

Table of Contents		PAGE
1	Introduction.....	4
	1.1 Background.....	4
	1.2 Purpose of the Addendum.....	5
	1.3 Authority.....	5
	1.4 Scope and Limitations.....	5
	1.5 Comments Received.....	6
2	Modifications and Clarifications.....	7
	2.1 Modifications to the Proposed Action as discussed in Draft IER #13.....	7
	2.1.1WBV 12 Modifications:.....	8
	2.1.2WBV 9a Modifications:.....	8
	2.1.3 WBV 9b Modifications:.....	8
	2.1.4 WBV 9c Modifications:.....	8
	2.2 Clarifications for Draft IER # 13 Content.....	9
	2.2.1 Socioeconomics.....	9
	2.2.2 Terminology.....	10
	2.2.3 Risk Reduction Projects South of the Proposed Action.....	11
	2.2.4 Other Levee Projects.....	14
3	Response to Substantive Comments.....	17
4	Alternative Evaluation.....	23
	4.1 Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration.....	23
	4.1.1 Transition Levees.....	23
	4.1.2 Ramp South of Oakville.....	23
	4.1.3 Ramp at Oakville.....	23
	4.2 Alternatives to the Proposed Action.....	24
	4.2.1 Combination Ramp and Floodgate.....	24
	4.2.2 Invisible Floodwall.....	26
	4.2.3 Roller Gate.....	28
	4.3 Proposed Action.....	29
	4.3.1 Swing Gate.....	29
5	Public Meetings.....	32
6	Conclusion.....	34

List of Tables

Table 1: Public Meetings for Plaquemines Parish Projects

Table 2: Detailed List of Preparers

List of Figures

Figure 1: IER #13 Alignment Contract Numbers and Proposed Pump Station Locations

Figure 2: Swing Gates

Figure 3: Belle Chasse Polder (Pink Balloon at Oakville)

Addendum to Final IER #13

Figure 4: Existing Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Alignment on the West Bank and existing NOV Project

Figure 5: Oakville to La Reussite Portion of the Existing Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee

Figure 6: Proposed Work Area on MRL in Belle Chasse and St. Bernard Polders

Figure 7: Potential MRL Design Considerations/Upsizing Requirements

Figure 8: Existing Interior Drainage in the Vicinity of Oakville

Figure 9: Proposed Interior Drainage in the Vicinity of Oakville

Figure 10: Combination Ramp and Floodgate Alternative Rendering

Figure 11: Invisible Floodwall Alternative Rendering (Southbound View)

Figure 12: Roller Gate Alternative Diagram

Figure 13: Roller Gate Alternative Rendering

Figure 14: Swing Gate Alternative Diagram

Figure 15: Swing Gate Alternative Rendering

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Public Meeting Summary and Notes

Appendix B: Agency Comments

Appendix C: IER # 13 Public Comments

Appendix D: Detailed Project Footprints

Appendix E: Addendum to IER # 13 Public Comments

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Final Individual Environmental Report (IER) #13, entitled West Bank and Vicinity, Hero Canal and Eastern Tie-in, evaluates the potential impacts associated with the proposed enlargement of the Hero Canal levee, and construction of the Eastern Tie-in portion of the West Bank and Vicinity Louisiana, Project (WBV). The WBV is part of the larger Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). The U.S. Army CEMVN of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) engaged in a number of public involvement activities prior to the official release of Draft IER #13. In addition to scoping meetings, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Alternative Arrangements, the CEMVN hosted 31 public meetings where this project was discussed, which are further discussed in Section 5 of this Addendum.

Draft IER #13 was made available to the public on April 3, 2009. The 30-day public review and comment period was extended twice at the request of interested stakeholders and ended on June 1, 2009. Distribution of the Draft IER #13 for review and comment included mailing the document to Federal and state agencies, and parties that requested the document. In addition, the Draft IER #13 was and is still available at www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

Two public meetings were held during the Draft IER #13 review period, on April 29 and May 4 2009. The meetings provided an additional opportunity for the public to provide comments on Draft IER #13. Attendees at these and other public meetings were provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed actions. These meetings focused on the proposed action discussed in Draft IER #13 and the additional risk reduction that would be afforded to Plaquemines Parish by the separate Federal project that will improve the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees (NFL) and incorporate them into the New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project (NOV). This newly-authorized and funded portion of the NOV project will be discussed in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) being prepared by the USACE.

A public workshop was held prior to the release of this Draft IER #13 Addendum. That workshop, held on September 19, 2009 in Belle Chasse, presented information on the alternatives discussed in Section 4 of this document. For more information and a copy of the presentations from that workshop please visit nolaenvironmental.gov.

This Final Addendum was prepared in accordance with the Alternative Arrangements implemented by CEMVN in accordance with the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR §1506.11). The CEMVN began implementing the Alternative Arrangements on March 13, 2007 following consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Federal and state resource agencies, and after coordination with interested stakeholders (72 FR 1137).

All references to project feature elevations, or El., are design elevations based on the NAVD88 2004.65 datum for a specific level of risk reduction (i.e. 1 percent annual chance of exceedence storm surge levels, etc.). A 1 percent exceedence surge event refers to the surge level that has a 1

percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. For more information on the existing flood risk reduction system, the upgrades proposed, and details on risk and reliability visit www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

1.2 Purpose of the Addendum

Written and verbal comments received during the public review period for the Draft IER #13 document were reviewed by CEMVN staff and a determination was made by the New Orleans District Commander that three issues addressed in those comments rose to the level of being substantive. In accordance with the Alternative Arrangements for Implementing the NEPA, the USACE prepared this Final Addendum to address the substantive comments before a decision was made on the proposed action. The issues were:

1. Is there an increased risk of flooding to the areas south of the WBV Belle Chasse polder associated with increased storm surge as a result of:
 - a. Constructing the West Bank and Vicinity Project, including the portion described in Draft IER #13?
 - b. Constructing a floodgate across Highway 23 as proposed in Draft IER #13?
2. What is the impact to the interior drainage system (e.g., Ollie Canal and Pumping Station) in the areas of south of the Belle Chasse polder as a result of the Draft IER #13 proposed action?
3. How will the Draft IER #13 proposed action affect property values and flood insurance prices in the areas south of the WBV Belle Chasse polder?

Responses to those substantive comments are contained in Section 3. This Final IER #13 Addendum also provides additional information concerning the alternatives presented in the IER #13. This includes clarifications and inclusions of additional hydraulic and engineering information. Prior to the District Commander making a decision on the proposed action, the Draft IER #13 Addendum was published for a 30-day public review and comment period from 27 October 2009 to 25 November 2009. A public meeting was held during the public comment period on 05 November 2009.

1.3 Authority

The scope of this Final IER # 13 Addendum is defined by the authorities for the WBV project as discussed in section 2.3 of the Final IER #13.

1.4 Scope and Limitations

Some comments received during the public review period fall outside the scope of WBV authorization (i.e. extending the WBV project alignment further south and including additional portions of Plaquemines Parish into the WBV HSDRRS). The planning objective of providing risk reduction to the Belle Chasse polder, including Oakville, Louisiana as part of the WBV project was established in the 1994 Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. Congress ratified this planning objective in Public Law 104-303, Section 101 (a)(17) (WRDA 1996) which states that the project should be carried out substantially in accordance with the

plans and conditions in the May 1, 1995 "Report of the Chief of Engineers on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in the Vicinity of New Orleans, Louisiana (East of the Harvey Canal)" which transmitted the 1994 Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement. Thus, the community of Oakville is within the authorized eastern tie-in of the WBV project.

Following Hurricane Katrina, Congress, in Public Law 109-148 (3rd Supplemental), appropriated funds to accelerate the completion of the previously authorized WBV project and to restore and repair the WBV project at full federal expense. Public Law 109-234 (4th Supplemental) appropriated funds and added authority to raise levee heights where necessary, reinforce and replace floodwalls, and otherwise enhance the existing WBV project to provide the levels of risk reduction necessary to achieve 1 percent accreditation within the National Flood Insurance Program. Thus, post-Katrina, Congress provided appropriations to accelerate completion of those portions of the WBV project, including the Eastern Tie-in, that were not completed pre-Katrina. Congress also provided authority and appropriations to raise levee heights where necessary and otherwise enhance the WBV project to provide the levels of risk reduction necessary to achieve 1 percent accreditation within the National Flood Insurance Program. Based on authorizations and appropriations, the CEMVN is proposing in Final IER #13 an alternative that provides 100-year level of risk reduction to the portion of the WBV project known as the Belle Chasse polder.

In response to public comments, the CEMVN evaluated whether the current WBV authority could provide additional 100 year level of risk reduction to communities south of the Belle Chasse polder. The CEMVN does not have authority or appropriations to consider alternatives for the WBV project that would extend south of Oakville.

1.5 Comments Received

Comments were received from several government agencies including the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD) during the Draft IER #13 public comment period (see Appendix B). The CEMVN has and will continue to coordinate with government agencies in regards to the HSDRRS, the incorporation of the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees into NOV, and the existing NOV project.

The CEMVN received over 200 written and verbal comments regarding the IER #13 Draft during the public comment period. Appendix C provides copies of the written comments on Draft IER #13 received by the CEMVN during the public review period and beyond. The comments are organized primarily by date received. Substantive comments are addressed in Section 3.

2 Modifications and Clarifications

2.1 Modifications to the Proposed Action as discussed in Draft IER #13

The proposed action, as described in the Final IER #13, begins at Hero Canal south of the confluence of the Algiers and Harvey Canals off of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The first portion of the alignment is referred to as WBV-12 (Hero Canal Levee), which is an earthen levee bordering the north bank of Hero Canal. The alignment then crosses Hero Canal to the south with a closure structure and 70 cfs pump station in a reach referred to as WBV-9b. The earthen levee to the south and east of the Hero Canal, as well as the 150 cfs pump station structure, is WBV-9a. As the alignment crosses Highway 23 the closure structures are referred to as WBV-9c. The WBV-9c structures transition into earthen levee (WBV-9a) that ties into the Mississippi River Levee (MRL). The figure below (1) illustrates the reaches that are referenced in the Final IER # 13 and this Addendum.

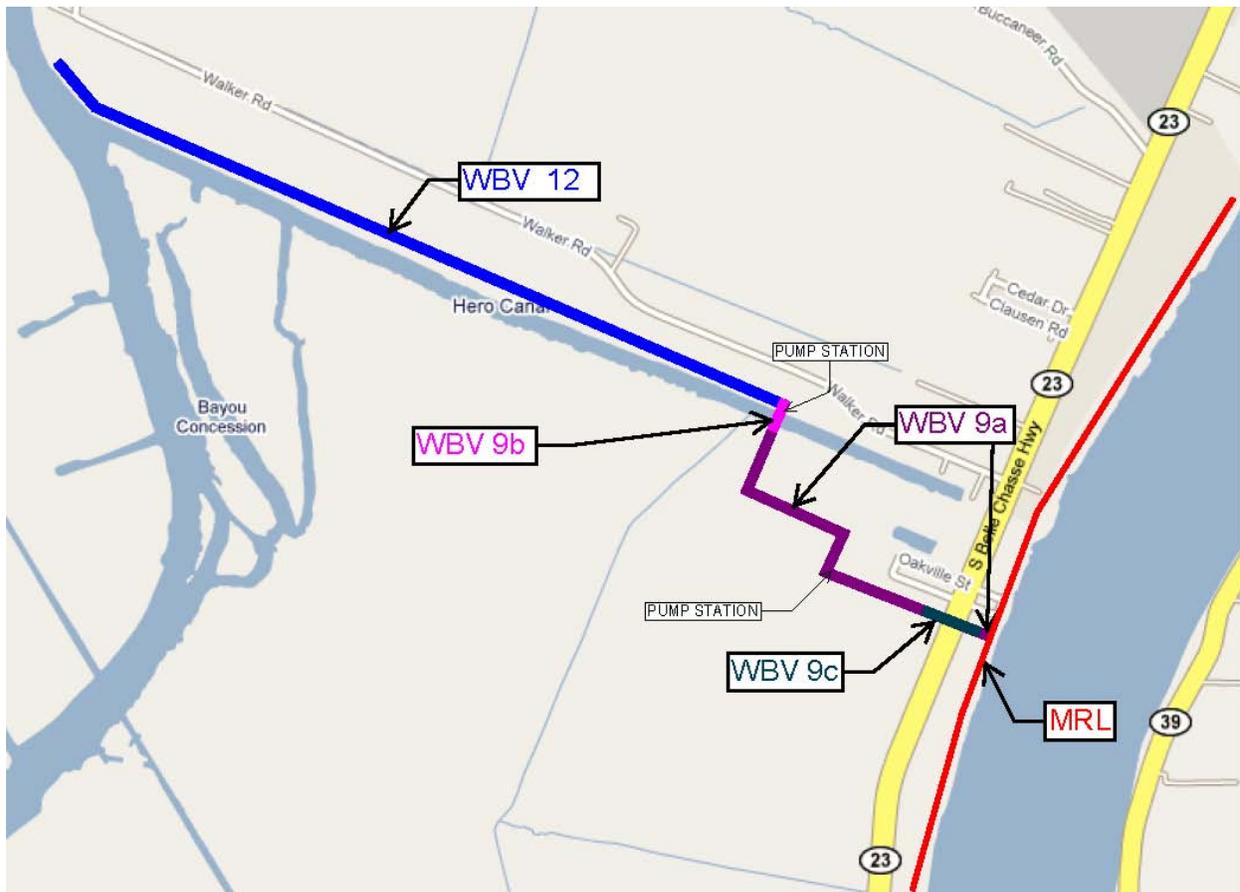


Figure 1. IER #13 Alignment Contract Numbers and Proposed Pump Station Locations

Modifications to the proposed actions for WBV 12, WBV 9a, 9b, and 9c are detailed here. Section 4 provides additional discussion concerning the proposed action for WBV 9c. The remainder of the proposed action alignment, except for the stated modifications, remains as described in the Final IER #13.

2.1.1WBV 12 Modifications:

- Proposed changes to the project footprint have been made to allow for additional temporary work areas, staging, turnaround, and transportation of project materials. Appendix D details the additional right-of-way (ROW) required. The additional proposed work areas, staging turnarounds, etc would have minimal impacts to the human environment

2.1.2WBV 9a Modifications:

- The outflow from the proposed 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station in Oakville would be directed to the flood side of the levee system instead of south into the Ollie Drainage Canal as discussed in the Final IER #13 document, Section 2.3. This pump would be primarily utilized during a tropical storm event and for routine maintenance. Day to day stormwater flows would still be directed through an approximately 120 cfs 4ft x 4ft box culvert drainage structure to the Ollie Drainage Canal.

Because gravity drainage into the Ollie Canal through the culvert would not be possible during a surge event, as the box culvert would be closed, the pump station would be used to pump interior stormwater drainage from the Oakville area into the cypress swamp. Depending on the water level in the cypress swamp, the depth of water in the cypress swamp may increase when the pumps are operated. The increase in water depth in the swamp due to the pumping of interior water into the swamp would be greater at the pump discharge location and would decrease to a negligible depth as the water flows west and spreads out over a wider area. Flowage easements would be required, totaling approximately 67.2 acres. The flowage easement would border the Ollie Levee on the south side, the Hero Canal on the North side, the proposed Oakville Levee on the east side, and the projected north-south leg of the Ollie Canal on the west side (See Appendix D). The redirection of this discharge during a tropical event would have minimal impacts to the human environment.

2.1.3 WBV 9b Modifications:

The dredged material from Hero Canal would be deposited at the All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Park development on Walker Road if no other nearer suitable sites are identified. Two recent Phase II studies of canal sediments in Algiers and Hero Canals have both concluded that the level of contamination in the canals is too low for any regulatory concerns.

2.1.4 WBV 9c Modifications:

- Redesign of the proposed Highway 23 crossing provides for wider gates and out of sight storage of the gates to the greatest extent possible. To cross Highway 23, two approximately 55 ft wide steel swing gates would be constructed to match the adjacent wall at El.14 with the northbound gate storing parallel to Highway 23 and the southbound gate storing parallel to the floodwall on the western side of Highway 23 (Figure 2). Mechanical operation of the northbound swing gate would enable closure in high winds. This option allows more flexibility in the timing of closing down lanes of traffic during emergency evacuation situations. Approximately 175 LF of guardrail would parallel the Highway 23 southbound side of the Highway along the outside side of the shoulder beginning approximately 80 ft north of the alignment in Captain Larry's parking lot and terminating approximately 95 ft south of the proposed alignment. Approximately 200 LF of guardrail would parallel the

Highway 23 northbound side of the Highway along the outside of the shoulder beginning approximately 150 ft south of the alignment and terminating approximately 50 ft north of the alignment. A removable center column to which the swing gates would latch and close excludes the need for guardrail in the Highway 23 median. To cross the railroad tracks that are located parallel to the eastern side of Highway 23, a swing gate built to El. 14 would be constructed. The railroad swing gate would store parallel to the wall on the eastern side of the railroad tracks. Figure 1 shows the configuration of the highway gates and railroad gates in open and closed position.

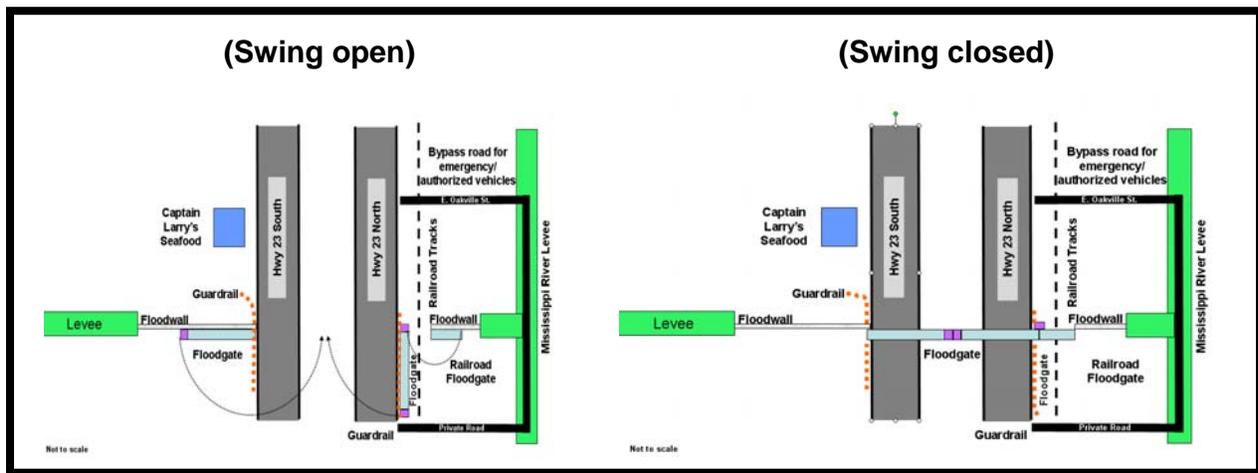


Figure 2. Swing Gates

In addition to addressing substantive comments, this Final IER #13 Addendum provides additional information that was used when evaluating the alternatives presented in the Final IER #13. This includes clarifications and inclusions of hydraulic and engineering information.

2.2 Clarifications for Draft IER # 13 Content

2.2.1 Socioeconomics

The Socioeconomic portion of the Final IER #13 contained a section (3.3.2) on the indirect impacts of the no action alternative to employment, business, and industry. The paragraph below clarifies the statements made in that section.

Under the no action alternative, the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project authorized in 1996 would be constructed. However, the height of the levees would be lower than those under the proposed action. Consequently, the levees would not be built to the elevations required for accreditation at the 1 percent exceedence levels as defined by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The Flood Insurance Administration (FIA) would take this into account during the updating of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the affected area. The existing actual flood risk in the Belle Chasse polder is higher than the risk under the proposed

action. The existing higher risk of future flood damages in the Belle Chasse polder could discourage commercial development in the area and, for more severe events or with repetitive flooding, lead to the permanent displacement of business and industrial properties.

The area of Plaquemines Parish south of the Belle Chasse polder is currently classified as a special flood hazard area by the FIA. The preliminary digital flood insurance rate maps that were released in January 2009 show a change in Advisory Base Flood Elevation compared to the original FIRMs prepared in 1985. Coincident with this project, the CEMVN has been authorized and funded to incorporate the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees extending from Oakville to St. Jude into the NOV. As a result of rehabilitating and raising these levees to Federal standards, the communities within that alignment are expected to have a higher level of risk reduction in the future than currently exists.

The area south of the WBV proposed action in Plaquemines Parish has developed since the original 1996 Congressional authorization. Risk reduction for the communities located in Plaquemines Parish south of the proposed action will be discussed in the socioeconomic analysis contained in the New Orleans to Venice Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (NFL SEIS) currently being prepared by the USACE for incorporation of the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees into the NOV project. The NFL SEIS should not be confused with the NOV SEIS which is being prepared to complete the existing NOV levee system. Parties who wish to be notified of NFL SEIS availability should sign up for notifications on www.nolaenvironmental.gov by submitting a comment stating such or by contacting the CEMVN directly.

2.2.2 Terminology

In Section 3.1.2.2 of the Final IER #13 document, the word “adjacent” was utilized to describe the area to the south of the proposed action. The intent of the word was to describe the area that directly abuts the proposed project area (i.e. the Perez property). Final IER #13 did not contain a detailed description or socioeconomic analysis of the areas further than one mile south of the proposed levee area because those areas are outside of the authorized WBV project area. The supplemental funding authorizations directed the CEMVN to complete the construction of the authorized projects and to upgrade the projects to meet the new 1 percent annual chance of exceedence storm surge levels established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). That authorization did not provide funding or authorization for an update or reevaluation of the authorized project boundaries. Specific Congressional authorization and appropriations would be required for a re-evaluation of the WBV project boundaries.

The use of the term Belle Chasse or the Belle Chasse polder (Figure 3) in Final IER #13 and/or this Addendum refers to an area that is bounded by the Mississippi River to the north and east, Hero Canal to the south, and the Algiers Canal to the west. The USACE acknowledges that residents outside of the Belle Chasse polder receive U.S. Postal Service mail via the Belle Chasse, Louisiana post office. The boundaries of the U.S. Postal Service districts and HSDRRS polders do not coincide.

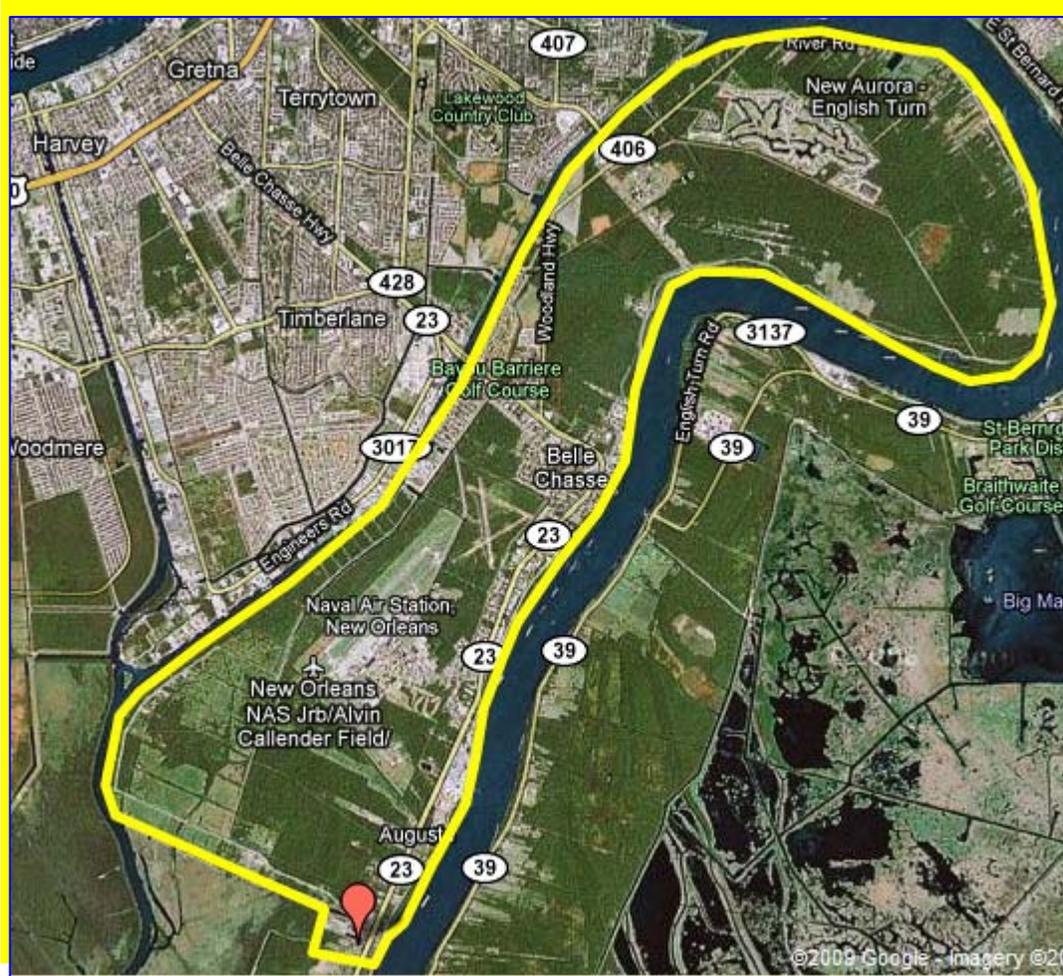


Figure 3. Belle Chasse Polder (Pink Balloon at Oakville)

2.2.3 Risk Reduction Projects South of the Proposed Action

Figure 4 shows the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees and existing NOV project alignments south of the WBV proposed action. Communities south of the Belle Chasse polder are currently subjected to a high risk of flooding due to the condition of the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees. The current levee elevations of approximately El. 5 to El. 7 in the Oakville to La Reussite segment provide risk reduction for approximately a 4% to 10% annual chance of exceedence surge level event (10 to 25 year surge event/return period). Interim flood fight measures taken by the parish have reduced that risk to some degree but these measures would likely be ineffective for 1% annual chance of exceedence surge and wave levels.

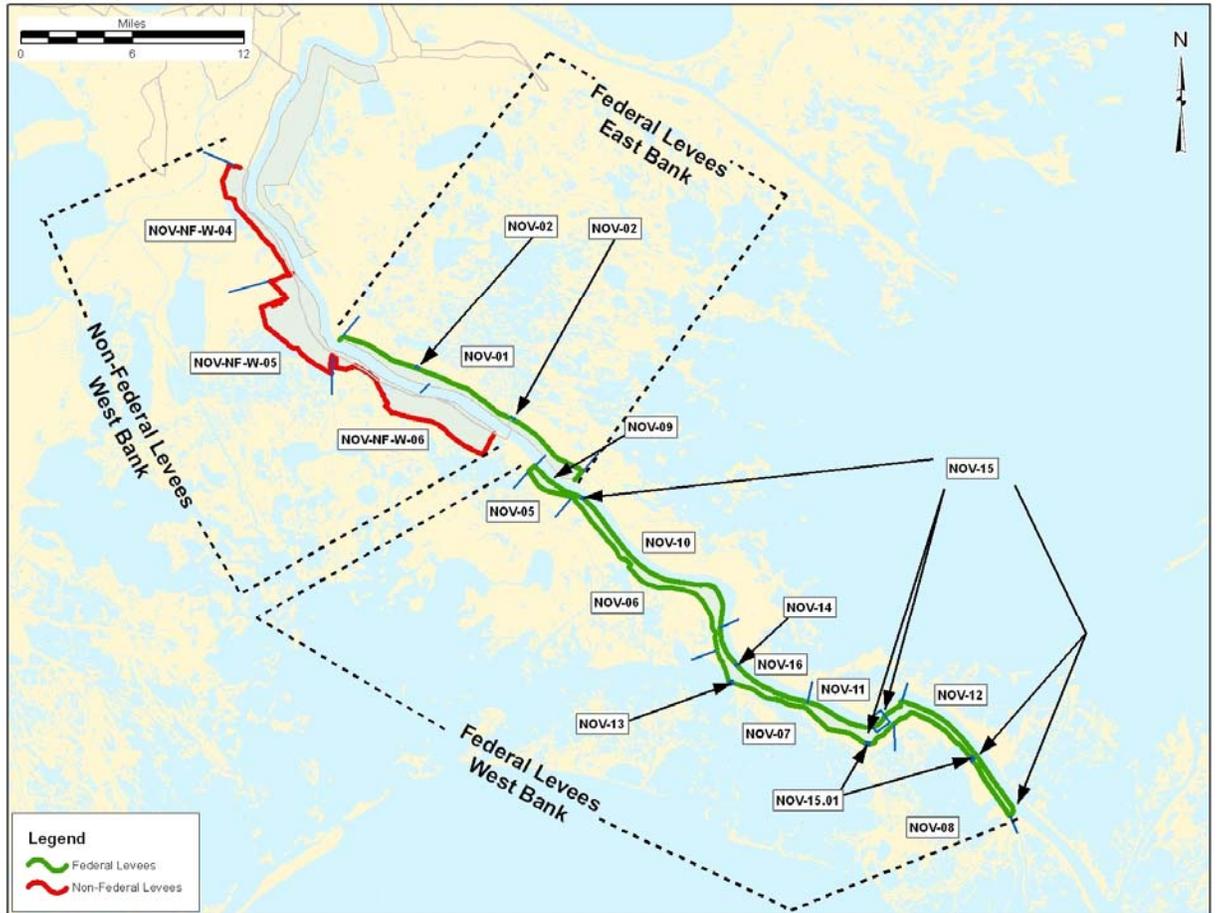


Figure 4. Existing Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Alignment on the West Bank and existing NOV Project

The higher level of risk for areas south of the proposed action is evident from a review of the Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) as established by FEMA for the Oakville to La Reussite communities. ABFEs are based upon current conditions. With or without WBV modifications, advisory maps show ABFEs in the range of El. 8 within the subject communities.

For example, in the Oakville to La Reussite area (see Figure 5), the 2%, 1%, and 0.2% annual chance of exceedence storm surge levels from the west are approximately El. 6, El. 8 and El. 12 respectively; whereas the existing levee crest is only in the elevation El. 5 to El. 7 range. In addition, tropical events produce waves on top of storm surge. Interim flood fight measures taken by Plaquemines Parish have reduced that risk to some degree, but these measures would likely be ineffective for a 1 percent exceedence surge event. Along this segment of levee, preliminary analysis indicates a levee elevation of El. 10.5 – El. 12.5 , with 1V:4H levee slopes, would be required to provide levels of risk reduction for the 1 percent exceedence surge event and to meet hydraulic design requirements for certification criteria under the National Flood Insurance Program.

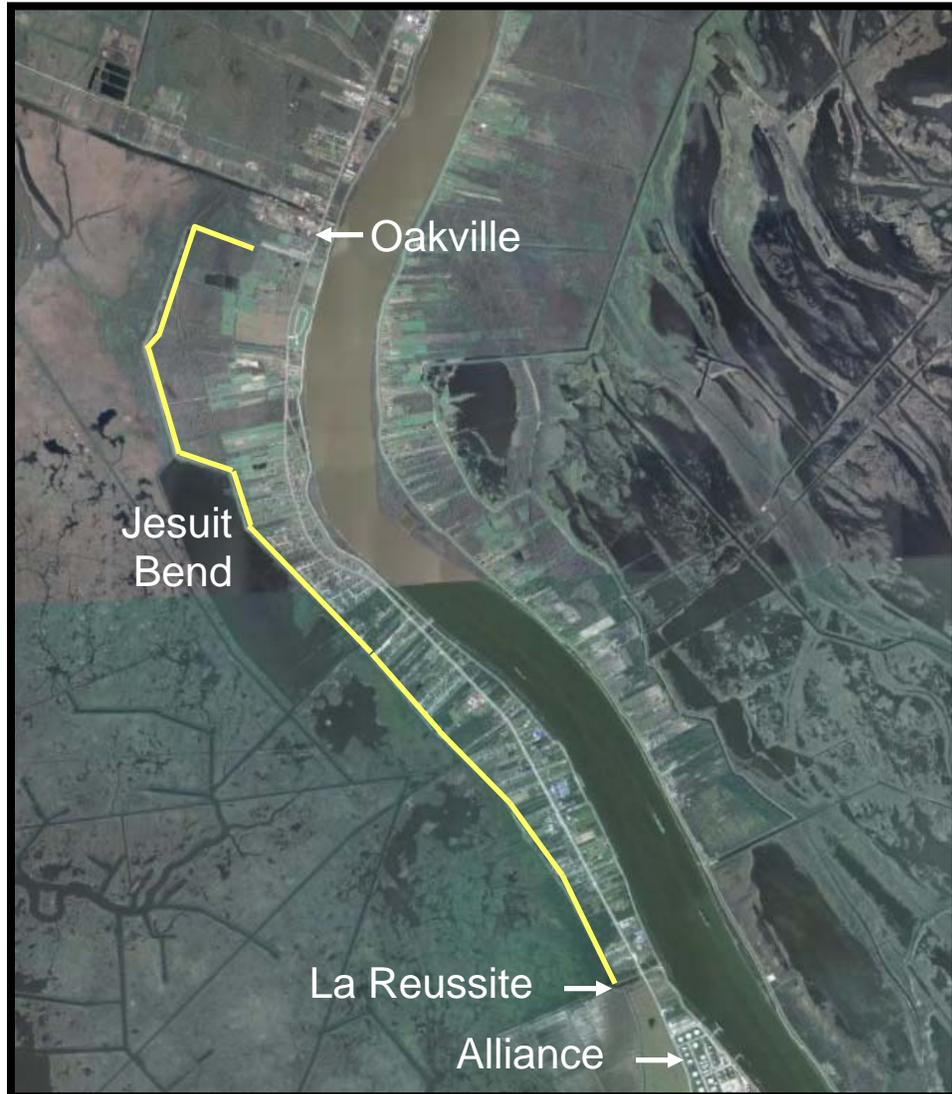


Figure 5. Oakville to La Reussite Portion of the Existing Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee

The relatively small area east of the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee and the exposure of a long levee length allow for wave overtopping to fill the polders within a few hours when surge levels are still below the levee crest. Steady overflow which occurs when surge levels exceed the levee crest elevation can fill the polder even faster, within tens of minutes depending upon surge levels. The rates of overtopping from a 1% annual chance of exceedence surge level event are greatly in excess of the accepted HSDRRS design guidelines, and the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees are susceptible to breaching under these types of overtopping conditions.

Any increase in levee crest elevation reduces the risk of overtopping that may occur due to a surge event. Hydraulic modeling done to determine the necessary levee elevation is not complete at this time; but, preliminary analysis indicates raising the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee to approximately El. 9 would meet current authorized elevations in the northern end when the WBV HSDRRS is in place. These existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees, when Federalized, are expected to provide risk reduction approaching approximately a 2 percent annual chance of surge elevation exceedence and associated waves (50-year return period). For a 2 percent annual chance of surge level exceedence, there is a 78% chance that such a storm surge will be exceeded once in a persons lifetime (lifetime assumed to be 75 years).

2.2.4 Other Levee Projects

Concurrent with the WBV Eastern Tie-in project, the CEMVN is pursuing a project to incorporate 32 miles of existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees, and construct 2 miles from the ground up, into the NOV. The CEMVN has authorization and appropriations to complete this project. As a part of the ongoing environmental compliance process, the CEMVN is prepared to evaluate a Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) at the request of the State of Louisiana, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration that could result in the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees in the northern area of the NFL project area to be raised to an elevation that would meet the design elevation sufficient to meet 1 percent annual chance of exceedence surge standards. Construction of this project with or without inclusion of an LPP could substantially reduce the risk of property damage below Oakville. Appropriate engineering and environmental compliance analysis will be undertaken as necessary when LPP alternatives have been identified.

Updated technical analyses and more sophisticated examination of the Mississippi River Levee system has revealed additional system improvements are required to complete the HSDRRS for 100-year risk reduction (1 percent annual chance of exceedence risk reduction). The figures provided show the location (Figure 6) and extent (Figure 7) of the anticipated improvements.

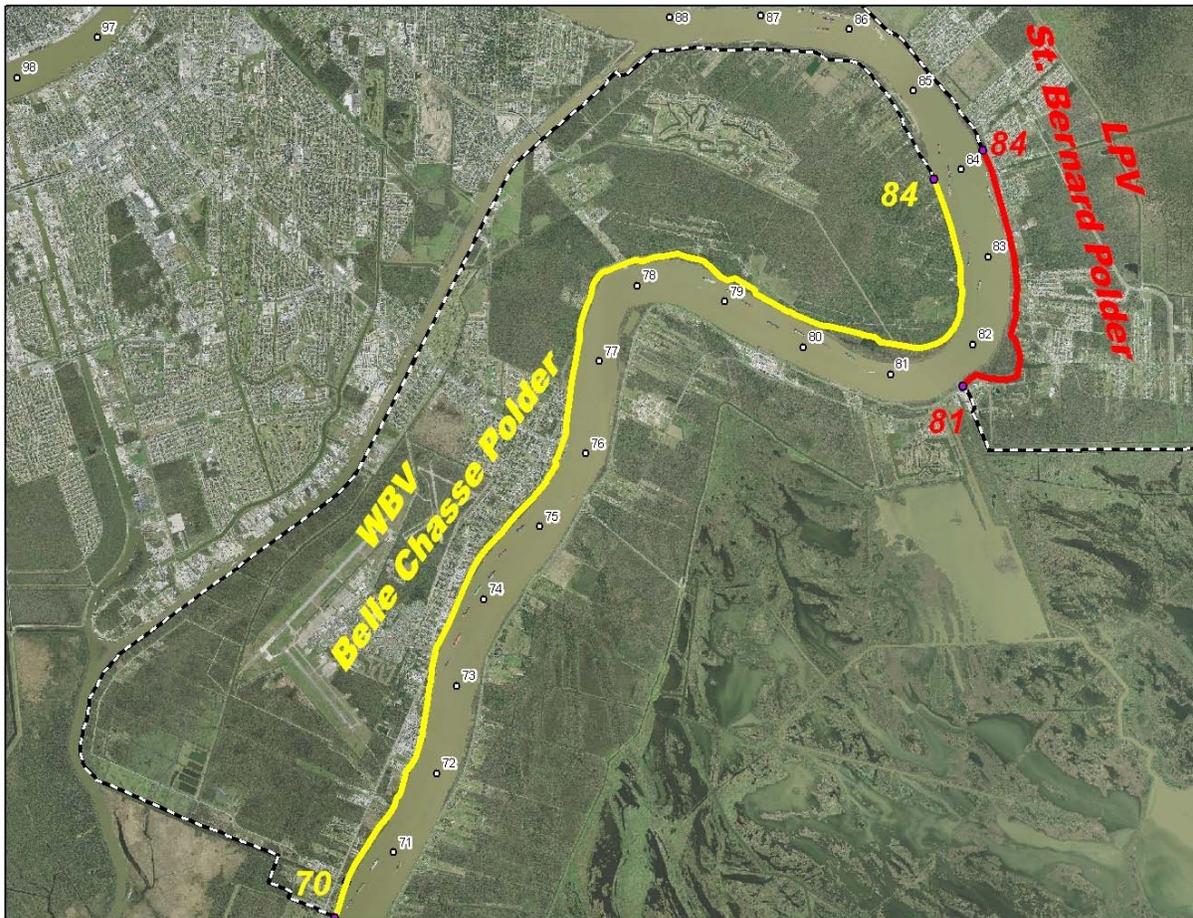


Figure 6. Proposed Work Area on MRL in Belle Chasse and St. Bernard Polders
(Oakville is at river mile marker 70, and river mile marker numbers are approximate)

Applying this new information means that improvements (upsized earthen or T-wall levees) are required to portions of the MRL that are co-located with the HSDRRS system:

- 14 miles of Mississippi River Levee on the west bank within the West Bank & Vicinity system, at the lower end of the Belle Chasse polder with a required increase in existing levee elevations of 3.5 feet at mile 70, diminishing to no increase needed at mile 84.
- 3 miles of Mississippi River Levee on the east bank within the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity (LPV) system at the lower end of the St. Bernard polder, with a required increase in existing levee elevations of about 0.5 feet.

Design Considerations

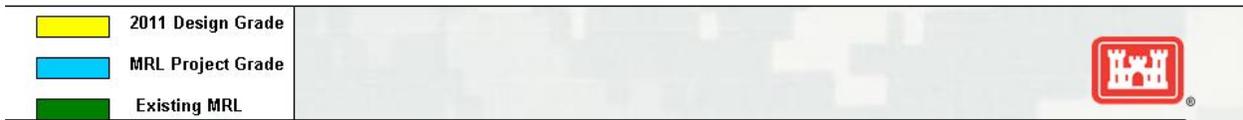
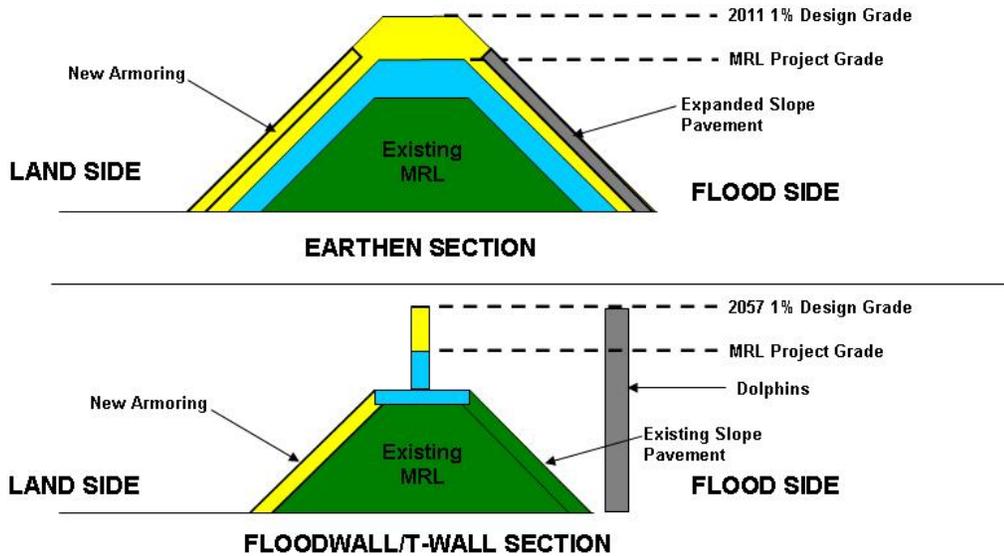


Figure 7. Potential MRL Design Considerations/Upsizing Requirements

The USACE will perform the necessary engineering and environmental analyses in the coming months to determine required designs. The USACE continues to be committed to provide a 100-year system for the Belle Chasse polder by June 2011 through a combination of engineered advanced measures and permanent measures.

