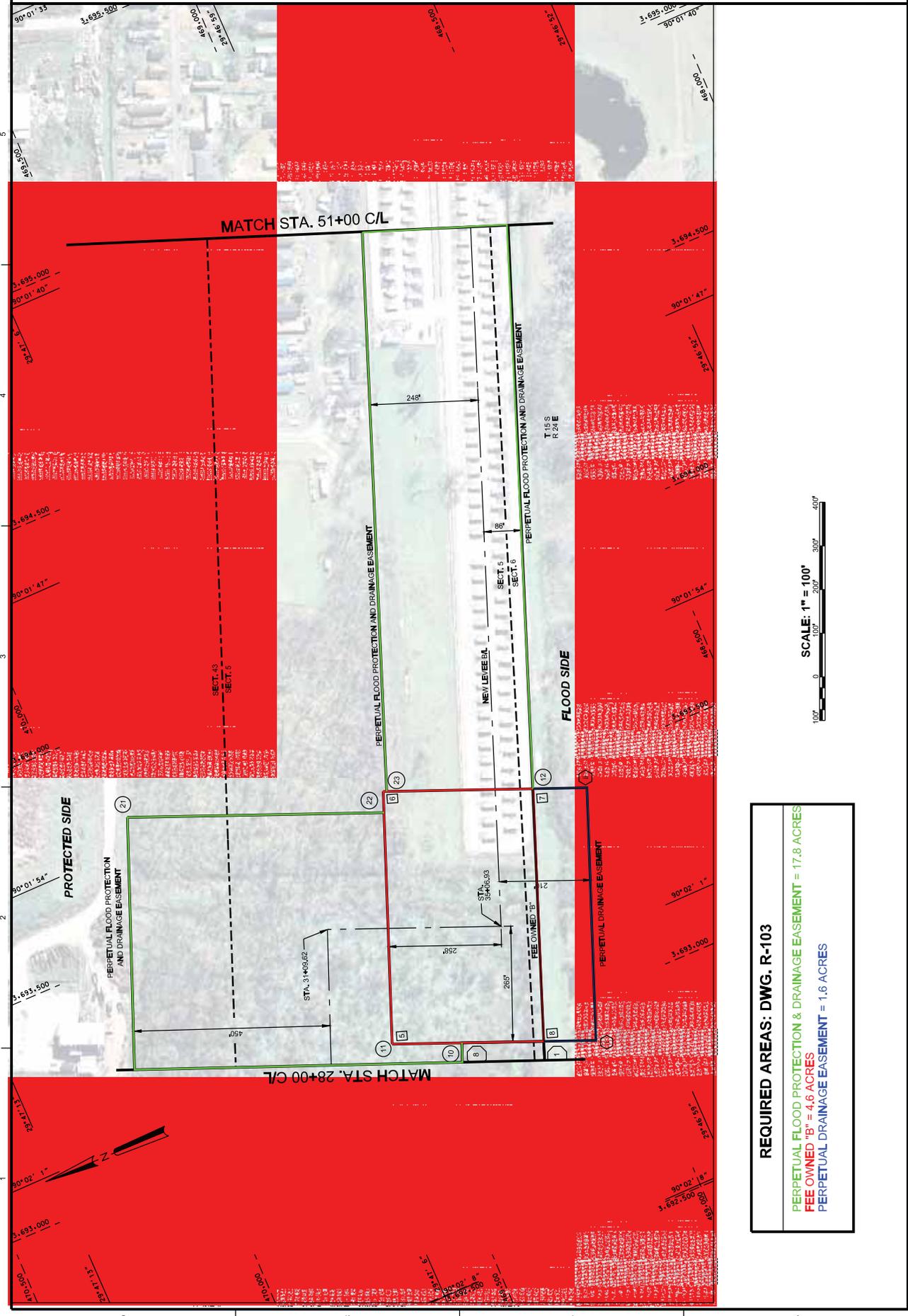
**NOTE: ALL OFFSETS ARE PERPENDICULAR TO THE BIL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT MISSISSIPPI PROTECTION PROJECT WEST OF ALBANY CANAL WEST OF ALBANY PHASE II (WBV D9A) FIRST LIFT EASEMENT FLOCHENNES PARISH, LOUISIANA STA. 04+78.01 TO STA. 28+00.00		NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT MISSISSIPPI PROTECTION PROJECT WEST OF ALBANY CANAL WEST OF ALBANY PHASE II (WBV D9A) FIRST LIFT EASEMENT FLOCHENNES PARISH, LOUISIANA STA. 04+78.01 TO STA. 28+00.00		NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT MISSISSIPPI PROTECTION PROJECT WEST OF ALBANY CANAL WEST OF ALBANY PHASE II (WBV D9A) FIRST LIFT EASEMENT FLOCHENNES PARISH, LOUISIANA STA. 04+78.01 TO STA. 28+00.00	
DATE	BY	DATE	BY	DATE	BY



