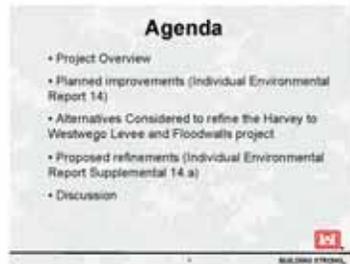


Public Meeting Summary

Individual Environmental Report Supplemental 14 – Harvey to Westwego Levee Thursday, Feb. 4, 2010

Location	Visitation of Our Lady School 3520 Ames Blvd. Marrero, LA 70072
Time	Open House 6 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Presentation 6:30 p.m.
Attendees	16
Format	Open House Presentation Discussion
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corps Approval Process Brochure • Status Map • Presentation
Facilitator	Rachel Rodi, public affairs

Rachel Rodi, outreach manager:



Thanks for coming tonight, I'm Rachel Rodi. Our Agenda for tonight is the Senior Project Manager, Julie Vignes, is going to talk about the Harvey to Westwego project and then we will have Gary Brouse talk about the floodwalls in the Harvey to Westwego project.



We all know the Corps is building floodwalls and levees but it's important to understand that we can never completely protect. We all have a role in buying down risk through zoning and insurance and outreach. You should listen to your elected officials if they tell you to evacuate.

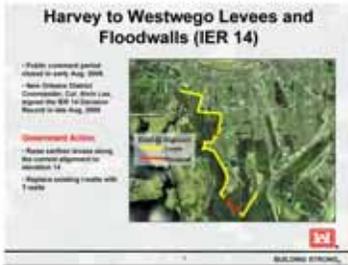


Julie Vignes: Hello I'm Julie Vignes. Tonight I'll give you a brief overview of the system as a whole and then focus on the Harvey to Westwego project.

This is a map of the whole hurricane system, we have copies in the back, and you can take them.

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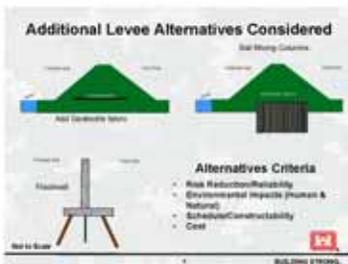
This is the proposed alignment of the Westbank and Vicinity Project. From west to east it includes 66 miles of levees and floodwalls from Ama in St. Charles Parish, around Lake Cataouatche, passing south of Marrero, traveling up the Harvey and Algiers canals and then eventually tying in to the Mississippi River levees in Plaquemines Parish. Tonight we're going to talk about the improvements we're planning to make to the Harvey to Westwego Levee. The orange box is our focus tonight and the orange dot shows you where we are right now.



This is what we described in IER 14, it identified the action which is shown in yellow as earthen levees and the floodwalls are shown in red.

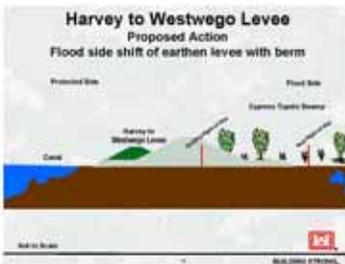


Since we published that environmental document we've done more analysis and design work and we realized we had to have additional Right-of-Way to fit the levee in. We also have additional impacts. That's the scope of the supplemental IER. Here in the orange box is where there will be impacts, some of that is a portion of Jean Lafitte National and Historic Park and Preserve.



Before choosing our proposed action we looked at alternatives.

There is a levee there that would need to be raised. We looked at an alternative that would degrade the levee and put in geotextile fabric to strengthen the levee, we looked at improving the foundation of the levee by putting in soil mixing columns and we also looked at [constructing a concrete] T-wall. The normal process is we look at an alternative and then evaluate them based on factors. The primary factors are Risk and Reliability, Environmental impacts, Cost and Schedule.

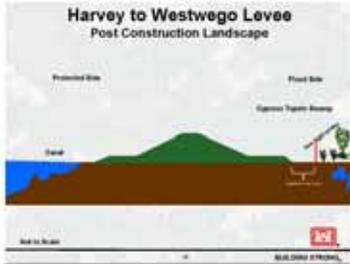


After doing that alternatives analysis what we identify is the proposed action of an earthen levee raised but it has to be widened so we'll be expanding the footprint on the flood side of the levee.

This shows where we have an existing levee. We have to raise the levee and address the stability as it goes higher so it widens.

This shows where we have an existing levee. We have to raise

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This is what it would look like when it's constructed. Along the protected side there is an existing canal and on this side there is a cypress swamp.

This is the alignment of the levee. This is the existing levee in [turquoise] and the red is the additional Right-of-Way that is

required. It does impact 42 acres of cypress swamp.