3 Response to Substantive Comments

The New Orleans District Commander determined that three comments received during the Draft IER #13 public comment period were substantive. The comments and responses issues are included in this section.

Substantive Comment 1a: Is there an increased risk of flooding to the areas south of the WBV Belle Chasse polder associated with increased storm surge as a result of constructing the West Bank and Vicinity Project, including the portion described in Draft IER #13?

For purposes of this analysis, the construction of the proposed action is defined as the incremental elevations above the previously authorized WBV project features. Analyses indicate that the WBV project may slightly increase the 1 percent annual chance-of-occurrence storm surge levels south of Oakville, by amounts of up to a few tenths of a foot (i.e., up to several inches). The general trend is for the WBV storm surge increase to decrease the further distance south of the WBV projects one is located. Differences south of Myrtle Grove/Alliance area are negligible. The small increased risk of flooding due to wave overtopping, which is attributable to the WBV project, exists primarily for lesser surge events, where the surge level is well below the top of the levee. In light of the low levee crest elevations, 5 to 7 ft, higher surge levels such as the 1 percent exceedence event surge level events can overwhelm the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee system and completely flood the interior polder, regardless of any added increase in surge levels induced by the WBV project.

The West Closure Complex (WCC) gate component of the proposed hurricane and storm damage reduction system prevents surge from entering the Harvey and Algiers canals. The volume of water that is prevented from entering the canals remains outside the levee/gate system in the vicinity of the gate, thereby locally increasing water levels by a small amount. As a hurricane center moves through the region, winds shift; as they do and winds blow from the west, this small added volume of water can be pushed toward the east against the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees south of Oakville, causing a slight increase there as well. The exact amount of the increase varies depending upon location. For example, areas where the levee alignment has a corner that naturally forms a pocket in which water can accumulate, the increase will be greater than in areas where the levee is straight and without such pockets. Increases also depend upon the characteristics of the hurricane (track, intensity, size, forward speed).

Results of storm surge model runs with and without the WBV proposed action in place indicate the local differences in peak surge to be in the range of -0.6 ft to 0.9 ft in the immediate vicinity of Oakville to La Reussite, for the set of storms that was simulated. The difference in peak surge diminishes to 0 to 0.1 ft. approximately 8 miles south of Oakville. Differences south of Myrtle Grove/Alliance are negligible. Results of an analysis of wave modeling with and without the WBV proposed action in place indicate wave heights can vary between -0.2 and 0.4 ft

All water discharged into the Harvey and Algiers canals flows south out of the area via the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) into the Barataria Basin. The WCC includes a pump station

designed to discharge 20,000 cfs and utilizes the Algiers and Harvey Canals as a detention basin. The construction of the WCC pump station does not increase the volume of stormwater discharge to the area south of the GIWW.

The small increased risk of storm surge impacting communities within the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee system is being considered in setting the design elevation of the levees which are to be raised under authorization of the NOV project. The assessments described above remain the same with or without a flood gate or ramp constructed across Highway 23 in Oakville.

Substantive Comment 1b: Is there an increased risk of flooding to the areas south of the WBV Belle Chasse polder associated with increased storm surge as a result of constructing a floodgate across Highway 23 as proposed in Draft IER #13?

A structure (floodgate or ramp) constructed at Highway 23 does not induce flooding in the area south of the Belle Chasse polder during tropical events or rain events. Interior flood waters south of the Belle Chasse polder would need to reach elevation 5 ft before any water could flow north into the Belle Chasse polder based upon current land elevations at Highway 23 in Oakville. Since the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees have crest elevations of 5 to 7 ft, it is likely that a significant amount of interior flooding in the Oakville to La Reussite polder would occur during greater surge and wave events, such as a 1 percent annual chance of exceedence event, due to wave overtopping and perhaps steady flow over the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee. If the gate structure were not in place, flood water due to overtopping and breaching of the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee could flow north, into the Belle Chasse polder, but at a flow rate that is much less than the water entering the area through and over the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee. Model results shows this process occurs for large events that completely overwhelm and flood the polder behind the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee. With a structure in place, the water overtopping the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees would not flow north into the Belle Chasse polder. However, with or without a structure in place, the Oakville to La Reussite polder is overwhelmed and fills to capacity.

Substantive Comment 2: What is the impact to interior drainage (including rainfall runoff) in the areas south of the proposed Highway. 23 floodgate (e.g., Ollie Canal and Pumping Station) as a result of the Draft IER #13 proposed action?

As stated previously, the proposed Highway 23 floodgate would have no impact on the drainage in the interior of Oakville or the area south of the floodgate. Additionally, gravity drainage into Ollie Canal would only occur during non-tropical rainfall events. The proposed 150 cfs pump station would direct rainwater to the floodside of the system during tropical events, thus lessening the volume of water currently flowing to Ollie Canal during a tropical event. There are three key changes to the drainage situation that were analyzed by industry standard hydraulic analysis methods that determine the effects of the proposed action. The three key changes are listed and explained below:

- **Runoff in the Interior of Oakville:** An analysis of the drainage area that would be captured by the proposed levee and floodgate shows that up to 5 cubic feet per second (cfs) of flow would be added to the interior runoff discharge in Oakville (Figure 8). This is a result of redirecting rain water accumulated between Highway 23 and the Mississippi River Levee to the outfall drainage structure located in the southeast corner of the project area. This is an insignificant increase when compared to the peak internal drainage flow of about 240 cfs from a 10 percent annual chance of exceedence rain event.

EASTERN TIE-IN: OAKVILLE EXISTING DRAINAGE

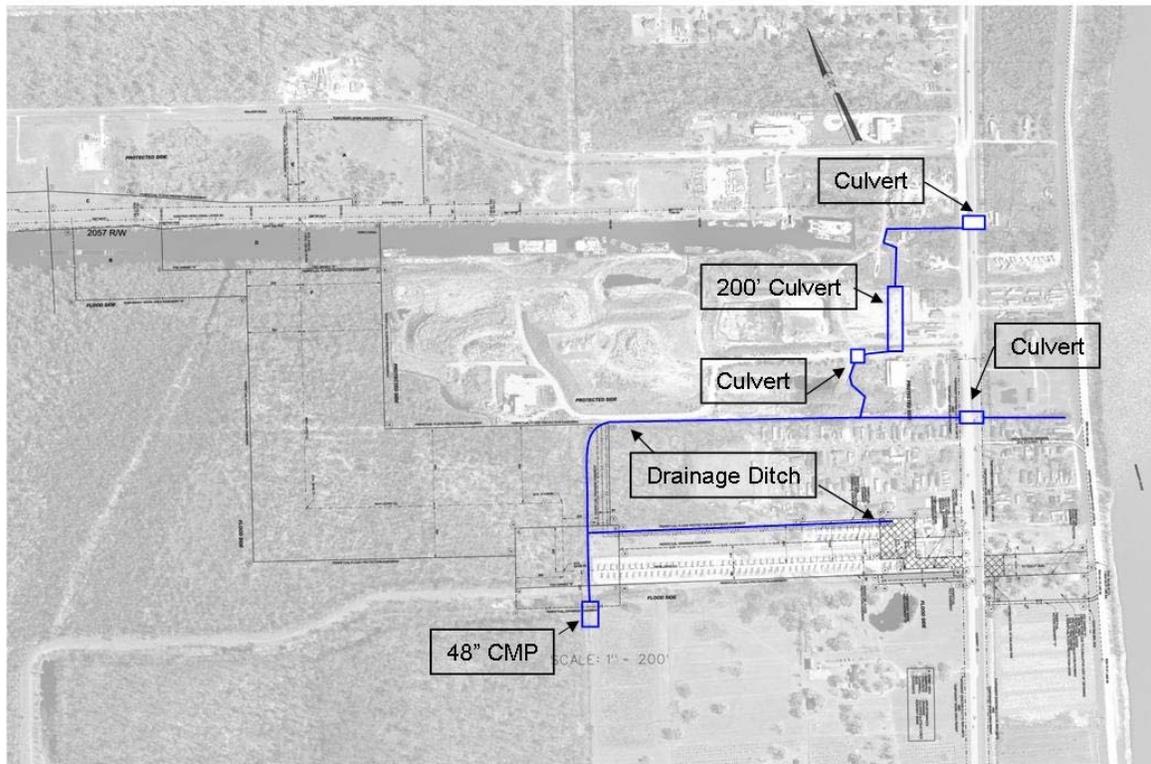


Figure 8. Existing Interior Drainage in the Vicinity of Oakville

- **Increase in Gravity Drain Flow (effects on the interior of Oakville):** The existing 48 inch corrugated metal pipe located on the southern side of the project area can carry about 95 cfs for the design storm. The proposed 4 ft x 4 ft box culvert can carry 120 cfs for the same storm (Figure 9). For the interior of Oakville, this means that no additional ponding would occur as a result of the replaced gravity drain. The peak stage in the Oakville area for the 10 percent annual change of exceedence event would be lowered by less than 1/10 of a foot as a result of this proposed change.

- Increase in Gravity Drain Flow (to Ollie Canal and the Ollie Pump Station): The flow increase through the proposed gravity drain (when compared to the existing pipe) would have a negligible effect on the area exterior of Oakville, which drains through Ollie Canal to the Ollie Pump Station. Although the peak rain water flow through the gravity drain increases by 25 cfs, the Ollie Pump Station is designed to handle a much greater flow, and therefore, the stage in the canal is estimated to only increase a minor 1/100 of a foot. Plaquemines Parish has indicated that the Ollie Canal Pump Station as designed can accommodate up to a 50 percent annual chance of exceedence rain event.

EASTERN TIE-IN: OAKVILLE PROPOSED DRAINAGE

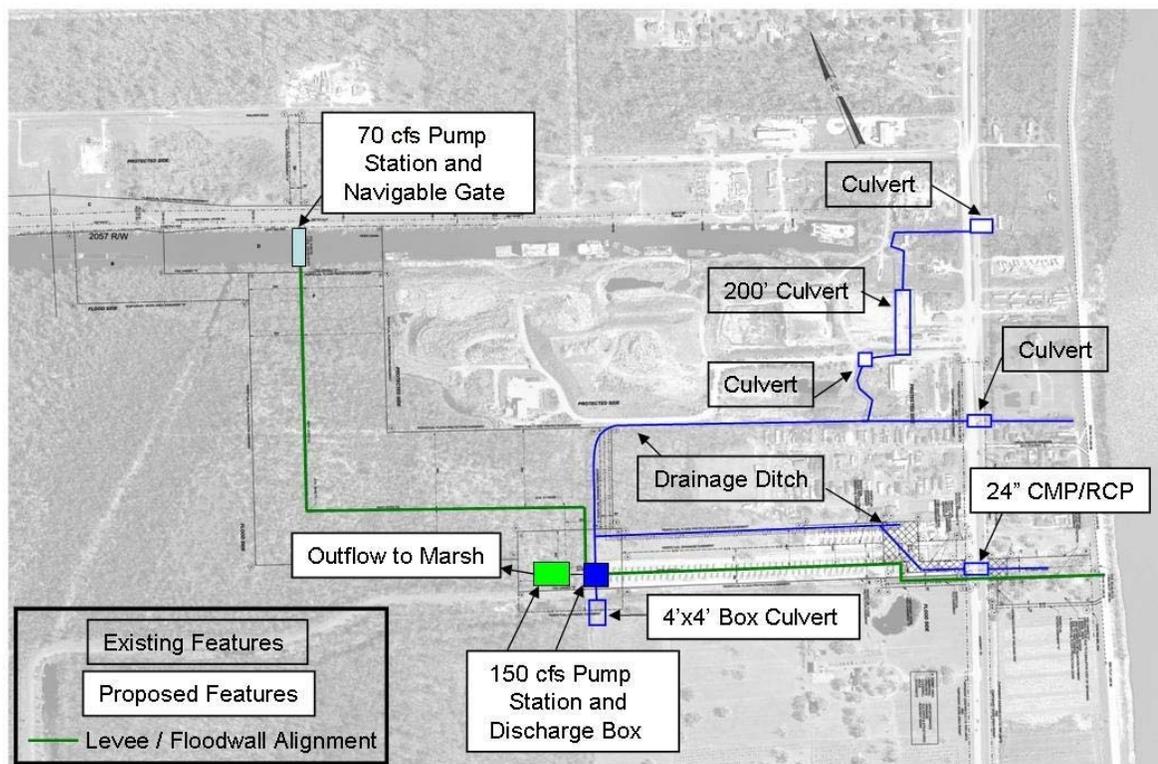


Figure 9. Proposed Interior Drainage in the Vicinity of Oakville

Substantive Comment 3: How will the Draft IER #13 proposed action affect property values and flood insurance prices south of the WBV Belle Chasse polder?

Property values in Plaquemines Parish south of Oakville would not be adversely affected solely due to the addition of a gated structure to the WBV project. In contrast, the WBV project in its entirety, insofar as it lowers flood risk, would tend to increase property values on the protected side and place these properties at a competitive advantage in the real estate market over those south of Oakville. Therefore, on a relative basis of perception, the WBV project when viewed as

a whole could be expected to affect property values south of Oakville, as would occur in other developed areas that lie beyond the alignment. Further, since neither the proposed Highway 23 structure nor the WBV project is expected to significantly increase flood risk in the area south of Plaquemines, no adverse consequences to property values are expected as it relates to actual changes in flood risk.

More than creating a negative aesthetic impact, a gated structure could indeed heighten the awareness of both buyers and sellers of the fact that communities south of Oakville are located outside of the WBV project area. If the gated structure serves to simply remind those who are already aware of the different levels of risk reduction on either side of the alignment, however onerous that reminder is, then there is little basis to conclude that the willingness to buy or sell property at a given price will significantly change. However, if the gated structure serves to inform those who are not at all aware that there are, or will be, different levels of risk reduction on either side of the alignment, then there is indeed a basis to conclude that property values may change. In this case, the visible gated structure informs more participants in the real estate market and their willingness to buy and sell at given prices adjusts to reflect this information. The degree to which property values would change to account for this effect depends upon the proportion of those future participants in the real estate market that are unaware of the relative flood risks within Plaquemines Parish or the west bank. While no customized surveys are available that specifically targets this question, it is unlikely, given the amount of public exposure on the topic of coastal flooding in Plaquemines Parish, that a significant portion of individuals who enter the real estate market in this area are lacking for information relative to flood risk. It is important to note that irrespective of any impacts associated with a visible gated structure, the contemporaneous incorporation into the Federal system of the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees extending from Oakville to St. Jude would effectively reduce flood risk to the area and, consequently, could increase property values.

National flood insurance will continue to be available regardless of the actions of the CEMVN. Unlike homeowners insurance that covers damages through wind and fire, flood insurance is available only through the Federal government through the National Flood Insurance Program. The NFIP is administered by the Flood Insurance Administration, an agency of Federal Emergency Management Agency. Plaquemines Parish joined the National Flood Insurance Program in 1985. As long as the parish enforces flood plain management ordinances established by the program, no one in the parish will ever be refused a flood insurance policy.

Flood insurance premiums (or rates) are published every year by the FIA. Rates often change annually, and can do so simply because the overall cost to cover future claims is expected to increase, not because flood risk itself necessarily increases. However, the FIA periodically conducts flood studies for a community to determine changes in flood risk as expressed through the advisory base flood elevation which corresponds to the flood stage with a one percent annual chance of occurrence, that is, the 100-year flood. Flood risk may increase over time due to natural processes, such as relative sea level rise, subsidence, and changes in the frequency and intensity of storms. Flood risk may decrease due to mitigation measures taken by local, state, and Federal agencies such as the construction of levees, improvement of drainage (including pump stations) or creating water storage areas in more remote areas.

Addendum to Final IER #13

The proposed WBV project would not significantly increase flood stages or flood risk within the existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levee system south of the proposed action. As stated previously, the ABFEs are in the range of 8 ft within the subject communities. ABFEs would not be expected to change unless the risks to the area were significantly reduced.

4 Alternative Evaluation

The proposed action as described in Final IER #13 involved a floodgate crossing for Highway 23. The USACE held public meetings on April 29, 2009 and May 4, 2009 where some residents south of the system objected to a floodgate crossing, primarily because of perceived socioeconomic concerns such as a negative visual division of the parish, property value decrease, and flood insurance increase. Property value and flood insurance impacts from the construction of a floodgate were analyzed by subject matter experts and not expected to be adverse. The District Commander directed staff to look for options to minimize the visual impact of the barrier. Additionally, LaDOTD voiced concerns with the construction of a floodgate at Highway 23 (see Appendix B). During the time that additional analysis was being done to answer the substantive comments received during the Draft IER #13 comment period, the analysis of structures for crossing Highway 23 was refined. Several alternatives for various types of closures were considered. All feature lengths are approximate at this point in the design process.

4.1 Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration

4.1.1 Transition Levees

The transition levees alternative would require that the WBV levees be extended south to create a pocket where potential flood waters would be reduced to the point that a 1 percent annual chance of exceedence surge level would not create flooding into the Belle Chasse polder. Analysis showed that the transition levees would need to be extended to at least La Reussite. Transition levees were not a better engineering or lesser cost solution than a structure at Highway 23. Additionally, transition levees were found to be an impractical solution and eliminated because an open system could not be accredited for 1 percent exceedence risk reduction.

4.1.2 Ramp South of Oakville

Moving the ramp south of Oakville several thousand feet was considered to eliminate the potential impacts to the adjacent properties just south of Oakville. It was determined that this option was not a practicable alternative due to additional levee improvements needed, the resulting human and natural environmental impacts, increased costs, and delays in design and construction.

4.1.3 Ramp at Oakville

During a field trip on June 26, 2009 with CEMVN, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), LaDOTD, and Plaquemines Parish personnel the ramp option at Oakville was discussed as a possible way to mitigate some concerns with floodgates. LaDOTD supported that option by offering design exceptions, such as not requiring guard rails on the elevated portion of the ramp to make the ramp at Oakville alternative feasible within the available project footprint. The evaluation criteria considered during the planning process revealed several adverse impacts associated with building an earthen ramp alone.

An earthen ramp alone could not provide the required elevations required to achieve 1 percent exceedence event risk reduction for a 50 year period of analysis. Analysis showed that the

maximum elevation the road could be raised to is El. 11.5. Based upon this analysis, a floodgate structure would be required to be constructed across the ramp in approximately ten years due to subsidence and projected sea level rise to provide for continued accreditation of the WBV project. Although LaDOTD has stated a preference for ramps and bridges over gates, neither of those two alternatives is feasible from a constructability, community cohesion, or financial standpoint. There is not enough space to build a bridge or a ramp with the proper safety features due to the road's close proximity to the MRL, residential homes, and businesses, and the railroad without impacting residents or businesses. An earthen ramp in the Oakville area would also have negative impacts on community cohesion and pose public safety concerns within the Oakville community.

4.2 Alternatives to the Proposed Action

Four alternatives were developed for analysis, the ramp/floodgate, invisible floodwall, roller gate and swing gate. Design refinements were made after the May 4, 2009 public meeting, such as gate widths, removable center posts and guardrails lengths to address LaDOTD concerns and perceived aesthetic concerns by people living south of the proposed Highway 23 crossing. The design for all alternatives includes a bypass road for emergency and authorized vehicles once the gates are closed.

Each of the floodgate alternatives requires a pile founded slab across the highway and grading of the highway surface to an approximate elevation of El. 6 to provide an even surface for the gate seals. The design elevation for all three gates crossing the highway is El. 14, and would be achieved at completion of construction in each case. All feature lengths are in linear feet and are approximate at this stage in the design process.

4.2.1 Combination Ramp and Floodgate

An earthen ramp and stoplog combination could provide risk reduction for the WBV Belle Chasse polder.

The earthen ramp would be constructed to a design elevation of approximately El. 11.5 by 2011 in order to meet the accreditation goal and would be raised to El. 14 by construction of a 2.5 ft stoplog gate at its crest. The earthen ramp would be approximately 1,400 feet long, have 4H:1V side slopes (3H:1V side slopes at its crest on the east side to accommodate the railroad tracks), with 8 ft wide outside shoulders, two 12 ft wide travel lanes in each direction (four lanes total), 2 ft wide inside shoulders, Jersey barriers separating northbound from southbound lanes, and would require sloped driveway extensions into Captain Larry's, East and West St. Peters St., and three residences (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Combination Ramp and Floodgate Alternative Rendering

A traditional T-wall structure would be constructed to tie into the earthen levee west of Captain Larry's and extend 450 ft east to the crest of the ramp. At the crest a 124 ft stoplog gate would be constructed across the travel lanes. The stoplog gate would tie into a concrete column which would provide a closure for the railroad swing gate as well. The railroad swing gate would extend 25 ft across the tracks and tie into 70 ft of T-wall floodwall. That floodwall would transition to the earthen levee portion of WBV 9a, which ties into the Mississippi River Levee.

All four lanes of Highway 23 traffic would remain open for each hurricane season for approximately 10 years, when the stoplog floodwall would need to be installed.

The stoplog floodwall would be required to increase the level of risk reduction of the earthen ramp from El. 11.5 to the required El. 14. This proposed stoplog floodwall would block Highway 23. The ramp and stoplog floodwall component are both needed to satisfy the 2057 design requirements. The stoplog component would consist of aluminum or steel tubular logs, approximately 8 ft to 12 ft long and approximately 6 inches to 12 inches high, spanning between removable wide-flanged steel or aluminum columns placed in covered recesses in the sill plate and stacked to El. 14. It is projected that the construction of the stoplog would take 24 operator hours, calculated at 6 hours with 1 crew of 4 operators. For operability, the stoplogs would need to be installed across most of Highway 23, shutting down the evacuation route for southern Plaquemines Parish, at some advance time due to the labor-intensive efforts required and to assure installation crew safety due to wind speeds as hurricanes approach the area.

This alternative would require no guardrail on outside of travel lanes, but would require 1400 ft of Jersey barrier in between the southbound and northbound lanes.

There is the potential for issues with maintenance of the ramp approaches as settlement occurs during the life of the project, especially with the stoplog gate sill as a hard point at the crest. Additionally, stoplogs would need to be stored in a secured facility and installation could be time consuming, with the potential for installation errors. The Jersey barriers would require traffic to pass up destinations located on the opposite side of Highway 23. Drivers would need to make a U-turn at crossovers located beyond the barriers to reach their destination. Another design concern would be the potential for growth in the construction duration due to the additional earthwork and the increased complexity of utility relocations that would need to be performed.

4.2.2 Invisible Floodwall

This alternative is a constructible stoplog (“invisible floodwall”) type closure structure across Highway 23. The invisible floodwall would be assembled by the non-Federal sponsor (CPRA) to a design elevation of El. 14 when a storm event approaches the Louisiana coastline.

A traditional T-wall structure would be constructed to tie into the earthen levee west of Captain Larry’s and would extend 285 ft east where it would tie into the invisible floodwall portion of the alignment. The invisible floodwall would extend 175 ft east to the edge of the Highway 23 southbound travel lane. The floodwall would extend 70 ft across Highway 23. Another 95 ft of invisible floodwall would extend across the railroad tracks towards the MRL and tie into 30 ft of traditional T-wall. The T-wall would transition to an earthen levee and terminate at the MRL. The area where the invisible floodwall would be constructed would be graded to provide an even foundation for the floodwall. A pile founded sill plate with recesses and cover plates to support the columns would be constructed along the length of the invisible floodwall (Figure 11).

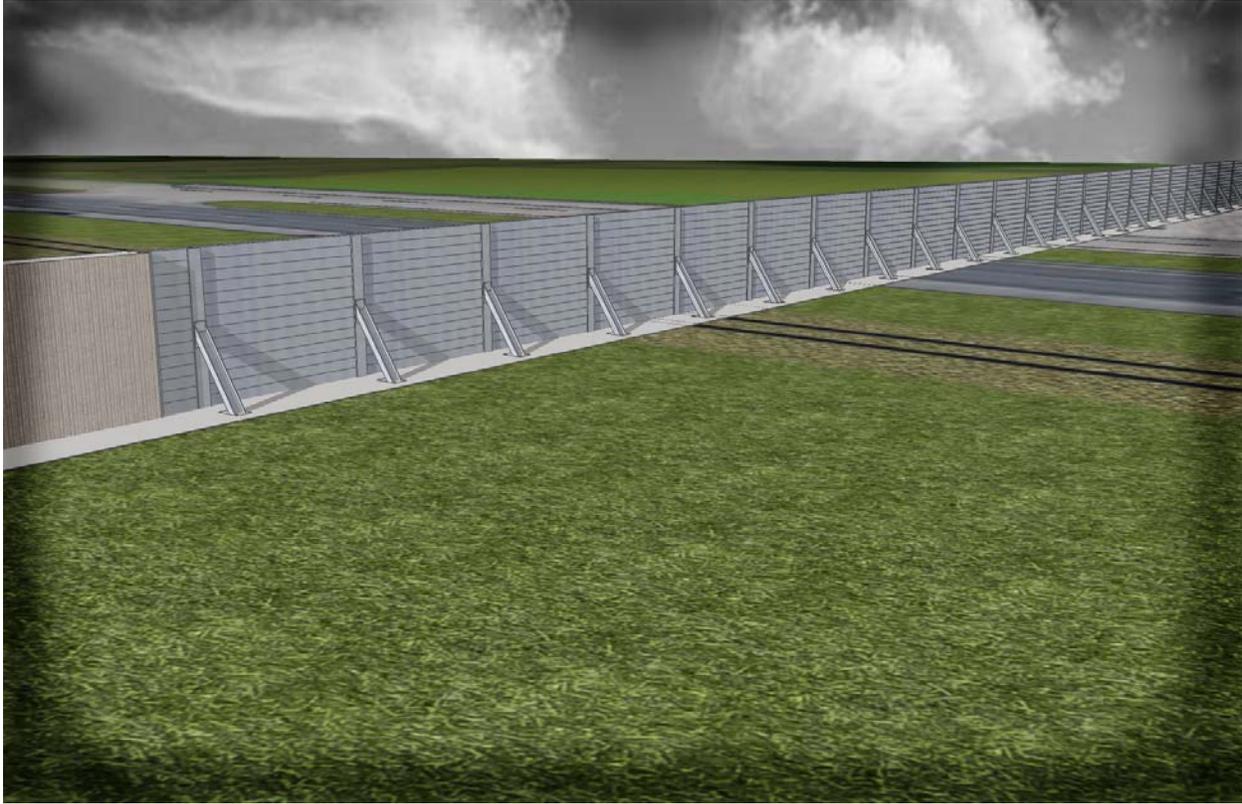


Figure 11. Invisible Floodwall Alternative Rendering (Southbound View)

The original concept for the invisible floodwall consisted of tubular aluminum stoplogs which were 12 ft long and weighed about 215 pounds each with 28 kicker supports on each side, and 28 removable posts/columns placed in the recesses in the pile founded slab below the removable roadway sill plate. It was estimated that 280 operator hours would be required to construct this design. An effort to reduce assembly time identified a revised design which uses 240 feet of single panel steel sections to be assembled to the highway travel lanes and 100 feet of the light weight aluminum stoplogs across the highway travel lanes. The steel sections would be longer and heavier requiring the use of heavy lift equipment, such as light-duty cranes and/or off-road forklifts, to assemble the stoplogs.

Prior to an event, placement of the steel panels would begin from the floodwall to the highway travel lanes. It is expected that a three operator crew could complete this task in two days for a total of 72 operator hours. Approximately thirty six hours prior to an event the southbound lane would be closed with the aluminum stoplogs. It is estimated the four sections would require 40 operator hours to assemble. Approximately eighteen hours prior to an event the northbound lanes would be closed with the aluminum stoplogs. Again, it is estimated the four sections would require 40 operator hours to assemble. The steel panel and aluminum stoplog design would require about 150 operator hours to close. The entire system must be secured to prevent vandalism or theft of the assembled components.

A permanent building, approximately 30 ft x 30 ft, would be constructed in the near vicinity of the closure and would serve as a secured storage building for the aluminum stoplogs, sections, and supports.

The benefit of this option is that it would reduce the perceived visual impact for travelers along the Highway 23 corridor during daily travel when a storm event is not approaching. During non-storm events, exclusion of rigid obstructions within the Highway profile on either side of the roadway, which would be required with the other gate alternatives, would minimize the potential for direct vehicular collisions with an obstruction and minimize the potential maintenance required for guardrails as well as many of the visual impacts of the steel swing or roller gate alternatives.

The invisible floodwall structure would require installation well in advance of a hurricane due to labor-intensive efforts required for assembly and a larger potential for installation errors would exist. This would be the first storm surge floodwall of its kind and this alternative has the greatest potential for theft.

4.2.3 Roller Gate

The roller gate alternative would begin at the earthen levee west of Captain Larry's. 450 ft of El. 14 traditional T-wall that would be constructed eastward and terminate 40 feet west of the Highway 23 southbound travel lanes. Two 65 ft roller gates would be stored on the flood side of the T-wall, and when closed would extend across Highway 23 and tie into a permanent storage column 24 feet west of the northbound travel lane. A 25 ft swing gate would be constructed to cross the railroad tracks and tie into 70 ft of traditional T-wall. The T-wall would transition to the earthen levee which would tie into the MRL (Figure 12).

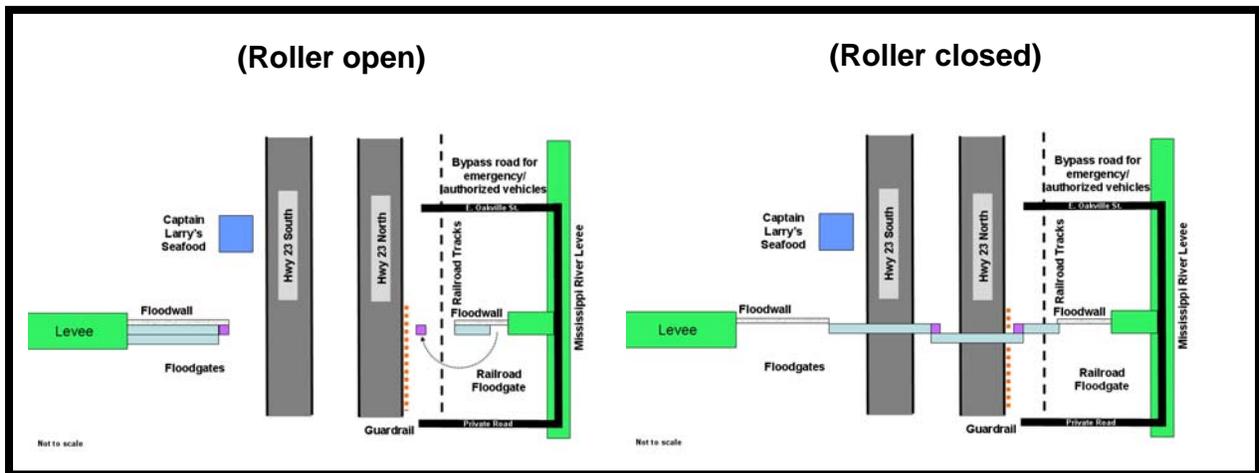


Figure 12. Roller Gate Alternative Diagram

The steel gates would roll from the west side of Highway 23 on a track to the east side of the highway. The gates would be built to a design elevation of El. 14, highway sill at El. 6. The roller gates could be closed by 2 people with a winch in less than four hours. This design allows

the flexibility to close the gate within a safe timeframe to allow the only Plaquemines Parish evacuation route to stay open longer and still ensure operator safety as hurricanes approach the area.



Figure 13. Roller Gate Alternative Rendering

This alternative requires no guardrail on the southbound lane and approximately 200 ft of guardrail on northbound lane. A small portion would be removable to allow for gate closure.

The gates would be stored parallel to the floodwall on the flood side. Reflectors on the gates and columns would lower the likelihood of a motorist driving into the gate (Figure 13). This type of gate is similar to other floodgates operated in the system and can be operationally compared to the New Orleans Marina roller gate near Lake Pontchartrain.

4.3 Proposed Action

4.3.1 Swing Gate

The swing gate alternative would begin at the earthen levee west of Captain Larry's. It would include 450 ft of El. 14 traditional T-wall that would be constructed eastward and terminate 19 feet west of the Highway 23 southbound travel lanes. A 55 ft swing gate with an attached storage column would swing from the T-wall across the southbound travel lanes and the attached storage column would be secured in a recess within the pile founded slab. Another 55 ft swing gate would swing across the northbound travel lanes from a permanent storage column set back 16 feet from the roadway and attach to that same storage column. A 25 ft swing gate would be

constructed to cross the railroad tracks and tie into 70 ft of traditional T-wall. The T-wall would transition to the WBV 9a earthen levee which would tie into the MRL (Figure 14).

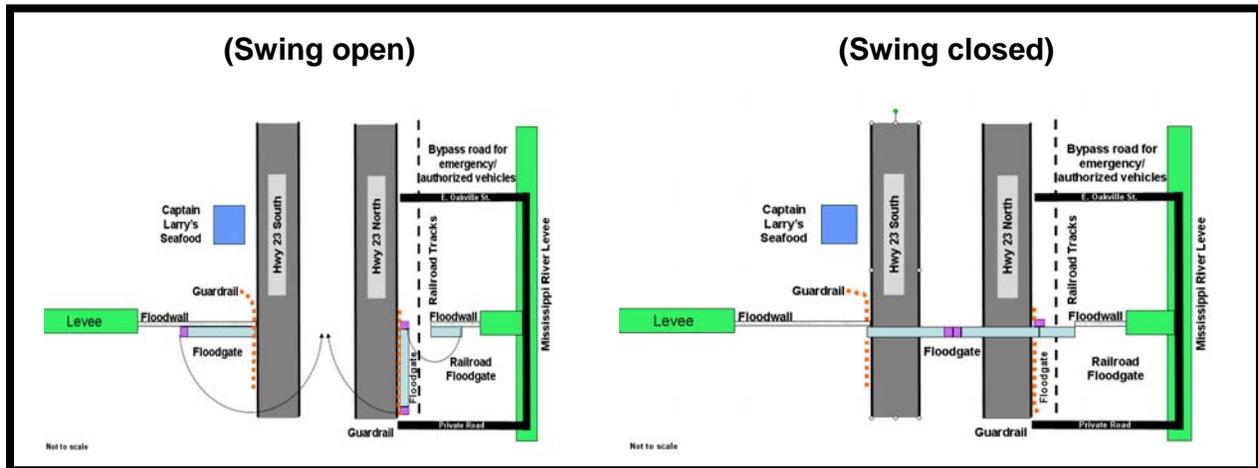


Figure 14. Swing Gate Alternative Diagram

The swing gates would close over a pile founded slab across Highway 23 to form an effective seal. The gates would be built to a design elevation of El. 14, highway sill at El. 6. The southbound swing gate would be closed manually. The northbound swing gate would be closed with a hydraulic motor or if required, manually, by 2 people in less than four hours. This design allows the flexibility to close the gate within a safe timeframe to allow the only Plaquemines Parish evacuation route to stay open longer and still ensure operator safety as hurricanes approach the area.

This alternative requires approximately 175 LF of guardrail along the southbound lane and 200 LF along the northbound lane. A portion on each side will be removable to accommodate closing the gate.

The southbound gate would be stored parallel to the floodwall on the flood side (Figure 15). The northbound gate would be stored parallel to Highway 23 due to the railroad track limiting storage position options. Reflectors on the gates and columns would lower the likelihood of a motorist driving into the gate. This type of gate is similar to other swing gates operated in the system and can be operationally compared to the swing gates on Peters Road in the French Quarter near the Aquarium of the Americas.



Figure 15. Swing Gate Alternative Rendering

5 Public Meetings

Public meetings focused on the IER #13 proposed actions were held on April 29, 2009 at the St. Paul’s Benevolent Association Hall in Oakville, LA and on May 4, 2009 at the Belle Chasse Auditorium in Belle Chasse, LA. The meeting formats included an overview of IER #13. The meetings also included a discussion of a proposed project to incorporate certain Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees into the New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project. The public was then given the opportunity to comment by speaking at the meeting, providing written comments, submitting postage paid comment cards by mail, or using the www.nolaenvironmental.gov website. In addition to CEMVN staff, approximately 152 people attended the April 29, 2009, meeting in Oakville and approximately 379 people attended the May 4, 2009, meeting in Belle Chasse. Summary notes of the two meetings are included as Appendix A. The CEMVN hosted a workshop on September 19, 2009, to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on four alternatives for crossing Highway 23. At the workshop the public was also invited to participate in a meeting to discuss the authorized and funded incorporation of certain existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees into the existing New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project.

In addition to the two public meetings held during the Draft IER #13 public comment period and the workshop in September 2009, 32 public meetings were held between February 2007 and November 2009 where the WBV Eastern Tie-In project was discussed. Table 1 is a list of the public meetings held by the CEMVN in relation to the work planned on the Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Tie-In Projects. Additional information on these public meetings can be obtained by visiting the www.nolaenvironmental.gov website.

In addition to the public meetings, the CEMVN has provided a public website, www.nolaenvironmental.gov, since 2007, where information on the various HSDRRS projects can be obtained. Additionally, CEMVN news releases, public notices in local newspapers, and mail outs have been routinely disseminated since 2007 to provide the opportunity for members of the public to become informed and educated on the Hero Canal Levee and Eastern Tie-in project.

Table 1. Public Meetings for Plaquemines Parish Projects

DATE	VENUE
Feb.12, 2007	Alario Center (Alternative Arrangements)
Feb. 12, 2007	UNO Lindy Boggs (Alternative Arrangements)
Feb. 13, 2007	Pontchartrain Center (Alternative Arrangements)
Mar. 27, 2007	Dougie V’s Restaurant (scoping)
Mar. 27, 2007	Woodland Plantation (scoping for incorporation of existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees (NFL) into the existing NOV project).

Addendum to Final IER #13

Mar. 28, 2007	Westwego City Council (scoping)
Mar. 28, 2007	Belle Chasse Middle School (scoping for incorporation of existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees (NFL) into the existing NOV project).
Mar. 29, 2007	American Legion (scoping)
Apr. 3, 2007	Our Lady of Holy Cross College (scoping)
Apr. 4, 2007	Chalmette (scoping)
Apr. 5, 2007	Jefferson Parish Regional Library (scoping)
Apr. 10, 2007	Belle Chasse Auditorium (scoping)
Apr. 11, 2007	Avalon Hotel (scoping)
Apr. 12, 2007	National WWII Museum (scoping)
Jun. 5, 2007	Our Lady of Holy Cross College
Jul. 17, 2007	Belle Chasse Auditorium
Oct. 23, 2007	Belle Chasse Auditorium
Nov. 1, 2007	Pontchartrain Center (NGO/public meeting)
Feb. 19, 2008	NP Trist Middle School
Mar. 13, 2008	Our Lady of Holy Cross College
Mar. 25, 2008	Ehret High School
Apr. 3, 2008	St. Paul's Benevolent Association Hall
May 22, 2008	Our Lady of Holy Cross College
Aug.4, 2008	St. Paul's Benevolent Association Hall
Aug. 21, 2008	Our Lady of Holy Cross College
Dec. 9, 2008	Harvey Fire Station
Jan. 8, 2009	St. Paul's Benevolent Association Hall
Jan. 28, 2009	Woodland Plantation (update on status of incorporation of existing Plaquemines Parish non-Federal Levees (NFL) into the existing NOV project).
Apr. 29, 2009	St. Paul's Benevolent Association Hall
May 4, 2009	Belle Chasse Auditorium
Sept. 19, 2009	Belle Chasse High School
Nov. 5, 2009	Belle Chasse High School

**scoping denotes a meeting to inform the public of upcoming projects and the NEPA process involved.*

6 Conclusion

The ramp and floodgate alternatives were developed by the Project Delivery Team and an Alternative Evaluation Process (AEP) was first held on July 10, 2009. Several closure alternatives were presented and considered for the Highway 23 crossing as a part of the AEP, including a combination ramp and floodgate and swing gate. At that meeting the Project Delivery Team for the WBV Eastern Tie-in project, some of whom are listed in Table 2, determined that a swing gate type floodgate was the best solution and provided a recommendation to the District Commander for his consideration. The team determined that the ramp option was unfavorable for many reasons including the questionable safety of vehicles using the highway if design exceptions were granted, interrupted cohesion of the Oakville community by the ramp and required Jersey barrier median, and economic impacts to the businesses on the highway in the vicinity of the ramp.

A second AEP was held on October 20, 2009 to evaluate the ramp with floodgate combination, swing gate, roller gate, and the invisible floodwall alternatives for the Highway 23 crossing. The process again identified the swing gate as the recommended proposed action. The ramp was not selected for similar reasons as discussed during the first AEP. The roller gate was not selected due to track maintenance requirements causing the system to be less reliable than a swing gate system. The invisible floodwall was eliminated because of risk and reliability concerns due to the assembly effort required.

On October 21, 2009 the Project Delivery Team recommended the swing gate alternative to the District Commander as the proposed action to be identified in the Draft Addendum to IER #13. The New Orleans District Commander concurred with the Project Delivery Team's Recommendation.

Upon completion of the 30-day public comment period for the Draft Addendum, the CEMVN District Commander reviewed and considered the information presented in IER #13, the IER #13 Addendum, as well as comments received during both public review periods, and the public meetings and made a decision on the recommended proposed action. This alternative was selected because it was the most reliable, engineeringly feasible, cost and time effective alternative that meets the authority.