**REQUIRED AREAS: DWG. R-102**  
**PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 37.4 ACRES**

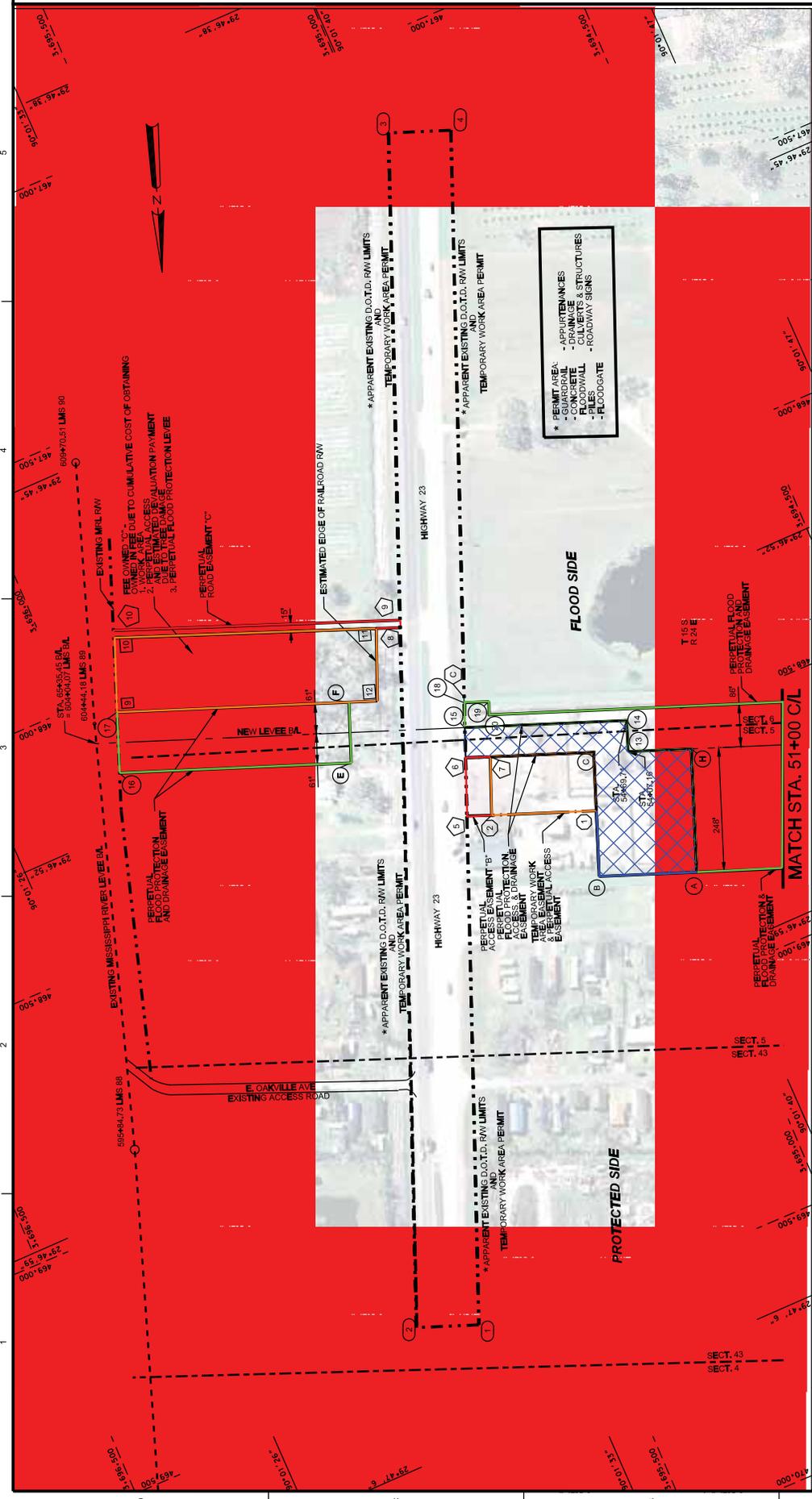
SCALE: 1" = 100'  
 100' 0 100' 200' 300' 400'