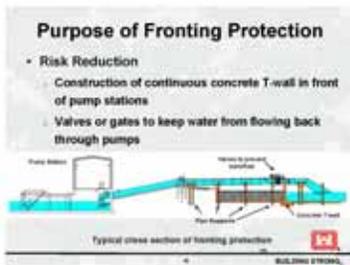
As we go through alternative analysis we do try to avoid and mitigate environmental impacts and we have to do compensatory mitigation. We are working on that plan, it will compensate for the impacts across the whole system.

The second area we're here to talk about tonight is at two of our pump stations. Gary Brouse is a Senior Project Manager he manages the floodwalls for our team.



Gary Brouse: The other area covered under the Supplemental which will help accomplish the risk reduction work is at the Ames and Mt. Kennedy Pump Stations.

We call floodwalls in front of pump stations fronting protection. It's a T-wall in front of the pump station that would protect the pump. It involves extending the existing pump pipes up and over the wall and then extending them.



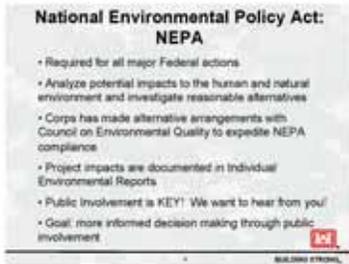
The original IER said we would replace the floodwalls and reinforce the wall in the front of the station at Mt. Kennedy and Ames. We thought we were able to accomplish that with the existing [Right-of-Way] at Ames

[Inaudible] but when we got in to the detail design we needed more Right-of-Way further out in to the canal so we're covering that under the Supplemental.

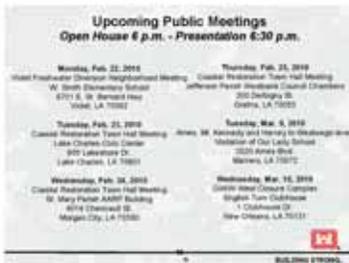


The timeline is that [Inaudible] the Ames and Mt. Kennedy we [Inaudible] we can advertise this month with an award later this spring so that we can begin construction in April. That would allow for completion of the risk system by Jun 2011

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Rachel Rodi: I skipped over this earlier but we're here tonight for the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA requires us to analyze impacts [a project may cause] to bugs and bunnies but also to humans and the nation. We are doing alternative arrangements to shorten the environmental process into 18 months verse 5 years. We're here because public involvement is key [to the process].



We have several public meetings coming up. You may be interested in the coastal restoration efforts statewide and we will also talk about our efforts closer to home on Feb. 25.

You can always go to

nolaenvironmental.com or call us or e-mail us your comments.



We have web sites with information that you may find helpful, Nolaenvironmental.gov it links back to the District Web site. And you can check us out on Twitter, Facebook and Flickr, that's where we post pictures of what we are doing.

I'd like to announce that James McMennis from the State Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration is here.

Question 1. Unidentified speaker: You talked about pump stations, are they manned or automatic in the case of a hurricane?

Response 1: Gary Brouse: The Corps is responsible for putting the protection in front of the station but they are manned by Jefferson Parish. There has been an effort for safe houses to be built and so the pumps may be operated from the safe house. [The safe houses allow] the pump operators to stay safe in winds up to 250 miles per hour. The station will be manned by Jefferson Parish Drainage.

Question 2. Pete Robicheaux: I heard you were talking about extending the levee. How much restriction will this cause from pumping the water out?

Response 2. Gary Brouse: We're only extending the pipes a few extra feet to go over the floodwall we are building. There is a wall but we need to rebuild it so it meets the new design standards. We're extending those pipes over the wall, we're not adding length.

We're also going to have a separate public meeting to talk about the Ames and Mt. Kennedy construction.

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.



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Question 3. Dr. Barry Kohl, Louisiana Audubon Council: I've been involved in the protection of Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve for 30 years and helped get the legislation passed in 1978. We're concerned about that one section where you're going to encroach on the park and take land. I'm reading the response to my letter the Corps and it says you still aren't sure where the boundary was and there were maps in the legislation that shows the boundary. Could you tell me why the corps can't understand where the park boundary is? Have I missed something?

Response 3. Todd Klock, real estate: It's not a question of we don't know where the boundary is. We want to make sure we exchange property with the National Park Service. We will give them properties that we're using as part of CIT track but we want to evaluate how much are we going to need in the future. We want to do one transaction we don't want to do another exchange in 20 years. We know what the footprint is and we're trying to evaluate what it could be in the future. And we'll incorporate what that will be at a later date.

Question 4. Dr. Barry Kohl: On the description of the levee. The cross section went from 150 to 325 ft. Are you going to have to clear vegetation in front of the tow of the levee? How much additional land do you want to clear?