Table 2. Detailed List of Preparers

Environmental Team Leader	Gib Owen, CEMVN
Environmental Manager	Getrisc Coulson, CEMVN
Project Manager	Ted Carr, CEMVN
Senior Project Manager	Julie Vignes, CEMVN
Assistant District Counsel	Rita Trotter, CEMVN
Economics Team Leader	Keven Lovetro, CEMVN

Addendum to Final IER #13

Hydraulics Branch Chief	Nancy Powell, CEMVN
Hydraulics Section Chief	Stacey Frost, CEMVN
Hydraulic Engineer	Keely Crowder, CEMVN
Hydraulic Engineer	John Beockmann, CEMVS
Engineering Control	Jennifer Vititoe, CEMVN
Project Engineer	Paul Hoge, CEMVN
Professional Engineer	Christopher Dunn, CEMVN
Project Engineer	Carl Niemitz, CEMVN
Project Engineer	Leslie Campbell, CEMVN
Project Engineer	Kerry Lowman, CEMVN

**The point of contact and responsible manager for the preparation of the Draft IER #13 Addendum is Joan Exnicios, CEMVN. The address of the preparers is: U.S. Army CEMVN of Engineers, New Orleans District; Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division, CEMVN-PM; P.O. Box 60267; New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267.*

**APPENDICES
FOR THE ADDENDUM TO
DRAFT INDIVIDUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT #13
WEST BANK AND VICINITY
HERO CANAL LEVEE AND EASTERN TIE-IN
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

December 2009

Appendices Table of Contents

Appendix A – Public Meeting Summaries and Notes

April 29, 2009 Public Meeting

May 4, 2009 Public Meeting

September 19, 2009 Public Meeting

November 5, 2009 Public Meeting

Appendix B – Agency Comments

Appendix C – Public Comments to Draft IER #13

Appendix D - Detailed Project Footprint Plates

Appendix E - Public Comments to Draft Addendum to IER #13

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

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

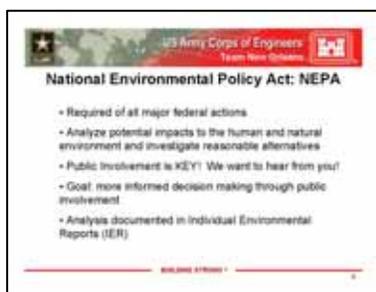
Public Meeting Summary

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.



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 4th, 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

Oakville.



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.



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.



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

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary



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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary



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 the back of the floodwall and then as indicate 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

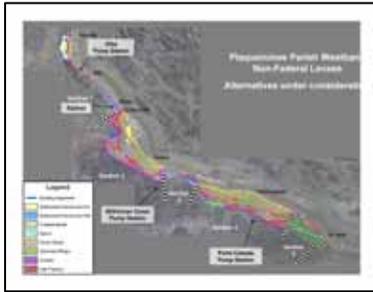


Let me briefly give you a status and general description of the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project. The status of the Plaquemines Parish levee is that there are multiple alignments under investigation using these criteria: risk reduction for people and infrastructure, protection of Highway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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

existing alignment.

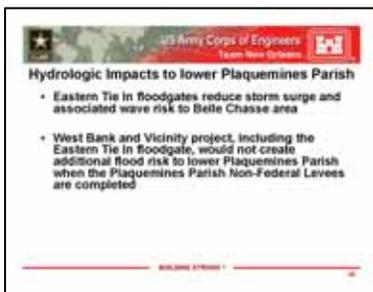


For those that came to the Jan. public hearing on this project, this map will look familiar. This is the trace of the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee project. The existing levee is in blue on the outside rim and then there are no levees in the last two miles. There will be 34 miles of levee, 32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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 4th 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 4th. 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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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?

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.

Public Meeting Summary



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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

4th 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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 4th 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 4th 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?

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

Question 100. Jean Guerrero: May 4th, 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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 Baratavia 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 Baratavia 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, Baratavia Bay which has the potential to inundate the whole Westbank anyway.

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary



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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 4th 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 4th 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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

Question 168. Donald Landry: So, you've got a critical path that if you don't start on May 5th, 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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 Kaliszkeske: 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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 4th, how much time are they going to give you to look at all of our feedback so this thing can go forward on May 5th? Are they going to give you your cup of morning coffee and say, we need your answer, what's the deal?

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 4th is a marker right now, as of today, the public comment period ends on May 4th. 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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 4th and then all of the sudden on the 5th 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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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 4th, 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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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, 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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

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

Location	Belle Chasse Auditorium 8398 Hwy 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037
Time	6:00 p.m. Open House 7:00 p.m. Presentation
Attendees	Approx. 441
Format	Open House Presentation Discussion
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008 status map • Borrow Handouts • Presentation
Facilitator	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 9th 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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

	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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary



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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project Authority

"... provided that ... at full Federal expense ... that \$215,000,000 shall be used to replace or modify certain non-Federal levees in Plaquemines Parish to incorporate the levees into the existing New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project ..."

46 Supplemental Public Law 109-234

"... provided that ... certain projects in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area be processed in a manner which promotes the goal of continuing work at an optimal pace, while maximizing, to the greatest extent practicable, levels of protection to reduce the risk of storm damage to people and property ..."

50 Supplemental Public Law 109-234

"... provided ... an additional amount of \$456,000,000 ... for the project ..."

51 Supplemental Public Law 110-202

BUILDING STRONG

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 6th Supplemental Emergency Spending bill for \$456 million that this project was funded to bring the current levees into the federal standards.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Background

- The existing levee is a "Back Levee" approximately 32 miles long, constructed with non-federal funds, both private and public, on the west side of the Mississippi River to provide hurricane protection from Oakville to two miles up river of St. Jude
- Three pump stations provide capacity for approximately a two year event
- Existing levee constructed with adjacent materials:
 - 8' in the northern areas (8 miles)
 - 4' or less in the southern areas (24 miles)
- Ground level between existing NFL and MOV (2 miles)
- Recent hurricanes have caused several breaches resulting in severe flooding and significant property damage

BUILDING STRONG

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.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

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

BUILDING STRONG

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.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Westbank and Vicinity Risk Reduction

BUILDING STRONG

Ted Carr, project manager

US Army Corps of Engineers
Team New Orleans

Westbank and Vicinity Project Authority

- 1996 Water Resources and Development Act amended the previously authorized West Bank project to provide "hurricane protection" to areas east of the Algiers Canal extending from Belle Chasse to and including Oakville in Plaquemines Parish

BUILDING STRONG

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.

by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the 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.

Public Meeting Summary

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://www.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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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. 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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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**

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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?

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

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 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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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, 7th 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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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

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.

Public Meeting Summary

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.

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.

September 19, 2009 Public Meeting



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Eastern Tie-In and Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Public Workshop Saturday, Sept. 19, 2009

Location	Belle Chasse High School 8346 Highway 23 Belle Chasse, LA 70037-2694
Time	Resource Room: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Opening remarks: 9:00 a.m. Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Presentation: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 30-minute recurring break out sessions: 9:30 – 12:00 p.m.
Attendees	Approx 350
Format	Resource Room Presentations and discussion five rooms
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borrow handout Sept. 18, 2009 • 2009 Status map • Corps Approval Process • PPNFL Fact Sheet
Facilitator	PPNFL, Nancy Allen Swing Gate, Amanda Jones Roller Gate, Karen Collins Invisible Floodwall, Rachel Rodi Ramp, Mike Adams

Ken Holder: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much for coming today. I'm Ken Holder; I'm the Public Affairs Officer for the Corps of Engineers, the district here in New Orleans. I want to let you know that we have put together a program that I hope is educational for all and we hope that we'll get your participation back and be able to listen to everything that you have to say for us.

Before we get underway I know that we have Mr. David Dossen [Phonetic], Senator Vitter's State Director, with us, sir, if you could just stand and be recognized. In the back. Do we have any other elected officials that made it in that I've missed that would like to stand and be recognized? I see President Nungesser just coming in.

Great. Thank you very much. Well, thanks everyone, again, for coming out today.

We have quite a few people with us from the Corps and I'm going to run down who all is here today so we have a rough idea. Just an idea of how we're going to work everything today, they'll be five workshops, one of the workshops will be right in here and that will be the Plaquemines Parish Non-federal Levee. With that one, that will only be presented one time, it will be 90 minutes long, and it will be presented by Colonel Wehr from Vicksburg and his team. The other sessions, are about the various ways to close off Highway 23. They'll be the roller gate, the swing gate, the ramp, and the invisible floodwall. We're running those six times so that you have an opportunity to go to each one of the sessions and be able to see what the four options are. Just a quick introduction on who we have here and I'll bring up Colonel Lee in a minute. We also have with us Colonel Robert Sinkler, Commander of the Hurricane Protection Office, if you could just raise your hand and let us know you're here. Tom Holden, our Deputy; Tom Podany the Chief of Protection and Restoration Office; Julie Vignes, Julie's our Senior

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Project Manager. Julie LeBlanc is the Senior Project Manager for the Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project, Thank you very much. Bill Maloz is not with us today.

When we get ready to breakout into breakout sessions I'm going to point to who the four folks are that are running the breakout sessions, and when I do those, when I breakout those four sessions, those will be who you follow to the rooms. Now, to get you to the breakout rooms you'll see signage and people with these badges on or red badges, they'll be right out here and they'll take you out. The four breakout rooms that are on the various options are down the hall and then down the hall to the right but you will have people out there to help you direct. There's also the Resource Room which is our overflow area and it's also, if you have any additional questions to where you'd like to get a little more information than we were able to present in any of these sessions, we have experts in there that will be able to answer those questions as well. So, ladies and gentlemen, I will announce those other four people who are going to do those sessions, the other five actually, that are going to do those sessions in just a second.

But, before we get underway, President Nungesser, would you like to kick us off, sir.

President Nungesser: Thank you. I want to thank everybody for coming out, and I want to thank you for your efforts up to this part, it's the reason we've gotten the attention to where we are today. There's been a lot of talk about why there's four options here today and none of them include 100-year protection for LaReussitte. This week we worked through some pretty intense meetings with the Corps. The Corps has given us, for the first time since we've been working on this, two options to add 100-year protection to the LaReussitte. It's going to take some work on our part, it's going to take cooperation on the Corps part but they're committed to help us do that. And, it's not just talk. As of yesterday, some of the landowners that we need to do the testing for the water base for 100-year have already been asked to give the right-of-way to their land so they can add that extra testing under the current testing they're doing for the Federal Levee, the water base to get to 100-year. They're also looking at several options that they will add the 100-year in some areas where it is environmentally better maybe to go with some other type of construction. They have agreed to do that. Mary Landrieu, Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter, their staff was in the meetings with us, there was a letter passed out from Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter today, I don't know if you got a copy of it. We will be flying to Washington Tuesday night to meet with the General and their staffs; I believe both Senators will be there as well, to discuss our two options. I'm going to ask Jason McCrossen [Phonetic] to come up in a minute and briefly tell you about those two options. Jason is retired from the Corps and works for a consultant firm and is a consultant for the Parish. His partners in the business is Colonel Starkel [Phonetic] and Colonel Bedey who had just retired from the Corps. They know the ins and outs of the Corps, they know how to get this done, and they have been working tirelessly on the plan. Now, with the cooperation and help of the local district, we believe it is more achievable than ever. And, I want to thank them for their help and their cooperation to help us move this forward.

It's not a done deal yet but it is doable. A couple things have to happen, we have to be able to fast-track the 25% design of that levee, then we need to go to the environmental and fast-track the environmental, then we move it from it from IER. The timeframe we're looking at, if those things happen in the time that Jason and the staff thinks it can, we can begin construction and meet the same deadline that the Corps is under by congress to complete the Western Tie-in. If that happens the floodwall will stop and it won't go in but, right now, until we get that work done they need to proceed. They have a floodwall designed. If you don't weigh-in on one of the options today, they're going to move forward the design of that floodwall. The new design, or one of the options they brought to the table, and they traveled up north to look at it and I believe approved it, is the invisible floodwall which is about 300 feet off the highway, it's a flat slab across the highway. That would be my preference to move forward. If it does get designed and the slab's put in, we move forward and get this done, floodwall never goes in. But, just saying no today does not help their mission to move forward. They will move forward and they've already got a

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

floodwall design. So, they have gone out and looked at other options so we need to weigh-in on one of those options today. That does not mean it's going up. We're going to continue our work.

Two things I will ask the council, on Thursday when I come back from Washington at their meeting is to suspend the rules and fully support one of these two option. I will also go to the CPRA in Baton Rouge and ask for their full support. There will be a local match. CPRA should pick that up when it becomes 100-year protection, I'll have that discussion with the Governor's staff, and Garrett Graves as soon as I return from Washington. Whatever option can move quickest, one is to stay where it is and have the General approve that reach 100-year protection, the other one, move it in the West Bank and Vicinity in the 100-year. Whatever one can move quickest and is the least costly at the local level, local meaning Parish or state is the one we're going to do.

I ask you to be courteous today; they have a mission to do. I did enough yelling this past week for all of us. And, I apologize to the Corps for my actions but I'm as passionate as you are about this. We're going to keep fighting until 100-year protection is not only to LaReussitte, with our coastal plan, we will have 100-year protection for all of Plaquemines. Realistically, the levees can do it to LaReussitte; the Coastal Restoration Plan is going to have to do it for the south so we don't take out additional residents and businesses.

I'm here to tell you the truth. I'm not going to mislead you. I'm going to be here in the breakout session with Jason. I'll stay as long as you want to talk about it and go into the details. But, I'm going to give Jason a minute just to go over the two options and where we are. Thanks again for coming. Jason.

[Applause]

Jason McCrossen: All right. Thank you, President Nungesser. Again, I'm Jason McCrossen, and I work for a company called Valley Cooper International, they're contracted out with Plaquemines Parish to assist in levee management, levee consultant, and dealing with the Corps of Engineers. As he mentioned, we have several former Colonels in the Army who are very familiar with the Corps process so we help President Nungesser translate and figure out all of the Corps doings and the congressional ways that things have to get done. But, today, what I want to talk about is, add-on to what President Nungesser said and try to give you a little bit of details. I've got a lot to say but I'm going to say it really quick so that we can move on and get to the breakout sessions.

First off, I've been working with President Nungesser and his staff for about a year and a half trying to get this done and it hasn't been an easy road but we haven't stopped. And, finally this week, we had a meeting on Thursday morning, involved the Corps and the Parish and congressional representatives and Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter, Congressman Cao's office. It got very heated and very passionate, at one point, you know, President Nungesser was fire engine red just bleeding from the eyes trying to get the Corps to understand how important this was. So, we adjourned again for a different meeting at 4:00 that afternoon and when we did it was night and day. The Corps had come up with a plan in writing for the first time, as President Nungesser said, and we appreciate that. We finally, now, have a path to move forward to, to get 100-year down in LaReussitte. It's not going to be easy, all right, by no means, and it's not a definite done deal but we now have a path, we have agreement from the Corps in writing, we have the support, we have letters from Senator Landrieu and Senator Vitter's office that come in yesterday in support of the Parish.

Now, let me give you the two alternatives of how we're going to go about getting this done. And, we have been proceeding with these, not just since Thursday when we had this meeting, but for the last year and a half. The first alternative is to get the sectional levee for most of LaReussitte put in 100-year

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

protection, put in the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Risk Reduction System. That's a big old term, all that means is the 100-year protection that's been already approved by congress post-Katrina. That's going to take congressional reauthorization and congressional re-appropriations. We need funds to do it; the Corps needs funds to do it. It's not authorized by congress. Not any decision that the Corps ever made, it was congress that didn't authorize it. Senator Vitter's office is helping us with that right now and they have been helping us and they have draft language to put into a bill if we get a biller session. We may not get a bill. If there's no bill, we don't have a mechanism to get it authorized in the 100-year. It's as simple as that. So, concurrently, while we're proceeding that way, that is less than what the Corps and Parish can control. Okay? But, what we can control is the second alternative and we're moving forward, that one also, at the same time. And, that is keeping the levee in the New Orleans to Venice (NOV) hurricane protection project and use a betterment process, and I'm going to explain that, to get the 100-year elevation. This is what's going to happen. Right now the Corps, their designing, before Thursday, let me back up, before Thursday they were designing and doing the environmental work to cover the design grade to the authorized level way back when NOV was authorized, post-Camille and Betsy. All right? The standard project hurricane, they called it something different now, basically, it's not 100-year and it's not the new 100-year models that have come up since Katrina. That's what they were doing before Thursday. Now, the Corps is designing, using the same information they already have, no one has to start over again, they have extended the design out now to cover the 100-year elevation. That means you go up in elevation you have to go wide. So, soil borings will be taken in a wider path, the environmental work will be done in a wider path. We show the impacts. All of that is now currently being done to the 100-year level from Oakville all the way down LaReussitte. The Corps is going to do that and the Corps is going to pay 100% federal funds, all the Parish has to do is give up lands, 100% federal funds to that design grade. All right? That standard project hurricane what New Orleans to Venice authorizes, 100% federal. From that elevation up to the 100-year elevation will be born by the Parish.

We have specifically asked in a very heated manner, I must say, by President Nungesser, that we fast-track the design immediately, that work begins now. The Corps built 350 miles of levees in one year, they can build eight miles of levee or at least design it in a couple of months. All right? And, we will stay on them to get this done, without a doubt. All right? They fast-track the design, we go see the Center for Environmental Quality, Mr. Greczmiel just came down a couple of weeks ago and he looked me in the eye as we were flying over the levees and he said, "Son, if you can get the design speed up to where the environmental work is now the longest part of the schedule, I will sit down with the agencies and Plaquemines Parish," by agencies I mean the other environmental agencies who are in charge of overseeing the NEPA process, National Environmental Policy Act, he said, "Son, I will sit down with the agencies, I can't guarantee you anything because they all have to make their own decisions, but I will sit down and we will discuss moving this section of levee from Oakville to LaReussitte into a speed-up environmental process called the Individual Environmental Report." What does that do? Well, if you get design speed up, you get the environmental process speed up, you do a design build instead of the traditional design bid build where you have to do 100% of design, put it out for bid, then go to construction. We can do design, when we get to 25% design, it gets approved, the Corps lets a contract, and you immediately begin construction, and you construct as you're designing all the way down. What does that do? It saves us approximately a year, maybe longer, in the time it would take to go to construction.

Now, let's look at the big picture. Okay? The real big picture. We're here today to talk about a floodwall, why is this guy up there talking this levee down in the LaReussitte? What does it matter if we get this levee if they still got a floodwall? All right. If we get everything speed up, it's not an easy process, but you can believe President Nungesser and I and his staff are going to fight tooth and nail to make sure it gets done. When everything is speed up in the New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Project, this first eight miles of levee, while the Corps is constructing West Bank and Vicinity down to Oakville

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

and getting ready to start putting in the floodwall, the Corps will also, because we had speed up measures, they will be constructing a levee to 100-year from Oakville to LaReussitte at the same time. So, the Corps gets down to Oakville and they say, Colonel Lee says, “Okay, President Nungesser, we’re ready to start putting in the wall.” And, we say, “Okay. Well, you’re also getting ready to make the turn at the LaReussitte siphon, on that levee, too. What sense does it do to put the floodwall in at Oakville when we’re getting ready to make the turn in the 100-year levee down in LaReussitte?” All right? Save your money. President Nungesser has an agreement from the Department of Transportation that the Department of Transportation is already ready to elevate the road at LaReussitte. So, we begin putting the closure in at LaReussitte and there never is a floodwall in Oakville. That’s the big picture. Okay?

Now, let me play devil’s advocate because there’s people out there that still don’t believe me. There’s a potential, and I agree, I will admit it and I’m sure President Nungesser will too, this is not an easy process but if it doesn’t happen, if the New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Project does not meet the same schedule as the West Bank and Vicinity and the Corps, mandated by congress, not Colonel Lee’s decision, mandated by congress, to put in the floodwall at Oakville. They have to put the floodwall in. Does that mean, well, we just, oh, well, forget about it, the wall’s in at Oakville, we don’t have to worry about building the levee to 100-year, now, we’re all going to flood in Jesuit Bend. No, you’re not. President Nungesser, and as long as I’m still around here, we’re not going to stop fighting. It doesn’t matter if the wall’s built. Okay? You will get 100-year down to LaReussitte if the Parish has to do it themselves. All right? It will happen. It will be certified. It will meet the Corps standard and it will be certified by the Corps. You will get your FIR’s for the FEMA 100-year, will all apply in Jesuit Bend. Just because you’re outside the floodwall, once 100-year levee is built, down to LaReussitte, it will be certified by the Corps because it’s going to be built to Corps criteria, yes, it will qualify under the FIR’s map.

All right. So, the worst case scenario, okay, the floodwall gets put in. All right? You’re still getting 100-year; we are going to try our hardest. Believe me, if you would have been there in the meeting this week with President Nungesser, he showed the most emotion I’ve ever seen him show, and I’ve been around him a lot in the last two years. You get 100- year down to LaReussitte, if the wall is put in at Oakville and the schedules don’t match up, then we’re going to take the turn from the Corps, the Parish will get 100-year down to LaReussitte, or we’ll break out backs trying. Believe us, okay. 100-year down to LaReussitte. And, like I said, I’ll play devil’s advocate, you may have to live behind the wall, as everyone likes to say, for a year, that’s a year too long, I agree but worst case scenario, that’s what would happen, and it may not even be a year.

All right. I’ll be around with President Nungesser in the breakout session if anyone has any questions. I’d like to get this thing moving along.

[Applause]

President Nungesser: Thank you. I saw some emotion coming out in that, too. What Jason didn’t mention, his parents live down by Jesuit Bend as well so he’s got some emotion in this, too. I want to, before I introduce Colonel Lee, I want to recognize Keith Henkley [Phonetic], Stuart Dewey [Phonetic], and Anthony Buras who calls me 20 times a day, is in my office before I get there in the morning to see where we are on this project. We wouldn’t be where we are today without the support of these three council members and I see them here today. Thank you for your support.

[Applause]

President Nungesser: And, I must recognize one of the hardest working Parish employees, I leave him there at night working on all the details, Blair Rittner, we couldn’t do it without you, thank you very much.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

[Applause]

President Nungesser: Colonel Lee, I'd like you to come up, and thank you, again, for working with us and having the passion to help us get this done. Thank you.

[Applause]

Colonel Lee: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for coming out today, and I take it seriously, and I know you do, that's why you're here and that's why we're here. So, I'm going to talk to you today about what we're going to do and try to frame it. I've got about 10 minutes of a prepared speech that I'm going to talk to you about. But, before I do that, I just want to talk with you a little bit about what you've heard.

Now, we've been working this issue for a long time. We've had 30 public meetings all over the Parish, in Orleans Parish, other places to ensure that we fully understood the concerns, the impacts, the issues that you're dealing with, with the projects that we're trying to build to reduce risk throughout the greater New Orleans area, and also throughout Plaquemines Parish. There are some limitations that we have to operate under and we've been trying to figure out how do we operate within the limitations we're given and the policies that we have to follow in order to maximize the risk reduction for all the residence in the greater New Orleans area including Plaquemines Parish, all the way down to NOV. We had a real intense meeting, as President Nungesser said earlier, and that meeting was effective though because what we did, I think sometimes when you have opposition or differences of opinion, sometimes there's a probability that you're going to talk past each other because one person's looking for a position, the other person's looking for a position, and sometimes you talk past each other and there's some common ground there. So, I think yesterday we found common ground, or Thursday. And, so what I'm going to do today is talk a little bit about the whole project as it pertains to West Bank and Vicinity and also for the project in the Non-federal levees, NOV, and then we're going to have a 90-minute breakout session here in this room. I encourage you to stay and listen to that full briefing because the other breakout rooms are going to be here as long as you're here. So, we're going to do as many rotations in those other breakout rooms, and there's five breakout rooms, I'll tell you what those are in a little bit, because we're here for you. We'll stay here as long as it takes to answer your questions, to get your feedback because it's important. When I came and talked to you in April and I talked to you in May I told you that NEPA is a public process and so I think what you will see today is, we have listened, we may not have incorporated every idea that you've had but we have listened. We've tried to take the impacts and fully understand those and ensure that we understand those impacts and that we're mitigating those impacts. And, there's a lot of other things that you brought to our attention. So, that's what we want to kind of show you in the breakout sessions. So, the breakout session focus here will be on the project, the Non-federal levees south of Oakville. So, that's what the focus of this 90-minute breakout session will be.

But, what I want to do now is start on my comments and get to them and then we're going to, of course, answer all your questions and concerns.

I'd like, once again, to thank President Nungesser and his entire team from Plaquemines Parish that have been working tirelessly on this. I have met either by telephone, in person; we meet with President Nungesser every month to kind of give him an update on the system, of the work that's ongoing throughout the Parish because, as you are aware, following hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike, Plaquemines Parish was severely impacted by those storms. So, you know, what we're focused on now is working together so we can design and construct a stronger, more reliable levee system than was in place prior to 2005, and we need your support, we need your ideas to help us do that.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

I really want to reiterate, once again, that I'd like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this workshop. We scheduled this meeting on a Saturday rather than a late night because we knew it was going to take more than three hours to talk through these issues. These are not simple issues. If they were simple issues we probably wouldn't even be here talking about them. These are complex, complicated issues that we are working with, that you're working with and trying to understand, and we recognize that. So, we have taken some feedback from the other 30 public meetings and we've tried to create some visuals to help you understand a little better what we're trying to accomplish throughout the system.

I've stated before, we already had 30 public meetings on the Eastern Tie-in project. We've listened to the people south of Oakville. We've listened to the people that live at Oakville. We've listened to the people that live north of Oakville. Those meetings are important because it gives us a sense of what you want, your priorities, and make sure that we can effectively communicate what we're trying to accomplish. We've also had a series of meetings with elected officials and we've had meetings with citizens groups, and I stand before this morning with a full commitment that I made back in May at one of the meetings based on your requests and comments and that was to extend the comment period on IER 13 and I did that. And, because we wanted to make sure that we fully understood what you were saying to us so we could go back and analyze and refine and ensure that we clearly communicated back to you what the impacts and issues are with the projects that we're proposing.

We also heard clearly that the community south of Oakville wants 100-year protection and that's a clear fact. I just want to make sure you understand that I know that and our team understands that. But, I also want to point out that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, our process, our design and construction projects are regulated by federal law and policy and we don't make those decisions. Our projects must be both authorized and subsequently funded by acts of congress then approved and signed into law by the President. And, you ask that the West Bank and Vicinity Project include your communities, the community south of the proposed action identified in IER 13 which is south of Oakville. And, the short answer is that we don't have authorization and funding from congress to do that and you heard from the speakers, President Nungesser, talk about, you know, there is a way to do this through two different alternatives, and there is. It is going to take additional work to get there but currently we do not have the authorization and funding from congress to do that. But, on the non-federal levees and what was referred to by Jason, he called it betterment, I think what I like to call it is a locally preferred plan, and that's kind of how we call it in the Corps of Engineers. That gives a local community or an indity or a company or whatever, if the Corps is doing a project and they want to make it higher, wider, better, then they can come forward with the amount of funding that is above what the federal government has authorized and funded the Corps to do, and that's what we're talking about, a locally preferred plan. So, we're going to work very closely with Plaquemines Parish and with the community and with you to ensure that we can move forward on this. We are going to provide additional information, one of the five breakout rooms that we have is called a resource room and we're going to have our subject matter experts in that resource room to answer specific detail questions. They're also going to be in this room. But, what we want to do is make sure that you have multiple venues to go to, to get your questions asked and answered.

The other part is we do have funding and authorization to implement the West Bank and Vicinity project for Belle Chasse to Oakville. And, we also have authorization and funding to proceed with the Non-federal levees for Jesuit Bend and the areas to the south and we're continuing to do so. You heard Jason talk about soil borings that are going on, those have been going on for weeks and months. We're doing surveying, soil borings, what we'll do now is expand those soil borings out beyond the current right-of-way we were looking at to a new 100-year level right-of-way so that we have all the engineering technical information that we need in order to design the levees.

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.



Public Meeting Summary

Now, let me turn to several of the major concerns that we heard from you, the members of the community who live south of the Eastern Tie-in Project. You asked if the West Bank and Vicinity Project would add to any flooding in the area south of it in the event of a storm surge from a hurricane. The most important thing to remember is no matter how much storm surge may or may not increase from the West Bank Project, we will raise the height of the non-federal levee to account for the change in that expected water level rise. And, so we had our Corps scientists go back and do additional modeling, they're continuing to do this as we do the designs for the non-federal levees and our Corps scientists have run models that simulate storm surge to identify any changes that might occur for the level of storm surge west of the West Bank Project once it is complete so we're talking south and west. And, the results show that the different storms, changes in water level can occur along the non-federal levees from Myrtle Grove to Oakville. And, we didn't answer that very well in the meeting in May and I'll be the first to admit that, we said it was negligible. Well, what does negligible mean? I mean, I had the same question. So, our engineers have some visuals today that they can show you points along the non-federal levees of what the water elevation changes will be because of the West Bank and Vicinity Project. The change and water level can vary from a low of minus a half a foot, and you say, "Well, how can it be less than?" Well, if you are aware, before hurricane Gustav, water was getting sucked out of the Barataria Basin before that hurricane came in, that's why. Now, after the hurricane passed through and the water came back, it's a range. But, there's also a high of about three-quarters of a foot which is less than 12 inches. Most of the changes that we seen below Oakville and the non-federal levees range between zero and six inches higher than would have currently been predicted if the West Bank and Vicinity Project wouldn't have been built.

But, again, what the most important thing I want you to remember is, no matter how much the storm surge may or may not increase, we will raise the height of the non-federal levees to account for the changes in expected water levels. And, what that means is that when we're designing a levee, and let's say the design elevation is eight feet, and we determine that the highest point in the area may be nine inches out of 12, so we take that nine inches and that gets calculated into how we do the whole calculation and then that would be added back in on top of the eight feet. So, you would have an additional elevation added to the levee for the non-federal levees to incorporate for any changes in surge that effect your areas and your communities.

Again, I know you're interested in probably more details than I've told you but I encourage you to talk to our Corps scientists. We have some of our hydraulic modelers that are here, they'll be located here and also in the resource room and they'll be happy to explain their findings. They should have a very clear visual that will show you that information.

The next major question from the members of the community was, will the area south of Oakville have increased risk of flooding from water that will be pumped over the levees during rain events to prevent flooding to the areas north of Oakville inside that levee system? And, that's the West Bank and Vicinity Levee System. These questions center specifically on the proposed 150 cubic feet per second pumping station that was originally planned to pump that outflow in to Ali Canal. The proposed drainage structure would provide the day-to-day drainage that is currently provided by an existing culvert. So, we basically will remove kind of a steel corrugated galvanized culvert and put a very similarly-sized box culvert in its place. But, during a tropical event, that drainage structure would have to be closed so that allows us to close that off and the pump station would be operated. So, in response to your comments in May, we have revised the design so that the 150 cubic feet per second discharge of the pump station is now diverted into the wetland area outside the non-federal levee so it will not be going into Ali Canal. And, the bottom line is when the pump station is operating, your risks are reduced. So, again, this is another thing that we've listened to your comments and we've tried to incorporate into minimizing risk for you and helping us to design a better project.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Another major area of concern for the residents south of Oakville is how the Eastern Tie-in Project would affect property values and flood insurance prices and availability to those areas. Economists reviewed these issues and the evaluation was there was no credible evidence that the proposed actions would adversely impact property values. Having said that, once complete, the Plaquemines Parish non-federal levees will reduce your risk from hurricane storm surge. And, as for flood insurance, we have asked a member from FEMA to be here today and they'll be located in the resource room to address any issues or concerns you may have about flood insurance and our team is here to talk to you about this topic.

Now, for today's official announcement concerning the Eastern Tie-in Project. We will continue with the Eastern Tie-in Project as proposed at the proposed location that was outlined in the draft environmental report #13. The alignment is south of Oakville which is the proposed action. And, I do understand the concerns that the members of the community do not agree with that decision. But, it is my responsibility to move as swiftly as possible, the decision has been made to get the Eastern Tie-in Project built by the June 2011 deadline. This project is absolutely critical to the entire West Bank area and without it the area remains vulnerable to storm surge. Delaying this project any longer places hundreds of thousands of people at risk and that is something that I am not willing to do. However, areas south of Oakville will have improved risk reduction measures in place when that project is complete. As I've explained with the locally preferred plan, what Jason has told you, what President Nungesser has told you, we're going to be working closely with Plaquemines Parish to make that a reality. Because of your concerns and recommendations we have received at prior public meetings, we have designed four options for how Highway 32 Closure could be built. I want to make sure you understand that could be built. The decision has not been made on what that will be. We need your input today at the workshops before we make final decisions.

Because today will be very different from any session we've held, let me explain it. We're holding five sessions; one is a 90-minute session here in this room that will focus on the Plaquemines Parish non-federal levees that will be incorporated into the federal system. That breakout session will be held once. The other four sessions will cover possible designs for the Eastern Tie-in Project. The possible designs are as follows: a swing floodgate, and you've seen this, this is what was identified as the proposed alternative in IER 13 but there have been some modifications from it based on your feedback that you provided us; a roller gate, same thing, we received feedback during the comment period, we've incorporated that into this alternative; a earthen ramp with a floodgate, we received notification from the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority, this is an alternative they recommended so we looked at that alternative also, we have information on that. Now, that was not included in the original IER 13 but you'll be able to see that. And, then the last one is the invisible floodwall and you've heard that referred to and people say, "How can you have an invisible floodwall?" I think if you go to the breakout session and listen through it, it's a pretty short briefing that will kind of explain it, it will show what the visual impacts are, every day for about 99.9% of the time, and then when you have a hurricane event, they actually go in and built the floodwall out of materials. This happens all over the world. I went up to Grand Forks, North Dakota this summer and we saw one that, you heard about the floods up in North Dakota this year, that floodwall was put into place, took them about 24 hours to do it, and they were able to protect that community in Grand Forks, and it withstood the 100-year flood. So, that's the other alternative that you'll be able to look at.

So, each of these are a direct result of listening to you at the meetings in April and May about your concerns for public safety and impact on the communities. These sessions are 30 minutes each and they will repeat throughout the morning and into the afternoon so everyone has a chance to attend as many of these as you want. We also have a separate room set up, that I referred to already, as a resource room and that's to answer your individual questions. I will also take questions here but if you are more comfortable in a smaller setting, the resource room, you're welcome to go there and have one of our teammates

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

answer your questions. I also know that some of you are interested in borrow, insurance rates, property values, hydraulic modeling that we did to look at the induced flooding, all of those things we'll be able to answer for you in the resource room. As I've said earlier, we do have a representative from FEMA who will be in the resource room to answer any of your questions about the flood insurance program. And, please feel free to ask about any of our other Corps projects that you'd like to.

We have a busy day ahead of us and I ask, again, for your help in making today's workshop meaningful. It is your comments and your engagement that will help us serve you better. I kind of want to recap real quickly what I think that I want you to take away from today's meeting. First of all, we heard your feedback and we've incorporated into what we're doing and how we're proceeding. Secondly, we operate within the authorities and policies set by congress and the President, that doesn't mean we can't do things, what it means is that there are limitations and we have to figure out ways to work within those limitations, work with our federal sponsor, with the public to ensure that you're fully informed on the direction we're going. We have responded to your comments as best we could and we've talked about the status of risk reduction to the individuals that live south of Oakville and for the folks that live within the West Bank and Vicinity Projects. So, now we're asking for your input and it is vitally important. We also want you to remain engaged throughout the process. This is just another step in the process and we just ask you to remain part of the process because it does help us deliver a better project to you.

Thank you for your time.

[Applause]

Ken Holder: Folks, we forgot to recognize just a couple of people, President Nungesser asked us to recognize Carol Ponds [Phonetic] and her achievement and his contribution to the team

[Applause]

Ken Holder: And, can we get Councilwoman at Large, Jackie Clarkson to come up and just make a quick comment.

[Applause]

Jackie Clarkson: Thank you. I'm Jackie Clarkson from Algiers and I think I know most of you. I'm not here as Orleans Parish government to butt-in Plaquemines Parish, that's the last thing any of us need. I am here, though, as a lifetime Algiers resident who is Vice President of my city council who has stayed on the Corps neck and has since Katrina. And, we've changed a few things and we've made them better. And, I'm here today to say, I offer you our regional support because on the West Bank it is united we stand or divided we flood, I love that bumper sticker.

[Applause]

Jackie Clarkson: And, I'm not here to divide Plaquemines to save Algiers, I'm here to help President Nungesser and I appreciate his welcoming me and Mike Bush's inviting me and the business and political leadership of Plaquemines. We've all reached out to each other and worked as a region because we've done things like save and expand military, which is our number one economic development, we have saved more flooding and we will prevent more flooding in the future, we have crime coalitions. We're working as a region which is critically important to the West Bank more than any part of this metropolitan, and I know that because of a lifetime history on the West Bank. So, I'm here to pledge the support of Algiers and Orleans Parish to make all of Belle Chasse, all of Orleans, all of

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Plaquemines, all of Orleans Parish and all of Jefferson Parish, West Bank, as safe as we can make it together, and I will help you as much as I can.

Thank you.

[Applause]

Ken Holder: Thank you, ma'am. And, now we'll break-up. For those of you who are staying here, Colonel Mike Wehr and Paul Eagles will be leading that session. Sir, if you could stand up, just kind of let everybody know who you are.

[Fain background speaker 48:11 – 48:13]

Ken Holder: Roger that. Okay. So, for the rest of us, if could get our groups, just follow it out as we go. Gary Brouse will be up first.

Gary Brouse: I'm speaking for the swing gate option.

Ken Holder: Swing gate. So, you'll follow Gary if you want to see the swing gate option.
Ted Carr is the Invisible Floodwall

Ted Carr: Invisible floodwall.

Ken Holder: Invisible floodwall, if you want to see that option.

Tim Connell has the roller gate and, Chris Dunn the ramp. So, if you just follow these folks. My folks will show you where to go for the individual rooms. The Resource Room is at the end and to the left.

Thank you very much.

Nancy Allen: My name is Nancy Allen, I'm a Public Affairs Officer with the Corps of Engineers. I'm going to be facilitating today's meeting. In this room we are going to be talking about the non-federal levees. Let me clarify and explain. This is the non-federal levee, the levee that is currently non-federal, between south of Oakville to St. Jude. It will be incorporated into the federal New Orleans to Venice Project. So, although we refer to it as the non-federal levee, it will be a federal levee. So, we just want to clarify that. We really need your input and help as we continue to develop this project and so that's what we're going to have a chance to talk about today. We're going to provide a brief update on the status of this levee system and then we'll open it up for your questions and comments.

Again, if you're interested in the crossings, the Highway 23 crossings, there are four sessions that are running through those options currently. I will tell you when you need to leave this room in order to see all four sessions. So, you can stay here for about an hour and then you can go join the sessions and learn about the roller gate and the swing gate, the invisible floodwall, and the ramp option.

I'm going to ask you to please silence your cell phones, your blackberry's, whatever you have. We are videotaping this session, this will be used to make an official transcript so we are going to ask that you hold your questions and comments until the end and that when we open it up for questions and comments, you use the microphones that we will be setting up. This is really important for us.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

This is our agenda for today. Our presentation is only going to take about 20 minutes to half an hour and then we're going to open it up for input.

Again, we are talking about the currently authorized plan for the levees from Oakville to St. Jude. We're going to provide a brief description, show you what ongoing work is happening right now, update you on the schedule, and then we are going to show you the preliminary alignment for these levees, and then we'll open it up for your questions and comments.

When you came in there was speaker cards on the front table. We will be calling people off of speaker cards first and a lot of them may have chosen to go to another session but we'll give everybody an opportunity. And, if you want speaker cards there's some now available in the lobby, they'll be bringing those in to us.

We now have a regional team that is focused on this project so I'm going to introduce our folks here at the table. Paul Eagles who is the Senior Project Manager; Julie LeBlanc who is the Senior Project Manager for Plaquemines; Julie Vignes who is the Senior Project Manager for the West Bank and Vicinity Project; Ben Caldwell the Technical Manager; Larry Marcy and Gib Owen are Environmental; and John Bivona is Engineering. Vicksburg District is assisting us with the execution of this project. We do have Colonel Mike Wehr who is the Commander of the Vicksburg District here to kick-off our presentation so I'm going to turn it over to him now.

Col. Mike Wehr: Thanks, Nancy. Good Morning, my name's Colonel Mike Wehr. I'm literally the neighbor up the river from Colonel Al Lee. It's a real honor to be down here to assist and to get after the work that needs to be done. My focus on the first few slides is what is currently authorized but I can't escape the fact, as Jason really eloquently put it, there's a lot of passion on getting after the rest of the protection that is wanted and needed for Plaquemines. And, what I would ask before we even go there, I had the chance to meet a couple of veterans earlier, but I just ask if there are veterans in the house to raise your hand that have served our nation. We've got a few of you.

[Applause]

Col. Mike Wehr: I bring that up because, again, we're amongst some of the greatest generations that are serving and it's an honor to serve with the sons and daughters of America as we speak. But, today is where I'm at and, in fact, that catch is no less in terms of what we're trying to get after in terms of flood risk reduction, to reduce the risk of flooding in this area.

So, I've got a few slides and I really enjoy the way Jason described the locally preferred plan. In fact, I grabbed a slide, go ahead and click to the next one that describes what he is looking at. It's that red portion; this is the locally preferred plan that goes above and beyond what is currently authorized. What's currently authorized is in green. What's in red is the locally preferred. These are interrelated. I'm going to focus here, for our little breakout session, but it's not in ignorance of what is desired and what is preferred. And, in fact, a couple of the slides that will follow here, you'll see some of the work that is being done on the soil drilling and those are the things that are being looked at now in a little bit different light based on this week's discussions. Do we prepare the ? potentially for this locally prepared plan to come through? It's going to be tough, just as Jason and President Nungesser described, it is not going to be easy.

The last slide I've got is a handoff to the real subject matter experts, we'll get to the schedule and how tight this will be to try to parallel the efforts. But, they really are two parallel plans. So, I would just ask you, as we focus on the locally preferred through these first few slides and that input that we're going to get, trust me, we're going to stop standing up here talking to you and put microphones in these runways

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.



Public Meeting Summary

here and get some feedback and dialog going. So, I'll go quickly through what I've got, but that's dialog's important. If you said it before, it is not endlessly wasted on people that aren't hearing it is shaking things as we speak. Those four alternatives came out of a very passionate meeting that I had a chance to attend back in May, I think, in Oakville. It was a very small, tight room, I saw some familiar faces that are there, and very heated passionate discussion, Jesuit Bend specifically for example, it was a real eye opening for me as well.

So, what I want to do is go to our next slide, and again, we're going to focus on the non-federal portion, Oakville, St. Jude. And, the next slide describes this in writing; this is what it's described as in terms of the current authorization by congress. Again, it came through in the supplemental, in the 4th and 6th, and again, it's funded so we're moving out already and I'll show some of the slides that get to the work that's underway to include design. And, of course, it will incorporate into the existing New Orleans to Venice Project. And, again, what it looks like is about two to eight feet. Now, that means a lot of different things to different people in different locations so we're going to go section by section. In fact, the next slide shows a map. Mr. Paul Eagles will walk us through those after I show you a couple other pictures here. But, we're going to look at individually in a much broader scale, each of those sections.