SCALE: 1" = 100'

**REQUIRED AREAS: DWG. R-103**

PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION & DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 17.8 ACRES  
FREE OWNED "B" = 4.6 ACRES  
PERPETUAL DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 1.6 ACRES



**REQUIRED AREAS: DWG. R-105**

PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION & DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 3.1 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT "B" = 0.1 ACRES  
 APPARENT EXISTING D.O.T.D. RW = 6.8 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION, ACCESS, AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 1.6 ACRES  
 FREE OWNED "C" = 1.8 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL ROAD EASEMENT "C" = 0.2 ACRES  
 TEMPORARY WORK AREA EASEMENT & PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT = 0.6 ACRES



- \* PERMIT AREA:
  - ASPHALT PAVEMENT
  - CONCRETE
  - FLOODWALL
  - FILES
  - FLOODGATE
- \* TEMPORARY AREAS:
  - DRAINAGE
  - CULVERTS & STRUCTURES
  - ROADWAY SIGNS

OWNED IN FREE DUE TO CUMULATIVE COST OF OBTAINING PERPETUAL ACCESS AND ESTIMATED LIFE PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION LEVEL

\* APPARENT EXISTING D.O.T.D. RW LIMITS AND TEMPORARY WORK AREA PERMIT

\* APPARENT EXISTING D.O.T.D. RW LIMITS TEMPORARY WORK AREA PERMIT

PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT

PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT

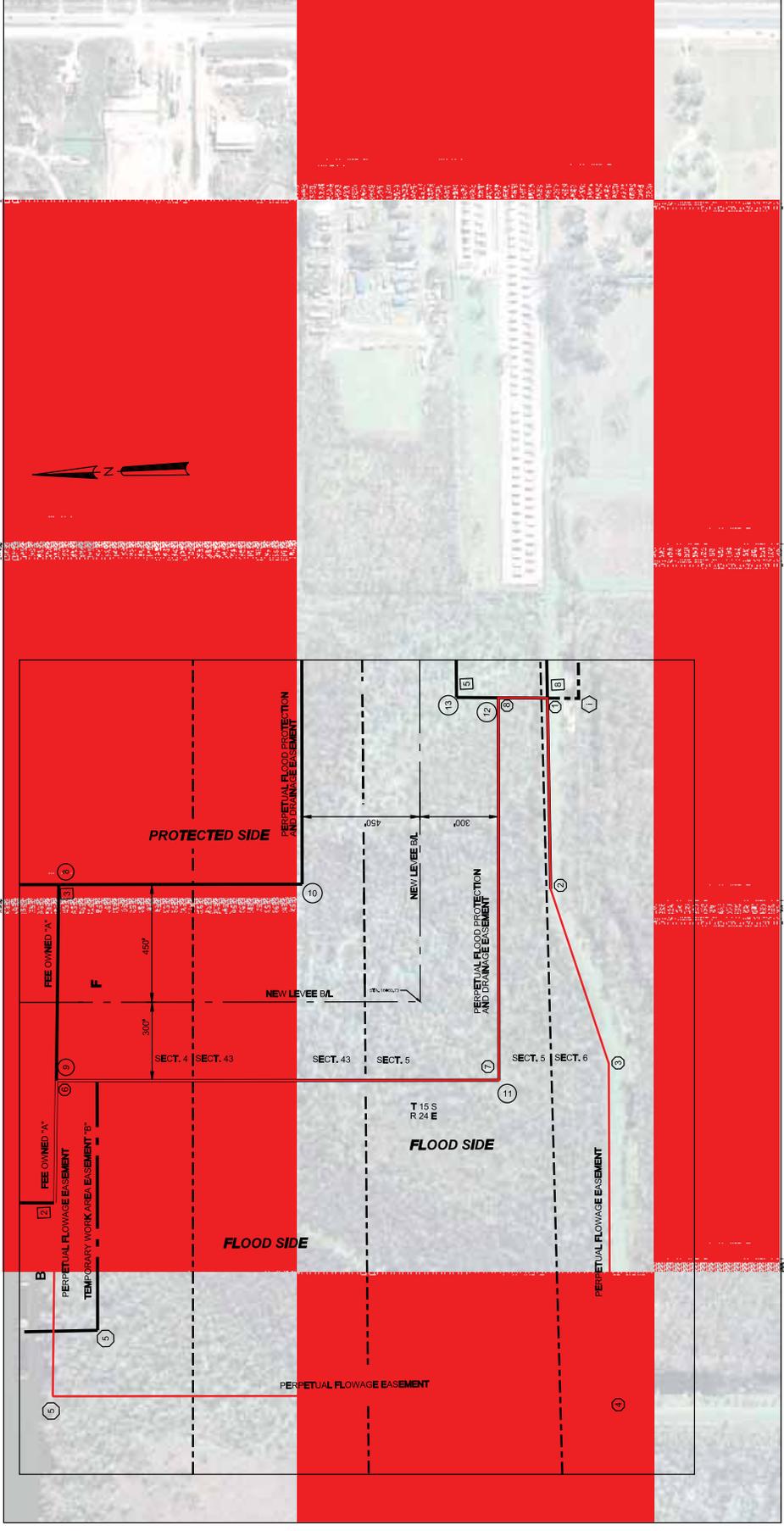
APPARENT EXISTING D.O.T.D. RW

PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION, ACCESS, AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT

FREE OWNED "C"

PERPETUAL ROAD EASEMENT "C"

TEMPORARY WORK AREA EASEMENT & PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT



**TOTAL AREA REQUIRED**  
(DWG. R-102 - DWG. R-106)

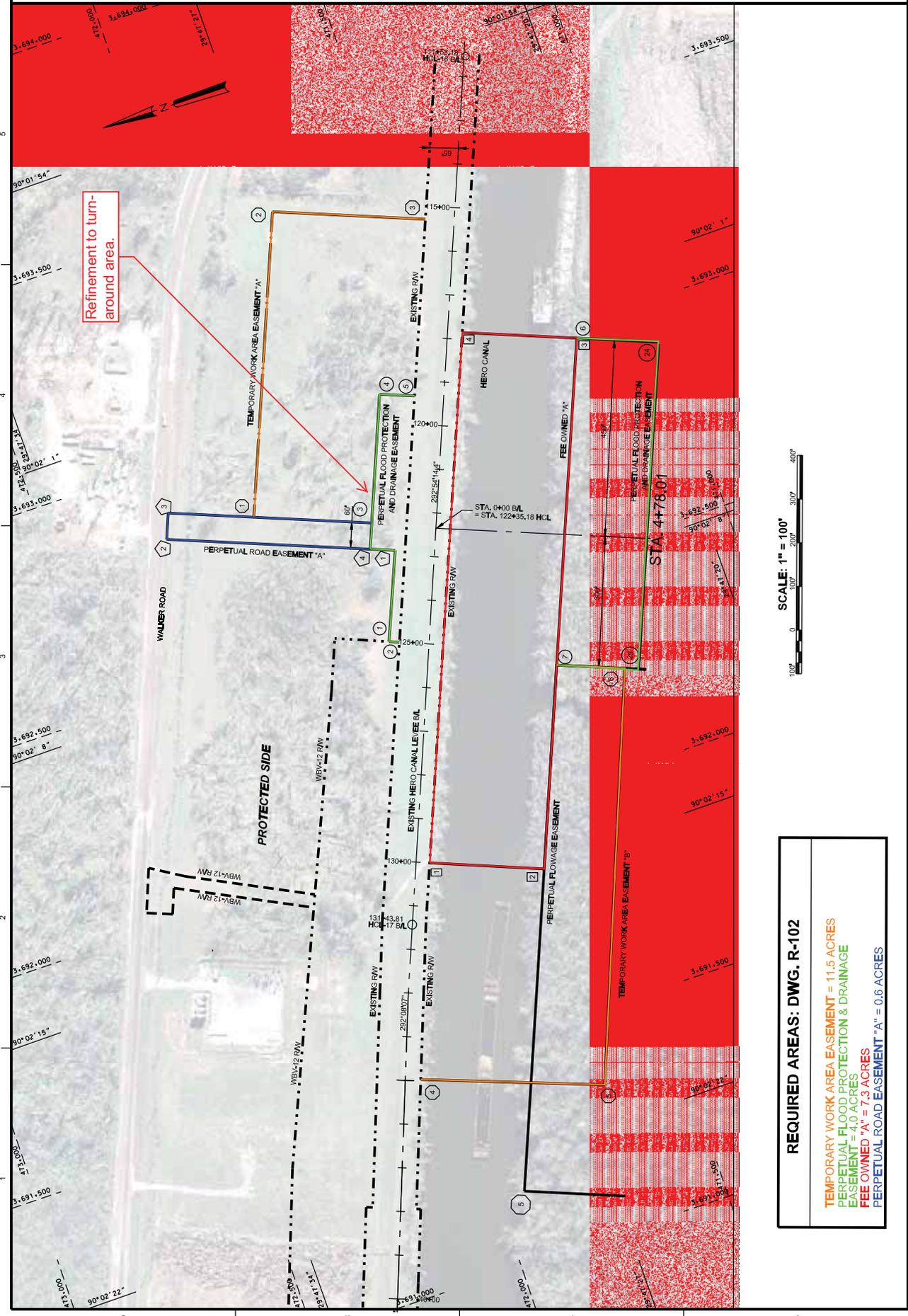
PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION EASEMENT = 58.6 ACRES  
 FEE OWNED (B+C) = 6.4 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL ROAD/ACCESS EASEMENT (B+C) = 0.3 ACRES  
 APPARENT EXISTING D.O.T.D. RW = 6.8 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION - ACCESS AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 1.6 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 1.6 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL FLOWAGE EASEMENT = 67.2 ACRES  
 TEMPORARY WORK EASEMENT AND PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT = 0.6 ACRES



**REQUIRED AREAS DWG. R-105**

PERPETUAL FLOWAGE EASEMENT = 67.2 ACRES

		DATE: 10/20/2017 DRAWN BY: J. B. BROWN CHECKED BY: J. B. BROWN PROJECT: PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT SHEET: R-102	
WEST BANK MOUNTAIN - NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT MISSISSIPPIAN PROTECTION PROJECT WEST OF ALGIER CANAL FIRST LITTLE PHASE II (WBV 098) STA. 0+000.00 TO STA. 0+400.00 PLACEMINS PARISH, LOUISIANA		NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT WEST OF ALGIER CANAL FIRST LITTLE PHASE II (WBV 098) STA. 0+000.00 TO STA. 0+400.00 PLACEMINS PARISH, LOUISIANA	



SCALE: 1" = 100'

**REQUIRED AREAS: DWG. R-102**

- TEMPORARY WORK AREA EASEMENT = 11.5 ACRES
- PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION & DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 4.0 ACRES
- FEE OWNED "A" = 7.3 ACRES
- PERPETUAL ROAD EASEMENT "A" = 0.6 ACRES