Response 4. Julie Vignes: Yes, we will clear on the flood side of the existing tow to make the wider levee. The clearing will be within that 350 ft. It includes the new levee and the berm and the vegetative free zone.

Question 5. Dr. Barry Kohl: So where the tow stops, there will be another 15 ft of clearance needed?

Response 5. Julie Vignes: Yes, that includes the levee construction and beyond tow a 15 ft vegetative free area.

Question 6. Dr. Barry Kohl: that's within the 250 ft?

Response 6. Julie Vignes: It's all within the 350 ft.

Question 7. Dr. Barry Kohl: I also asked about whether the design took into account the fact that there is marsh and forested wetland which would afford protection. I would like to know that you are considering the conditions of 2057 which would put us at sea level at the tow, would that be right? Your response mentions, when I ask about factoring in the vegetation, it says it doesn't factor in vegetation because we were looking at 2057 and there may not be anything left except the levee. Does the corps factor in [Inaudible]?

Response 7. Julie Vignes: The trees are not factored in to the design because we have no assurance they would be there before the storm surge reaches the tow [of the levee] so it's not a factor we design to.

Question 8. Dr. Barry Kohl: What about armoring? Will that section be armored because it will be on the Gulf [of Mexico] side?

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Response 8. Julie Vignes: The grass will provide armoring. In some areas we will put additional armoring to protect against overtopping of the system.

Question 9. Dr. Barry Kohl: But the MRGO levees had not had armoring and they failed during Hurricane Katrina, because they weren't armored. If you factor in the marsh and Lafitte Park, if you factor that in it would be different because the levee would not be [Inaudible] but you're saying you're not factoring that in. If by 2057, [Inaudible] could be at the tow of the levee and erode away. Why aren't you coming in and armoring for this section?

Response 9. Gary Brouse: Julie answered you by saying we're taking a more conservative approach, we can't count on the storm surge [Inaudible]. Also under the 4th Supplemental [Emergency Spending Bill], the Corps is also tasked to do an armoring program with the risk reduction system. We have an armoring team studying that and they are studying overtopping rates and what different technologies [Inaudible]. [Some of the armoring technologies] they have are grass or turf reinforcement all the way to armoring blocks. We're also looking at what kind of erosion there could be on the flood side. There is an entire team studying the armoring. It's based on our existing assumption where we can't count on the coastline to be there.

Question 10. Dr. Barry Kohl: Then there is no plan to armor the WBV?

Response 10. Gary Brouse: That's what the team is studying, what would be armored and to what extent. There are different levels of threats. They are studying with University of Colorado what type of overtopping rates there are and what causes erosion. Once they get those results they can see what kind of armoring they need to do.

Question 11. Dr. Barry Kohl: When would that report be available for public review?

Response 11. Gary Brouse: I'm not positive but the results from the University of Colorado study won't be done until later this summer and I wouldn't expect it until the fall.

Question 12. Dr. Barry Kohl: So we could see a document later this year?

Response 12. Gary Brouse: Yes

Question 13. Dr. Barry Kohl: So if the study shows armoring is needed when would that take place? Is there money available to protect the Westbank, Jefferson and St. Bernard Parish? Is that included in the pot of \$14 billion?

Response 13. Gary Brouse: There are specific dollars for armoring but until the study is completed we won't know what amount that would be. There is a programmatic plan on it. They are going to have separate public meetings for armoring. To answer your question it's going to be done after we get the protection in place so we can come through and armor, we wouldn't tear up levees and floodwalls to put it in. It will be comprehensive.



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Question 14. Dr. Barry Kohl: That's not included in the present appropriation?

Response 14. Gary Brouse: There is armoring in the appropriations.

Question 15. Dr. Barry Kohl: I was reading the design guidelines. My big concern, because pre-Katrina [Inaudible] failed. And new geotechnical [requirements have been added into the] design. My big concern is water getting under the levee and through bad soils. What were the borings showing for this section of levee? The ones that you're going back to retrofit?

Response 15. Richard Pinner, chief of geotech branch: You asked what type of samples?

Question 16. Dr. Barry Kohl: In reading the new standards, it relates to foundations to prevent water seeping through under the levee. Because this segment was made to 350 ft, what did you find under the levee to cause you to make that [determination]?

Response 17. Richard Pinner: The big thing that controlled the footprint is the stability analysis and our factor of safety. This levee is being raised, we're raising it 14 ft. We require a larger berm. It's for stability for the protected side and the flood side. The footprint can handle both those conditions.

Question 18. Dr. Barry Kohl: What's the final height?

Response 18. Julie Vignes: When we design for the current elevation it will be 10.5 ft. We will constrict it above that to account for settlement so it will go to 13.5 ft.

Question 19. Dr. Barry Kohl: So at the end it would be?