So, again, as I mentioned, we're focusing on what's authorized, what's showing up on this slide. I point this out because we recognize what's existing now with hesco baskets, barriers out there, I don't think we have visual example here today, but we know that is a temporary measure, and we can save a lot of lives at the last minute but we don't want to rely on that continuously. So, this gets after that more improved protection. .

Again, looks at a floodwall option, and again, this is based on a lot of different decisions with the terrain, existing ground, environmental impacts, the availability of real estate in all different ways.

These three slides that show what's underway. These are pictures that are taken, I think this one is actually near Myrtle Grove but the fact is we're getting after the work. The soil drilling rig that's taking samples, these are taken all the way back to labs to research the pure strengths of soils, figure out what that levees made of at the moment.

On the next slide you'll see what we've brought out and that's a mobile lab, and this is more current technology but it augments that drilling rig and it gets after the real detail of where we're out. And, that's important survey analysis that helps the design that's being looked.

And, the next slide, I'll just point out that this is an interagency effort. The Wetlands is an example of working very closely with the state and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well. So, this is moving forward. Your input is vital, and the feedback we get today will continue to shape this.

The next slide shows our schedule. Again, it's been ongoing, for too long for some, and certainly I can appreciate that but we've got work that's taking place now. This is where we're at in terms of the September date. We are working on a draft EIS, this is critical that your input starts to shape that. There is a formal public comment period that takes place; it will include a public meeting in January where we will meet again to discuss where we're at on this current authorized project.

Again, there's a lot of other discussion going around in the breakout rooms and in the preferred plan that needs to happen and it is, in fact, related to the work that we're getting done on this. So, that is supporting that effort, it is not diametrically opposed, in fact, they are parallel tracks. I think Jason put the passion on it very well, I can appreciate that, he may be a little bit younger than me but I can still feel that passion to get things done and to make it work when you put two things that work together.



Public Meeting Summary

So, I will let sit down and let Paul Eagles go through the sections. Again, it will go fairly quick, maybe five minutes. Then, literally, every slide we had up here we'll bring up as questions are asked. So, I appreciate your patience as we go through these next few slides and get into more dialog. Thanks, Paul.

Paul Eagles: Okay. Colonel Wehr showed you this a while ago and this is just an overview of the entire levee reach from Oakville to St. Jude. And, we're going to go through this one section at a time. These are our planning reaches that were used in looking at the different areas and we tried, based on some of your input, to use existing lines as much as possible in the levee, in the planning. The yellow here shows the preliminary alignment we have. You can see there's some blue sections, that's existing levee where it differs from the alignment. And, then most of this in yellow, you don't see blue because it is the exiting alignment, now at the lower end there's a couple miles of levees where there aren't levees now, those are the new levees. And, so from that point I'm going to go and talk about each reach but I do want you to know that we tried to listen and accommodate your input. [Inaudible] we don't have the alignment the way you like it and there were some reasons for that but we want to hear your input today because this is not final. We want to hear what you have to say and I know there are some areas where you would like to see a change made and if that's the case, we need to hear your input today so we can reevaluate that and make sure. Okay?

Here's Oakville to LaReussitte. We believe the levees will be raised about two feet, up to two feet here, probably more because we're going out and getting new surveys. In the next few weeks they'll start those surveys and I believe that there are some areas where we'll see increases of way more than two feet but that's what we have today. We see a T-wall here, when we were doing the preliminary planning for this area some of the things we were looking at was reducing the impacts to wetlands and so forth, and looking at costs and so forth, we looked at different alignments, a T-wall here was part of the preliminary assessment of what we could do. It's not final; we are going to reassess that decision as we get better detail on the design breaks of the levees. Okay? And, then down here, we're looking at a flood-size skip in the levees to protect the residents in that area. Next slide.

LaReussitte to Myrtle Grove, we did try to follow existing alignment as much as possible and I know we did look at some options here in Myrtle Grove and some folks here are going to talk about that today. There are some other options to look at down there and we want to hear your comments on that. So, if we need to reevaluate that, we want to hear what you say about that today so we can incorporate your comments and try to understand. Okay? We are trying to incorporate agricultural lands here in this reach. Next slide.

This would be Myrtle Grove and we're looking at possibly a levee increased height of about seven and a half feet here. And, again, we're looking at those new surveys to verify those numbers and make sure we know exactly how high they're going to be, how much higher they're going to be. As you see, since a hurricane surge is higher for the south, then the levees get higher as you go further south, it goes from like about nine feet, in that range, at Oakville down to about 12 at St. Jude. Next slide.

Here we are at Citrus Lands to Pointe Celeste, and in this reach we're looking at about an increase height of about almost eight feet and we've tried to avoid some environmental tracks in this reach and so forth and keep as much of the agriculture properties incorporate into the levees. Next slide.

And, points of Point Celeste to St. Jude, here we're looking at new levees along the lower end. This will be up to about 11 feet high and we're also incorporating the Parishes maintenance building in the levee system, and then they'll tie-in to the federal levees down here at that point, the NOV project below St. Jude.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Now, we don't have all the answers, I know, but we want to hear your comments. I am going to turn it over to Nancy to start that process.

Nancy Allen: Okay. Again, we just want to stress this is a preliminary plan, this is a preliminary alignment, these are tentative elevations. As you saw on the schedule, we will have SEIS coming out this fall and then what will follow will be an additional public comment period. So, right now we're still in the planning and design stage.

But, that being said, we want to hear your input today, we want to get your questions and comments. When you came in there were speaker request cards, I have a stack of them in front of me and I'll start calling people from here. If you did not fill one of these out you can still fill one out in the lobby and they will bring them to me, or when we run out of cards and if we still have time, we'll still be here to answer your questions and we'll just let people come up to the mic. There are also postage-paid forms out there if you simply want to provide a written comment.

I do ask that you limit your comments and questions to three minutes. We're going to put some lights up here to help everybody stay on track. When it starts blinking you'll have a minute left, when it buzzes and you get a red light that means three minutes is up and we'll just ask you to wrap-up.

If you want to submit additional comments there's a point of contact here, Gib Owen, and also an email address that you can use as well. Again, we want your feedback.

There are two resources, you may already know about them. We urge you to keep checking here; nolaenvironmental.gov is where all of our environmental documentation is posted. When a SEIS for this project is released, it will be there. We also have the website mvn.usace.army.mil.

Okay. We're getting mic stands right now. Again, if you're asking about a specific reach we can go back and find those slides if you're curious about alignment, we have a number of other backup graphics so we'll do our best to answer your question. I have a panel here and once you've made your question or comment I will direct it to the right person on the panel.

The first two cards I have are Geneva Grille and Robin Zuvich, if you're here you can come to either of these isle ways while we're getting set-up. Do we have Janiva or Robin?

Please do give us your name for the transcript, and again, we are using microphones, we are making a transcript so please just speak one at a time.

Geneva Grille: I'll just ask you the questions, after looking at this presentation right now. My name's Geneva Grille and I am a registered professional civil engineer, worked on levees over 40 years. In some of the lessons learned post-Katrina and as far as extending this non-federal levee system, are you going to compartmentalize some of these reach 1, 2, 3, and 4 in case you have any type of failure somewhere around LA 23? Just like on the East Bank of the river when the floodwalls failed in Orleans Parish around the 17th Street Canal, we never expected Jefferson Parish to flood over there but the water went around because of the breach. Levee systems are what they are and no one can guarantee you're not going to have a failure or a breach, and I think one of the lessons learned from the Dutch is, it is important to compartmentalize and segregate systems so if one system floods another doesn't. Is there any consideration for that in the design?

Paul Eagles: Ben Caldwell can help with design questions. We have not, at this point, considered compartmentalization in this area. However, I guess, that's something we need to think about and, obviously, consider.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Ben Caldwell: We can definitely consider but, as Paul just stated, currently we're not considering compartmentalizing non-federal reaches, and I'm assuming that's what your question was addressing is that reach. There is, where the federal levees tie-in, as you know, there is compartmentalizes, there's a levee that goes from St. Jude back to the Mississippi River levee so that is still in place, we're not going to be moving that. So, if that answers your question.

Nancy Allen: Okay. Robin Zuvich or Dave Smith, I have cards for both of you. Can I just get you to come over to this mic for me? Sorry.

Dave Smith: My name's Dave Smith, I live in the Belle Chasse area. I want to ride on what Miss Geneva just was saying, compartmentalization is important and it should be more seriously looked at. I wasn't satisfied with that answer. And, regarding that, some of the same lessons we're learning today from the Highway 23 Closure, you're going to run into that with the same compartmentalization so you should take some of those lessons learned and add them into this project now, plan it at the beginning not at the end. That's all I have. Thank you.

Nancy Allen: Thank you, sir. Donald Landry and Theresa Wade.

Donald Landry: Good morning. My name is Donald Landry. I want to thank you all for coming out and taking our input. We have seen that it does impact your design studies. One point clarification, this just keeps being called non-federal levee like it's not your responsibility but it is a new federalized levee. The Corps of Engineers does have responsibility for responsibility for this levee. My first question, actually, it's going to degress a little bit, my comment on the breakout sessions, I think it would have been a value to have everyone stay in here to see this presentation because a lot of people that left are also involved in this presentation. So, that's just a comment.

To digress a little bit, Colonel Lee stated earlier that they have done an economic study that the IER 13 will not negatively impact our property value. And, so I would like someone of authority to please sign a document stating that and distribute it. That needs to be public information.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Gib, please speak for that.

Gib Owen: Okay. We do have a person, Kevin Lovetro, in the resource area.

Donald Landry: Okay.

Gib Owen: And, you can talk to him, he's the one, and his people are the ones that made the announcement on that.

Donald Landry: It's one of the primary concerns that almost all us citizens have here, and it's been stated but never signed off. I mean, but words will be words until they're written down and then committed to.

Gib Owen: Right.

Donald Landry: So, we need that in writing.

Gib Owen: And, it is, we are addressing that in the addendum as one of the substantial comments.

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.



Public Meeting Summary

Donald Landry: Because, every meeting I've been to you all have said, no, it's not going to negatively impact but when it does happen, if it does happen, I want someone's signature saying it shouldn't have happened so we can research why it happened.

Also, it was a little confusing when Colonel Lee was giving his presentation, I think I understood it but I just want to clarify it. It was confusing when he was saying about IER 13's negative impact on the new federalized levee, how the surge would increase that new federalized levee to a certain extent, they're doing those calculations and he said that differential would be raised. Is that within this project or would that be in if we get approval for the 100-year protection?

Nancy Allen: Paul, can you just clarify that we're talking about the elevations for the new federalized levee?

Paul Eagles: To answer your question, sir, the current hydraulic analysis for the elevation does, in fact, involve the affects of the impacts for the West Bank and Vicinity. You start with surge, and the modeling will, in fact, involve that, along with other components sought as wave run-up, a wave period, and levee slope.

Donald Landry: Right. So, those are negative impacts with this new federalized levee...

Male engineer: We're going to incorporate them into the design of the non-federal levees or the federal levees, whatever you want to call them.

Donald Landry: New federal levees, let's just call them new federal levees.

Male engineer: New federal levees. We're going to incorporate those into the design of the new federal levees.

Donald Landry: Under this project?

Male engineer: Yes.

Donald Landry: Okay.

Male engineer: Yes.

Donald Landry: That's not considered in the 100-year if we get that 100-year...

Male engineer: Right.

Donald Landry: ... protection. Okay.

Male engineer: Right.

Donald Landry: Thank you. I just wanted to clarify. That's all I have for now. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you, sir. I have a card from Theresa Wade, Gary Farwell, Mary Rivero, are any of those folks with us today? Okay, great. Still with us, I should say.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Gary Farwell: Good morning. My name's Gary Farwell. First of all, I'd like to thank Colonel Lee and all the other Military members for your service, I appreciate it and I'm sure everybody here does.

[Applause]

Gary Farwell: As I understand it from previous meetings, the environmental study for IER 13 was based on a late, mid to late '80s environmental study. Is that correct?

Male engineer: The IER 13 did not revisit the economics that everybody's talking about down in the Jesuit Bend area.

Gary Farwell: Okay.

Male engineer: That was not part of that process. We did not re-look at the alignment and that's why we're talking about the non-federal levee project.

Gary Farwell: All right. The proposed Hero Canal levee and floodgate that was based off a study made in the mid to late '80s. Is that correct?

Male engineer: It's based off of the authority that we got in '96 to build that alignment.

Gary Farwell: All right. Colonel Lee, I understand from one of our previous meetings, you served your tour in Iraq, if you were in Afghanistan today and going to take your troops to battle, would you base it on 20 year old intelligence data?

[Applause]

Colonel Lee: I guess I don't understand the basis of the question. I understood what you said but I just want to make sure I understand it. We're not doing anything based off that; the designs for the hurricane system in New Orleans are based on 2009 current practice, the best in the profession. We use academia, we use the Corps of Engineers engineers, we use private sector engineers, we use our research lab that's located in Vicksburg, Mississippi to do the modeling, we also use the Dutch engineers to augment some of our modeling efforts that actually work in our offices in the district. So, you're talking about an authorization, that's all that is, and that is 1996.

Gary Farwell: Okay.

Colonel Lee: But, what we're doing to build this project has nothing to do with what was in 1996. Congress directed us to provide 100-year levels of protection for the West Bank and Vicinity project and we're using the latest scientific information we have, engineer information to build that system. The same thing is occurring south in the Plaquemines, the new federal levees that will be built in Plaquemines that are currently non-federal, we're doing the same analysis, the same soil borings that we're out there on the ground right now doing, the same design criteria, the factors of safety, pre-Katrina, post-Katrina, different; the cost, different. The borrow material doesn't have organics in it, doesn't have roots in it, doesn't have debris in it, we have a very much higher standard for clay that we use in the levees now since Katrina. So, I think we've tried to incorporate the latest technology, the latest materials, the latest scientific approach in building the system. So, I just want to make sure you understand that part.

Gary Farwell: There are some input from the previous meetings that accelerated the non-federal levee construction. Is that correct?

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Colonel Lee: What we're doing right now, and I think they probably either have talked about it or are getting ready to talk about it, they're already out there doing the borings as soon as those get completed and we get a report then we'll be able to start the design and continue designing, and that's what we're going to do. We're going to design the levees as rapidly as possible, and that's what Jason was talking about earlier, and if something happens in the environmental process that makes us change those we'll have to go back and make some adjustments to the designs but we're not going to wait until we have perfect information at the end to go design them, we're going to go ahead and start design them in concert with the environmental work that we're doing.

Gary Farwell: I have over 26 years Military service, and in that time I was faced with several problems, many problems where you had to make a decision, you'd either follow the rules, regulation procedures that were, you know, in effect and come up with a bad decision, or you could use some common sense and logic and probably come up with a better decision. And, many cases I did that, and I found it was easier to ask forgiveness than permission. I know you're going to spend a lot of money on this floodgate if you install it, that money could be better spent on the non-federal, federal levees. Use some common sense.

[Applause]

Colonel Lee: I understand what you're saying. And, you know, I think one of the things I told you earlier is that we have authorization appropriation so we do have certain limits that we have...

Gary Farwell: I understand your limitations.

Colonel Lee: ... and they're not procedures and policy, they're actually public law. So, you know, I'm in a position where I can't violate public law.

Gary Farwell: I understand...

Colonel Lee: It's a procedure that I can skirt the edge or work around to make sure we can get what we need to do and work that hard, and I will work as hard as I can to make that accomplishment. So, what we've done with Plaquemines Parish is, I think we found a lot of common ground, you know. They're willing to step-up for to do the locally preferred option for the new federal levees in Plaquemines, that first section of eight miles to LaReussitte and that's what they're committing to, and we're committed to working with them to make that a reality.

Gary Farwell: When will that first eight miles realistically be completed? Wild guess?

Nancy Allen: Paul, or somebody, can you speak to how that would impact the schedule?

Paul Eagles: We have a schedule for the existing schedule based on the authorized grade. We have not worked up a new schedule for the change with putting in the locally preferred plan; however, it would be put in as expeditiously as possible, like Jason was talking about this morning. We've got to sit down with the Parish and the state and find out the steps that have got to take place to get...

Gary Farwell: Okay. I understand all that. Wild guess, when do you think that first section will be completed?

Paul Eagles: I can't make a guess without knowing what the steps to get that done are. I'm sorry.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Gary Farwell: All right. In business you hear the term, it's very popular now, think outside the box. I'm glad to see the Corps is finally thinking outside the floodgate so please help us here.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you, sir. Okay. I have cards, we now have two microphones, I have Mary Rivero, Sylvia McNabb, Matt Zuvich [Phonetic], Tim Schotch [Phonetic]

Matt Zuvich: My name is Matt Zuvich and I live in Jesuit Bend. And, I'm glad to see all you guys are here and you all plan work pretty well because you all split us all up. I mean, I think that was one of you all's tactics. We should've had everybody that was in the room here this morning here for this session because what they're going to see was Oakville's comments not Jesuit Bend's comments. We have never heard from you guys on our substantial comments. Colonel Lee, you said you all said something about them but we have never seen the documentation. I do want to ask one question because after the May 4th meeting I was coming home in my subdivision, Jesuit Bend, and I saw an entourage of about eight vehicles. Well, I recognized a bunch of you people right up in the front here, were in the vehicle, you all drove through our neighborhood, I got in my truck and I followed you all. You all went down to LaReussitte, everybody did, got out the trucks and looked to see what made sense, to remove the floodwall and bring it down 100-year protection all the way to LaReussitte. From what I was told, there was an option that was put out there to move the 100-year protection down to LaReussitte has been disbanded. How come that has happened? Colonel Lee, can you answer the question, was there a proposal to remove the floodgate and bring 100-year protection all the way to LaReussitte with a rise in the road without a floodgate?

Nancy Allen: Colonel Lee has stepped out, he is rotating, let me answer first that, the rotating session will go all day. They had opportunities to stay here and then go there and give their comments. We have folks in the resource room to answer questions and we can take written comments on any or all subject matter today. So, there's plenty of ways to get your voice heard.

Julie Vignes: Okay. Just to acknowledge, yes we've done some field visits with some of the elected officials, state, and Parish government, as we...

Matt Zuvich: Shouldn't you all have done that 20 years or 10 years ago, or three years ago when this first came out?

Julie Vignes: Well, those are just continued throughout the whole process and still continue today. And, what we went back and did is we looked at options, specifically options of how to cross at the proposed locations and we re-looked at, we re-asked the question, do we have the authority, the existing authority under the West Bank project to extend the 100-year to LaReussitte? And, we came back with the answer, we do not currently have the authority. So, it was a consideration, and the answer is we don't have the current authority. But, there is a process that we're working with the state and the Parish government to do it as a locally preferred plan or a change in the existing authorization from Congress.

Matt Zuvich: One comment, too, on the gentleman that was just up talking. He wasn't asking about how you're going to build this floodwall, he's talking about the line in the sand, where you all going to put it. If they would've done a recent study and looked at what we have below, south of Oakville, that line should have been moved to LaReussitte to begin with. His intent to Colonel Lee wasn't about the structures you all want to build and how sounds it's going to be based on all your knowledge, it's why didn't they move the line in the sand to where it should have been?

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Julie Vignes:: It goes back to the congressional authority. It's true that the way this West Bank study was dated in 1996, and the authority that we got in 2006 to bring it to 100-year protection did not extend our authority beyond what was the existing documents. So, we're building it to a higher level of protection, we're using current day design standards but it gave us more authority to the existing project.

Matt Zuvich: And, one other thing, you all came up with a lot of recognition this morning but I didn't hear anybody recognize Pete and his wife Jamie, if it weren't for them we wouldn't be in this meeting today and you all would have you all's floodwall with no opposition.

[Applause]

Matt Zuvich: Up until April none of us knew about this.

[Applause]

Matt Zuvich: You all talk about talking about this a year and a half ago, President Nungesser said it, and you guys said it with the Corps, about a year and a half ago you all been discussing this but we found out about it in April. And, the only way we did find out is because Pete came around door to door asking us about it. So, I mean, you all didn't think that. And, before your comment we heard you, well hear this, no floodwall at Oakville, go down to LaReussitte and get 100-year protection for all of us.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you, sir. Mary Rivero, Sylvia McNabb, Tim Schotch. Okay. If they come back in, they'll certainly have another change. Wendy Keating, Bobbie Stockwell, I have cards with your names on them.

Wendy Keating: Good morning. My name's Wendy Keating. Colonel Lee made the comment in introduction that the flood insurance rates would not increase, however, once the floodgate is in place, how will you address the homeowner insurance affordability? This floodgate will clearly divide our Parish north and south. It is very probably that the south end of the floodgate will be reclassified as Coastal Plaquemines Parish. We will be reclassified at Coastal Plaquemines if we are not included in 100-year flood protection, not 50-year as proposed. Our homeowners insurance carriers can decide to drop our wind and hail coverage and/or non-renew our homeowner policies altogether. We will then be forced to obtain insurance through Louisiana Citizens and our premiums will increase. For example, my premium will go from \$4,000.00 a year to \$11,000.00 a year for less coverage. This isn't a scare tactic, this is a fact. Therefore, it is imperative that the community south of this floodgate be include in 100-year flood protection and I pray that you, Colonel Lee and the Army Corps of Engineers, will do all that you can do to include us in 100-year flood protection, anything less is unacceptable. Without it, many of us will no longer be able to afford to live in this wonderful Parish. Please don't forget about us. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: We do have a representative of FEMA in the resource room to talk about the flood insurance program.

Bobbie Stockwell: My name is Bobbie Stockwell, and I'm just curious. I'd like you to show a map of the Oakville area again, please. Now, I'm wondering, if you could use the light, where does the federal levee end at Oakville? I live about a mile south of Oakville, and I was just curious as to why the levee is south of Oakville. Does it go right across or is it a few miles north, a few miles south? Because, I'm just wondering about that.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Julie Vignes: The project, the West Bank and Vicinity project, the Eastern Tie-in portion of that, the location we're proposing across Highway 23, enclose that system, is essentially just south of Captain Larry's. Does that describe to you well enough where it is?

Bobbi Stockwell: Right. I was just wondering because some of us may just be a mile or two south.

Julie Vignes: Right. The area south of that will be protected by the non-federal levees that are being incorporated into the federal New Orleans to Venice project.

Bobbie Stockwell: And, I wanted to say something about the insurance problem. I mean, that's a huge problem for us. The flood insurance is not that big of an issue it's our wind and hail insurance and it's not going to do anything but go up. And, as far as the floodgate idea, even if it's an invisible floodgate, it's still going to be a problem for us as far as even if we want to sell our property. So, the financial issue is a big issue for us and that hasn't really been solved, you know, with what you've told us. That's just a comment that I wanted to make. Thank you.

[Applause]

Julie Vignes: Thank you, ma'am.

Nancy Allen: Zeke Austin, Stanley Gaudet [Phonetic], Jamie Stavros, if any of you want to come to the mic, please. Zeek or Stanley or Jamie.

Stanley Gaudet: Good morning. My name is Stanley Gaudet. A couple comments. One of the things I've heard today, when we get 100-year into LaReussitte the floodgate won't matter. It will always matter to us, we don't want the floodgate in our area.

[Applause]

Stanley Gaudet: And, I know you all listen and sometimes I think we're talking to the wrong people because I don't know even if you're listening you're hearing what we're saying. Give us the 100-year protection to LaReussitte and do not build the floodgate.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you, sir.

Zeke Austin: My name is Zeke Austin, I live in Jesuit Bend. I guess the big issue I have in this meeting today and I think it's the same issue that everybody has here, since all this discussion started in April and May, there's been all the backdoor sessions, Billy's been in meetings with Colonel Lee, Billy's been in meetings with the lobbyists, Billy's been here, Colonel Lee's been there. Pete's been involved in some, Pete's probably not been involved in the ones that he needed to be in. The issue I got is the trust issue. What we were told yesterday, right, the eve of this meeting, that, trust us, we hope we can fix this thing, work with us, you know, and we'll get there. What I've seen today is a schedule that's authorized to get the West Bank and Vicinity complete for 2011, and I think that will happen, Colonel Lee made that perfectly clear. That will happen in 2011. What I also saw for the non-federal levees was another schedule, not near as solid, with a 2013 schedule, and I have concerns that, that 2013 schedule is going to become 2017 or even beyond. So, this message that Billy and McCrossen guy said to us this morning, trust us, we're going to work with the Corps between now and 2011 and get this thing done. I don't believe that for one minute.

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.



Public Meeting Summary

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Jamie Stavros.

Jamie Stavros: Thanks for allowing me to be heard. I think my issue goes along with Zeke's, it's trust. Basically, the story you told to congress, you were suppose to tell them that we were there but you told them we were cows, a cow pasture and orange groves. That's how you described us, and you're not saying that. Part of that is that you were supposed to tell them what was there and you didn't. I have a big trust problem with that. That was your job to say we were there and you ignored that, now you want me to trust you. Do you think it's fair that I trust you now? I'm an American, today I wanted to be heard and I wanted to learn from other people's things that they had to say but you broke us up, split us in different rooms. You have reputation that, basically, it's not a good one, you had to hire press to kind of smooth that out. Should I trust you? Why didn't you tell congress we were there?

Multiple speakers in audience: Answer. Answer.

Nancy Allen: Are you, I'm sorry, I'm going to try to clarify...

Jamie Stavros: I'm asking a question.

Nancy Allen: Are you asking about environmental documentation, are you asking about the original WBV authorization...?

Jamie Stavros: The documentation that said that we were orange groves and cow pastures so that you could pass this study and put up a new levee, a new floodgate, not add dirt on an old one on a crossover and breakaway somewhere, but a new one, and that study basically says that my family can live without stress of worrying about what my house is worth, having my neighbors not having nervous breakdowns. That study was suppose to help me, help these people that are trying to talk to you, not this kangaroo court that's going on in here. I understand and I respect the uniform, I really do, but I really wish it wasn't involved because I'm having a hard time.

Nancy Allen: Julie?

JulieVignes: Right. I think the reference that the speaker is talking about is in our original IER 13 document. We described the area south of Oakville, we acknowledge that there was agricultural land and citrus groves, and you know, when we put out our environmental document addendum we intend to clear that issue up. It was intended to describe...

[Inaudible 01:36:53 – 01:36:55 Multiple speakers]

Jamie Stavros: I went to Washington D.C. based on your study and they're like, cow groves, cow pastures, orange groves. So, you know, you needed to clear it before you started running at us and stressing us out like this. And, you know it's the right thing, you know it's the right thing to do. You should have told them that we were there and today you didn't even address us as a stakeholder but yet we'll be suffering. We weren't addressed as a stakeholder and that was sneaky, and I don't appreciate that very much at all, and you know it, you know, every one of you, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, Colonel Lee, eight, you know you should've told them we were there.

Colonel Lee: I want to answer, I understand your concern about it. I think when Gib tried to talk earlier, I had to step out for a minute, but the basis of economic justification has nothing to do with what's in the Individual Environmental Report, and that's what Gib tried to explain.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Jamie Stavros: You gave a description.

Colonel Lee: Of course, but it has absolutely nothing to do with the economic justification of whether 100-year level of protection is required or not required.

Jamie Stavros: No, no, is the study supposed to protect me economically, though? Is that study done so that you don't hurt me?

Colonel Lee: This study is an environmental...

Jamie Stavros: It's done so that you don't hurt me?

Colonel Lee: ... Individual Environmental Report and it is done to disclose the impacts...

Jamie Stavros: Impacts.

Colonel Lee: ... of the proposed action.

Jamie Stavros: Impacts of my area.

Colonel Lee: That's right.

Jamie Stavros: Economically, environmentally.

Colonel Lee: That's right, anything, air...

Jamie Stavros: You didn't tell them I was there.

Colonel Lee: ... human impacts, environmental impacts, noise, air, induced flooding.

Jamie Stavros: And, you didn't tell them I was there, they were counting on your description.

Colonel Lee: Well, that's part of the NEPA process and that's why we extended the public comment period, we allowed, we're having this...

Jamie Stavros: You've still got to tell them, you extended time for yourself to go tell them and you didn't do it.

Colonel Lee: And, that's what the addendum is for, the official document will incorporate the comments that you provided and the community provided in the Individual Environmental Report to address the concerns that you're stating here about the population centers in Jesuit Bend and the other parts of southern Plaquemines Parish that were, from your perspective or our perspective...

Jamie Stavros: Why don't you announce us as a stake holder then?

Colonel Lee: Announce...?

Jamie Stavros: Why didn't you say that we were stakeholders, acknowledge us so that you can say that you're impacting us.

Colonel Lee: Well, I think that you are a stakeholder.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Jamie Stavros: No, you didn't today when you described everybody, you pretty much said this is all done for everybody up north and we understand your concerns down there. But, we need to be known as a stakeholder.

Colonel Lee: Of course, you're a stakeholder.

Jamie Stavros: And, do you have that documentation...?

Colonel Lee: I agree you're a stakeholder. Anybody that has a stake in a project, and that would mean people that live inside and outside of a project, is a stakeholder.

Jamie Stavros: Well, let me just tell you what happened with my homeowners insurance. I couldn't figure out why, I even asked a neighbor, why they thought my insurance, I couldn't figure it out, went from \$1200.00 a year pre-Katrina, post-Katrina \$4500.00, and \$9700.00, I rounded it to \$10,000.00 a year. They knew you were coming, I just didn't, and I wish that you had gone to congress and told them what you were going to do because if you had told them that we were there I don't think I'd be stressed out for the past two seasons waiting for answers on why I'm in this situation.

Colonel Lee: We don't control insurance rates. I live on the north shore...

Jamie Stavros: But, you have it throughout your documentation, insurance references all throughout your documentation.

Colonel Lee: ... I live on the north shore and the insurance rate that went up again last year and I'm not even, I'm at a plus 18 feet base flood elevation is where my foundation is, and that insurance has went up about three times what it was pre-Katrina, and that's 70 miles north of where you live.

Jamie Stavros: Well, why do you refer to insurance all throughout your documents and the Army Corps of Engineer documents, why do you refer to insurance?

Colonel Lee: I'll let, does somebody have an answer for that?

Jamie Stavros: Because it's going to affect us.

Colonel Lee: I think the only thing that's been referred to is flood insurance.

Jamie Stavros: But, that's because what you're doing is going to create the people in the new fortification, the people that somebody put so eloquently, the haves and the have nots. We're going to be on the outside and you can chose, you chose to buy a house that's in with no issues or out with issues, and there is our trouble right there, that people are going to chose to be in with no issues.

Colonel Lee: I understand your perspective and I don't live there so I can't completely understand it but I try to understand it. What you have now with the protection in place is precarious at best, and I think that you saw the effects of Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike...

Jamie Stavros: I didn't have a claim.

Colonel Lee: ... on that levee system that is there right now. What the Corps of Engineers, the Plaquemines Parish, and your input is trying to build with the new federal system will greatly reduce your risk because your risks are significant right now.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Jamie Stavros: Well, I know, let's talk about those risks because when you put up that world's largest pumping station that I know it's probably a seat and you all should probably be very proud of it and I'm sure it's great work, but when you put up one of the world's largest floodgates back there behind us and then all the water that use to go where it did and it's not, then you turn on that pumping station and it pumps out, tell me about the funneling affect that's going to happen towards Oakville and Jesuit Bend levees.

Colonel Lee: Well, that's the modeling that I talked about earlier. There's a range and the range is minus 0.6 which is about a half a foot and minus to about three quarters of a foot plus. That's what our modeling shows.

Jamie Stavros: Now, initially you had said two to three inches, and so what I'm guessing and I really would like to come in and get more educated about it, but is it your little machine there that you put things in and the different variables. How do I know you're putting in the variables that, like, wind, important things like wind, how do I know what your variables are?

Colonel Lee: We have Deputy Chief of Engineering here and also my hydraulic subject matter experts...

Jamie Stavros: We've been trying to get in to see.

Colonel Lee: ... is in the resource room and she'll be glad to show you the map, show you points along the levee reaches where the water surface elevations, how they're affected by, not just the pump stations, actually the pump station in that project decreases the amount of water that gets put in below that so it's really the levees and the structure because...

Jamie Stavros: So, you won't be pumping any water that the city has collected out into my backyard, into the basin?

Colonel Lee: Let me explain. Before that gets built, right now there's eight pump stations that pump into Harvey and Algiers Canal, that water flows right where its flowing right now. And, so when we put that surge barrier, the floodgates and that pump station, we will actually be withholding water behind that barrier to a higher elevation...

Jamie Stavros: And, when that gets full?

Colonel Lee: Yeah, we pump, but...

Jamie Stavros: Pump.

Colonel Lee: ... but that's less than what's flowing through there right now during a hurricane event. I mean, the city will pump eight pump stations, it will flow in the Barataria Basin, when we build that surge barrier the water surface elevation behind the barrier, north of it, will actually go up and hold back water from going into the Batataria Basin.

Jamie Stavros: Well, I have to say I'm not that educated on what you're saying.

Colonel Lee: But, we'll be glad to show you.

Jamie Stavros: And, I would love to bring a hydrologist in because we've been trying to do that, to bring one in...

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Nancy Allen: We have been trying to schedule that.

Jamie Stavros: ... so we can share information and make sure that we get taken care of.

Nancy Allen: We have hydrologists, we have one of each of these folks in a room with a map. I'm going to have to move on to other folks but you're welcome, once we've gone through all the cards, to ask any other questions as well.

Jamie Stavros: Thank you for your time.

Nancy Allen: Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Marggie Lachaise, Rose Jackson, also, Anita Cognevich [Phonetic], Ralph Herman, Jr., Pete Stavros [Phonetic].

Male speaker: I don't know if I can follow that very well. First of all, I appreciate you listening to some of our comments. When we arrived here today I was a little upset because we had been trying to get the direct answers, the actually substantive comments that we made in April and May and then the direct answers. I know that Colonel Lee addressed some of those in his opening remarks but what we've got is an opinion that is being used to make a record decision here in about a month. We respectfully ask for the data behind that recommendation so that we can get a second opinion on the economic impact of those that will be south of that area. We talked about NEPA and the alternative arrangements that were authorized by congress to allow a fast-track of this project. In March of '07, it specified in about a seven-page document what you could and couldn't do legally to get around during the full EIS, we all agreed that we need protection, we need it fast, it was appropriated under emergency authorization to get it done. The problem is that when we go fast we have the potential to make an error and part of the alternative arrangements are to look, particular on paragraph 4 that says, a geographic area large enough needs to be evaluated for both direct and indirect effects, and we are being affected economically and at flood risk. Initially it's negligible, now its nine inches, what is enough to say, we are affected?

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Gib, when you start can you clarify the schedule for the addendum to IER 13 that will answer the comments?

Gib Owen: Right. Our intent is to, after this meeting, is to finalize a proposed action with Colonel Lee and have the addendum out by the end of this month, by the 30th of September. That would leave the entire month of October as your 30-day comment period for anybody as a stakeholder to weigh-in on it, and then after that we would prepare a document and give Colonel Lee the opportunity to review it, he's involved all along but he would do a final review and then he would make a decision as he so chooses. Now, you brought up substantive comments, and we've heard that, the process that you're describing, alternative arrangements, was specifically set-up to allow if we determined there were substantive comments, and as Colonel Lee makes that determination to write an addendum, and that's the exact process we're following here. So, the answers to those substantive comments, the three that Colonel Lee laid out today, are in that addendum that should be coming out by the end of this month. That's the process in place that follows exactly the alternative arrangements.

Male speaker: Well, what we did get and I understand that the date is the 30th of September for the publication of the IER addendum, that's 11 days from now, I would hazard to guess that that's already

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

gone through the coordination and staff summary sheets or whatever it goes through, and that we have a copy of that somewhere electronically that we could see that prior to this meeting because we're going to have to come back again and look at another meeting sometime in October when we could've done this now.

Gib Owen: Right. And, that document has not been completed, we don't know what the proposed action is going to be. We can't release it until it goes through the process, when it comes out on the 2nd or 3rd, that's the 30-day public comment period.

Male speaker: I understand. We verbally have said that there is no economic impact and I will say that whatever economist is doing the evaluation on property values based on the new floodgate or any structure going on in Oakville needs to be second guessed and another opinion needs to be looked at.

Gib Owen: As I said earlier, Keven Lovetro is the gentleman that's the sector chief on this section. He is in the resource room and you can discuss that with him. The processes he followed, as Colonel Lee said, there are very formal processes that we go through. These impacts, give you his justification and backup, explain, his experience and how he came to these decisions.

Male speaker: I understand that each of these separate projects and congressional authorization, my concern is the promise of 100-year protection afterwards even if we go through the design process, to start it with the promises that way that may or may not have been that flooding. If we're not included in this particular, I fear that we're going to have that piece put up in place to answer **[Inaudible 01:50:23 Speaking too low]**, we're going to be exposed for a period of time.

Male engineer: We understand that, I mean, that was actually the very conversation on Thursday. That's why we're trying to move all this in as parallel track to get everybody up to the **[Inaudible 01:50:42 – 01:50:44 Speaking too low]** that we're allowed to.

Male speaker: I think what we've done is passively acknowledged that we have the plain sense of trying to push this forward because we understand the concerns. My question is, why we can't get it put in **[Inaudible 01:50:54 – 01:50:58 Speaking too low]**. And, if it's a congressional act that's required then let's build **[Inaudible 01:51:00 Speaking too low]** side-by-side and go back and ask the questions and get it changed.

[Applause]

Male engineer: The Corps cannot lobby Congress but you can.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you.

Colonel Lee: Just real quick, I want to make sure I reiterate this. We've had multiple meetings with local elected officials, state of Louisiana, and the congressional delegation about this project so we have given them, what we believe is, the information that those officials need to make decisions, and I think the track we're working with Plaquemines Parish on the locally preferred plan is the best way to

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

accomplish what you want to accomplish. There are no guarantees but I think you heard what President Nungesser said and what Jason McCrossen said this morning of their path forward, and we're going to work with them to move that forward in everything that we can do to do that. I'm going up to Congress this week and I'll be talking to the two senators and the Congressman, actually Congressmen, that represent Orleans and Plaquemines Parish and we'll have discussion on this project, I am sure.

Nancy Allen: We need to move on to some of the other folks that we have waiting. We'll let you come back up when we're done. Ralph Herman, Anita Cognevich, Rose Jackson, Marggie LaClaire, I have cards with all of your names on them. Mike Muff [**Phonetic**] from Myrtle Grove, Emily Campbell from ConocoPhillips, if either of you would come to the mic.

Mike Muff: I'm Mike Muff from Myrtle Grove. However, if there are other neighbors from Jesuit Bend that would still like to speak on their issues, I would be glad to sit down and let them get through because they seem to have a momentum going and we have the same concerns for them that we have within our neighborhoods. So, does anyone else...?

Nancy Allen: I don't know who's from where, I just have a stack of cards. Some of you have written your neighborhoods and most of you have not. So, I would like to just proceed with everybody that I've given a chance to speak to, please.

Mike Muff: All right. Thank you. On section 3, that's the Myrtle Grove area, since we've been here we've heard that this is just tentative alignments and you don't have all of the answers. The people in Myrtle Grove, however, feel that we do have all of the answers, we're just asking for you all to listen like the people in Jesuit Bend. This alignment, the way it's proposed right now, puts an additional seven foot of water in every home in Myrtle Grove. These homes at Myrtle Grove traditionally don't flood, if they do get water it's very, very minimal. This recommendation, if it's passed, will put seven foot of water in every home. So, I don't understand how this could possibly be called flood protection. I'm just having a hard time dealing with that. There are several issues. This documentation off of the Corps web, I have it here, I have this entire presentation copied so I can pass it on to Colonel Lee or whoever needs to have it. There's a statement in this documentation where you explain the various sections and it says the alignment intentionally places the Myrtle Grove Marina on the outside of the system allowing for marina expansion, that is so simple to resolve, it's not funny. If you'll just take that original alignment that follows that canal and instead of going up to Highway 23 on this side and then running down parallel to Highway 23, if you just bring that levee just like this, swing it right here and put a floodgate, you have taken all of that levee away from Highway 23. That's the levee and that's the place on Highway 23 that floods every time there's a hurricane. That's the section of Highway 23 that completely severs the northern end of the Parish from the southern end of the Parish. That is the most troublesome area that we have in this Parish. Another thing it does, if you would just look at for a minute, by building your levees up following the existing alignment, swing in the canal right in alignment with our pump with a floodgate, this creates a safe harbor for all of our marine fisheries. The last several hurricanes our marine and fisheries people were almost inundated, I mean, devastated because they had no place to park their boats. This offers them, along with people from Lafitte and Empire, for Empire, Myrtle Grove's 45 minutes, it gives these people a place to bring their boats and it offers them a safe haven. It just makes good sense.

The only other concern that we would have as far as the constituents at Myrtle Grove is you have approximately 300 home sites, there's about 70 homes that have already been built, you've got another possible expansion, if you swing the canal, the existing levee, if you swing it down with a floodgate, then you can also develop all this into marina because you still have water access and it will not only be marina but it will be marina protected by a floodgate. It just makes good sense. So, having said that, I don't know if anyone else has anything else that they've like to add to this...

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Male engineer: I have a question, what was the basis of the increased flood height you're talking about, the seven feet that you mentioned?

Mike Muff: Wait, I beg your pardon?

Male engineer: What was the basis for the seven feet additional water you're talking about, or?

Mike Muff: Our existing little levee around the marina right now is at, I believe, a plus 4, that's the existing little potato ridge levee, runs right here and it's the little blue right on this side, that's at a plus 4. The majority of us at the marina realize that, that was the containment levee and we all realized that if we built our homes above that levee the water would have to flow over the levee before it got into our houses. In most cases, and in the past, if we did raise the levee, it may have been 12 inches, 18 inches, never to the magnitude of seven foot, that's our biggest concern. Our houses were built at an elevation, at the time, was conducive to the existing levee protection. This, and it says potential to increase seven and a half foot that just inundates every home at the Myrtle Grove Marina.

Now, I understand that the man under the gun here is Colonel Lee so if he doesn't mind, I have this completely documented and I would like to give it to Colonel Lee at this time that way, he says he's going to Washington, we have complete documentation. One other point, before I give it to him, early on in this progress, on May the 14th, the council, the Plaquemines Parish government unanimously passed a resolution urging the Corps of Engineers to consider this alternate proposal along with the floodgate. Well, as your soil borings have gone on in the Myrtle Grove area we have seen no activity on the back canal, nothing to even indicate that our scenario was even being looking into. That's caused a lot of concern for us. It was brought back to the Parish, our concerns, and then the Parish actually adopted a second resolution where they absolutely object to this alignment. The first resolution they use a little bit of diplomacy and asked the Corps of Engineers to look into an alternative, apparently nothing was done. The second resolution, diplomacy went out the window, they flat object to it. So, here we're sitting here with two pieces of legislation from our government unanimously adopted to absolutely look at our proposal and we would just hope that it didn't take two resolutions to get us to do it, and like I said, all we can do is hope that you all will take this under consideration and realize that your present intention line will intentionally flood every home at Myrtle Grove. And, with that I'd like to pass this to whoever I have to.