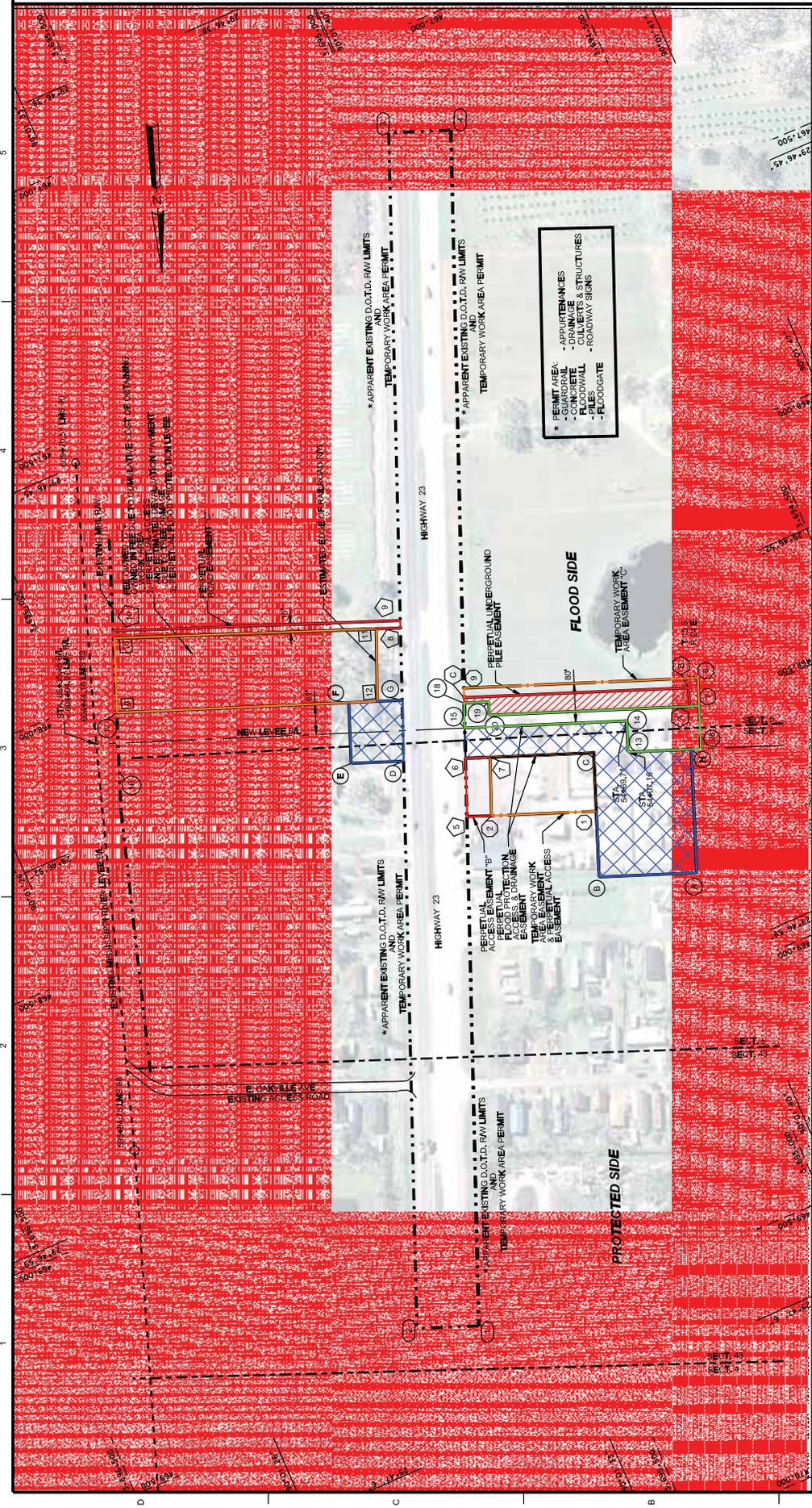


NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

DATE	BY	DESCRIPTION

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA  
WEST BANK MOUNTAIN NEW ORLEANS  
MISSISSIPPI PROTECTION PROJECT  
WEST OF ALGIER CANAL  
FIRST LIFT STATION ENLARGEMENT  
STATION 59+43.81 TO 59+48.81  
PLACEMENT PILES  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

SHEET IDENTIFICATION  
**R-102**



**REQUIRED AREAS: DWG. R-105**

PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION & DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 0.5 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL UNDERGROUND PILE EASEMENT = 0.4 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT 'B' = 0.1 ACRES  
 TEMPORARY WORK AREA EASEMENT 'C' = 0.2 ACRES  
 APPARENT EXISTING D.O.T.D. RW = 6.8 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION, ACCESS, AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT = 1.8 ACRES  
 FEE OWNED 'C' = 1.8 ACRES  
 PERPETUAL ROAD EASEMENT 'C' = 0.2 ACRES  
 TEMPORARY WORK AREA EASEMENT & PERPETUAL ACCESS EASEMENT = 0.6 ACRES

SCALE: 1" = 100'