Response 19. Julie Vignes: 10.5 ft but it's anticipated it would have to be raised in the future to 14 ft. Our footprint for this initial construction is to 13.5 ft which allows for settlement to make sure we're at or above the design grade of 10.5 ft.

Question 20. Dr. Barry Kohl: How many lifts will it take until it reaches your design?

Response 20. Julie Vignes: It will take three lift to get it to 14 ft.

Question 21. Dr. Barry Kohl: What frequency will those take? How many years will that be?

Response 21. Julie Vignes: It's usually a lift on average every 7-10 years to keep it above grade.

Question 22. Dr. Barry Kohl: So within 7-10 years there will be a second lift and then another 7 to 10 for the second lift?

Response 22. Julie Vignes: Yes, that's an average. It could be 12 years.

Question 23. Dr. Barry Kohl: You don't see additional needs from the park?



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Response 24. Julie Vignes: At this time, no. It's a possibility, we [Inaudible] over 50 years in the future, but it's a possibility.

Question 25. Dr. Barry Kohl: The fact that you're modeling that there would be no vegetation in front of the levee and that you're being conservative saying there would be no marsh, does that also assume the Corps is not going to pursue coastal restoration? If you would pursue coastal restoration there would be a factor of coastal restoration [in your design]. The wetlands are going to disappear and Gulf of Mexico will be at the [Inaudible].

Response 25. Julie Vignes: We're just taking a conservative approach. We're having [interruption].

Question 26. Dr. Barry Kohl: There will be 15 acres of park lands taken?

Response 26. Julie Vignes: Some of the impacts are within [Jean Lafitte Park] and some are not. I can't tell you exactly. We will work with other federal agencies and the state to do an assessment.

Question 27. Dr. Barry Kohl: Will mitigation be within the existing unit or used in another area?

Response 27. Julie Vignes: Our plans aren't finalized. The general approach will be mitigation in the same basin or hydrologic unit. We'll be doing mitigation plans, scoping meetings and environmental documents but we haven't identified the plan.

Question 28. Dr. Barry Kohl: When I met with the Colonel, there was a consensus about bundling wherever that would be. My organization, the Audubon Council, would like to see any mitigation done to the park be in the park and worked with the National Park Service because this national park is really special, it's an area we fought for for 40 years. Frank Garrett fought for 45 years. And what we're trying to do is protect that and make sure the park lasts. So I want to be sure you understand that any damage done, any mitigation should also be inside the park.

Response 28. Julie Vignes: We have that comment on record. We will still coordinate our mitigation plan with the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service.

Question 29. Dr. Barry Kohl: It said in the notice that the comment period had been extended until midnight tonight. I didn't see that before this night. Could we have sent in comments in January or February? Or were we just given tonight from 6:30 p.m. to midnight to comment?

Response 29. Julie Vignes: We don't know of any comment received from January through tonight.

Comment 30. Dr. Barry Kohl: But the draft [review period] was closed. There was nothing stated that the hearing record would be open for 60-90 days.

Response 30. Julie Vignes: We're not aware of any comments were received [during that time].

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Question 31. Dr. Barry Kohl: So when was [the notice of the extension] published? I would like to know more about it.

Response 31. Julie Vignes: [On Jan. 27 in the Times-Picayune, we can get you a copy of it.]

Question 32. Gail Cassard: This morning on the corner of Toussaint and Barataia there was a dump truck, is that part of this project?

Response 32. Julie Vignes: I'm not sure, it's possible.

Question 33. Gail Cassard: It was three trucks in a row. I would like to see Barataria cleaned up. A rock hit the top of my car. Who would I call to say can we get a street cleaner?

Response 33. Rachel Rodi: We can get you the construction hotline number before we leave. Also, Dr. Kohl you also mentioned coastal restoration earlier, we are also concerned about coastal restoration. We have upcoming meetings to talk about it.



Question 35. Dr. Barry Kohl: The proof would be that the Corps is modeling with the forest and marsh in front of [the levee]. If you were using those data then I'll believe you, until you do you're not factoring it in and you're looking at no coastal restoration. On determining the height, are you taking into considering sea level rise?

Response 35. Julie Vignes: Yes, that's why the current elevation 10.5 ft and the future is 14 ft. Storm surge, waves, sea level rise, all of those are factors.

Question 36. Dr. Barry Kohl: What was the level of sea level rise?

Response 36. Julie Vignes: I don't know for this reach.

Question 37. Dr. Barry Kohl: I would be interested in learning that number because oceanographers have studied it. I'd like to see that.

Response 37. Julie Vignes: We can get you contact information for our hydraulics team to answer.

Rachel Rodi: Thanks for coming, we'll be back on Mar. 9 to talk about Ames and Mt. Kennedy Pump Stations.