Nancy Allen: We'll take that, sir.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Can I ask the panel, does somebody have that resolution? Does somebody with the Corps of Engineers have copies of that resolution? Blair, can you see if that resolution can be resent to our teammates in New Orleans and Vicksburg? We're not sure who has a copy of that. Okay.

Paul Eagles: We did look at the alignments that were proposed and when Colonel McCormick made his recommendation in...

Speaker in audience: Speak up, we can't hear you.

Nancy Allen: Hold on.

Paul Eagles: Can you hear me now? Okay. We did look at the tentative alignments that were mentioned and that was evaluated before Colonel McCormick's final alignment decision end of May,

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

however, we were sure to go back and look at those to make sure we didn't miss anything and would like to those, your counsel...

Nancy Allen: The resolution.

Paul Eagles: Resolutions, yes.

Nancy Allen: Yes. We will get copies of those. Thanks, Paul. Emily Campbell, ConocoPhillips.

Emily Campbell: Hi, I'm Emily Campbell, an engineer for ConocoPhillips. I just wanted to continue to reiterate our interest in keeping the alignment protecting as much land as possible. ConocoPhillips is one of the largest refineries in the United States, and if you remember after Katrina gas prices were adversely affected across the nation due to flooding at the refinery as well as, I'm sure, other economic things. But, I just, you know, we consider the land that we own as essential to protecting the assets that we have and that protects a lot of things with the economy and jobs in this area, and we would just ask that you all protect as much land as possible. We know levees tend to overtop and the land serves as a buffer, the properties and developments that are within that land and those polders, the larger they are the more they can absorb that and have a change to transport the water and pump it out.

And, on a personal note, I'm an engineer but prior to my engineering degree I got a degree in government and I remember in class my teachers talking about the constitutional right of life, liberty, and the pursuit happiness, and as a 20-year-old it didn't mean much to me what the pursuit of happiness was when my teach told me that it was the ownership of land, by enlarge, when this country was founded the pursuit of happiness was defined as land ownership. And, so I just ask you to consider land and still I hear this talk about land being agricultural but I would ask you to consider the land as being one of the fundamental rights of this country not so much by what it's used for...

[Applause]

Emily Campbell: ... not so much for what it used for but by the fact that people do own it and I think everybody cherishes the right. And, I know we get carried away drawing lines on big maps zoomed out but zoomed in those are individual lots and people live in those places and I thank you for all of your work, and I just ask you to remember to continue to be compassionate when you're applying the rules that you're required to live under.

Nancy Allen: Thank you.

Male engineer: Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: One announcement, we still have the rotating session going, you have a chance to see all four half hour sessions, if you are to depart now. I think the next session will start in about 10 minutes. Is that right, Ken? Again, also we have the displays in the resource room so if you just want to look at them and talk to folks you can do that in the resource room but we're going to continue in here while I still have cards in front of me. Bert Sandlin, and Pat McCabe. And, we really want to thank you all for any input that you have on these alignments that we're showing you this morning, that's very helpful for our team. That's what we need to hear more of. So, Bert Eiermann or Pat McCabe, can make your way to the mic. We'll give people just a minute. Again, we'll take written comments on anything

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

and we have everybody in the resource room available to continue discussions so you're welcome to stay here as well.

Bert Eiermann: Hello, my name is Bert Eiermann, I've got my degree in civil structural engineering from Mississippi State about 30 years ago. I live on the canal, I've done a bunch of the permitting process, been through all that kind of stuff. I was here during Katrina, saw all the stuff. I helped repair the Belle Chasse ferry landings, went down to Empire, did three dives on the Empire floodgates. So, I've been around a little bit around this area. A couple questions I have. First is, how much of this property of non-federal levees is privately owned right-of-way and how much of it is government owned property?

Nancy Allen: Somebody speak to that question.

Male engineer: I think it's mostly private land, all private land.

Bert Eiermann: Okay. Have we taken any effort to try to bring the landowners into building anything on these things, encourage the landowners to do things that help what we're doing? I mean, a lot of landowners would be happy to build up levees and maintain levees. I'm looking at it saying, getting the landowners to take ownership of the property, to become stewards of the levee system, to watch over it.

Male engineer: Since it's not in the Corps system now we wouldn't be doing anything like that, I don't believe. So, no.

Bert Eiermann: You know, if we turn around and we're looking at people building piers, turn around and make them build piers, if they get a permit to build a pier, ask them to build a pier so that at least the pilings come up higher than the top of the levee so that if the water does come then debris or boats or something have something still left to tie to. Just certain things you can ask them to do, where they can plant trees, create drawings and saying what they can do and what we would prefer them to do, what we would like to see the landowners actually do. Make them part of this.

Male engineer: We did mention in some scoping meetings last weekend down in the lower part of the Parish that as they are doing new construction that they try not to get too close to the levee. That was one reason we brought up.

Male engineer: There's a slide up here if we can pull it back up on buying down the risk. You're highlighting exactly what is one of key messages here, it is a partnership with the citizens, with the federal government, with the state, the Parish, everybody. Everybody has a different authority and a different roll, like, floodplain management is at the local level. But, as you see here, its starts with non-structural, that's the local homeowner, does he build his home high enough to be above the base flood, you'll see that it goes all the way down to the federal government or the state or whoever is going to handle the levees. It's exactly what you're saying, there is a partnership and everybody plays a role in that to buy down that risk to the greatest extent practical.

Male speaker: Okay. One of the things I'm looking at, too, is if we're digging borrow pits in order to build levees, okay, we dig these borrow pits and by digging borrow pits we can create catch basins so if we overtop levees the water has someplace to go rather than flooding somebody's house. If we take those things into consideration, where we put, I'll give you an idea, just like this WCC project we've got going on with the floodgates, we're looking at putting the Highway 23, Peter's Road extension tie-in, okay, you're building a road. We have a big triangle that we have created in between that area

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

that's pretty much, there's not a whole lot of people living in that area so we've actually created a catch basin in between there that's about 700 acres.

Male engineer: That's correct.

Male speaker: Okay. Now, that property is hardwood, wetlands, its three foot below sea level, okay, and rather than when we shut the floodgates and we start pumping at 28,000 cubic feet per second with the nine flood pumps that feed in to the Algiers Canal and the Harvey Canal, rather than pumping it over the wall, put it in catch basin that way we're not flooding our neighbors downstream.

Male engineer: And, as Colonel Lee explained, that's exactly what we're doing. Right now the capacity in that area is 29,000 CFS, we're going to move, the pump station being built will only move 20,000, we are going to use the area behind it, the Algiers Canal, the area you're talking about, and the Harvey Canal as a retention basin.

Male speaker: No, I'm not talking about using the Algiers Canal and the Harvey Canal as catch basin. I don't want to be sitting there watching and seeing a hurricane and somebody's pumping, you know, eight feet about sea level in the canal and have a wall of water waiting to come rushing down on houses. I'm saying if we're going to keep the level in the canals the same, the Algiers Canal, the Harvey Canal stays the same, the last place I want to put it is above my head, I would rather have it in a hole down below. If I'm going to pump it someplace, I create a catch basin by the land that we dig out to build the 16-foot high levee walls, to build the Highway 23 bridge, I mean, the St. Peter's Road addition, we've created a catch basin in there we can utilize that. And, it's still good usable property, you don't flood it unless you have to flood it, you still have, you know, people can still use it for the shooting range, they can still use it for everything else. And, it may never flood in my lifetime, we may never use it in my lifetime but it's available.

Male engineer: Right. We have not explored taking anybody's private land to do that but we do encourage and we work with our partners on it, the state or the local governments, on the borrow pits to potentially use those as retention. Some of those, actually, when their borrow pits actually stay in the private ownership, it depends on how we acquire them or acquire the use of them. But, on the ones, I know there's two in Orleans Parish right now that the Parish is looking very seriously as using them as retention basins, doing exactly what you're saying, pulling them down just before a storm and using them to retain water, to hold it long enough for the storm to pass and then pump it out.

Male speaker: I'm trying to get all the different projects to work together.

Male engineer: I know that but you're also talking about impacting private lands and we have to be very careful [Inaudible]...

Male speaker: Yes. You know, the other thing is, there's natural barriers that we have. Now, I'm looking at it and we've got a project that's \$16.8 billion that affects 286,000 people, that's the numbers I read in the thing, that's \$58,000.00 per person, that's a lot of money. But, then it affects a lot more than just the people, you know, we have the ConocoPhillips refinery, we have the oil and gas quarter, this is a support that supports the oil and gas industry that supplies natural gas up north, this is part of national security, this is something that people have to have, and they have to have the people here to take care of it. But, you know, we look at it and there's a dollar value to everything we do and I'm looking at it and saying, okay, we have \$16.8 billion, \$58,000.00 per person, and I realize that because of the natural barriers certain people are disenfranchised. Now, rather than a physical solution to some of this stuff maybe we start looking at an economic solution, an economic solution may make better sense. Let's say, for temporary insurance support for the people that are disenfranchised for a year or two

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.



Public Meeting Summary

because they don't have protection. Maybe, people that we don't include because it's just too costly, you know, it just costs too much to try to include certain people within the thing because of where the natural barriers are and you basically say, okay, you give them a permanent flood insurance assistance, and basically, wipe out their flood insurance and then give them a relocation assistance if they do flood. Something along that line. Money right up front. It could save billions of dollars. So, I'm looking at saying, you know, what are the benefits in a cost per benefit per person to do certain areas and then look at it from an economic solution as well as a physical solution and I'm just trying to bring a little more things into light as far as this goes. And, these things are stuff that we still haven't made decisions on, we still can make decisions on coming up. One of the things I'm looking at, the permitting process that we have, I mean, it's pretty honourous, any of the landowners that live along and want to permit property, you know, and do anything as far as building bulk heads, piers, anything like that, you've got to go through about 10 different government agencies to get something to happen. And, it's, you know, if we decide what things we like to see the landowners do and try to encourage those landowners to do those things and speed that process up, the things like, I'd like to see, you know, and it's something that, I don't own any land at the Gulf but I'd like to see somebody encourage right at where the waves break to turn around and say, "Okay. We'd like to build-up some sort of bulk head along there, some sort of barrier island, whatever." Encourage the sportsmen to go in and put in camps, bring dirt, sink barges, artificial reefs in 30 feet of water, not artificial reefs in 300 feet of water, I'm looking at artificial reefs in 30 feet of water where the waves are going to break up against them, where the fish are going to have a habitat, where the barnacles are going to grow and the algae is going to be on it, you know, where you can put lights on the thing and fishermen can drive up and hook up their boat right to a piece of steel or something. I'm looking at trying to bring things in like that, that are going to help retain the marsh. I mean, you turn around and you say, "Okay. I hurt the marsh there." And, we go all the environmental stuff but then all the marsh behind is being held in by people building up things along that line.

Male engineer: Right. We are pursuing and many of you have been to the meetings and heard the multiple lines of defense and that line of defense starts at the Barrier Islands and we have certain authorities that we're working on to do projects there. We have the Louisiana Coastal Act that we have 10 projects ongoing right now under study, Congress authorized them for study with the potential to spend \$2 billion. As soon as those studies are done, they're scheduled to be done in December 2010. So, our part of it we're moving forward with. You're asking for things that are much more on a local basis. You need to really pursue the local Parish or the state to go after.

Male speaker: Well...

Nancy Allen: I think this is great discussion but I've got a few more cards and I'd like to kind of bring it back to the information that we're here to discuss today. But, you're welcome to talk with any of us afterwards.

Male speaker: I'm looking at things like that with the landowners, it costs the community nothing, zero. And, it makes the landowners better stewards and protect the rest of the community. That's the kind of things I'd like to see get pulled into this.

Male engineer: Right. And, that goes back to what I was saying, this is a partnership with all of us and we greatly encourage that within the authorities given to each agency or the people.

Male speaker: Okay. Thank you.

Nancy Allen: Thank you. Okay. I have four people left. Chester Wallace, Pat McCabe, Spencer Keating, and Doug LeBlanc [Phonetic], if any of you are here. And, when we finish with these folks we'll open up the comments and questions from everybody else.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Doug LeBlanc: My name is Doug LeBlanc, I live in Jesuit Bend. I'm listening to all these comments and everything, and with all due respect to this panel here, probably you all wasn't even around when all this started in 1984, you know, when we was supposed to start it. You inherited a very nightmarish situation, I feel like, you know, it's hard to deal with. Considering that, you know, and our Parish President and the councilmen and everybody are not here anymore, I feel like the Parish sold us out. Billy Nungesser was telling us that he was against this floodwall plan since I started coming to the meetings with the first meeting that was in Jesuit Bend. At that meeting he said, "Well, it's a done deal." But, you know, after that he started saying, "Well, I'm going to be against it, see what I can do." Okay. Well, this morning, in the paper when I read is when I found out that all this happened. Okay. Billy Nungesser is backing you all and he's ready to go tell the council to back the plan and everything, and Anthony Beurison, he's not here either, he's our councilperson, but, you know, like I say, I feel like we've been sold out. My question about all this is, and I don't know about the hydraulics, you know, I'm not an engineer, I've been around the swamps a long time though, I'm 67 years old, I'm retired. What you're getting ready to do is make Jesuit Bend a rice field, basically. Would you like six inches of water in your home? Only six inches? Six inches of water that means you've got to start tearing out all the sheetrock and everything. My daughter lives around the corner from me in Jesuit Bend, unfortunately, her house is lower than mine and she had approximately six to eight inches in her house, and they had to tear sheetrock up four foot. That's no fun. I don't feel like you all are a bunch of evil people up here trying to push something down our throats and everything because you have to follow the rules of congress and everything. But, sometimes when we ask questions you all look at us, like, "Hey, I don't know," you know, "What can I do?" We don't get the answers that we need, you know. Nobody says just how much the governments going to back us on the insurance, you know, this federally funded flood insurance plan right now. If the floodwall's put up and all of the sudden I've got to pay double the flood insurance, well, you know, I feel that the government should be paying that extra money that I have to pay because they put me in that situation, you know. They're doing things now because of Katrina, and God forbid we ever have another that does that to our city and what happened, you know, in the Ninth Ward and everything. But, if it does happen and we've been cutoff from it, something should be done to, you know, I feel like my property value won't be there, I feel like my insurance rates have already doubled, you know, and the flood insurance I want to know, you know, if the governments going to back that at all, you know. I'm not entirely sure about all your plans. Just like I said with the hydraulics, that gentleman was saying before, a simpler plan would be down in Myrtle Grove to extend that levee right over to that pumping station. Sometimes the common sense makes a lot more sense than engineering sense, you know. My son's an engineer. Sometimes he can't see the forest through the trees, you know, somebody looking on the outside does. It took an act of congress in 1996 to get it changed so Oakville would be contained within the wall, why can't an act of congress be made now for us?

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: It absolutely can, sir. And, you need to work with your Parish and your elected officials to pass that message on. I urge you.

Doug LeBlanc: I don't understand. Why are we split up like this? Was this planned?

Nancy Allen: We wanted to give...

Doug LeBlanc: I mean, why couldn't we have on meeting in here where everybody's that's involved or concerned about what's going on could be in the same place? Look at us.

[Applause]

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Nancy Allen: We certainly understand your concern. We gave you all every opportunity to choose what you wanted to hear about today, where you wanted to give your input. That information is also available in the resource room so you did not have to leave. But, if we had sat here and sat through this and then sat through four sessions on the four options for crossings, wouldn't you agree we wouldn't have had a chance to get your input on this project or their input, anybody else's input on the Highway 23 crossing. So, result, this is the best way to accomplish everybody's wants and needs for today and for us to be able to listen to as many of you as possible.

Doug LeBlanc: Well, have you all started on the wall, I mean, have you started on the levee, the back levee yet?

Male engineer: No, sir.

Doug LeBlanc: You said that, I think I wrote down here...

Male engineer: Right now...

Doug LeBlanc: ... 2011 the contract's going to be let on that. Is that correct?

Male engineer: You're talking about the non-federal levee?

Doug LeBlanc: The back levee behind Jesuit Bend, the extension that's going all the way down to St. Jude.

Nancy Allen: The non-federal levee.

Male engineer: That's the current...

Doug LeBlanc: Has it been started yet?

Male engineer: That's the current schedule, we're going through the environmental process...

Doug LeBlanc: I can't hear you, I'm hard of hearing. Just speak up a little bit.

Male engineer: We are currently going through the environmental process. Once that is done and approved then they would do the real estate acquisition and then the contracts would be let to construct. The current schedule shows that occurring in 2011, March 2011.

Doug LeBlanc: When are they coming up?

Male engineer: Inaudible

Doug LeBlanc: That's what I have, 1911.

Doug LeBlanc: I mean, 2011.

Nancy Allen: The contract will be...

Doug LeBlanc: The contract's going to be let?

Nancy Allen: 2011, sir.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Doug LeBlanc: God forbid.

Male engineer: But, would like to...

Doug LeBlanc: Thank you.

Male engineer: ... I would like to reemphasize something you brought up.

[Applause]

Male engineer: The non-federal levee program is going to reduce the risk of Jesuit Bend and everybody else. Right now, as Colonel Lee stated, it's a very precarious, HESCO baskets, the type of levee that's there, that levee, when it's constructed, will be higher and much, much more robust and resilient. So, it's not going to turn Jesuit Bend into rice fields, its going to increase the level of protection that's there today.

Doug LeBlanc: Yeah, well, I can understand what you're saying, you know. And, I'm looking at that levee back there and they got the hesco bags on top of it and everything, and I appreciate that, you know, I mean, that's something that really made a difference, you know. And, I feel like that somebody, you know, why aren't they starting sooner on this? You have to go off all these steps and everything before you can do something, you know?

Male engineer: Correct. There is a very specific process and we're streamlining, we're trying...

Doug LeBlanc: You all trying to, I mean, you're all trying to push it through as much as possible, I feel like, you know, as quickly as possible. But, you know, quite frankly, I'm scared, you know. If one comes through, like I said before, God forbid, I don't ever want to see another one around here in my lifetime, and even after my lifetime I don't want to see it. By then I hope that we are protected, all of New Orleans, and you know, probably none of you all are from New Orleans area, if you are from New Orleans area, you know, you don't appreciate what we have here. They think we're just a hole in the, you know, something that's going to sink into the sea anyhow and we're going to lose it so why worry about it. That's not the case. You're going to lose, you know, the heritage, the history, everything in New Orleans that vital to us and everything will be lost, and we can't afford to have this happen. And, this stuff just, you know, why wasn't the levee started in 1984, you know, when congress first, you know, gave the contracts out, why wasn't it started then? You all had the money and authorization to do it then, didn't you?

Nancy Allen: No, sir. No. This levee was not authorized to be brought into the federal system until after Hurricane Katrina.

Doug LeBlanc: I understand that but I'm talking about is, if the money was there back in 1984 why wasn't it started back then, and even not including us, I can understand that, you know?

Male engineer: Right. It was not justified...

Doug LeBlanc: If you all started the levee when you had the authorization and the money, you know. Not our levee, I'm not talking about the back levee, I'm talking about what you're building now...

Nancy Allen: Julie?

Doug LeBlanc: ... why wasn't it built sooner?

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Julie Vignes: Right. So, there was an authorization in '86, an additional authorization in '96 but at that time the project wasn't fully funded, we were getting incremental funding on a yearly basis.

Doug LeBlanc: Yeah, well, did you start with the funding you had?

Julie Vignes: But, now it is fully funded at this point.

Doug LeBlanc: Was it started on with the money you had?

Julie Vignes: There were portions of the West Bank project that was started in the timeline of the original authorization, yes.

Doug LeBlanc: Well, I think that, you know, it's a done deal, we're going to have problems, like I say, I'm going to be living in a rice field. Thank you.

Nancy Allen: Sir, go ahead.

Chester Wallace: My name is Chester Wallace, I live at Ali, and I've been here all morning listening to you all basically say the cow jumped over the moon. And, you know, I'll be quick and I'll be short about it. When I was a young man I bought an Edsel and I'll I can say right now about listening to all this is, I've already bought an Edsel so don't b.s. me. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you, sir. I still have cards from Pat McCabe and Spencer Keating. I will also opening up the microphones if you will line up behind them we will continue to take your comments and questions. Oh, Rose Jackson, I'm sorry, I should have run through these people that I have. If you turned in a speaker card and either you weren't here when I called your name or we didn't somehow get it, I'm very sorry, please come to the mic. I just ask, again, that we try to keep our comments three to five minutes so we can be here. Go ahead, ma'am.

Rose Jackson: Hi, my name is Rose Jackson. I just came from one of your sessions where they were showing the option for the floodwall. And, one of them that I went to was about the ramp, the second one was about the invisible floodgate. Now, number one, that raising of that ramp in Oakville, which I expressed my feelings about months ago, since last year, that, that was a bad idea. We have three historical churches in that community. The people from the east side of Oakville attend these churches. We have elderly aged people, where they want to raise that ramp, there's an 82-year-old woman's house sit there. Right next, in the back of her, is an 85-year-old man who built a \$400,000.00 home. And, that ramp is going to [Inaudible] those old people. Whoever designed this particular project were not thinking, it came from the highway department, which we were told back there in the session. Number one, the Louisiana Highway Department doesn't take care of their highways now. We have water that drains off that highway that drains into the main drainage ditches that goes beyond the back of my house, my property. We had rain five days last week. I watched my babies play in sewage water because the water drained from the front, the sewage lines overflowed, the sewage comes up through the manhole, these kids out there on the side of the street in my community playing in this unhealthy, defective water with human waste in it. If the highway department can't fix their existing problems now, that one they need to take it and shove it in the back of the closet like they do all the other stuff. That's a no-no. That community is over 200 years old and I'm not going to set aside and see it be divided. That's an all black, Afro-American historical community, and when you're talking about dividing a community like that, that's sounds like a big old racial issue to me. Now, the invisible gate, excellent idea. Whoever came up

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

with that, with that option, the best one that they ever came out with. That's a good go ahead but forget the ramp.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you, ma'am. Yes, sir.

Donald Landry: Just to make a point. My name is Donald Landry. Just to make a point, again, that gracious lady is addressing these issues and the only people left here is Corps. We apologize that you all happen to catch the brunt of where our local and congressional delegates, any congressional delegates still here? No. Any Parish representatives still here?

Nancy Allen: Blair's here.

Donald Landry: No.

Nancy Allen: All of this will go into the public record, the transcript for all of these will be available.

Donald Landry: Right. And, they're very busy and I'm sure they'll extensively look at it all. I have two issues. One issue is, if we are going to pursue 100-year protection for the Oakville to LaReussitte reach, as that project moves, my first question is, is that going to take place, my understanding, my interpretation of the presentation was, it's going to start on the north end, add Oakville, and construction of that levee would head south?

Nancy Allen: Are you talking about the locally preferred plan, sir?

Donald Landry: The new federal levee.

Nancy Allen: Okay. So, section 1, Paul.

Donald Landry: Section 1.

Paul Eagles: Probably so.

Donald Landry: Okay.

Paul Eagles: That's what we would envision, I think.

Donald Landry: Okay. Then I would make a proposal that you run some hydraulic models as to the impact of the water as that levee construction heads further south and then turns towards the southeast because our true risk in this entire area is the Barataria Basin, and it is a southern exposed levee that has the greatest potential for topping. So, as we run a levee south and then southeast those risks to Oakville to LaReussitte start dropping. So, at different stages, my proposal would be to run models at different stages of that construction where at which point is the floodgate or that floodwall truly not needed? I know it needs to be closed and tied-in to another fed levee but there is a point at which if we do a slight ramp, not a total ramp I agree with the lady that just spoke, this huge ramp is a terrible idea, I hadn't been able to make these sessions so I don't know what an invisible gate is because I think is a more important issue is to directly address ongoing issues here but, maybe an invisible gate, I can't comment on that. You see what I'm saying? As you run that levee south and then southeast the risk goes down.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Paul Eagles: As far as the construction effort, the more we can try to do concurrently, we would like to do that, we'd have to see if that works, you know.

Donald Landry: Okay.

Paul Eagles: As far as the flooding below there, I ... Can you answer that question?

Male engineer: I think, let's make a clarification when we talk about hydraulic modeling and surge.

Donald Landry: Okay.

Male engineer: Surge does not equate to top of levee.

Donald Landry: Right.

Male engineer: So, I think that's been maybe misunderstood. With the West Bank Vicinity project in place, the hydraulic modeling will take that condition in the computer program which is similar to the computer program that we're doing with the 1% storm, will take the impacts on that, be at three, six, nine inches at various stages.

Donald Landry: Right.

Male engineer: Then we'll add that to the model but that doesn't just add on to surge, that's just maybe two components.

Donald Landry: Right.

Male engineer: To that, to get top of levee, of course, you...

Donald Landry: Direction and track of storm, wind, distance.

Male engineer: ... wind, height, wave, and it's also the geometry, the slope.

Donald Landry: Exactly.

Male engineer: Our levees are trapezoidal.

Donald Landry: Right.

Male engineer: You flatten that slop; that helps out a lot.

Donald Landry: Right.

Male engineer: That comes in further refinement so when we say surge or three inches, that's not top of levee and that's why we need the hydraulic model to give us that output and then the design takes off from that.

Donald Landry: Right.

Male engineer: But, yes, the answer is, all that is taken into account. As a matter of fact, I was told by the Chief Hydraulic Engineer who's in the resource office that the current software used right now

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

is the most conservative prior to what was used previously. So, that will give us, you know, a better feel for uncertainty.

Donald Landry: Right, right. But, as you run an eastern flank down, in other words, you run easterly flank that levee, and if you have Barataria Basin pushing north, the further you go south with that east flank, you see what I'm saying.

Male engineer: Yeah. And, of course, that will be addressed in our hydraulic output.

Donald Landry: Right. Since this is a fast-tracked project and its time critical as to how far and completed this project gets and the floodgate decisions to actually build it. That's why I'm asking.

Male engineer: Another point, I think the system has to be closed to the MRL to give you complete protection in there, I believe.

Donald Landry: For the current authorization, 2011. Right?

Male engineer: Right, right. I mean if you don't close it then water can backup, you know.

Donald Landry: Sure. My other point was to the Parish officials but I guess they're not here. Maybe he can bring this back to President Nungesser. You know, I've been living in Jesuit, I grew up in Belle Chasse, I grew up in a house right behind the school here, I lived all my life in Belle Chasse area, moved to Jesuit Bend for a larger lot, I have a one acre lot, never considered myself out of the Belle Chasse community. But, I did recognize after I was living in Jesuit Bend for just a few years that we live in no man's land. We have councilmen in Belle Chasse area who need projects done and pass legislation, we have the lower end where it's off of Venice, their councilmen, they do trading, that's politics, if you vote for my project, I'll vote for yours. We live in no man's land. We have one councilman and he can't get either end to get our projects approved. They've been fighting 25 years to get sewage facilities and we still don't have sewage, I determined we will never get sewage because of the politics. So, my concern is, although, good intents and I appreciate your good intent to get us what's right. I believe that. I believe sincerely that's in you all's hearts, you all going to do what's right. But, when politics enter in, it concerns me that if it takes Parish additional funding, we may never get that extra protection. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you. I know that we've talked a lot about the invisible floodwall today. I'm going to ask Julie Vignes to just briefly describe what this is. I think it's probably the option that people are least familiar with and I know we've heard a lot about it. Julie, can you speak to this, please.

Julie Vignes: Okay. I would like to say, yes, we're still considering four options for the Highway 23 crossing and, you know, we have display boards in the resource room and folks will stay behind as long as we have to to walk you through those boards if you're not able to meet the session. We're also going to put on the nolaenvironmental.gov website the presentation. And, the visual is pretty good, we've got some 3D renderings and we even have some animation of how the invisible wall is erected and put up to provide the protection. But, just real briefly, I mean, it's referred to as an invisible wall because it doesn't exist, you know, it's not in place until the time it's needed to be there to block the storm surge. What is constructed is, actually if you go back just one slide real quickly, that wall that will be constructed is supported by a deep foundation to give it its strength so you have to drive piles where it will exist and those piles will be covered with a plate, you know, the highway won't be impacted by that.

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.



Public Meeting Summary

Then, when it's needed, it gets erected, and what's first put in place are columns. You can kind of see, there's a column there and then there's a diagonal pile that will support that column. So, when there's a storm threatening, Parish officials will make a determination as to when it has to be put up and they will have to erect these columns, and then the logs, the industrial aluminum logs that actually build the wall have to be dropped in place. We've looked at this alternative to address the visual and the aesthetic and some safety impacts that we heard from previous meetings. Folks that want to drive through Highway 23 and feel like they were going through a closed system, that they didn't have gates, you know, right up at the edge of the roadway. So, this extends the line back, from day-to-day traffic when it's not erected, 350 feet, its wide open. And, it's only erected when it needs to be for a storm surge.

Nancy Allen: Thanks, Julie. And, again, you can feel free to ask questions in the resource room. Go ahead, sir.

John Golden: I've got a quick question. My name's John Golden, and I hear from Mr. Nungesser that, you know, we could build this levee down to LaReussitte for the same price of taking out the floodwall and I know there's some debate whether or not that's possible. But, if you could do that with no additional cost to the government, it seems like a great idea but then I hear from the Corps that we can't do that because the law says we can't do that and there's congressional authority but I never heard defined exactly what that congressional authority is. What exactly, I mean, I know its not so specific that it says you've got to stop at Captain Larry's or you wouldn't have gone down and looked at the LaReussitte area so there's got to be some kind of congressional wording that's limiting you all and I haven't heard what that actually is.

Male engineer: Yeah, it has to do with two factors, one is engineering and the other one's cost. And, it is not cost neutral from our perspective. I've heard, you know, what the Parish has said and I understand that's their opinion but we believe it's not cost neutral. It will take additional funding, we had this discussion with President Nungesser and so it's not the best engineering solution to close the West Bank and Vicinity project and it's not the most cost effective. So, therefore, you have to look, is there another way to build the 100-year levee and that is through the non-federal authorization. So, there is authorization to build it to 100-year and that's the locally preferred plan. And, the Parish has said they want to move forward with the locally preferred plan, it will require additional funding to pay the increment, the level above what we're going to build to the 100-year level so whatever that difference is in width and height, that's what the Parish will pay a percentage of to build that.

John Golden: So, IER 13 doesn't specifically say you have to stop at Oakville, there's no congressional...

Male engineer: No, the authorization says to include Oakville. We don't have the authorization for funding to include section 1 of the non-federal levees in the West Bank and Vicinity project under current authorization or appropriations.

John Golden: But, technically you could go to the border of Oakville and Jesuit Bend, technically.

Male engineer: Yeah, right there. Yep.

John Golden: Okay.

Male engineer: So, if we had additional authorization and additional funding it would be included in West Bank and Vicinity but it is already included in non-federal levees and all you have to do



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

is have the locally preferred plan, the Parish says we'll pay the additional funding to take to 100-years and we can build it under that authorization. That's the quickest way to build it.

John Golden: But, the wording is Oakville, the town of Oakville.

Male engineer: To include Oakville, that's in the '96 authorization that was amended from the original '86 authorization.

Nancy Allen: Thank you.

Female speaker: Excuse me, Colonel Lee, the same way that you went to go get Oakville, could you not come and get us the same way?

Colonel Lee: It wasn't the Corps that went and got Oakville, it was really Oakville that went in an engaged Congress and from what I understood, listening to a public meeting either in April or May, they said they went and engaged Congress to get Oakville included in the West Bank and Vicinity. So, that's my understanding of how Oakville was included. So, the answer to your question is, can you be added to the West Bank and Vicinity project, I think you can. It's a longer process, Congress has to provide additional authorization to specifically include LaReussitte in to the West Bank and Vicinity project and provide additional appropriations. But, under what we talked about this morning, under the locally preferred plan, if the Parish and the state are willing to pay the additional funding, we already have the authorization to do that under the non-federal levees or the new federal levees that will be built south of Oakville.

Female speaker: Because, I did see a document that Senator Vitter shared with us and said that if we didn't have the floodgate that I would be a wash.

Colonel Lee: It would be a...?

Female speaker: It would be, we wouldn't have the additional costs if we didn't have the floodgate.

Colonel Lee: If we didn't have the floodgate.

Nancy Allen: That would be, I think she's referring to the thing called cost neutral.

Colonel Lee: Oh, you're talking about the neutral cost?

Female speaker: Right, the neutral cost.

Colonel Lee: Yeah, we don't believe its neutral cost.

Female speaker: But, the document I saw was from you all.

Colonel Lee: Not that says neutral cost. I mean, I briefed Senator Vitter myself personally.

Female speaker: Because, you all added the floodgate but without the floodgate then it would bring it back to neutral.

Colonel Lee: It still wouldn't be neutral cost, no. It's not neutral.

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.



Public Meeting Summary

[Faint background speaker 38:14 – 38:16]

Colonel Lee: Well, again, we operate within the limits of Congress of what we can and cannot, I know I'm not addressing what your question is but, I mean, we can only do what we can do. We're trying to work with the Plaquemines Parish to build 100-year level for that section 1 of the new federal levees and that's what we're focused on trying to work with Parish to move forward. So, I mean, I think that's what everybody wants is 100-year level of risk reduction so that's what we're trying to move forward on.

Female speaker: So, when you give us the 100-year protection, because I know you can do it, I believe in you, I know you can, when you do that will you have to take NFL levees, will you have to flatten them and start fresh or will you build up?

Colonel Lee: If you look at the black hatch marks with the brown, with the little hesco basket on top of it, because of Ollie Canal and the geotechnical concerns of building a big levee like the one on the right, the new levee, we can't build it right on top of the existing levee, we actually have to offset it about 45 to 60 feet. So, for the 100-year level, the potential locally preferred plan, we would offset it 60 feet from the centerline of the existing levee to the west. And, you can see how much bigger that levee's going to be, the new levee. The green is what we're authorized and funded to do right now, the red and the green would be the new locally preferred plan.

Female speaker: I'm a woman and all this north, south stuff is kind of crazy for me. Would that be forward?

Colonel Lee: That would be toward the west, if you were looking toward the hescos from where you live, it would go that way, flood side, not protected side, away from Ollie Canal.

Female speaker: Okay. And, the last thing I have to ask is that because it's taken so long to digest this information for you all, I'm asking that, I think it's kind of unreasonable to come here, digest, and give you an answer today. Can you give us some time as a town, as a community to discuss, get together and discuss what you have brought to us today? Because, I think it's kind of crazy to sit, Miss Rose had some comments I'd like to digest and everybody has, you know, I'm going to come here and I thought I wanted the ramp but Miss Rose said it affected her community. So, if I had to pick, I really want no floodwall but I'd like to digest here and you're telling me I need to talk about this today but yet it's been since April that I've talk to you and we've not heard sensitive comments.

Colonel Lee: Right. I mean, that's why we came back today to do this workshop to give you that information, at the end of the month we'll issue the addendum, they'll be another 30-day public comment period and a public meeting...

Female speaker: So, we're not having to pick one of these four options...?

Colonel Lee: No. Until I put the addendum out on the street, this is saying, this is the proposed alternative based on the additional information you provided us, and then in November I would go forward to approve a recommendation or I would approve an alternative. So, I won't make that decision until the 1st of November.

Female speaker: You can do it. LaReussitte. 100-year protection.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Nancy Allen: This graphic shows, under the currently authorized plan, this shows the existing levee and then you see the earthen levee, you see the levee with the hesco baskets and then that would be the new higher levee. Yes, sir?

Male speaker: I've got some questions. The WCC project is a \$16.8 billion project.

Nancy Allen: No, sir.

Male speaker: It's not?

Nancy Allen: \$16.8 billion?

Male speaker: Right.

Nancy Allen: No. Not the West Closure Complex.

Male speaker: What is...?

Nancy Allen: The entire hurricane and storm damage risk reduction system...

Male speaker: Is 16.8.

Nancy Allen: ... is 14.8.

Male speaker: Okay.

Nancy Allen: For the entire system.

Male speaker: So, billion, okay. What does that workout to be, \$45,000.00 per person that it covers? Somewhere in that neighborhood maybe?

Nancy Allen: I don't know what the population is.

Male speaker: The question I've got is, you know, we're doing this little addition to include Oakville and I'm looking at it and saying, well, how many dollars per person is this covering? And, I'm wondering, you know, we have certain natural barriers that occur and as you go down it's going to cost more money per person to cover these people, and I'm wondering whether or not we've looked at economic solutions in a way of, one, maybe temporary insurance coverage for some of these people that are going to be disenfranchised for the first couple of years; or maybe permanent, you know, insurance, you know, aid of some sort.

Nancy Allen: I mean, we understand the comment, sir, and we'll record that but that's not something that's in the purview of the Corps of Engineers.

Male speaker: Do we know how many dollars per person are we paying for this to include Oakville?

Nancy Allen: Are you talking about the locally preferred plan to give...

Male speaker: Yeah.

Nancy Allen: ... 100-year protection...?

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Male speaker: To the Oakville residents, how much more does that cost?

Nancy Allen: Oakville is included.

Male speaker: Right.

Nancy Allen: Oakville is already, you're talking about past Oakville?

Male speaker: Well, no, once we, before, I believe, November, Oakville wasn't included; after November something...

Nancy Allen: No.

Male speaker: ... when was Oakville included?

Nancy Allen: Oakville was always included, '96 was when...

Male speaker: '96.

Nancy Allen: ... Oakville was included in the West Bank and Vicinity project.

Male speaker: Okay. I'm just, as we're going down it and we're looking at how many dollars per person I think, you know, that's one of the issues you've got to look at is how much it's costing to provide coverage for people and maybe its cheaper to go ahead and do some sort of assistance, you know, for permanent insurance assistance and permanent relocation assistance and put the money in some sort of trust fund and look at the projects and say, okay, how many million are we spending, how may billion are we spending for this. And, an economic solution may be a better solution for certain areas. We can't put everybody in the same box is what I'm looking at. There's going to be some areas are too expensive per person to do something with. That's all I'm looking at saying, hey, let's look at an economic solution because some people it may not be cost effective and then if you do disenfranchise them you need to sort of compensate them, make them equal play with the rest of the people.

Nancy Allen: Thank you, sir. Yes, sir?

Mike Marion: Good afternoon. My name's Mike Marion, I'm a resident of Belle Chasse. I've listened to a lot of people here, my neighbors and people from my community. And, I, first of all, it sounds like everything you do is generally, the goal is to help us and I do appreciate that. I urge you to listen to what you've heard here because what you're hearing from a lot of people, especially from the Jesuit Bend community, is that they're worried about their property values and when you reduce or hinder their property values you're taking their freedom. And, that's a very important thing to understand. People work all their lives to develop what they have and what they have is tied around their property. It's very important that you understand that.

The other thing I'd just like to mention, we've got this project, you've got the project that you're doing with the huge flood control structure over on the Algiers Canal and the Harvey Canal, there are some coastal restoration things that another gentleman mentioned. It's important that we understand these together, they are not separate projects though they are funded separately they work together, and it's important that we bring all that in.

My last comment is going to be the coastal restoration because no matter how high we build floodwalls, no matter how many pumping stations we build, no matter what we do, coastal restoration is absolutely

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

essential, none of this matters if the coastal restoration isn't there. We have got to look at that. I ask the Corps to take that seriously. As far as the congressional authorization, please consider yourselves and advocate for the people of Plaquemines Parish and the people of the United States, not just a doer...

[Applause]

Mike Marion: ... not just a doer for congress. We need to be able to rely on you to tell congress, because let me tell you, the congress people, they're not engineers, I don't want to demean them, they're not engineers, they don't know and only a few of them represent us. We need you guys to look because you know the area, I'm sure you guys are working in good faith, you know our area, you know what we need. Right now we're taking sediment out of the river that could rebuild our wetlands and sending out off the continental shelf and making a pile because, supposedly, that's the most economic solution. It's not. That's ridiculous. We need to put that into the wetlands behind these levees that you're going to build, rebuild our wetlands and increase our actual flood protection. What we're doing now is ridiculous and I, as a citizen, expect you guys to be our voice to congress, say, "Hey, this is nuts." We've been doing it for too long. Because, the reason we're even talking about this today is because we built this federal levee back in the 1920's, you guys took control of it and that was great and you've kept us from getting floods from the river and that's great, but the problem is we never really considered the other impact of that. The land is sinking, it's not that we chose to live someplace, we chose to live on a Bayou, that Bayou might have been a drainage ditch a few years ago. The land is sinking. We have got to consider all these projects and the context of all of these projects together and I really do expect you guys, all of you, I expect you to be our voice to congress because we don't have much. Okay? Thank you very much.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you, sir. It seems we have a gentlemen here and then a gentlemen here.

Charles Povich: My name's Charles Povich [Phonetic] and I've been a lifelong resident of Plaquemines Parish. Unfortunately, I own land, on your map is Naomi, which is about a mile or so above the LaReussitte site. So, naturally I'm rooting that perhaps it could be moved at least down to there, and I would be protected from a floodwall going across Highway 23. I think, you know, we talk about Naomi is right there which is about a mile up above, I think that what we're talking about here, too, is that you all are more than aware and I'm aware that the two most powerful hurricanes that have hit the United States have hit Plaquemines Parish first. Camille and Katrina essentially wiped out the lower end of Plaquemines Parish and yet when we hear the news reports we hear New Orleans and we hear Biloxi and all this other kind of stuff and, therefore, nobody knows anything about Plaquemines Parish, you know. We have this thing here so we're invisible in the eyes of the country and yet we've been here since the United States bought it from France for a few million dollars that long ago. It is a very rich in historical heritage Parish. You have the Mississippi River that flows through it, you have the oil and natural resources that are gathered from it, you have the seafood that's gathered from it, and yes, we have excellent oranges that we grow here. This was all stuff that was passed down to us, you know. I wonder if there's any other evacuation route that is going to be essentially blocked off by a floodwall and you're going to trap people inside of it, essentially, more than 75% of people could be trapped inside of a floodwall. We're talking about logistics. I've been in some of that logistic things where they're talking about voluntary evacuations, mandatory evacuations, etc., etc., and still you have people that will stay behind. I stayed behind last year. Okay? And, you know, unfortunately, I have animals, I live on one side and the animals on the other side of the proposed flood wall in Oakville. So, my idea of being able to get to my animals, there it goes right out the window right there. That goes right out the window. I can tell you for a fact that it will require the earliest...

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Julie Vignes: Sir, let me just point out, I didn't mean to interrupt you, but I just wanted to point out that all the options that we're looking at for crossing Highway 23, they all include an emergency bypass that someone would have access around the gate or invisible wall when it was constructed.

Charles Povich: Well, that's good news. I just hope that in hind site, I think that a lot of the people in this Parish feel as though we're being written off again. Nobody knows about us, nobody knows that we got wiped out and yet we still come back to rebuild, we still own this property. My mother and my father's been down here all this time. My mother owns property in Florida, it's sitting there, it's essentially a large estate, she can't sell it because she can't get insurance to cover it anymore. You see? That's potentially what could happen to the properties that we have invested not just a few thousand dollars. I own about seven and a half acres in Naomi. Okay? It costs me in excess of a half a million dollars just to purchase the property. Okay? The insurance, I know the insurance for you all, everybody in this area is going up. We might not even get it anymore, therefore, you won't be able to build because you won't be able to get a mortgage, etc., etc. It goes down the line, you know. So, I think that when we're talking about the LaReussitte site which is a better site because if you drive down there, yes, there are orange groves and there are multi-hundred thousand dollar estates and subdivisions and people that live on both sides of the river, you know.

In closing, I just want to say, and I know that you all's job is to rebuild that back levee, if you'd look back there and I know you all have looked back there, there's a beautiful cypress swamp back there, there's a beautiful cypress swamp that has been built by that freshwater diversion. That freshwater will feed everything and it will make it alive. That probably won't be there after the new levee's put up and all that kind of stuff. The levee's going to be in that swamp. It is, that's where it's going to be at, you know. I'm just saying, I've been back there and I've taken my kids back there to look at the swamp and to take pictures and to look at the alligators and to look at the turtles and the wildlife and things like that. But, that's just part of our cultural heritage, it's a very rich Parish. Please don't write us off like the rest of the country does. Okay? They just forget about us, they say, "Oh, it wiped out New Orleans." Well, it really wiped out Plaquemines first. Thank you all for your time.

Nancy Allen: Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Oh, Julie, do you want to show where the emergency bypass is, we don't have that slide but there is an emergency bypass. Yeah. So, even after the floodgate would be closed there would be a way to make emergency bypass of this. Go ahead, sir.

Ronnie St. Pe': All right. Thanks for this opportunity. My name's Ronnie St. Pe', I live in Jesuit Bend, I was born and raised in Plaquemines Parish. I think the real reason we're here today to talk about this floodwall is because the federal government sold us out on coastal restoration, totally. My brother is the director for the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary program, Carey St. Pe', and he has also lived in the Parish all of his life, now he's in Raceland. But, anyway, he doesn't want to retire right now and he's up for retirement because he don't want to go through all the hard worked he's been through and see somebody else walk in and finally to find federal government to give them the money to subsidize all the levees and the coastal restoration. So, he's really at it hard at trying to do the pumping of the sand to build immediate land but federal government is selling him out, not him, all of us. But, I just wanted to add that, that's really not what I was here for but the gentleman before me brought it up and I just wanted to reiterate.

Everybody in this room which is not many left but myself included, my main concern is property value. I'm furious at this wall going up. I'm furious to hear that we're on a timeframe for such an important

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.



Public Meeting Summary

decision. I just can't understand why we can't take a few steps back, everybody take a breath, let's do the right thing. You all talked about building the floodwall if the levees are there we won't need the floodwall. Well, what's the damn hurry? Everybody in here's got property value, you know, we live in the Parish, the Parish, the kids, the schools, the seafood industry, the citrus. What's the rush? I don't understand the rush. Could somebody explain the rush to me?

Nancy Allen: Could someone speak to the timeline of completing this IER 13? Okay.

Colonel Lee: The Corps of Engineers made a commitment following hurricane Katrina to complete 100-year level of protection for the greater New Orleans area by 1 June 2011. And, so you ask a very good question, you know, why can't we wait until we build the rest of it and then we won't have to build a floodgate. But, you know, my decision making is that we have 245,000, approximately 245,000 people that live on the West Bank and they are either directly or indirectly affected by what happens with the West Bank and Vicinity project. And, right now, there are three gaping holes in the West Bank and Vicinity project, one of them is the Eastern Tie-in which includes the proposed action at Oakville, the Hero Canal levee, the Western Closure Complex, and then all the way on the west side and you talked about, Davis Pond, one gentlemen talked about Davis Pond and the cypress swamp but those three areas are very critical for the West Bank, 245,000 residents live there. And, that's our focus is to get that system completed as rapidly as we can to meet the commitment that we made to the President of the United States, to congress, and to the people of the nation.

Ronnie St. Peigh: Thank you. I'd also like to add that, well, I had written a speech but, about the housing market in Jesuit Bend area. The way I did it, I mean, I built a house in Belle Chasse, sold it for low profit, was able to build a nicer house in Jesuit Bend area because more land, cheaper land, I couldn't afford Belle Chasse area so I moved down to Jesuit Bend. I've built a house for me and my family and my two boys because I wanted them to grow in an area away from city, you know, kind of countrified. I can go in my backyard, go hunting, go fishing. So, now here comes the, I finally get my feet on the floor good, and then here comes a damn floodgate across Highway 23. It's shoved down your throat. I don't like it. Now I've got to start all over if this floodgate comes across, my property value and everybody else's in here done went in the gutter. And, I'm not ready to start my life over again at 45-years-old with nothing in my pocket from the investment that I made years ago because of some stupid floodgate. No wall, no way.

[Applause]

Robin Zuvich: Hello. Thanks for coming. My name's Robin Zurich. And, Colonel Lee, I would like to address this to you. You had made the comment when we're talking about property value that there was no credible evidence from congress that our property value will go down, I'm assuming that's what you meant.

Colonel Lee: **[Inaudible 01:00:35 – 01:00:43 Speaking too low, too far from the mic]**

Robin Zuvich: Because, I wrote down, no credible evidence from Congress. It wasn't? Okay.

Colonel Lee: **[Inaudible 01:00:48 – 01:00:51 Speaking too low, too far from the mic]**

Robin Zuvich: Your economist.

Colonel Lee: **[Inaudible 01:00:52 – 01:00:54 Speaking too low, too far from the mic]**

Robin Zuvich: Okay. Yeah, I know.

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.



Public Meeting Summary

Colonel Lee: [Inaudible 01:00:55 – 01:00:58 Speaking too low, too far from the mic]

Robin Zuvich: Well, what does that mean?

Colonel Lee: [Inaudible 01:01:00 – 01:01:04 too far from mic] We have economic professionals on our staff that do economic evaluations for all projects built in the state of Louisiana on the coastal area, our area of responsibility from Pearl River out to Texas. And, they've been doing, I mean, the lead economist is in the resource room and he probably can answer this better than I can but I'll give you what I know. Is that, you know, they use the best professional judgment along with the information that we get from the real estate records, from sales, just like a realtor would or an appraiser. I mean, these people have, I mean, we even have appraisers in our...

Robin Zuvich: Right.

Colonel Lee: ... organization. So, they're pretty competent in understanding what property values are, the trends, what the impacts could be, and so they went out after that question was brought up to validate it so we could put it in the addendum for IER 13 so we could address that substantive comment that we agree is important for you that live in that area in Plaquemines Parish.

Robin Zuvich: Right. So, they came up with, there's no credible evidence that there's going to be a drop.

Colonel Lee: That's correct.

Robin Zuvich: Do you believe that, Colonel Lee?

Colonel Lee: Oh, I do, and this is why I believe it, first of all, if you go back to the picture of the levee of what we've got right now. I think sometimes this gets lost. We're currently looking at, I heard a gentleman get up and talk about a potato ridge, and if you look at the existing levee that's in place right now, I mean, that is right behind the neighborhoods there in Jesuit Bend.

Robin Zuvich: That's right in my front door. If you look out from my house I can see that.

Colonel Lee: So, that is not to the current standards, it doesn't meet the new borrow requirements for the organics, its weaker soils, it's not very high. So, when we build the new levee, can you go to the new levee cross section, that shows the cross section? . So, you can see in the brown and black cross hatches with the hesco basket on it, that's what's existing now. The new levee is going to be the green levee and if the locally preferred plan occurs it will be the green plus the red levee.

Robin Zuvich: Right.

Colonel Lee: So, that will be significant increase in protection and risk reduction for your community, where you live.

Robin Zuvich: Right. That's locally preferred but that's not 100-year.

Colonel Lee: Yes, it is.

Robin Zuvich: If, that's the if though ?. See, we're so concerned about that potential.

Colonel Lee: Oh, I understand. I mean, what we've done is tried to work with the Parish...



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Robin Zuvich: I know.

Colonel Lee: ... to provide, can we get there.

Robin Zuvich: Right.

Colonel Lee: And, I think we have provided that part. What I'll be doing is following up with President Nungesser, sending him a letter based off our meeting from Thursday, saying, "We understand you want to proceed with the locally preferred plan. These are the steps that you have to go through." Because, it has to go to our headquarters for final approval.

Robin Zuvich: You see, that's, I believe in you, Colonel Lee.

Colonel Lee: But...

Robin Zuvich: I want to tell you this. I believe in you, it's not you, but I know the position you're in. Can you answer this? Just hypothetical, now you've got to think outside the box. So, if you were in charge, in total charge, you didn't have to go through Congress, as the good man you are, what slide would I see for LaReussitte, for Jesuit Bend, for my home? What slide would you present to me?

Colonel Lee: Well, I think what we, can you go back to the conceptual? I mean, what we have tried to do all along, and I know, I tried to explain it earlier this morning but I probably didn't explain it very well, you know. I think we have two, I won't necessarily say they're conflicting positions, but two different positions for the West Bank and the non-federal levees and that's how they're viewed anyway...

Robin Zuvich: Right.

Colonel Lee: ... from authorizations and appropriations.

Robin Zuvich: Right.

Colonel Lee: And, so you ask the question, I mean, it would be the locally preferred plan and that's what we're trying to get. That's why we've been working with the Parish to try to get to that answer.

Robin Zuvich: Right

Colonel Lee: And, there's a certain amount that we have control over...

Robin Zuvich: I know.

Colonel Lee: ... and there's a certain...

Robin Zuvich: And, that's the problem that I'm having with.

Colonel Lee: And, there's a certain amount that the local Parish and the state has control over. And, so what we'll be doing from, you know, this day forward is [inaudible] that in writing, sending it to the Parish and the state saying, "We understand that you want to proceed with the locally preferred plan. These are the steps to accomplish that, and these are the actions that need to occur." And, so we're, I mean, I'm confident the Parish wants to do that, too, and we're going to continue working with them to accomplish that.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

- Robin Zuvich: Well, you're going to Congress, you said, next week?
- Colonel Lee: I am.
- Robin Zuvich: And, I know President Nungesser said he's also going.
- Colonel Lee: He's going up Tuesday or Wednesday.
- Robin Zuvich: So, you all going together?
- Colonel Lee: Actually, I am going to be in D.C. all week.
- Robin Zuvich: So, are you all going to meet with Congressmen Melancon, Vitter?
- Colonel Lee: We'll meet with Congressmen Melancon, Senator Vitter, Senator Landrieu...
- Robin Zuvich: One meeting?
- Colonel Lee: ... Congressmen Cao. Typically, they're individual meetings is typically how we do our business.
- Robin Zuvich: So, Colonel Lee, when you go in that meeting can you tell me how you will represent me?
- Colonel Lee: Well, we always go in and any interest of a project that represents a congressional member, we give them an update on that project and kind of where a status of where we are with the project, and that's what we go in and tell them where we are, any issues we're having with a particular project whether its funding, authorization, whatever it is and, you know, we communicate that to the members.
- Robin Zuvich: And, will you fight for us if they say, "No, I don't think we'd better do that."?
- Colonel Lee: Well, we always go in and if there's a locally preferred plan, just like Plaquemines Parishes has done, we will show them the same document that we gave Plaquemines Parish to say, "This is feasible as long as there's funding to accomplish that."
- Robin Zuvich: So, the funding, the other funding must come from our government. Correct?
- Colonel Lee: From either the local government, the state, or Congress. I mean, Congress could...
- Robin Zuvich: They could still funnel a little money to us?
- Colonel Lee: They could appropriate additional funding.
- Robin Zuvich: They can.
- Colonel Lee: That's the hardest part, though.
- Robin Zuvich: Without a Congress, without an act of Congress?
- Colonel Lee: No. With an act of Congress.

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.



Public Meeting Summary

Robin Zuvich: Well, we know we're not going that way. So, let me ask you this. How much more is needed by our Parish to get this done to LaReussitte?

Colonel Lee: Well, that's the thing that we're working through right now. You heard, I think Paul, talk about the geotechnical analysis we're doing. We don't know exactly what the design is so until you get more refinement on exactly how tall, how wide, we can't say specifically on a number right now.

Robin Zuvich: So, what time frame are you giving me for that?

Colonel Lee: Paul, do you have any on numbers, refinement?

Paul Eagles: **[Inaudible 01:08:30 – 01:08:33 Speaking too low, too far from mic]**

Colonel Lee: Okay.

Robin Zuvich: You would guess in the next few months, meaning, two, three, four?

Paul Eagles: **[Inaudible 01:08:36 – 01:08:40 Speaking too low, too far from mic]**

Robin Zuvich: By the end of the calendar year. Okay.

Colonel Lee: By the end of the calendar year.

Robin Zuvich: So, you're looking at three and a half months. By the end of the year you'll know a figure?

Paul Eagles: That would be my guess.

Robin Zuvich: A guess. So, who do we push for to know the figure? Who do we go to? As a citizen who do I go to say, "Okay, we want to know so that we can make sure we have this funding to do this?" What is the process? Can someone help me here?

Paul Eagles: We can keep your Parish government informed about that and whoever, and let you know what the cost is. We'll be working with them specifically about this. Right.

Robin Zuvich: Because, it seems like we can never get answers, you know.

Paul Eagles: I understand.

Robin Zuvich: I know it's a long process but I'm going to tell all of you here, we're not giving up, and we're not taking less than 100-year protection.

[Applause]

Robin Zuvich: You know, whatever it takes, the good citizens, the tax paying citizens, the hard working citizens will get 100-year protection.

Paul Eagles: I think about Plaquemines Parish every day of my life. Okay? I do.

Robin Zuvich: And, I hope that every one of you think about, when you go to sleep at night, if you're doing the right thing.



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Paul Eagles: I don't go to sleep at night, sometimes, thinking about Plaquemines Parish.

Robin Zuvich: I don't go to sleep at night, either, lately, and it's not funny, and I'm not laughing at all.

Paul Eagles: I understand.

Robin Zuvich: This is my home, it's always been my home, my husband and I have worked very hard for what we have, and the value of it will go down the drain if that wall goes up and you know that, and you can't even look me in the eye right now, sir.

Paul Eagles: I will.

Robin Zuvich: So, I'm telling all of you, all of you professional men who have educations, who know the right thing to do, think of your morals, think of your ethics. We're not here for long on this earth, sir. All of you, we're not here very long. Don't think the good Lord's not watching everything we do. So, Colonel Lee, I want you to see, I thank you, the last two meetings, the end of April, the beginning of May, I did send you a letter, I don't know if you received it but from the bottom of my heart, you're a good man, and I know that, and I know you have to go through a lot when you're working with the government. So, please, I want you to know my prayers are with you daily, and I want you to continue to fight for us. Thank you.

[Applause]

Nancy Allen: Thank you, ma'am.

Rose Jackson: My name is Rose Jackson. I'm the Vice President of the Oakville Community Action Group, a state registered non-profit organization. I want to say to this to some of my residential Plaquemines Parish, in another year and a half from now I'm 70-years-old so I've been here a long time in this Parish. In all the years that I've been here where you built your home and a lot of the rest of you built your home, I use to work there as a young girl in the fields. I've never in my life known of that area to flood other than when Katrina put a 22-foot tidal wave over the Mississippi River levee. I've never known of that area to flood at all. It was always considered as a higher part. I've never known of that area, the areas from the Phillips Conoco up the Perez's to flood at all. I've worked for every, the Becknell's, the Renanze's, you name it, I worked for them. I've never known, and when it was flooding other parts of Plaquemines have water we were out working in the fields. I've never known that area to flood other than Katrina and God did that, sent that 25-foot tidal wave and if you think it didn't Oakville, go when you pass back going southward, stop in Oakville, look at the side of that hall, we have buoys that still sitting there that came out of the Gulf of Mexico. But, it didn't just affect some of us, it affected all of us. Now, what we need to do, all of us need to join together because we don't just need protection around our homes, think about the people in southern Plaquemines. In the next 15 years from now, I have been doing environmental studies for the last 22 years with some of the top people in the United States, and the next 15, 16 years, Rushville, Naomi, all of that will be the Gulf of Mexico if we don't fight to get these levees all the way through this Parish and stop thinking about just certain areas, and let me tell you something else, any of you that live within a 15 miles radius from that garbage dump, your property is depreciated. You are affected. If you live more than 15 miles from that facility, well, then you don't have to worry but trust me, anybody that comes through this Parish looking to buy land below that facility, that's the first thing they see and they're going to think twice if they know about environmental issues. They're going to think twice about buying a piece of property next to a dump. I live there. They're going to think twice. My house, my brick home has been depreciating years ago. If you live within a two miles radius your home is being depreciated, the value. So, the floodgate is not the one

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

that's going to really going to do it to you. The floodgate is going to protect you from getting that crap washed on your property. So, its not going to affect Jesuit Bend, it's going to keep that crap from coming out, once they close it, if it gets flooded in Oakville its going to keep all that mess from coming on your property and getting it where your children is. But, in Jesuit Bend and all the other areas, you have an even bigger problem, you have the worst hell impact in the world because all those homes there, none of them are hooked to sewage. You have septic tanks. Your leach's go into drainage ditches, into the wetlands. Your children play in your yard, when it rain those ditches overflow and they're playing in mercury and meth so that's your problem.

Female speaker: For the same reasons that she has talked about how the dump has affected her property, we're worried that the floodwall and that same economic, she feels like its taking her property down. That's the same way we feel about the floodwall. I do have a question about, that's why I wanted to address all the questions in front of the group because I'm learning. And, so I sit here this morning and it pops up other questions, I'm learning. Thank you guys for having the courage to get up and speak because I'm learning from so much of what you're saying. And, one of the things that I thought about today was, are we the only Parish that has one way in and out that we depend on getting out that is being blocked off, possibly by a floodgate? Are we the only Parish?

Nancy Allen: Can you answer that question, Colonel Lee?

Female speaker: No. Let me just say two things so that you can answer them both at the same time, and then if you could answer that and then what I'd like to know is if it's shut because my fear is, once again, being educated by people is that I never thought about people wanting to leave at the last minute, and then they decide I made a wrong decision and then they're going to run for it and they're going to pull everything they have with them. However they get out and over, can they pull big things, can fire trucks come in? Can...

Nancy Allen: Yes.

Colonel Lee: So, the first answer is Larose to Golden Meadow, and then below that, of course, is LA1 that goes to Grand Isle and to Port Fourchon. So, there is a floodgate at Golden Meadow that cuts off that entire evacuation route and there is no bypass there.

Female speaker: And, what are they getting?

Colonel Lee: There's a mandatory evacuate to push through.

Female speaker: Do they have a floodgate across...?

Colonel Lee: They have a floodgate across the highway.

Female speaker: What kind of floodgate do they have?

Colonel Lee: It's a mechanical, its not an invisible floodwall, it's a floodgate and they don't have emergency bypass route, they have to either fly a helicopter or somebody stays down, I mean, during Gustav and Ike there were some emergency responders that stayed in Grand Isle and Port Fourchon even though they were flooded.

Female speaker: And, do you have a slide of the road that you could show us?

Colonel Lee: From LaRose to Golden Meadow?

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Female speaker: No, for us, for how would you get people out if it's shut.

Nancy Allen: It's in the resource room, in the resource room there is a display.

Colonel Lee: The resource room has it for some reason we don't have it on a slide here. But, the resource room, we, based on the comments from the April or May meeting, somebody I think it was the April meeting in Oakville, somebody, a firefighter in Burriss came up and said that he had concerns if you were going to put a floodgate up that you didn't have an emergency evacuation route where he could pull a loaded fire truck full of water through that. And, so that's one of our criteria now is to make sure that we do have an emergency route.

Female speaker: In heavy rains?

Colonel Lee: Right. And, it will be sloped so that you can drive or pull things across it. So, it will be an improved road.

Female speaker: And, my final thing, once again, sir, I'd like to address you, who chose 2011 for this headache of we have to hurry up and have all this done by 2011? Who did that?

Colonel Lee: I have to use the word we, and when I say we, the Corps of Engineers.

Female speaker: Because, it seems like, I remember Mary Landrieu speaking out and saying we should do all this right the first time, and it seems like that deadline is what's keeping us from doing it right the first time. All this headache, all this stress, you're stressed, everybody here's stressed. It seems like if that deadline, because I think probably what you got going on anyways, is that you're not going to make that deadline so give yourself, look great before American, admit it, and just let's do it right the first time.

Colonel Lee: I think we're fully committed to meet the deadline. You know, there are a few projects that are kind of straddling the fence on the date but we're going to press to try to meet it, I mean, that's our commitment and, you know, we are doing the right things. I mean, if we wouldn't have been doing the right things I would have signed the record of decision back in May saying, "We're going to build a floodgate and that's the decision." But, we took the input from the public, we looked at it, we recognized there were substantial comments that we hadn't addressed properly, we went back and did additional analysis, we went back and looked at the alternatives to make sure to see if any improvements could be put in to them, we incorporated public comment. And, I think that's where we are today.

Female speaker: But, I think if you would address us like we should've been addressed in the spring when we brought attention, when we found about this, basically, that we wouldn't be where we are, and that you would be way more ahead and that we would be part of IER 13 and be fast-tracked along with everybody else heading on down to LaReussitte but two seasons have been wasted.

Colonel Lee: One of the challenges we have is, what do you do with new information, and so there's been a lot said about, you know, what the Corps did pre-Katrina and all that, and I don't want to dwell on that but what our commitment is now, the Corps of Engineers, is when we get new information and its presented to us, we're going to act on it and try to make the best decision we can to incorporate if there's impacts, if there's unintended consequences, whatever those things are, that's what we're trying to do and that's part of the new way that we're operating since hurricane Katrina. And, it doesn't always address everyone's concern but I think it tries to get at the right decisions and that's what we're trying to do.

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
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

Female speaker: Well, if you postpone the date from 2011 then it would address everybody's concerns and we wouldn't be here. And, again, like I said, I know Mary Landrieu a leader and she said do it right the first time, and if we do it right the first time and just back up that date a little bit. If you find, let me ask you this, if you find that you're not going to make it, can't you just say, admit it, and let's all do this right the first time?

Colonel Lee: I believe we are doing it right. I'll reiterate that. I mean, we have the entire region focused on this effort. When I say the region, we've got six districts in the Corps of Engineers in the Mississippi Valley Division from St. Paul to St. Louis to Rock Island to Memphis to Vicksburg, New Orleans, and the Hurricane Protection Office so we actually have seven organizations focused completely on this mission. And, then we have other resources from academia from LSU from the Netherlands from Dutch engineers that we have on staff across the United States, \$800 million worth of architect and engineer contracts with private sector engineers to help us get the right decision. So, I think we're doing the things we need to do to make the right decisions and, you know, that's why we've extended the comment periods and done other things to make sure that we do make the right decision.

Female speaker: But, I'm still asked to trust, and I just want to have me be encompassed in the right decision not me having to ask to trust that it's going to be done. And, I feel like I'm coming down to the David and Goliath scenario where everybody's going to be tying in around the fort and it's going to be everybody down in Plaquemines Parish causing trouble, and I don't want to be that because I'm a team person, I'm a team builder, and I don't want to be the person that's dividing and everyone's looking at us all of the sudden thinking that we're holding it up when we've been yelling since the spring. So, I really hope we do the right thing and bring this down to LaReussitte, 100-year protection.

Nancy Allen: I do want to point out, we found the graphic that shows the emergency bypass. You can see the local landmark of Captain Larry's. That's to orient you to Highway 23 and then that up on to the Mississippi River Levee will be the emergency bypass. And, Julie, it can hold up to a fire truck full of water?

Julie Vignes: **[Inaudible 01:24:04 – 01:24:18 Speaking too low, too far from mic]**

Female speaker: Fire truck, people pulling boats, a Winnebago, all that? Thank you.

Nancy Allen: Okay. I think we're going to wrap-up. Oh, sorry, go ahead, ma'am.

Melinda Boudreaux: Hi, my name is Melinda Boudreaux and I did look at all four options. There's one option that is lesser of the four evils but I think there's something else that could be addressed. The ramp option, if it could be built up nine feet we would never have our evacuation route blocked and you would not need that road on the levee. I know that the project did not originally include Oakville and it was moved to include Oakville. Can that ramp be moved a few hundred feet further south and build it to nine feet to where we're never having to block off our evacuation route or having to build a road on the levee?

Nancy Allen: Julie, can you answer that?

Julie Vignes: All right. The top of the ramp has to be to an elevation higher than nine feet to get to the level of risk reduction for the West Bank project. For the current condition it would have to be to elevation 10 ½ feet, it would have to have the ability to be raised in the future for subsidence and sea level rise to elevation 14 feet. We did look at different alignments as to how to close that system at Oakville and, you know, what we're proposing is just the alternatives that are most feasible and cost effective to do that.

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.



Public Meeting Summary

Melinda Boudreaux: The property south of that site is not as congested as by Captain Larry's, and why can't it be moved just a few hundred feet further south?

Julie Vignes: We can move it a couple hundred feet but the ramp profile itself is a couple of thousand feet, we'd have impacts to residential or commercial property, we'd have to extend the protection behind it further south as well. It's just not where the ramp is, it's where the levees that have to be constructed to reach the ramp has more environmental impacts and more cost than what we're proposing here.

Melinda Boudreaux: And, is this a recent environmental study or is this the same study that we were reading in April?

Julie Vignes: It was the environmental evaluation we've gone through recently for the IER document number 13.

Melinda Boudreaux: A recent evaluation.

Julie Vignes: Yes.

Melinda Boudreaux: I would just like for you to consider that as an option. You would not have to worry about manpower in the future of erecting any type of gate even in 2021. The highway would never be blocked. There's a similar hump like that down at St. Jude, I've never heard anybody referred to it at St. Jude as the wall or being closed off, it's a natural looking environment and no eye sores.

Nancy Allen: Thank you, ma'am. Yes, sir.

[Applause]

Male speaker: I just have a quick question. I hadn't been able to have the opportunity to go to the sessions, is there, on the website or anything, these four different proposals?

Nancy Allen: Yes.

Male speaker: Is there a timeframe or is there a time stated how long it takes to like close the roller gate, how long it takes to close the swing gate?

Nancy Allen: All of that information, all of our presentations will be online, you can see the presentations. Each option has benefits and limitations just too sort of guide discussion. Is that in the resource room?

[Faint speaker in background 01:28:11 – 01:28:22]

Male speaker: Okay. I'll try to make the opportunity, okay, thank you.

Nancy Allen: Everything will be nolaenvironmental.gov.

Male speaker: Okay. Thank you.

Nancy Allen: Okay. We're going to wrap-up the, oh, I'm sorry.

Male speaker: You guys got a very tough job to do, cost benefit ratios, and that type of thing. We're spending a lot of money per person to get the benefits that we're getting and we appreciate that and



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

the nation needs this to be done to support the oil and gas port or to keep the oil and gas industry running. You're going to have portions of this project, when you start looking at it and you're going to be doing cost benefit ratios whether you keep this guy in Naomi within some borders or something like that. We start looking at it and saying, okay, it may cost us \$200,000.00, we're looking at \$48,000.00 per person for this project right now and if it cost us to add him in, \$200,000.00, I hate to have him disenfranchised, maybe we should be looking at some sort of economic solutions associated with this, open the door for the economic solutions in a way of insurance support or temporary insurance support, permanent insurance support, relocation support, something along that line where it makes economic sense. I don't want to see us, you know, everybody wants to say, hey, put me in here, but, you know, you can't afford to put everybody in the same box, it's just not here. But, you don't want to disenfranchise certain people. So, if they can't get coverage somehow and they're not being supported as part of the Parish, I'd like to see that they get included if not just in an economic point.

Nancy Allen: Let me clarify. The project we're referring to is the non-federal levees, the New Orleans to Venice project. These have all been fully funded; they will not have benefit cost ratios. Future work could include a benefit cost ratio but all of the current work is fully funded and we are authorized to do the things that we've laid out today and previous meetings.

All right. We're going to wrap it up. We will stay here; our panel up here is willing to answer questions. We still have Colonel Wehr with us who's the Vicksburg District Commander. You're welcome to visit the other rooms, the session are still going on. And, the resource room if you have any questions, there are folks down there, too.

November 5, 2009 Public Meeting

0001

1 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

2
3 EASTERN TIE-IN PUBLIC MEETING

4
5 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

6
7
8
9 HELD AT BELLE CHASSE HIGH SCHOOL

10
11
12
13 MODERATOR:

14 NANCY ALLEN

15
16 PANELISTS:

17 GIB OWEN

18 JULIE VIGNES

19 JULIE LEBLANC

20 BRUCE EBERSOLE

21 KEVIN LOVETRO

22
23 REPORTED BY:

24 WILMA B. GERACI, CCR, RPR

25 Certified Court Reporter

0002

1 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

2 Ready to get started? Good evening,
3 ladies and gentlemen. We want to
4 welcome you and thank you for being here
5 tonight. My name is Nancy Allen, public
6 affairs staff for the Corps of
7 Engineers, and I will be facilitating
8 this evening's meeting. We really want
9 to thank you for coming out and
10 attending this meeting regarding the
11 Eastern Tie-In Individual Environmental
12 Report, IER 13. Today we have more than
13 30 meetings regarding this project.

14 Just a couple of housekeeping
15 duties. I would ask that you set your

16 Blackberries and cellphones and pagers
17 to vibrate, please.

18 The purpose of tonight's meeting is
19 to elicit feedback from the recently
20 published amended IER 13. We have a
21 very simple format tonight. We have
22 some opening comments from Plaquemines
23 Parish and then from our Commander
24 Colonel Lee, and then we will open up
25 the floor for your questions and

0003

1 comments. We do have some elected
2 officials with us this evening from the
3 Plaquemines Parish council. We have
4 Keith Hinkley, Anthony Buras, and Jay
5 Friedman. Do we have any other elected
6 officials or staff elected officials
7 that we may have missed?

8 Thank you. We welcome you here.

9 Also, tonight representing FEMA we
10 have Joe Sloan and representing the
11 Louisiana Insurance Commission we have
12 Ed O'Brien.

13 I'm going to ask you to do a couple
14 of things. Please let us finish our
15 very brief remarks before you ask
16 questions and make comments. We do have
17 project managers and subject matter
18 experts here with us to answer your
19 questions, and we will do so after the
20 remarks.

21 At the end of the presentation,
22 everyone will have no more than five
23 minutes to make your comments or ask
24 questions. There are speaker request
25 cards that you were given when you came

0004

1 in. We will be calling out names off of
2 those cards to speak in the in order in
3 which they were given to us. There are
4 also at the back mail-in comment cards.
5 If you want to simply write down your
6 comment, you can do so and mail it in.

7 We only have one microphone out in
8 the audience. So when I call your name,
9 I'm going to ask you to line up at this
10 microphone. We do have a court reporter
11 here with us to make the official
12 transcript. She needs to be able to see
13 you speaking which was why we are
14 working from one microphone. So, again,
15 I'll give you a couple of names and ask
16 you to line up at that microphone.

17 It's going to be most effective if
18 everybody speaks one at a time and uses
19 the mike so that we can get all of the
20 comments down.

21 With that, I'm going to ask
22 President Nungesser to make a few
23 remarks on behalf of Plaquemines Parish.
24 **PRESIDENT NUNGESSER:**

25 Thank you. Let me first start out

0005
1 by clarifying a few things. There's a
2 rumor that seems to run rampant. First
3 of all, the position that the
4 administration took for the invisible
5 wall was not an endorsement of not a
6 hundred-year protection for Reach One.

7 Realizing that this group was tasked
8 with completing the project -- not that
9 we're happy about it -- but they were
10 tasked by Congress to complete, if we
11 didn't make a recommendation, they would
12 select the cheapest option which is the
13 sealed floodgate which is what they
14 selected. The council did not endorse a
15 proposal. Many of you who were there
16 felt they shouldn't.

17 My position was they would have the
18 engineer design an invisible flood wall
19 while we were working as quickly as
20 possible to get the numbers from the
21 Corps for the 25 percent design bill,
22 while we were working with the state to
23 raise the highway -- (inaudible) --

24 which is further down, and while we gave
25 all the information we need to try to

0006

1 fund the addition of the hundred-year
2 protection. We still feel that we can
3 make the same deadline if the Corps
4 gives the information they promised us
5 in a reasonable time which we're hoping
6 to get in the next couple of weeks. We
7 can still make that deadline.

8 We have several options for funding
9 that betterment -- I'll be glad to talk
10 to you about those individually --
11 ranging from local to state to federal
12 funding. Locally all of them have to be
13 approved by the parish council. But the
14 endorsement of the invisible wall was
15 not giving in to not doing a
16 hundred-year protection for Reach One.

17 Further south we will be following
18 the -- (inaudible) -- coastal plan
19 starting north storm surge 5 feet which
20 when that is in place, all the federal
21 levees that are in place south of --
22 (inaudible) -- most of them will achieve
23 hundred-year protection with our coastal
24 plan. Building the levees for
25 hundred-year protection south of there

0007

1 the cost of the wave action is not cost
2 beneficial right now. So we want 74
3 percent of the population on the West
4 Bank is inside what we're trying to
5 achieve on the hundred-year protection.

6 It's not that we're leaving anybody
7 out. We've got -- (inaudible) --
8 working on the final plans of the
9 coastal plan to make sure the Corps is
10 happy with all the elevations and all
11 the data that we have been working on.

12 So we're not leaving anybody out.
13 But if we didn't take a stand and we
14 didn't as a government, other than my

15 letter and the letter that I got from
16 Coastal Zoning which they were sending
17 and the government didn't support, one
18 of the options, the Corps is going to go
19 and choose its option -- (inaudible) --
20 It's the worst option. It's going to
21 happen quicker, and it's the most
22 dangerous. People are going to plow
23 into that steel wall with their
24 vehicles.

25 So I'm not supporting it. I'm not

0008

1 in support of it. And I'm open to any
2 suggestion what we can do to ask them to
3 hold off until we get the hundred-year
4 protection for Reach One. Thank you.

5 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

6 Thank you. Next I'm going to ask
7 Colonel Lee to please come up front and
8 make his remarks.

9 COLONEL LEE:

10 Good evening, everyone. And, again,
11 thank you for coming out, and I know
12 that many of you I've seen you here
13 before, and I really appreciate your
14 ongoing interest in the Eastern Tie-In
15 proposed action that was identified in
16 both IER 13 and the IER 13 addendum.

17 And so I stand before you tonight to
18 fulfill another commitment that I made
19 back in May at one such meeting, and
20 that's based on the request that you
21 gave us and your comments. I extended
22 the Eastern Tie-In project comment
23 period and listened to everything you
24 had to say. We looked very closely at
25 many substantial comments that you

0009

1 brought up that we took into account.
2 We did the analysis on those, and I'm
3 pretty confident that our team answered
4 those comments.

5 As you are well aware, we held

6 multiple public meetings throughout the
7 parish. You've heard how many of those
8 meetings we've held, and the reason we
9 held them is because this is a complex
10 project. It's not a simple project.
11 It's not like many of the projects in
12 other parts of the system that are
13 already in place. This is a new area
14 that we're trying to close off. And so
15 throughout the NEPA process, that's part
16 of what -- the reason you're here
17 tonight, is that it just reinforces the
18 fact that there's still public
19 engagement in this process.

20 We have listened to the people that
21 live north of Oakville, we've listened
22 to the people that live in Oakville, and
23 we have also listened to the people that
24 live south of Oakville. And we've had
25 continuous meetings with public

0010
1 officials with -- from the local, the
2 state levels, and the federal level, and
3 we've also had meetings with private
4 citizen groups to try to understand your
5 perspective on this project, how we can
6 minimize impacts, how we can make this a
7 workable solution.

8 We extended that public comment
9 period to provide you that opportunity
10 to provide those additional comments.
11 And we assessed and satisfactorily
12 addressed the standard comments that
13 were brought up in the public meetings.

14 Those comments, just to give you a
15 little feedback from that, influenced
16 how we went back and reassessed
17 alternatives, how we influenced
18 additional modeling that was done by our
19 research lab in Vicksburg and our
20 hydraulics folks that are here in the
21 New Orleans District.

22 We reconfigured a

23 150-cubic-feet-per-second pump station
24 that originally diverted flow into the
25 Ollie Canal. We changed that whole

0011

1 alternative now so that it diverts flows
2 during a tropical event into a marsh
3 outside the nonfederal levee system and
4 does not even go into Ollie Canal.

5 We also developed and assessed two
6 other alternatives for potential closure
7 of Highway 23 south of Oakville. That
8 included a ramp that was recommended by
9 the Louisiana Department of
10 Transportation and also the invisible
11 flood wall alternative that was
12 supported by President Nungesser.

13 We also modified the two floodgate
14 alternatives. They originally were
15 about 40 feet each. We expanded the
16 width of those gates because there were
17 concerns about the clear zone as far as
18 highway safety about traversing through
19 those areas when they were open and also
20 when they are closed. So some of the
21 things that we did to both the roller
22 gate and swing gate alternatives when we
23 were going through this evaluation
24 process was to maximum safety along
25 Highway 23 and also to minimize the

0012

1 visual impacts.

2 We also held a workshop on the 19th
3 of September, and I know many of you
4 were at that workshop, and that was just
5 really another opportunity for us to
6 engage you. We brought in a lot of our
7 subject matter experts to help explain
8 one-on-one to you in our resource room
9 and also in here during the public
10 comment period what we were attempting
11 to do as we work through the NEPA
12 process and also to clearly address your
13 substantive comments and concerns about

14 this proposed action.

15 And I can tell you that our team
16 carefully considered the four
17 alternatives that would connect the
18 risk-reduction features on the west side
19 of Highway 23 to the east side of
20 Highway 23 and tie into the Mississippi
21 River levee. The alternatives
22 considered were a ramp with a stop lock
23 gate, a swing floodgate, a roller
24 floodgate, and an invisible flood wall.
25 Those were the four alternatives we

0013
1 looked at. And we've assessed each of
2 these alternatives for the following
3 criteria. This is kind of how we graded
4 them -- risk and liability, impacts to
5 human and natural environment, time and
6 constructibility, cost and operations
7 and maintenance. So that's how we
8 assessed the alternatives and developed
9 the proposed action.

10 So the proposed action for the IER
11 13 is the swing floodgate. It is a
12 proven, reliable system, and from a risk
13 and liability standpoint and operations
14 and maintenance standpoint, this
15 alternative is clearly superior to the
16 roller gate, the ramp with the stop lock
17 gate, and the invisible flood wall.

18 The swing gate requires minimal
19 training and advanced preparation, and
20 it can be also closed in approximately
21 four hours. Also it has traverse lanes
22 that can be open and closed as needed to
23 provide emergency evacuation for people
24 that weren't able to evacuate prior to
25 the gate being closed and also for

0014
1 emergency responders to get to the north
2 and south parts of the parish during an
3 actual tropical event, immediately
4 before, during, and after a tropical

5 event.

6 I clearly understand that the people
7 south of Oakville want 100-year risk
8 reduction. That's been very clear in
9 the conversations with me, that you gave
10 to us in your public comments, that have
11 been given to us here in the public
12 meetings, and your e-mails that you have
13 sent us. In the one-on-one dialogue
14 that I have had with you, we do
15 understand that, but what I have to tell
16 you again is that we do not have the
17 authorization and funding from Congress
18 to provide that one-hundred-year level
19 of risk reduction as part of the West
20 Bank and Vicinity project.

21 But one of the things I've told you
22 in every meeting is that we do have the
23 authorization and the funding, about
24 \$670 million worth of funding, to
25 proceed on the nonfederal levees for

0015
1 Jesuit Bend and areas south of Oakville
2 to St. Jude, and we're continuing to do
3 that. We're working daily. We're doing
4 work out in the field. We're doing site
5 investigation and borings so that we can
6 prepare the designs so that we can get
7 the environmental impact statement out
8 to the public for public review so we
9 can continue to move that project
10 forward.

11 Your local government has a plan to
12 improve the levees that reduce risk for
13 the areas from Jesuit Bend, Myrtle
14 Grove, Port Celeste, and St. Jude and
15 are actively working to address that
16 issue. President Nungesser is working
17 now with the state's Office of Coastal
18 Protection and Restoration to develop a
19 plan to raise the nonfederal levees
20 below Oakville, Louisiana to one-hundred
21 year levels of risk reduction, and we're

22 working closely with President Nungesser
23 to assist in finalizing those plans so
24 we can submit it through our
25 headquarters for approval.

0016

1 I want you to understand, as I said
2 in the 19 September meeting, the most
3 important thing that we want you to take
4 away is that we will raise the height of
5 the nonfederal levee design that we are
6 building south of Oakville to account
7 for any increases in storm surge from
8 the Gulf intercoastal waterway and
9 Western closure complex and also the
10 project that we're talking about right
11 here, the proposed Eastern Tie-In
12 project.

13 Also, we know that one major concern
14 to the residents south of Oakville is
15 how the Eastern Tie-In project will
16 affect your property values in those
17 areas, and our economists have reviewed
18 those issues, and our evaluation is that
19 there's no evidence that the proposed
20 action would adversely impact your
21 property values.

22 Having said that, once complete, the
23 Plaquemines Parish nonfederal levees
24 will significantly reduce your risk from
25 hurricane storm surge. And many of you

0017

1 came by and visited our economists
2 during the 19 September meeting that we
3 held here, and I understand the concerns
4 of the community regarding the property
5 values, and I understand that you don't
6 necessarily agree with this decision.
7 But one of my very serious
8 responsibilities is to get this Eastern
9 Tie-In project built by 1 June 2011.

10 This project is absolutely critical
11 to the entire West Bank, and without it
12 the area remains vulnerable. It remains

13 a gap in the system, and it remains
14 vulnerable to storm surge. Delaying
15 this project any longer places hundreds
16 of thousands of people at risk, and that
17 is something that I'm not willing to do.

18 And, you know, tonight I do really
19 appreciate you coming back out and being
20 part of this public meeting, and I look
21 forward to your comments and any
22 questions that you have. We have
23 several of our subject matter experts
24 here that are on the panel. I will also
25 be here to answer any of your questions,

0018

1 and we'll be here until we've answered
2 your questions tonight. So thank you
3 very much.

4 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

5 Thank you, Colonel Lee.

6 All right. Now we're going to open
7 up the floor for questions and comments.

8 Let me go over the ground rules.

9 Speaker request cards and also
10 postage-paid comment cards are available
11 at the sign-in tables in the back. If
12 you have a speaker request card and
13 would like to speak, you can just hold
14 your hand up in the air and somebody
15 will come around and get it. Speakers
16 will be called in the order that your
17 request was received. And I already
18 have a stack of cards up here that are
19 numbered.

20 You will have a maximum of five
21 minutes to speak. We have a light
22 system here. When it starts blinking,
23 you have a minute left, and then you'll
24 see a red light and you'll hear a sound
25 to indicate that you need to wrap it up.

0019

1 You may not yield unused portions of
2 your time for another speaker.

3 All questions and comments, whether

4 they are given verbally or written, will
5 be become part of the official record
6 for IER 13. All comments will be
7 considered equally. The written
8 comments may be submitted through
9 November 25th, 2009.

10 Again, I ask that you use the mikes.
11 We have one mike over here.

12 And I'm going to introduce our panel
13 members up here. They represent some of
14 our subject matters as well as project
15 managers. We have Julie Vignes, the
16 senior project manager for the West
17 Bank. Julie LeBlanc, senior project
18 manager for Plaquemines. Gib Owen,
19 environmental manager. Bruce Ebersole,
20 hydraulics and hydrology. And Kevin
21 Lovetro, economics. We also, as I
22 mentioned earlier, have representatives
23 from FEMA and the Department of
24 Insurance.

25 All right. My first speaker is

0020
1 Christie Lauff followed by Frank Ranatza
2 and Wendy Keating. And I'm very sorry
3 if I'm butchering anybody's name.

4 Christie Lauff.

5 MS. CHRISTIE LAUFF:

6 The addendum states that this
7 project is absolutely critical to the
8 entire West Bank and without it the area
9 is vulnerable to storm surge. Delaying
10 this project any longer places hundreds
11 of thousands of people at risk.

12 From this statement, I would have to
13 conclude that the area adjacent to and
14 south of this system will then be left
15 vulnerable to storm surge since we
16 are closed on the outside of this
17 system. Also, from what I understand,
18 the 7-mile stretch from Jesuit Bend down
19 to La Reussite includes hundreds of
20 thousands of people as well.

21 It is also written in the addendum
22 that the West Bank and Vicinity project
23 may slightly increase the 1 percent
24 annual chance of occurrence storm surge
25 level south of Oakville. The general

0021

1 trend is for the West Bank and vicinity
2 storm surge increase to decrease the
3 further distance south of the West Bank
4 project one is. The difference in peak
5 surge diminishes to 0 to 0.1 feet
6 approximately 8 miles south of Oakville.

7 With this being said, that the
8 effects will be out to 8 miles below the
9 proposed project, why isn't the affected
10 8 miles mentioned in the draft? Why is
11 it only 1 mile out? Shouldn't all the
12 areas that will be affected by the
13 project be addressed in the report?

14 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

15 Okay. (Inaudible) -- can answer the
16 question about storm surge, if that's
17 your specific question. But is the
18 question, why we described the area as 1
19 mile of the floodgates?

20 MS. CHRISTIE LAUFF:

21 That's more of the question.

22 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

23 The original addendum just described
24 the project as immediately affected by
25 the floodgates, but what we have done in

0022

1 the addendum is answer the question as
2 to how storm surge would affect the
3 system below, as far below as 8 miles.
4 So I think the answer to that question,
5 the addendum, the specifics on the storm
6 surge, if you need more details, I can
7 have Bruce address that.

8 MS. CHRISTIE LAUFF:

9 The addendum also states that the
10 draft IER 13 did not contain a detailed
11 description or socioeconomic analysis of

12 the area further than 1 mile south
13 because those areas are outside of the
14 authorized West Bank and vicinity
15 project area.

16 I understand that Congress did not
17 provide funding or authorization for an
18 update or reevaluation of the authorized
19 project boundaries and that Congress --
20 that specific Congressional
21 authorization and appropriations would
22 be required for a reevaluation of the
23 West Bank and Vicinity project
24 boundaries.

25 By addressing our comments in the

0023
1 addendum and redefining some of the
2 affected areas, shouldn't Congress be
3 informed of the changes and how it
4 relates to the entire project? Who was
5 and is supposed to let Congress know
6 that we weren't here when the project
7 was originally put out, we are here now,
8 and that we will be affected?

9 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

10 I mean, the reports are made
11 available to the entire public. As
12 currently mentioned, we've had a lot of
13 engagement at all levels of government.
14 Local, state, and federal government has
15 been engaged in the process of going
16 through the Eastern Tie-In.

17 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

18 Thank you. Frank Ranatza. Wendy
19 Keating.

20 MR. FRANK RANATZA:

21 I'm Frank Ranatza. I live at 161
22 Ranatza Road, and I'm going to be under
23 the side of the wall that's not going to
24 be covered -- okay -- here, in the lower
25 part. And, you know, it's kind of like

0024
1 a family, and we all in this Belle
2 Chasse area here. And I got a family of

3 12 people, but something serious come
4 along, and it gets to a point where
5 we're going make a sacrifice so the
6 other part of the family can survive.
7 We'll just sacrifice these three
8 over here. So the other groups of my
9 family won't survive.

10 I feel like we're being sacrificed
11 so that the masses can survive the
12 storms that come along, and I can't see
13 it. It's not right -- okay -- what you
14 guys are proposing. I feel just as
15 important as everyone else does and all
16 of my neighbors that live around me --
17 okay -- close friends of mine, and I
18 can't just see closing us off where
19 we're going to be outside the wall of
20 protection.

21 And I know you guys are thinking
22 that later on you're going to put a
23 levee up that can protect everyone. But
24 when is that going to come? Next year
25 we get a serious storm come along.

0025

1 We're below the wall. We get flooded
2 out. The masses here survive, but the
3 few perish. So here we are looking at
4 just a few people that will lose.
5 That's just like a part of my family
6 that I lose. Okay?

7 And the other comment I have,
8 nothing has been said about the federal
9 levee out by the Mississippi River.

10 We've got families that have been here
11 and flooded by Betsy. The waters came
12 over the Mississippi River. The last
13 storm we had, Katrina, I cleared debris
14 from out of my yard out there that came
15 from the river. It did not come from
16 the marsh. It took me three weeks to
17 clean my yard enough with the debris
18 that came over the levee. What are
19 you-all going to do about the

20 federalized levee that we got the flood
21 waters from? How are you going to build
22 it up? When are you going to build it
23 up?

24 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

25 In the areas north of Oakville and

0026

1 Belle Chasse, we will be raising the
2 Mississippi River levees for
3 approximately 14 miles on the West Bank.

4 MR. FRANK RANATZA:

5 Here we go again. Okay? I'm sorry
6 to cut you off. Here we go again.

7 Above Oakville. What are you going to
8 do below Oakville?

9 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

10 Below Oakville we do not --

11 MR. FRANK RANATZA:

12 Now, the federalized levee by the
13 river now. Okay?

14 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

15 We do not have authority to do any
16 hurricane protection work on the
17 Mississippi River levee. Do you have
18 the map?

19 We have authority to construct the
20 area shown. The blue is the existing
21 nonfederal levee alignment, and the
22 yellow is our tentatively selected plan
23 for Plaquemines Parish nonfederal
24 levees, and that's going to be
25 incorporated into the existing New

0027

1 Orleans to Venice project.

2 MR. FRANK RANATZA:

3 When is your project going to be
4 completed do you estimate?

5 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

6 Next slide. This is our schedule.
7 We have a draft supplemental EIS coming
8 out in December. We will have a public
9 meeting to talk about that
10 approximately 30, 45 days after that,

11 and we would sign the decision in July
12 2010. Plans and specs would be
13 completed -- This is our current
14 schedule right now. We are working with
15 the parish to try to expedite this
16 schedule because we know the project is
17 important to the people in the area.
18 Plans and specs currently October 2010,
19 with advertising the first contract in
20 March 2011, with awarding the contract
21 in June.

22 MR. FRANK RANATZA:

23 And that's going to be at the
24 100-year protection height?

25 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

0028
1 That is the interim authorized
2 height which is approximately a 50-year
3 storm.

4 MR. FRANK RANATZA:

5 Okay. Thank you anyhow.

6 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

7 Thank you, sir. Wendy Keating, and
8 then the next person is Pat McCabe.

9 MS. PAT MCCABE:

10 I'm Pat McCabe, and I live in the
11 Jesuit Bend section. I came down here
12 over 35 years ago because this was the
13 place to live. But what you people are
14 going to do to the area where I am is a
15 same. You're going to take away
16 everything that people have worked for
17 and have enjoyed. We had a good parish
18 before you-all decided to start messing
19 things up with all these plans you're
20 going to do.

21 Why don't you rebuild the marsh land
22 behind Baratavia and get the oil
23 companies which were allowed to divide
24 all that area back up in there and make
25 all those little canals that are causing

0029
1 all this erosion -- Why don't you take

2 action and bring it up from Barataria,
3 fill it in? Then we would have
4 protection.

5 As far as the river, I know it was a
6 freaky thing when it came over when we
7 had the last hurricane, but that's --
8 I've been there 35 years. That's the
9 first time that levee has ever topped.

10 But the water comes from the back,
11 and what happens is, you-all just close
12 your eyes. I see them riding down the
13 levee just chatting and carrying on,
14 having a good time, looking straight
15 ahead. They don't look to the left.
16 They don't look to the right. I've seen
17 your cars because I live on the highway.
18 Then all they look to do is get
19 this ride over so they can go hit a
20 restaurant.

21 I'm tired of people saying that
22 you-all are really doing a job. This is
23 ridiculous. Get in an airplane. Fly
24 around and see what's happening, that
25 Barataria Bay is now in my backyard.

0030

1 When I moved here, you couldn't even see
2 the water. Now I can walk into it. And
3 you can't tell me that this is something
4 that happened overnight, that you people
5 aren't aware of. Where have you been
6 for 30 years? Don't you ever come out?

7 I'm no geologist and I'm no genius,
8 but I know very well that you can walk
9 and you can see water, and you should
10 know where it stops and where it's
11 coming from. You-all have not bothered
12 to fool with this stuff. If you had,
13 you've closed your eyes to it. All you
14 have done is worry about hitting that
15 highway and getting back up line. You
16 have not spent any time. No one has
17 ever come to talk to us. We live there.
18 It's our livelihood to a lot of people.

19 The orange industry is going to go
20 under. You're going to lose all the
21 seafood industry. You're going to wipe
22 Plaquemines Parish off the map. Why?
23 Because you don't care. It is about
24 time somebody does something.

25 We're the richest parish per capita

0031

1 in the entire Louisiana. You cut us
2 off, you're going to lose seafood,
3 you're going to lose citrus, you're
4 going to lose cattle, you're going to
5 lose oil, you're going to lose sulfur.
6 You're going to lose so much because you
7 close your eyes and you're not worried
8 about us because we're this little thing
9 that sticks out into the Gulf.

10 Well, let me tell you something,
11 baby. When they cut off Plaquemines
12 Parish, Louisiana is going to lose 90
13 percent of its income. And then what
14 you going to do? Sit back and say, Oh,
15 well, that just happens because we --
16 not because we didn't know, but we
17 didn't care.

18 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

19 Wendy Keating.

20 MS. WENDY KEATING:

21 Good evening. My name is Wendy
22 Keating, and this is my son, Spencer.

23 Colonel Lee, a main concern that I
24 have had as a homeowner is the
25 affordability and the availability of

0032

1 homeowner insurance in Southeast
2 Louisiana, specifically Plaquemines
3 Parish. Since Hurricane Katrina,
4 homeowner insurance has become a major
5 issue. Ask any realtor who has sold
6 property in the metropolitan area since
7 Katrina, and they will confirm that
8 homeowner insurance availability and
9 affordability has been a key component

10 to close the deal.

11 With that said, could the
12 construction of this flood gate
13 negatively impact the problem that
14 already exists with respect to
15 availability or affordability? Colonel
16 Lee, did the Corps research this? Your
17 addendum to IER 13 specifically
18 addresses flood insurance. However, I
19 have posed the question regarding
20 homeowner insurance at the May meeting
21 and again at the September meeting and
22 still have yet to get a response from
23 you. Did any of your staff consult with
24 the private insurance companies or the
25 Louisiana Department of Insurance to get

0033
1 their take on this adverse risk?

2 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

3 Kevin?

4 MR. KEVIN LOVETRO:

5 The subject of IER 13 was to
6 investigate the impact of the swing gate
7 on the area in the vicinity of Oakville.
8 The investigation focused on whether or
9 not the swing gate would contribute to
10 an increase in stages on the unprotected
11 side of the floodgate. Hydraulic
12 analysis showed that there were changes
13 made to the nonfederal levee that
14 increase in flood risk to that area.

15 Now, I understand that you are
16 concerned about the affordability of
17 homeowners insurance. Homeowners
18 insurance includes coverage for fire and
19 wind, theft, vandalism, and all kinds of
20 hazards, exclusive of flood. It is only
21 the federal government that provides
22 insurance for the population of the
23 United States for flood risk for the
24 Flood Insurance Administration and the
25 National Flood Insurance Program. The

0034

1 Plaquemines Parish government entered
2 the Flood Insurance Program I believe in
3 1985, and as long as the parish
4 maintains cooperation with the flood
5 plain management regulations, everyone
6 will be able to --

7 MS. WENDY KEATING:

8 Sir, with all due respect, I didn't
9 ask about flood insurance. I asked
10 about homeowners insurance, and I still
11 do not have an answer to that question.

12 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

13 Okay. I'm going to ask Mr. O'Brien
14 from the Louisiana Department of
15 Insurance to answer the question.

16 MR. ED O'BRIEN:

17 My name is Ed O'Brien, deputy
18 commissioner of the Office of Property
19 and Casualty. Regarding homeowners
20 insurance, as most of you know -- and
21 actually I live in Jefferson Parish -- I
22 think we all know, flood does not come
23 under the standard homeowners policy.
24 Therefore, any flood protection
25 theoretically doesn't work truly this

0035
1 way. It has no effect on homeowners
2 insurance premiums. Your premiums in
3 Plaquemines Parish are driven by wind
4 speed and the proximity to the Gulf of
5 Mexico.

6 Now, your additional living
7 expenses, as a business owner your
8 business income portion -- (inaudible)
9 impacted by flood protection because of
10 the availability to get back in the
11 parish and resume normal life. They can
12 cut down on the additional living
13 expenses, if there is any on the
14 homeowner, but the flood protection
15 should have no negative effect on your
16 homeowner premiums per se. I can't
17 speak for flood.

18 MS. WENDY KEATING:

19 Okay. When that wall goes up, who's
20 going to guarantee that my insurance
21 carrier is not going to pull out of the
22 state or pull out of that side of the
23 wall? Can you give that to me in
24 writing?

25 MR. ED O'BRIEN:

0036

1 No, I can't guarantee any company
2 won't pull out of the state of
3 Louisiana. I will tell you this. After
4 Hurricane Katrina, one company withdrew
5 from the state one year ago. No
6 companies immediately after Katrina
7 pulled out of the state. I can't
8 guarantee what private industry will or
9 will not do. Can you guarantee me the
10 refinery is going to be open in ten
11 years?

12 MS. WENDY KEATING:

13 I don't work for the refinery. I
14 can't answer that question.

15 MR. ED O'BRIEN:

16 I don't work for insurance
17 companies.

18 MS. WENDY KEATING:

19 You represent insurance companies.

20 MR. ED O'BRIEN:

21 I represent the department of
22 insurance.

23 MS. WENDY KEATING:

24 And you are the voice of the
25 insurance commissioner.

0037

1 MR. ED O'BRIEN:

2 I cannot guarantee that companies
3 will or will not write insurance in
4 Louisiana.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

6 That's how we're adversely affected.

7 MS. WENDY KEATING:

8 Right. Obviously I'm not going to

9 get this question answered, but I would
10 like to be put on record.

11 MR. ED O'BRIEN:

12 The answer to your question is, my
13 rates in Jefferson Parish before Katrina
14 went from \$3,200 to 9,200. You care?

15 No. What is -- I can't guarantee a
16 company is going to stay in the state.
17 I can't guarantee -- (inaudible) --

18 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

19 I have to remind you. We can't get
20 your comments on the record if you're
21 not speaking in a microphone. If you
22 have follow-up questions, put your
23 name --

24 MR. ED O'BRIEN:

25 Right there. Let's go.

0038

1 MS. WENDY KEATING:

2 I'm not finished.

3 MR. KEVIN LOVETRO:

4 The point I was getting to, private
5 insurance companies are for homeowner
6 insurance and do not cover the flood
7 risk. There's no basis for them to
8 change their rates given whether or not
9 flood risk goes up or not.

10 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

11 We're going to move on.

12 MS. WENDY KEATING:

13 Colonel Lee, in your September 2009
14 report, you stated it was your
15 commitment to provide the most accurate
16 and up-to-date information so that each
17 resident had the necessary resources to
18 make good risk informed decisions.
19 However, in 1997 when I purchased my
20 land in Jesuit Bend, I wasn't given
21 accurate nor up-to-date information
22 regarding this project. Had I been
23 given this information back in '97 I
24 would have not taken the risk.

25 My hope in the future is that

0039

1 government at all levels -- local,
2 state, and federal -- will fully
3 disclose projects like this.
4 Unfortunately, now I will be on the
5 wrong side of the wall, and this will
6 adversely affect my property value.
7 Once that wall goes up, my property
8 value will go down, and I don't care
9 what you-all say in the report.

10 I wish I had the opportunity back in
11 '97 to make a risk-informed decision,
12 but, unfortunately, my local, state, and
13 federal government dropped the ball, and
14 now my family will have to suffer the
15 aftermath. It is your duty to provide a
16 hundred-year protection to all. Equal
17 rights and equal protection for all.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

20 Thank you. Brook Ton and Matt
21 Zuvich. Brook is first.

22 MS. BROOK TON:

23 Pretty much I think you know how
24 everyone feels here, and I can sit here
25 and tell you about how much the lower

0040

1 end of the parish has to offer because I
2 think you already know and I think you
3 already know how everyone feels here.
4 And from looking at all of you, I can
5 tell you've probably already made up
6 your mind and that you really don't
7 care.

8 What I want to know, is there really
9 anything -- You know, all of us are
10 fighting for one cause, and can you
11 really give us a straight answer? Is
12 there anything that we can do to maybe
13 change this project, or have you -- is
14 this set dead, you know, 2011 this wall
15 is going up? What are we all here for?
16 I know we're all fighting for the levees

17 too, but is this all that's going to
18 happen? I mean, is this pretty much
19 done or, you know, us fighting for,
20 sacrificing?

21 COLONEL LEE:

22 That's a good question. I think the
23 slide up here is very important for
24 everybody south of Oakville, and that's
25 the Plaquemines Parish nonfederal

0041

1 levees. Those levees, that schedule, is
2 what will be built, and there's plan now
3 that Plaquemines Parish government
4 President Nungesser is working with the
5 state of Louisiana to try to get a
6 proposal to us to recommend taking
7 Section 1 to 100-year level risk
8 reduction.

9 So that is the plan that is under
10 analysis by the state. We are going to
11 submit it up to our headquarters for
12 their review and approval. So I think
13 there is movement going on. And I
14 understand your concern because you are
15 in a risk position, but this is the
16 delivery of the project that our team is
17 right now working on, working in the
18 future, has been working on this, and we
19 plan to get it in place.

20 MS. BROOK TON:

21 But the wall is going to -- Like you
22 said, are we working on another
23 alternative? I mean, we are working on
24 building up other parts of the levees,
25 but that wall will also be included in

0042

1 that like no matter what pretty much --

2 COLONEL LEE:

3 After this public comment period,
4 then I'll make a final decision on how
5 we are going to proceed with the Eastern
6 Tie-In project.

7 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

8 Thank you. Matt Zuvich and then
9 Benny Rousselle.

10 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

11 My name is Matt Zuvich. I live at
12 865 Jason Drive. I will be in the
13 affected area.

14 First of all, I would like to
15 recognize the councilmen that were here
16 tonight because they stood for what we
17 voted for right off the bat was, no wall
18 no way. Billy got up and said that we
19 should have went with the invisible
20 flood wall which is BS. These guys
21 supported us from day one that we didn't
22 want a flood wall and that's the way it
23 should be.

24 What I want to ask you guys is, the
25 14 miles that you're going to be working

0043
1 on the river levee, was that part of the
2 IER 13 funding, or is that something you
3 guys got money for all of a sudden
4 because you realize now that it's an
5 issue?

6 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

7 The 14 miles of the Mississippi
8 River levee?

9 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

10 Yes.

11 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

12 That is something that has been
13 recently determined by looking at river
14 flows, and the river flow studies that
15 had been done previously were low river.
16 We're looking at the river as inspected
17 during hurricane season, and when that
18 was remodeled, it was determined that
19 the Mississippi River levees needed to
20 be raised.

21 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

22 So you got funding for that, but you
23 can't get additional funding from
24 Congress to go 7 miles down on this side

25 and get Jesuit Bend all the way down to

0044

1 Reach 1 protected?

2 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

3 That funding is part of the West
4 Bank and Vicinity project, and then the
5 Jesuit Bend area is part of the
6 incorporation of the Plaquemines Parish
7 nonfederal levees into the NOV project,
8 New Orleans to Venice project. So it's
9 two separate pots of funds, and we do
10 have the \$671 billion for just the 34
11 miles of nonfederal levees to
12 incorporate those into the New Orleans
13 to Venice project, and we are working
14 closely with the parish developing --

15 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

16 Let me ask you this. We have that
17 much money for the nonfederal levees,
18 and our parish already commented that
19 they would like to get Reach 1, the
20 hundred-year protection. Why don't you
21 take the 680 billion, get Reach 1 to a
22 hundred-year protection, do away with
23 the flood wall, put the road across La
24 Reussite, then take the rest of that
25 money and start going toward St. Jude?

0045

1 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

2 That does not follow the direction
3 we were given by Congress.

4 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

5 Why don't you-all go back to
6 Congress and do what's right? That's
7 all we're asking.

8 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

9 Congress has to give us that
10 authority and local --

11 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

12 You have to ask Congress for the
13 authority. They're not going to know
14 about it unless Colonel Lee and the rest
15 of you guys get up there and talk --

16 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

17 The Corps cannot lobby Congress.

18 The local government has to go to

19 Congress and tell them what they want us

20 to be authorized to do. We cannot lobby

21 Congress.

22 COLONEL LEE:

23 Let me answer your question. You

24 asked if there was funding for the 14

25 miles of MRL, and there is none. That

0046

1 is a future request budget item that

2 will have to be funded at a later date.

3 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

4 But it's going to be done before

5 June 2011 to complete you-all

6 hundred-year --

7 COLONEL LEE:

8 Just the interim protection, not the

9 permanent solution. The permanent

10 solution has to get additional funding.

11 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

12 Thank you, sir. Benny Rousselle and

13 then Wayne Alvins, Sr.

14 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

15 Just to follow up on that, when is

16 the next opportunity to go before

17 Congress to get the language for

18 hundred-year protection for this reach

19 of nonfederal levee?

20 COLONEL LEE:

21 I think the answer to the question

22 is, you're talking about Section 1 of

23 the -- (inaudible) -- the parish is

24 moving forward right now with the state

25 of Louisiana to get their endorsement

0047

1 and request what we call a -- to bring

2 the level above what is funded here with

3 the 671 million to 100-year level for

4 Section 1. So that is under way right

5 now between the parish and the state.

6 They will submit that to the Corps,

7 submit it up to our headquarters and get
8 the approval, and if it gets approved,
9 then it will be -- Section 1 will be the
10 100-year level risk reduction for the
11 area from Oakville to -- on the
12 nonfederal levee side.

13 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

14 My question is, when is the next
15 opportunity for Congress to approve
16 this? Is that --

17 COLONEL LEE:

18 When you say --

19 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

20 The land --

21 COLONEL LEE:

22 I don't think there's any land to
23 require to provide 100-year level of
24 risk reduction for Section 1 between
25 Oakville and (inaudible) -- That's the

0048

1 whole purpose of the process that we are
2 moving forward.

3 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

4 Let me ask again. You provide to
5 the local government language that you
6 will follow to give hundred-year
7 protection for the levee as for
8 recommendations and figures to do
9 projects, you provide language that you
10 will follow. So my question is, again,
11 will you provide the language to the
12 local government so they can submit the
13 language to their Congressional
14 delegation that you will follow to give
15 hundred-year protection for the --

16 COLONEL LEE:

17 The way the process works is the
18 local government makes a request to
19 Congress. Congress requests us to draft
20 language that would meet that intent.
21 And if we get request from Congress, we
22 will draft language that will meet the
23 intent of what you ask. But we have

24 to --

25 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

0049

1 You don't provide language for any
2 other agency, no local government, no
3 state government? It has to come
4 through the Congressional office. So,
5 then, the local government has not asked
6 you for that language yet?

7 COLONEL LEE:

8 I have no idea. That's a question
9 you would have to ask the local
10 government.

11 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

12 So the way I see this process, the
13 gate seems to be a done deal. The next
14 step is to try to get a hundred-year
15 protection authorized by Congress in
16 language that you will follow to build
17 that. It has to be clear language that
18 the legal department did not pick out
19 and say it means something else. So the
20 process, from what I'm understanding,
21 request the Congressional delegation to
22 ask you to provide the language to go up
23 to Congress to be included. And my
24 first question is, when is the next
25 opportunity for that to happen?

0050

1 COLONEL LEE:

2 The next process 2010. So I'm not
3 sure of the date, but the Congress --
4 that's their next opportunity.

5 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

6 Thank you for -- The next question I
7 have is, the betterment and the cost of
8 the betterment, has that been determined
9 yet?

10 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

11 (Inaudible) -- Plaquemines Parish
12 and we have provided them a rough
13 estimate on the 8th of October and for
14 to provide 100-year level risk reduction

15 for Section 1, the 8 miles of back
16 levee. It's going to range between 65
17 to 120 million. That is the incremental
18 cost to raise from an NOV authorized
19 grade to the 1 percent or the
20 hundred-year.

21 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

22 And who will pay for that?

23 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

24 That has to be a hundred percent
25 nonfederal sponsor share.

0051

1 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

2 So that means the local government
3 or the state?

4 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

5 Correct, correct.

6 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

7 Now, I heard a comment a few minutes
8 ago that -- Let me refresh you people's
9 minds, that prior to Hurricane Katrina,
10 the Corps had written letters stating
11 that they were close to approving 205 --
12 for this area. Are you aware of that?

13 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

14 A 204?

15 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

16 205.

17 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

18 205. Yes, I am aware of that. I
19 don't know if it was completed.

20 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

21 Are you aware of the correspondence
22 that was from the colonel at the time
23 that said that we were almost completed
24 with the study and that it was very
25 favorable and that this levee was going

0052

1 to be built with hundred-year
2 protection? Are you familiar with that?

3 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

4 No, I am not.

5 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

6 Would you like it?

7 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

8 Sure. My understanding is that --

9 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

10 Let me go a little further. If we
11 are under the impression that we were
12 close to the hundred-year protection and
13 that the Corps admits that they were
14 going to go with the hundred-year
15 protection, would that make any
16 difference in your process at this
17 point?

18 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

19 I do not believe so because this is
20 a different project. The project we're
21 talking about today is the West Bank and
22 Vicinity project. Section 205 it's for
23 smaller projects. And my understanding
24 was that a hundred-year was not
25 authorized as part of that study. It

0053

1 was more like a 50-year that was. So if
2 you have something different than that,
3 I would love to see it.

4 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

5 Moving forward with the process that
6 keep hearing talk about the coastal
7 restoration plan gives benefit. Going
8 to that process, naturally we have a
9 state plan. The state plan would have
10 to be amended to be able to do that
11 through -- (inaudible) -- and does the
12 Corps feel comfortable in the issue of
13 certifying the levees with the plan that
14 is being discussed now.

15 And I'm talking about the
16 conversations that I keep hearing and I
17 heard Colonel Lee refer to a little
18 while ago about the parish is working on
19 a coastal plan that is going to be able
20 to provide protection. Do you feel
21 comfortable that that program will give
22 us a hundred-year protection?

23 MR. GIB OWEN:
24 You are talking about the plan that
25 Plaquemines Parish has put out and is

0054

1 currently working through the regulatory
2 permitting process on, right?

3 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

4 I'm talking about currently referred
5 to earlier about working towards that
6 end. I assume he's talking about the
7 same plan.

8 MR. GIB OWEN:

9 The Corps has two right now. It has
10 the West Bank vicinity and then it has
11 the Plaquemines -- two. It also -- The
12 parish is pursuing a coastal restoration
13 plan, and they have applied for permits
14 through the regulatory division for
15 that. That's a separate action being --
16 It's not part of the federal action.

17 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

18 I know, but earlier in his
19 presentation, I heard the comment that
20 Plaquemines was working on that which
21 will help give hundred-year protection.
22 So my question again is that, does the
23 Corps feel comfortable with the plan
24 that is being proposed enough to give
25 hundred-year protection within reach?

0055

1 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

2 I think it's a local parish plan to
3 do coastal restoration. It would be a
4 locally preferred plan to bring Section
5 1 to the hundred-year. Therefore, the
6 certification would be outside of the
7 Corps of Engineers' responsibility.

8 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

9 So who would certify that to be able
10 to give the hundred-year protection?

11 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

12 Right. FEMA is the agency, I
13 believe, that actually certifies it, and

14 the parish would work through that
15 certification process with FEMA.

16 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

17 And is it not true information for
18 FEMA to evaluate and certify?

19 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

20 On the federal system, yes. The
21 Corps works hand in hand with FEMA on
22 compliance and elevations to award that
23 certification on the federal levee
24 system.

25 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

0056

1 So, then, my question comes back, do
2 you feel comfortable with the project
3 that is being proposed that it will give
4 us a hundred-year protection, either you
5 are going to warrant it and evaluate it
6 and give it to FEMA for certification?

7 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

8 We need to wrap this up. Julie, go
9 ahead.

10 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

11 (Inaudible)

12 MR. MATT ZUVICH:

13 My comment is this, that prior to
14 Katrina, we were just close to getting
15 hundred-year protection -- letters and
16 documents saying such. I would hope
17 that we would look at this area and do
18 whatever we can to make sure that the
19 local government has the right language
20 to forward to the Congressional
21 delegation to be able to get
22 hundred-year protection if that's the
23 next opportunity. Thank you.

24 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

25 Thank you.

0057

1 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

2 And Monica Senner and then Pete
3 Stavros. Is Wayne here? Is Monica
4 here?

5 MS. MONICA SENNER:

6 In the spring of 2009 reports
7 released by a committee of the National
8 Academy of Engineering and the National
9 Research Council emphasizing the need
10 for reconsidering what people can do
11 safely. The chairman of the Peer Review
12 Committee, -- I don't know how to
13 pronounce it -- stated that as long as
14 people can get insurance, they will
15 rebuild. As university committee
16 professor who heads the IPET task force
17 said that recommendation has already
18 been adopted by the Corps as witnessed
19 in the decision not to rebuild levees in
20 lower Plaquemines Parish to the new
21 hundred-year requirements developed
22 using the IPET report findings. Is that
23 true?

24 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

25 Someone want to speak to IPET?

0058

1 MS. MONICA SENNER:

2 Instrumental in developing new flood
3 elevations.

4 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

5 We don't have anybody that was
6 affiliated with IPET.

7 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

8 I don't think we have the IPET
9 report. Maybe we can follow-up after
10 the meeting.

11 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

12 We can take information.

13 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

14 I will say this. The methods and
15 modeling technologies they are being
16 used as IPET projects.

17 MS. MONICA SENNER:

18 Was that part of the decision
19 process to not include the lower part of
20 Plaquemines in the hundred-year
21 protection? It had nothing to do with

22 insurance.

23 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

24 The IPET Involved the forensic study
25 of what happened with Katrina and why we

0059

1 had do we are per se the development
2 process.

3 MS. MONICA SENNER:

4 Well, that's not true because they
5 were part of developing the new
6 hundred-year level. That was along with
7 you-all, the Corps, IPET, the National
8 Geographic Institute, NAAA, there was
9 another. Is that not true?

10 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

11 I would say -- the results of the
12 IPET report the design criteria that may
13 not modeled to determine the
14 hundred-year elevations. I just can't
15 speak specific to that statement that
16 you said about the Corps' position on
17 lower Plaquemines Parish. Congress is
18 the entity that made the decision
19 authorizing the different portions of
20 Plaquemines Parish.

21 MS. MONICA SENNER:

22 When did new hundred-year levees
23 become adopted that you are using now?
24 When was that?

25 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

0060

1 The hundred-year protection was
2 authorized in the fourth supplemental in
3 2006. Subsequent to that we did all
4 that analysis. So our design process
5 since 2006, we arrived at those numbers.

6 MS. MONICA SENNER:

7 So you knew at the fourth supplement
8 that the levels were already determined
9 during the fourth supplement when you
10 got the funding for that you knew.

11 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

12 The authorization gives us a level

13 of protection. We have to get with
14 engineering and hydraulic modeling to
15 establish what the height or the
16 elevation of the levees are to provide
17 that level of risk reduction.

18 MS. MONICA SENNER:

19 So how do you know what to ask for
20 to appropriate the funds? I mean, you
21 need to know what the funds should have
22 been. So you didn't know really the
23 monies that were needed; is that
24 correct?

25 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

0061

1 There's often estimates that are
2 done, but it's always true that final
3 designs are not finished when Congress
4 authorizes a project for construction.

5 MS. MONICA SENNER:

6 Thank you.

7 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

8 Thank you, ma'am. Pete Stavros and
9 then followed by Doug LeBlanc.

10 MR. PETE STAVROS:

11 (Inaudible) -- just so we keep the
12 paradigm in what we're doing. We do not
13 want to include this reach --
14 (inaudible) -- from the district, the
15 then district commander come to
16 headquarters. There was a mention by
17 Oakville -- (inaudible) -- as a result
18 of the Section 205 visibility study this
19 recommendation on the hurricane
20 protection with a hundred-year level of
21 protection be constructed about half
22 mile from parallel to the Mississippi
23 River.

24 That's important because at the
25 time -- This is important for the

0062

1 economics. At the time that we all
2 developed our purchase, we had a
3 reasonable expectation that better

4 levees were coming, and that's important
5 when we look at the economics of it.

6 I know we had a discussion at the 19
7 September meeting, Kevin, but I would
8 like you to explain what methodology was
9 used to make the statement that we will
10 not be negatively affected south of
11 Oakville. It was stated in the addendum
12 that our property values were not going
13 to go down as a result of this project.
14 Is there a methodology you used?

15 MR. KEVIN LOVETRO:

16 -- Section 205?

17 MR. PETE STAVROS:

18 No. I just wanted to know what
19 methodology you used to state to the
20 Colonel that we were not going to have
21 negative pressure on the prices of our
22 homes.

23 MR. KEVIN LOVETRO:

24 -- (inaudible) to the same
25 conclusion and in other areas we do not.

0063

1 We do have the same conclusions when we
2 say that there is -- (inaudible) -- for
3 unprotected areas. Whenever we
4 construct a hurricane-protection project
5 in an area, the area that's protected
6 will have lower flood risks, lower
7 damages, and property values will tend
8 to increase and a competitive advantage
9 over those areas that are not protected.

10 Where we disagree is the source of that
11 effect. Our conclusion is that it's the
12 entire West Bank and Vicinity project
13 that creates that disparity, that
14 competitive advantage of protected area
15 over the nonprotected area.

16 What we are here talking about
17 tonight is the gated structure that's
18 planned for Highway 23. By itself the
19 gated structure does not contribute to
20 that effect, but the gated structure

21 when added to the rest of the alignment
22 does have that effect. That was what
23 the source of our --

24 MR. PETE STAVROS:

25 A substantive comment that I made

0064

1 was that there were haves and have nots;
2 that if you develop a man-made structure
3 at Oakville and say people north of here
4 will have hundred-year protection and
5 those south of this, whether there's a
6 structure there or not, that will change
7 the economy in either location. I
8 understand this is the analysis that
9 should happen is the without and with
10 the project. Without the project the
11 property values on either side of
12 Oakville will tend to rise at an equal
13 rate and proportionately given the
14 regional or the national economy.

15 Once you build a man-made structure,
16 this tends to happen (indicating)
17 because, as you admit, people will pay a
18 premium to be protected, and they will
19 pay a discount to not be protected. The
20 fact that we have a visible flood gate
21 only acts to exacerbate the problem when
22 a prospective purchaser in that
23 arrangement drives through the
24 floodgate.

25 Well, I know there was a little bit

0065

1 of research done. There was one done in
2 Florida. It was an award-winning
3 report, a paper that was done for the
4 real estate appraisers. It was done in
5 '01, and it was the winner in that year.
6 It was a very comprehensive study,
7 probably the largest of its kind, and it
8 was titled Environmental Determinatives
9 of Housing Prices, the Impact On Flood
10 Zone Status. It looked at a 17-year
11 period of purchase prices both within

12 and without the 100-year protection.
13 Guess what they found as a result of
14 that study. That somebody was willing
15 to pay a discount if they were within a
16 flood plain, a special flood plain
17 hazard, and they were willing to pay a
18 premium if they were inside that
19 protection. There's a disparity --
20 (inaudible) -- What we are doing is
21 changing the plain of the economic
22 environment here. We are changing that.
23 It will be -- In those studies, it was a
24 difference of 6 to 12 percent depending
25 on the time frame during that 17-year

0066

1 study.

2 We are going to experience a violent
3 change and a much more visible change
4 because we are supposed to and because
5 we are post-Katrina and because we are
6 putting up -- it's all in the news --
7 about the levee protection and 100-year
8 and how much that's going to affect
9 insurance.

10 Even further the study -- what was
11 interesting was, if a home was priced
12 greater than \$250,000, then that
13 economic impact was even greater because
14 of the uninsurability of anything above
15 two fifty. So we're not talking 6 to 12
16 percent. We're talking in those areas
17 more like 20 to 25 percent. And when we
18 talk about change in the economy that we
19 are experiencing here, not over 17
20 years, but here, we're looking at
21 probably more like 45 to 50 percent in a
22 loss of property values in our area.

23 This is not insignificant that you are
24 waving off on this, Kevin.

25 MR. KEVIN LOVETRO:

0067

1 I'm actually trying to --
2 (inaudible) -- where we disagree on the

3 fundamental that we're talking about.
4 There is a premium that people will pay
5 to be in a zone that is more protected
6 than one that is not. What we disagree
7 on is what accounts for that, and that
8 is absent of the gated structure is a
9 component that is added to the
10 fundamental project that was authorized
11 back in 1996. That is the project that
12 is fundamentally flood protection for
13 the West Bank, and the gated structure
14 across Highway 23 is a modification to
15 that project.

16 So we agree that the project as a
17 whole creates the effect you are
18 describing, as an example. Where we
19 disagree is whether that gated structure
20 adds materially to that.

21 MR. PETE STAVROS:

22 How much do you feel in your studies
23 properties will increase north of
24 Oakville?

25 MR. KEVIN LOVETRO:

0068
1 That is something we can actually
2 calculate for you and develop given
3 enough time. That is something that we
4 can do.

5 MR. PETE STAVROS:

6 My issue is, we've had six months to
7 wait for your answer. I thought that
8 that would have been plenty of time to
9 hear your studying. You made a
10 statement that, I don't have any numbers
11 to say what is the relative change.
12 Remember when we were at the 19th of
13 September, we were talking about our
14 ability to lobby Congress.

15 MR. KEVIN LOVETRO:

16 That is appropriate to the original
17 study that was done in 1996. That was
18 disparity -- (inaudible) one area or the
19 other -- effect that calculation, then

20 there's nothing to measure.
21 MR. PETE STAVROS:
22 Okay. One last thing. And, again,
23 I've got other issues, but I will talk
24 to Bruce probably after. Are you aware
25 of the land use plan that was developed

0069

1 by the parish in 1994?

2 MR. KEVIN LOVETRO:

3 I am not aware.

4 MR. PETE STAVROS:

5 If we were talking economics in this
6 particular area, I would think that this
7 would be a pretty important document,
8 that we're talking about the before --
9 the with and without project. In '94
10 before most of these people settled,
11 they had a reasonable expectation based
12 on the expected residential growth. At
13 that time there were 1,339 people that
14 lived within that region. Now there are
15 over 3,000.

16 In '94 it was estimated between
17 zoning restrictions -- And this is
18 recommendations to the Council to make
19 their zoning recommendations.

20 Considerably between thirteen and forty
21 thousand people settled in that 7-mile
22 reach. That is an exponential growth.
23 We're expecting exponential growth. We
24 have a reasonable expectation when we
25 moved or build that we have growth, and

0070

1 now we do not. This affects our
2 economy.

3 That's why we're saying it is so
4 important to realign this and get us
5 included in WBV. It can be done. We
6 went to D.C. personally in July to talk
7 to the Congressional delegation. At
8 that time they were going to your Corps
9 headquarters people to get the wording.

10 So somebody somewhere has delivered the

11 wording.

12 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

13 We need to ask you to wrap up.

14 MR. PETE STAVROS:

15 I don't think that this adequately
16 addresses the economics of what's going
17 to happen to this area.

18 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

19 Doug LeBlanc and Butch Kelly.

20 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

21 My name is Doug LeBlanc. I have a
22 question for you before you have to make
23 a decision about whether or not to build
24 a wall or whether or not what type
25 of gates you're going to put there or --

0071

1 What's that decision supposed to be?

2 COLONEL LEE:

3 As part of the NEPA process, I do
4 not make the final decision on the --
5 This is a proposed decision right now.
6 So when we complete the public comment
7 period on the 25th of November, all the
8 public comments will be evaluated. Then
9 my staff will provide the final
10 recommendation to make a decision.

11 Right now the proposal is a swing gate
12 to close Highway 23.

13 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

14 There's no proposal to -- no
15 alternative to that, either/or or --

16 COLONEL LEE:

17 Well, the four alternatives were
18 looked at. The alternative that we are
19 proposing right now for final public
20 comment is a swing gate.

21 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

22 So, in other words, it's already
23 decided that they're going to put a wall
24 right there, right?

25 COLONEL LEE:

0072

1 No, it's not decided until after we

2 complete the 25th of November, we
3 evaluate the --

4 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

5 Well, who's going to make the
6 decision?

7 COLONEL LEE:

8 I make the decision.

9 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

10 Whether or not you're going to put
11 the wall there?

12 COLONEL LEE:

13 Absolutely.

14 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

15 In view of the fact of what your
16 commander said about south Louisiana not
17 too long ago, he said it couldn't be
18 protected, so I pretty much think that
19 the view of the Corps is, it's not worth
20 protecting us anyhow or not worth the
21 effort. You're not aware of the comment
22 that he just made?

23 COLONEL LEE:

24 Oh, absolutely. And I make the same
25 comments. Everybody that lives close --

0073

1 Everybody that live in the vicinity of
2 the Gulf of Mexico too. And I have
3 flood insurance because I know that's
4 where I live. If you live in the
5 vicinity of the Gulf of Mexico, there is
6 a residual risk. It doesn't matter if
7 you live within a hundred-year system or
8 outside a hundred-year system. The
9 people that live within a hundred-year
10 system are not going to be protected.
11 The risks are going to be reduced. They
12 are not going to be protected from every
13 storm.

14 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

15 It may have been a poor choice of
16 words on his part, but, you know, it
17 would seem to me that, you know, since
18 the Netherlands can protect themselves

19 from the North Sea, why can't we protect
20 ourself from the Gulf of Mexico?

21 COLONEL LEE:

22 Well, I think -- (inaudible) -- the
23 Netherlands in the spring, and one of
24 the first things I noticed when I was in
25 the Netherlands was glass screen houses

0074

1 all over the landscape. I mean, could
2 you imagine that in Plaquemines Parish
3 or anywhere in the wind zones that we
4 have in the Gulf of Mexico? Florida,
5 Georgia, South Carolina around the
6 coastal area.

7 They don't have the conditions that
8 we have in the Gulf of Mexico. So their
9 storm surge, their maximum storm surge
10 that's ever occurred is about 16 feet.

11 We had over 21 feet during Katrina, 30
12 feet in Mississippi. So the intensity
13 of the storms here in the Gulf of Mexico
14 compared to the Netherlands is
15 tremendously different, but they do have
16 a world-class flood risk reduction
17 system. They spend a lot of their
18 national economy on it. It's a big
19 commendment of their government to do
20 that.

21 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

22 That's a point well taken, but I
23 still feel like that, you know, in
24 actuality what the governor has decided
25 to do right now is just to cut us off

0075

1 from the rest of the country. I feel
2 like we are we are being sold out, by
3 the government, by the parish
4 government, by the federal government,
5 everybody. I mean, why should a certain
6 part of this country be cut off from the
7 rest of the country and not be
8 protected? I can't understand that. I
9 can't justify that in my head.

10 Another thing I can't understand.
11 Oakville is supposed to be protected.
12 Oakville ends in Jesuit Bend. How come
13 the wall doesn't go down there?

14 COLONEL LEE:

15 Well, it was specifically authorized
16 by Congress in 1996 that our team talked
17 about earlier is the Congressional
18 authorization for the West Bank and
19 Vicinity project, included Oakville in
20 that authorization, 100-year level of
21 risk reduction. That was specific land
22 which 1996 from Congress to the Corps of
23 Engineers.

24 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

25 Well, prior to that it was

0076

1 authorized that right before the Hero
2 Canal it went to the levee, to the
3 Mississippi River levee. That was the
4 original plan. Is that correct?

5 COLONEL LEE:

6 I don't know that answer.

7 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

8 I think when it was first authorized
9 by Congress back in 1985 somewhere in
10 that neighborhood, --

11 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

12 Slide 10 please.

13 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

14 -- the original plan was to go --

15 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

16 The original authorization included
17 an alignment that went around the Hero
18 Canal. I will show you here.

19 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

20 That's not the original one.

21 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

22 It basically follows the alignment
23 that was followed here in the yellow.
24 It did terminate at Highway 23 because
25 at that point, the information on the

0077

1 storm surge, we thought that the highway
2 itself would provide enough protection
3 against the hundred-year level.

4 So the original authorization in
5 1996 was the yellow line alignment. The
6 only difference was, it terminated at
7 Highway 23. So the change has been to
8 extend that protection to tie into the
9 Mississippi River levee system.

10 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

11 -- (inaudible) -- to make changes
12 there and we can't get it changed, I
13 mean? Congress had to change it while
14 we've been trying, through our
15 representatives and everybody else, to
16 have something be done about it, and it
17 don't seem like anybody listens to us.

18 Why can they get a change to where on
19 the opposite side of Oakville instead of
20 the Belle Chasse side of Oakville to
21 have the wall built and we can't have
22 that done?

23 I mean, you know, you say
24 authorization. Well, I understand that.
25 The Corps is only authorized to spend so

0078
1 much money on this thing. But I don't
2 understand why we can't get it done like
3 it was done back in 1996 changed? Why
4 can't we get that done?

5 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

6 The authority we have from Congress
7 now, we can't include the area -- the
8 nonfederal levee and the locally
9 preferred plan --

10 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

11 Why was it changed?

12 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

13 Why was it changed across Highway
14 23?

15 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

16 Yes. Why was -- No. The original
17 thing was -- It wasn't what you have

18 there. It was -- The original thing
19 was, the Hero Canal -- come straight out
20 the Hero Canal to the Mississippi river
21 levee.

22 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

23 You are correct. The original
24 alignment -- It was a conceptual plan.
25 It was an alignment. It did go all the

0079

1 way to the Hero Canal around the
2 canal --

3 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

4 No. That's not the original. The
5 original land was going straight
6 across --

7 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

8 Excuse me, sir. We can't hear when
9 everybody else is talking. Did you just
10 ask a question?

11 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

12 I asked the question, What was the
13 original line? She's answered me wrong,
14 because that's not the original line.

15 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

16 Sir, --

17 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

18 I'm going by you-all's maps. You
19 ought to go on the website and it shows
20 where it was before.

21 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

22 We would be happy to provide you
23 with a copy of the original
24 authorization documents from 1996 --
25 (inaudible) -- may be considering is

0080

1 when we did the original alignment or
2 alternative analysis for the Eastern
3 Tie-In, we considered an alignment that
4 would have run straight across the Hero
5 Canal. We did not collect that
6 alternative because it did not meet the
7 project provided protection to the
8 communities that were afforded the

9 protection and the authorization.

10 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

11 I mean, we don't get the same
12 consideration?

13 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

14 Based on the authority the --

15 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

16 Based on what?

17 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

18 Based on the Congressional
19 authorization in 1996.

20 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

21 Why can't we get it changed?

22 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

23 There is a process. A local
24 community or local parish can lobby
25 Congress, and Congress can change that

0081
1 authorization.

2 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

3 Well, you know, this man is standing
4 here telling me he's got to make a
5 decision on it, you know. Well, if he
6 decides, well, it's not fair to do what
7 they're planning on doing, then what
8 happens? If you decide no. Can you
9 decide no?

10 COLONEL LEE:

11 My decision is to ensure that we
12 have taken into account all the comments
13 the public has given us based on the
14 proposal alternative that we've got so
15 that I can make a decision to move this
16 project forward. So right now the
17 proposal is the swing gate across
18 Highway 23. At the end of this night, I
19 will be reviewing the comments that you
20 provided to make a decision.

21 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

22 You making the decision? Who's
23 making the decision?

24 COLONEL LEE:

25 I will make the decision.

0082

1 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

2 You're the one that makes the
3 decision, the final decision on whether
4 or not -- And if you decide no, then
5 what happens?

6 COLONEL LEE:

7 What do you mean --

8 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

9 If you decide that you're not going
10 to do this.

11 COLONEL LEE:

12 One of the alternatives, the four
13 alternatives, we put in the IER addendum
14 will be selected to close the system
15 from the West Bank and Vicinity project.
16 The proposed alternative currently is
17 the swing gate.

18 MR. DOUG LEBLANC:

19 It's still going to be a gate, a
20 wall, whatever you want to say. It's
21 cutting us off from the rest of the
22 country. Thank you.

23 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

24 Thank you, sir. Butch Kelly and
25 Rose Jackson. Is Butch Kelly here? Is

0083

1 Rose Jackson here? After Rose Jackson
2 is Lee Perez.

3 MS. ROSE JACKSON:

4 Good evening. My name is Rose
5 Jackson. I'm the vice president of the
6 Oakville Community Action Group. I am
7 also on the board of directors for the
8 Louisiana Environmental Action Network
9 in Baton Rouge.

10 In 2006, Congress had a delegation
11 of members that came to New Orleans, and
12 there was a meeting, and everyone who --
13 All the local government officials knew
14 about this meeting, and none of the
15 residents knew about the meeting. I was
16 invited to the meeting through one of

17 the Senators, and I felt that the whole
18 entire communities surrounding New
19 Orleans should have been notified about
20 this meeting through their local
21 government.

22 The decisions were made at that
23 meeting, after that meeting. We had at
24 least 26 Congressmen, Senators, and
25 House of Representative members that was

0084

1 at that meeting that toured Plaquemines
2 Parish, St. Bernard Parish, Jefferson,
3 and Orleans Parish. Our government
4 officials knew about this, and they
5 should have let the residents know so
6 that the residents could put in their
7 input of what type of hurricane
8 protection that they wanted and that
9 they saw fit that they needed because
10 they are tax-paying people. What we
11 have to do as residents is be careful
12 who we vote for for the next election.

13 I heard one of the residents made a
14 comment about the insurance and about
15 the homeowners insurance and flood
16 insurance going up. Your flood
17 insurance is controlled by the Federal
18 government, and what we need to do is
19 write Congress and let us them know, Do
20 not raise our insurance rates anymore
21 than what they are already. We also
22 need to let our local government, the
23 officials in Baton Rouge, know. You-all
24 need to go up there sometime when they
25 are in session and see how they lobby

0085

1 with these big insurance people about
2 your dimes and dollars, and that's what
3 we need to start doing. I do it.

4 So I feel like this. All the women
5 in here, set aside a day next time that
6 they lobby in Baton Rouge to get in your
7 cars and let's go out there --

8 (inaudible) We have several women that
9 lobby on those floors in Baton Rouge to
10 see what bills are being passed and what
11 bills that are our representatives and
12 Senators up there are shifting around
13 that floor. And when they come back to
14 do it, come back to invite every single
15 last one of us because those decisions
16 are made there, and then they go to
17 Washington, DC and Washington is
18 still -- (inaudible) -- deeper.

19 But we got these people out there
20 working for us. They're not working for
21 themselves. They are working for us.
22 We put them in office. We tell them
23 what to do, what we want and what we
24 don't want. It's also our local
25 government officials.

0086

1 This 1996 bill, this have been
2 passed. I knew about it because Senator
3 Bennett Johnson came here in Plaquemines
4 Parish to have a public meeting about
5 the coastal erosion problem, and they
6 had 11 people at that meeting and not
7 one Plaquemines Parish representative,
8 not one. And this should have been --
9 Everybody should have known about it.
10 Every single last one of us.

11 So what's going on now? We hurt
12 ourself by putting people in office that
13 do not -- once they get in there, they
14 do not think about our livelihood. They
15 don't think about our economy. They
16 don't think about our children. They
17 think about a paycheck and what --
18 (inaudible) --

19 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

20 Thank you. Butch Kelly and Zeke
21 Austin. Butch Kelly or Zeke Austin
22 here?

23 MR. ZEKE AUSTIN:

24 My name is Zeke Austin. I don't do

25 a mike very often. You-all can hear me?

0087

1 I'm one of the folks that, like
2 Mr. Ranatza commented on earlier, I live
3 below the floodgate. So you-all think
4 I'm less important than the people that
5 live above the floodgate. That doesn't
6 sit real well with me.

7 I guess Billy made some opening
8 comments earlier, and he said -- I
9 didn't remember the whole thing, but he
10 made the comment that he was waiting on
11 the Corps for information. For the last
12 six months, we've been told by Colonel
13 Lee, we've been told by Billy that
14 they're working on the nonfederal levee
15 project. We've got to get the gate
16 done. We'll work on that on the side.
17 Billy made the comment he's waiting on
18 the Corps. I think, Colonel Lee, you
19 made the comment, when you responded to
20 some of these questions, that you're
21 waiting on the parish. Who's waiting on
22 who, and what's going on?

23 We've been told from day one that
24 you-all are going to expedite the NFL,
25 to get it going. We don't see it.

0088

1 We've asked repeatedly. What's going
2 on?

3 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

4 Julie?

5 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

6 We have -- that President Nungesser
7 requested --

8 MR. ZEKE AUSTIN:

9 I acknowledge before that --
10 (inaudible) -- We appreciate that. That
11 is one piece of information that we
12 desperately need.

13 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

14 That is the only information that
15 they are waiting for on us.

16 MR. ZEKE AUSTIN:

17 So what are you waiting on from the
18 parish?

19 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

20 From the standpoint of us giving
21 them information, that's all they're
22 waiting on. We are waiting for the
23 official request to raise the 8 miles of
24 back levee in Section 1 from the NOV,
25 New Orleans to Venice, to the 1 percent,

0089

1 and when we receive that request, we
2 will move forward with it. We are still
3 working in parallel with the parish to
4 move forward on that with it not in
5 hand. We need it officially in hand to
6 be able to send it to our headquarter
7 office for approval and then move
8 forward with it.

9 MR. ZEKE AUSTIN:

10 Is that something on your agenda? I
11 hate to bother you. I know you're -- Is
12 that something that Billy has you
13 working on?

14 (Inaudible)

15 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

16 Okay. Let me recap. The parish the
17 state's hands for their approval --
18 (inaudible) --the state is co-sponsor.
19 I wanted to make sure everybody could
20 hear your answer.

21 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

22 We are in daily contact with
23 Plaquemines on this issue. I talk to --

24 MR. ZEKE AUSTIN:

25 Great. Talk to them multiple times

0090

1 a day because we really need it.

2 I guess -- I read the original
3 addendum front to back several times. I
4 read the revised addendum front to back
5 several times. I don't know about
6 you-all, but in my job, it's my

7 responsibility, I have to do a lot of
8 writing, I have to do a lot of reports.
9 And I can tell you when I send a report
10 in to my boss that's got typos,
11 misspelled words, sentences that are
12 incomplete, he's not a real happy
13 camper.

14 The only comment I would like to
15 that on that is, I hope you build a
16 better gate than you do a report because
17 -- (inaudible) -- I think I've been to
18 all the meetings that the Corps
19 arranged. Early on I didn't hear from
20 the Corps. I heard from the neighbors.
21 I heard from second and third hand. It
22 wasn't direct communication, and it was
23 awkward. I got the notice usually very
24 late.

25 I would acknowledge that you-all

0091

1 have done a much better job getting the
2 message out. However, the message, it's
3 still -- There's a problem with that
4 whole process. Colonel Lee, you sat at
5 every one of these meetings, and you
6 said, "I've listened. We've listened.
7 We've listened," and I got -- There
8 isn't anything that we said that you've
9 listened to. Our message has not
10 changed. From day one, the first
11 meeting, we said, "No wall no way." We
12 did not ask for this floodgate. We did
13 not ask for a swing gate. No wall no
14 way. Don't sit there and tell me and
15 everybody in this auditorium that you've
16 listened because you didn't.

17 I've just got one final comment, and
18 it probably won't be very well received,
19 but it's just a fact of where we are
20 today. If the 1,400 people -- 1,400
21 homes, 3,000 people that live in Jesuit
22 Bend were African American on welfare
23 and living in mobile homes, we wouldn't

24 be talking about a swing gate at
25 Oakville. We would be talking about

0092

1 the NFL reach and building the road --
2 (inaudible) --

3 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

4 Jamie. Following Jamie will be Mike
5 Ford. You can't yield your time to
6 somebody else. You cannot yield your
7 time to someone else. Mike Ford.

8 (Inaudible) -- after everybody has
9 spoken once, we will call on him. We
10 clearly said you cannot yield your time
11 to someone else. There are other people
12 whose names have not been called yet.
13 Mr. Ford.

14 MR. MIKE FORD:

15 My name is Mike Ford. I'm one of
16 the owners, along with my partner, we're
17 here representing Riverbend Nursing and
18 Rehab Center, a 120-bed skilled nursing
19 facility located in Jesuit Bend. We
20 built Riverbend in 1999. I heard a
21 great number of comments, a lot of
22 passion. Colonel Lee, I want to give
23 you one more thing to think about.

24 Back in 1999 we jumped through
25 numerous hoops to get permission from

0093

1 numerous federal agencies to build River
2 Bend Nursing and Rehab Center. We went
3 to the state. We went to the local
4 governments. We went to a lot of
5 federal agencies. Even the Corps had to
6 have some input because we drove pilings
7 close to the levee. No one said you-all
8 were building such a project.

9 So I agree with a lot of the
10 comments that people have made that
11 there's -- When we bought the land and
12 decided to build a nursing home and you
13 handed us a document that said they're
14 build this, we might have considered

15 something different.

16 But the point that I want you to
17 think about, when we evacuated River
18 Bend -- and we are going to evacuate
19 River Bend. We have in the past. We
20 will in the future. That's a fact. And
21 you're absolutely right. We live close
22 to the Gulf of Mexico. I want to talk
23 to you about the 120 of the residents of
24 Jesuit Bend, those 3,000 residents that
25 these folks have been talking about. I

0094

1 want to talk to you about 120 of us, and
2 they're frail, elderly, our seniors, the
3 people that were established in what we
4 all know today as Plaquemines Parish.

5 When I evacuate those people, it is
6 very traumatic. Most of the time they
7 are scared, they don't know. It has a
8 warm, wonderful welcome when they come
9 home. We're usually greeted by members
10 of the fire department, civic
11 association, all kinds of folks helping
12 us to put our folks back to bed, get
13 them back to their homes.

14 The part that I want you to consider
15 is, if this wall or this project is
16 going to at all increase the possibility
17 that our building will flood, it is
18 going to keep us from bringing those
19 folks home. It is going to keep us from
20 bringing them back and calming them
21 down. It is going to keep them in a
22 state of turmoil, unfortunately, like I
23 had to do with Katrina.

24 And I only ask you, I invite you,
25 any day, anytime, I invite you to come

0095

1 drink a coffee with me at River Bend.
2 Come consider the elderly when you
3 decide where to put this project.
4 Consider all the things these wonderful
5 people have said, but just to add

6 something that not many of them can say,
7 consider what happens to those 120 frail
8 residents when they can't come back home
9 because the building flooded, the wall
10 just increased our flooding.

11 The other part that I just want to
12 echo is, it just seems so simple to me.
13 A gentleman earlier mentioned
14 visibility. I want to -- We can do all
15 the studies. We can do all the
16 scientific and wonderful things that we
17 can do today, but we can't be beat the
18 good old human eye. And when someone
19 drives pasts these multitudes of wall,
20 if they're deciding where and what to do
21 and where to build, where to put a
22 business, that visibility automatically
23 decreases property value. Automatically
24 it hurts our economy.

25 I ask you, if you've got to put it

0096

1 there, consider one of the other
2 alternatives, maybe the invisible wall.
3 Maybe it will minimize the mental
4 impact. Thank you very much.

5 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

6 Thank you, sir.

7 MS. JAMIE STAVROS:

8 My name is Jamie Stavros and --
9 (inaudible) I hope I don't get too
10 emotional. I spent a lot of time
11 letting a lot of people know about this.
12 The past few days I've been walking
13 through fields, knocking on doors
14 because I feel like this is very
15 important for people to know that they
16 are only getting 50 years -- I think
17 it's the 50-year retention thing that
18 did it.

19 Anyway, I think it's just real
20 important that everybody know that
21 what's happening to this area, the fact
22 that insurance is all through the Corps

23 documents, insurance issues because the
24 Army Corps of Engineers is going to be
25 referring to in your documents. I think

0097

1 you should just be honest and tell
2 people what's happening. I think it's a
3 change coming to Louisiana, and I think
4 you should truly address it instead of
5 trying to confuse everybody.

6 I have right here -- I got this from
7 the meeting at the high school. It's
8 about the FEMA flier, and I guess I'm
9 looking for a little bit of education
10 from you-all here right now. It says, A
11 Myth: You can't buy flood insurance if
12 you're located in a high flood risk
13 area. Fact: You can buy National Flood
14 Insurance no matter where you live if
15 your community participates in NFIP
16 accepted coastal barrier reinforcement
17 system area.

18 I guess my question is, who lives in
19 a coastal barrier reinforcement system?
20 Because I think these people who live in
21 this area are in trouble.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

23 -- (inaudible) -- as long as your
24 community is participating in the
25 National Flood Insurance Program, then

0098

1 flood insurance is available to you.
2 Now, despite -- those are areas set up
3 by the National Wildlife Federation that
4 flood insurance is not available in
5 those areas -- building just flood
6 insurance is not available to you. If
7 you built in those areas prior to I
8 think the date was 1992, then it doesn't
9 apply to you -- new construction since
10 that time in those coastal zones that
11 you could -- (inaudible) -- National
12 Wildlife Federation and the Louisiana
13 Wildlife Federation and get the

14 locations of those zones. And I
15 think -- I would have to check, but I
16 think there may be some in the lower
17 part of Plaquemines Parish, but I have
18 to check to be sure --

19 MS. JAMIE STAVROS:

20 How does your area get designated
21 as --

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

23 Well, it would be done by Wildlife
24 Federation.

25 MS. JAMIE STAVROS:

0099

1 Is there a possibility that we could
2 go to the Wildlife Federation to turn us
3 into a coastal barrier reinforcement
4 system?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

6 I don't know that they are in the
7 process of doing any new -- I don't know
8 if the process -- I haven't heard of
9 any. I don't have any reason to believe
10 that they would have any reason to do
11 that.

12 MS. JAMIE STAVROS:

13 Is there a possibility?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

15 The possibility always exists.

16 MS. JAMIE STAVROS:

17 Well, that's not good, is it?

18 I also have a statement here. We
19 talked earlier about the safety, how
20 safety is really important, and I have
21 here a letter to -- Colonel Lee, to you
22 and it's from the OCPRA. And I will
23 just quote straight from the letter.
24 "The OCPRA in requesting the use that
25 the USACE investigate the option of

0100

1 eliminating or reducing the need for
2 ramps or other flood control structures
3 across Louisiana 23 by raising the plan
4 adjoining nonfederal levees to their

5 required elevation of 14 feet." That's
6 from CPRA. Do you have any comment on
7 that, Colonel Lee?

8 COLONEL LEE:

9 I think it's been pretty clear the
10 authorization from Congress specifically
11 focused on the West Bank and Vicinity.
12 I think that's probably why CPRA has the
13 locally preferred plan that Plaquemines
14 Parish has requested 100-year level for
15 the nonfederal level to the area south
16 of Oakville because it's not up for
17 authorization. The parish and the state
18 recognizes that.

19 MS. JAMIE STAVROS:

20 I think that was my husband's
21 question and I think he had something
22 else to add to it. Will he be able to
23 come up here and speak again if he fills
24 out another card?

25 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

0101
1 I have his card
2 MS. JAMIE STAVROS:
3 Okay. Also, I want to say that I
4 was at that council meeting and I know
5 Jason McCrossen was there, and they did
6 ask Jason -- The Council did ask Jason,
7 "Do we need to vote on this, or is it
8 something that Mr. Nungesser could
9 suggest the invisible flood gate?" And
10 the answer was that Mr. Nungesser could
11 be the one to put the invisible
12 floodgate on its own. So that's what we
13 thought that he had done. We thought
14 that was enough. So I just want to
15 clear that up in the beginning of what
16 happened at that council because I was
17 there.

18 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

19 Thank you.

20 Boyd Parker. Boyd Parker. The next
21 person Donald Landry.

22 MR. DONALD LANDRY:
23 My name is Donald Landry, a lifelong
24 resident of the Belle Chasse area for 55
25 years. My first issue is to address the

0102

1 property value issue. And I'm going to
2 use this scenario. I want everyone in
3 the auditorium to put yourself in this
4 scenario because I'm going to use the
5 addendum's own words and I'm going to
6 change the names to protect the
7 innocent.

8 Your area of town where you live is
9 starting to have a problem with gangs.
10 Gang symbols and graffiti are all around
11 your neighborhood, park benches, street
12 signs, overpasses. Although nothing
13 serious has happened, everyone knows
14 that the potential for crime and
15 violence in these types of areas. Other
16 than the graffiti crime has not risen.
17 The police department has not been able
18 to tie any crime to these gangs.

19 So the mayor and the local
20 government decided, and I quote, "More
21 than creating a negative esthetic
22 impact, the graffiti could indeed
23 heighten the awareness of both the buyer
24 and the seller of the fact that your
25 neighborhood is located in a potentially

0103

1 high-risk area of town. If the graffiti
2 serves to simply remind those who have
3 already -- who are already aware of the
4 different levels of risk on either side
5 of town, however troublesome that
6 reminder is, then there is little basis
7 to conclude that the willingness to buy
8 or sell property at a given price will
9 significantly change."

10 "However, if the graffiti serves to
11 inform those who are not at all aware
12 that there are or will be --" I'm sorry.

13 I lost my place. Reading glasses "--
14 those who are not at all aware that are
15 or will be different levels of risk on
16 either side of town."

17 In this case the visible symbol of
18 graffiti informs more participants in
19 the real estate market, and their
20 willingness to buy and sell at a premium
21 price adjust to reflect this
22 information. The degree to which
23 property values would change to account
24 for this effect depends upon the portion
25 of those future participants in the real

0104

1 estate market that are unaware of the
2 reality of the risk within your
3 neighborhood.

4 I would like to ask all of you. Do
5 you agree with the mayor and the local
6 government's reasoning for leaving the
7 graffiti up? That was given in this
8 draft as a reason as to why we should
9 select a physical floodgate, if I
10 interpreted the addendum correctly.

11 I don't think anyone would say that
12 our property values would not be
13 affected when we have a visible
14 floodgate that's put there to remind
15 those real estate prospective buyers and
16 sellers.

17 My second item. This is not an
18 attack on the Corps. Don't take it
19 personally. View this as a job
20 performance review by your local bosses,
21 that is the citizens in this area. I
22 express these as to critique on the
23 Corps' approach to resolving issues and
24 to clearly and concisely discuss the
25 issues.

0105

1 Number one, divide and conquer. The
2 Army Corps of Engineers uses this battle
3 strategy very effectively, community

4 against community, neighbor against
5 neighbor, and neighborhood against
6 neighborhood. I have seen this in this
7 small quiet community on this issue.
8 This tactic eliminates the united front
9 very effectively against an enemy. I
10 don't think for one minute you view us
11 as an enemy, don't get me wrong, but it
12 is your fundamental military training,
13 and unconsciously you use this strategy
14 in public hearings.

15 Example: Last meeting in this
16 facility, September 19. We were divided
17 into five separate groups, four
18 workshops. One session stayed in here
19 to discuss the issues. Another example:
20 The parish government drafted a
21 resolution to show the united front in
22 support of an invisible wall, if and
23 only if, we must choose one --
24 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

25 Sir, I'm going to ask you to please

0106
1 wrap it up --

2 MR. DONALD LANDRY:

3 Okay -- but decided to table the
4 resolution because of the confusion on
5 all of the different issues. One of
6 them being the council's unanimous vote
7 to request no flood wall be installed
8 that would divide our community. That
9 resolution still stands today. Thank
10 you.

11 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

12 Thank you. Robin Zuvich.

13 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

14 My name is Robin Zuvich, and my
15 question is to Colonel Lee. Colonel
16 Lee, when we were here on September 19,
17 I had asked you a question and I'm
18 hoping you can answer for the people
19 that are here today. Congressional
20 authorization seems to be a problem,

21 don't you feel?
22 COLONEL LEE:
23 One of the things that we have tried
24 clearly to communicate is that we
25 operate in Congressional authority and

0107

1 appropriations in building any project
2 by the Corps of Engineers. So the
3 authorization from Congress is very
4 specific of what is included and what is
5 not included. So that's kind of the
6 hard guidelines of how we approach this
7 project.

8 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

9 Can I ask you a question, Colonel
10 Lee? I've asked it before and you've
11 answered it honestly, and I want you to
12 answer it for the people here. If you
13 can think outside the box, -- you are
14 the head man. You don't have to worry
15 about Congressional authorization. You
16 have the authorization to do the job --
17 can you tell me what you would do?

18 COLONEL LEE:

19 What we have done and tried to do
20 for the whole engagement this summer and
21 fall is based on the input from the
22 public, and everybody that lives south
23 of Oakville is very clear that people
24 want a hundred-year risk reduction, and
25 so what we have done is work with the

0108

1 parish to figure out within our
2 authorities what we can do to provide
3 100-year levels of risk reduction.

4 So the plan currently is that
5 Plaquemines Parish government is working
6 with the state of Louisiana to provide
7 hundred-year level of risk reduction for
8 the nonfederal back levee from the area
9 of Oakville to -- (inaudible) -- that's
10 what we have tried to do is to meet the
11 needs of the community south of Oakville

12 along with building the -- (inaudible)
13 increasing the nonfederal levees, the 37
14 miles of nonfederal levees -- they're
15 going to be upgraded to account for
16 about a 50-year level of risk reduction.

17 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

18 I understand, but if you had the
19 money, you had the authorization, what
20 would you do, Colonel Lee?

21 COLONEL LEE:

22 It's hard to speculate, but, I mean,
23 if we have authorization and funding, we
24 would build a project. That's what we
25 do --

0109

1 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

2 You would?

3 COLONEL LEE:

4 -- all over New Orleans.

5 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

6 Can you tell me where you would
7 build it here? Would you go to La
8 Reussite and raise the road, if you had
9 the funding to do so for us?

10 COLONEL LEE:

11 It's not funding. It's authority.
12 It's authority. It's both. You can't
13 do one without the other.

14 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

15 I understand. And I know I'm asking
16 you something, but I want you to think
17 outside of the box. I don't want you to
18 think there's authorization. You're the
19 authority here. You have total control.
20 It's hypothetical.

21 COLONEL LEE:

22 Trust me. I don't have total
23 control.

24 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

25 I know you don't. But let's think

0110

1 on a hypothetical level. You have total
2 control. What would you do to do the

3 right thing? That's all I'm asking.

4 COLONEL LEE:

5 We can do what's within our
6 authorization. I mean, that's all I can
7 do.

8 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

9 You can't answer me, can you? Is it
10 because Congress won't let you answer
11 that hypothetical question?

12 COLONEL LEE:

13 I mean, it's a hypothetical
14 question. I mean, if I told you --

15 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

16 I respect you, Colonel Lee. I'm not
17 trying to be --

18 COLONEL LEE:

19 If we have full authorization and
20 funding, we will build a project. So
21 that's -- I mean, I'm trying to answer
22 your question.

23 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

24 I know. I understand the position
25 you're in. I understand the position

0111
1 you're in.

2 So, with that being said, how are
3 you working with President Nungesser to
4 assist in finalizing the locally
5 preferred plan so that you can submit it
6 to your headquarters for approval?

7 COLONEL LEE:

8 Julie, can you answer the first
9 part, and I'll wrap it up?

10 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

11 We have reviewed the draft that
12 Plaquemines Parish has put together
13 prior to sending it to the state. So we
14 have provided our input on that, and we
15 are working in parallel to move forward
16 and find out what's the best way for us
17 to get the design under way for the
18 locally preferred plan. We cannot
19 really start that effort until we have

20 the locally preferred plan officially
21 and have it approved, but we are working
22 on putting together the design effort on
23 that.

24 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

25 So the design efforts are in effect?

0112

1 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

2 No. We are working on a scope of
3 work to get a contract to do the
4 design -- basically -- (inaudible) -- to
5 an engineering firm to do the design of
6 the locally preferred plan.

7 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

8 So, as far as the time line goes,
9 what's being done now? Do you have a
10 local firm working on it now?

11 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

12 We cannot do that until we have the
13 locally preferred plan officially from
14 the state.

15 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

16 So how would you get that done?
17 Because we are asking questions daily,
18 and we're not getting any response from
19 our local government. We're begging for
20 help. How can we get this done?

21 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

22 Our standing is that at --
23 (inaudible) -- the office of Coastal
24 Protection and Restoration.

25 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

0113

1 So who's head of the state that we
2 could go to --

3 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

4 Garrett.

5 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

6 Garrett? So he's the person we need
7 to be contacting?

8 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

9 He's the head of -- (inaudible)

10 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

11 Now, as far as the locally preferred
12 option, how does that include the
13 Mississippi River?

14 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

15 Our understanding is that 8 miles of
16 back levee as the locally preferred
17 plan.

18 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

19 So how does that include the
20 Mississippi River?

21 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

22 Our understanding is this is
23 probably a question that Plaquemines
24 Parish should be answering.

25 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

0114

1 Where is Plaquemines Parish anyway?

2 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

3 Identify yourself.

4 MR. JAY FRIEDMAN:

5 My name is Jay Friedman, Plaquemines
6 Parish Council District 7. I'm going to
7 answer her question. The Plaquemines
8 Parish preferred project they referring
9 to is not a levee project. It's a
10 coastal restoration project. The intent
11 of the project, what it does is,
12 decrease the storm surge. Therefore, by
13 the decreasing storm surge, you decrease
14 the elevation requirements of a
15 hundred-year flood protection. Am I
16 correct?

17 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

18 I believe that's -- (inaudible) --
19 raising the 8 miles of back levee in
20 Section 1 -- from the authorized grade
21 to the 1 percent elevation.

22 MR. JAY FRIEDMAN:

23 You're talking Greek to me because I
24 haven't been included in any of those
25 discussions so that's above my head. So

0115

1 that goes to tell you how much

2 communication we had been administration
3 and the council or maybe some council
4 members are aware of this, but I'm
5 definitely not aware of this. I
6 thought -- Like I'm saying, I'm not
7 aware of that. So I can't answer that
8 question. I apologize.

9 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

10 I guess the question I want to know
11 is, now we're finding out the
12 Mississippi River is not adequate for a
13 hundred-year protection. So who do we
14 talk to for that? Who do we talk to?

15 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

16 We currently don't have
17 authorization to do any work on the
18 Mississippi River levees.

19 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

20 President Nungesser, can you help
21 us? Who do we talk to concerning the
22 Mississippi River levee which is another
23 problem for hundred-year protection?

24 PRESIDENT NUNGESSER:

25 That's a federal levee, but the

0116

1 answer to your question about the local
2 preferred plan, that is the plan that
3 would be put together to include Reach 1
4 in hundred-year protection. We had to
5 have the state authority and support to
6 do that. It's been to Baton Rouge
7 through the legal -- the lawyers and all
8 up there. We expect to get that back.
9 And from then we will go -- We're
10 waiting for the -- (inaudible) -- give
11 us a plan when 25 percent design. So as
12 we got a commitment from Washington to
13 begin construction on 25 percent design.
14 We are also working on the cost
15 difference, whether we can 30 years,
16 whether we get help from the state, or
17 whether the parish is going to have to
18 put all that up.

19 We're working on all those issues.
20 So when the Court does that date and
21 Jason who is an ex-Corps guy working
22 with the parish -- When we get that
23 information and we've got the funds in
24 place, we feel we can meet the same
25 schedule that Congress to meet eliminate

0117

1 the end for any funding. That is the
2 plan. We're going to keep on that plan.

3 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

4 We appreciate all you do --

5 PRESIDENT NUNGESSER:

6 When we first attempted this way
7 back when Jesuit Bend first got
8 involved, we said, "What about the
9 Mississippi River levees?" And they
10 don't have a plan. So when they came up
11 with their plan for Belle Chasse, we'll
12 have to mirror that plan, but in the
13 meantime, if they're not going --
14 (inaudible) -- the Mississippi River,
15 then I can't see making them do
16 something in Jesuit Bend and still --
17 the same protection for Belle Chasse
18 that Jesuit Bend have.

19 So we are working on everything. We
20 have to fast track that. And we are
21 hopping to get that plan from the Corps
22 here soon so early next year we can go
23 to the 25 percent design and start
24 construction. And Jason still believes
25 and I do too that we can meet that

0118

1 deadline if everything stays on track.

2 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

3 That's my concern. We have no time
4 line.

5 PRESIDENT NUNGESSER:

6 We have to wait for that schedule
7 from the Corps --

8 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

9 -- (inaudible) -- schedule.

10 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

11 I'm not sure what schedule --

12 PRESIDENT NUNGESSER:

13 It's going -- (inaudible) -- to give
14 us the time frame that -- how long it's
15 going to take to get the 25 percent
16 design, and then from that we will be
17 able to -- we'll have that time frame to
18 put the funding together. The money to
19 pay for the additional engineering was
20 introduced by Keith -- (inaudible) -- at
21 the last meeting which I believe was
22 Thursday. So we'll have that money to
23 fund the extra \$200,000 of -- costs that
24 we have to be responsible for. So
25 that's how it works. Then we will move

0119
1 on.

2 As soon as we get the numbers on the
3 added cost, we're looking at several
4 different ways. We've come up with 74
5 percent of the people live within that
6 area would qualify for some money the
7 state is going to have. Whereas -- Look
8 at the data. So we're looking at all
9 ways to fund this project for costs, and
10 also we have asked that we over 30 years
11 as a safe zone with the hundred-year
12 protection elsewhere. So we're looking
13 at all those options, but we still feel
14 if we can get our 25 percent design
15 construction started, that we can meet
16 that deadline.

17 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

18 Colonel Lee, do you think that's
19 possible?

20 COLONEL LEE:

21 The submission of the locally
22 preferred plan is -- the clock is
23 ticking right now.

24 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

25 And we know that, and nothing is

0120

1 being done. We're sick of it.

2 COLONEL LEE:

3 -- the parish submitted it to the
4 state. The state has to go through --
5 and then it will come back to us so --
6 (inaudible) -- No, no. I mean, the
7 Corps of Engineers when I say "us." I
8 mean, Vicksburg works with us so. We
9 all work together as a team.

10 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

11 So the clock is ticking.

12 COLONEL LEE:

13 Absolutely.

14 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

15 So how much tick do we have left?

16 COLONEL LEE:

17 This is -- What we're shooting for
18 is that draft supplemental IER to the
19 public in December of 2010.

20 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

21 So December of right now?

22 COLONEL LEE:

23 That's what it's going to go out on
24 the street for public review. So that's
25 what we are -- we need the --

0121

1 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

2 I'm confused. President Nungesser
3 just walked out on us. So we have
4 December 2009, did you say?

5 COLONEL LEE:

6 December 9 is when the supplemental
7 IER will go out on the street.

8 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

9 So who are we waiting on?

10 COLONEL LEE:

11 The form is at the state for their
12 approval and submission to the board.

13 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

14 So who do we talk to from the state
15 to get the lead out and get some
16 answers?

17 COLONEL LEE:

18 I think Julie mentioned earlier that
19 CPRA has the request, and they will
20 send --

21 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

22 Don't you-all work together?

23 COLONEL LEE:

24 We've already reviewed the request
25 with Plaquemines Parish. We made

0122

1 comments to the request. They
2 incorporated our comments and submitted
3 to the state --

4 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

5 But today is November the 5th.

6 COLONEL LEE:

7 I understand. We need that request.

8 MS. ROBIN ZUVICH:

9 So what do we do to get it? As
10 American citizens, what do we do from
11 the time we leave here to get that? Can
12 somebody answer me? I don't understand
13 this. How do we -- (inaudible)
14 Congressional authorization hasn't
15 gotten -- We're back to April 29th,
16 right where we started.

17 I'm very disappointed, and I'm sad
18 as an American citizen that I have to
19 stand before you like this and feel like
20 you've turned your back on us. And
21 there's nothing I can do. This is the
22 emotional part, but who cares about
23 that? The facts are the job has to be
24 done by 2011. Get it done so I can go
25 on to my next job. But we're left here

0123

1 with the aftereffects.

2 I'm so disappointed in this process.
3 With that being said, I want you to
4 know, as American citizens, we will tell
5 our story, and we will tell our story
6 and we will continue to tell our story,
7 and it will be heard. And it might not
8 be today, it might not be tomorrow, but

9 our story for will be heard. And,
10 unfortunately, all by the stroke of a
11 pen will determine my financial future.

12 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

13 Okay. We need to take a five-minute
14 break and then we'll come back to our --
15 Just give us five minutes. The court
16 reporter is getting very tired -- The
17 next two people are Scott Senner and
18 Lois Zuvich.

19 (Recess taken in the proceedings.)

20 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

21 We're trying to get the comments on
22 tape. It's very hard to hear.

23 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

24 Yes. I'm a little nervous so just
25 bear with me for a little bit. When all

0124

1 this started going on way back, back
2 when I first met, we were talking about
3 the levee behind us and being
4 hundred-year protection. Did you-all do
5 models and things like that to decide
6 how much flooding we were going to get?
7 You know, like, ten different hurricanes
8 or something that hit this area and what
9 would happen to us? Is that how you-all
10 do that, the hydrologists?

11 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

12 Can you hear me?

13 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

14 Yes.

15 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

16 We developed IPET --

17 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

18 IPET. We were just talking about
19 that. I didn't know much about that.

20 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

21 We developed IPET the beginning of
22 the development of models to calculate
23 the surge of waves that occur with a
24 hurricane. So we looked at a range of
25 what was possible in the way of

0125

1 hurricanes that can strike this area,
2 and we considered the scope of what's
3 possible. So we apply that technology
4 for a large number of hurricanes to look
5 at the tidal surge and wave that develop
6 in the entire perimeter of the levee
7 system characterize what's possible. So
8 we have done a lot of modeling.

9 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

10 How many models -- I don't know.
11 I'm just asking. Is it a whole bunch of
12 different hurricanes from like 1950 to
13 Katrina? You know what I'm saying?

14 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

15 In some cases we have run actual
16 storm surge, but the large set of storms
17 that we run they are all hypothetical,
18 have different tracks, different central
19 pressures, and intensity, different
20 sizes. So we have covered the full
21 gamut of what's possible. We decide the
22 probabilities to each of the storms and
23 then analyze the surge or wave
24 conditions that are produced by each of
25 the storms.

0126

1 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

2 And so you figured from that
3 analysis that we would be used to a
4 little more flooding than normal. I
5 believe at first it was like minimal and
6 then it went to -- or above. I believe
7 that was said in September. Is that
8 correct?

9 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

10 Yes. I think there's a nice chart
11 out in the display that shows the
12 magnitudes of change that are associated
13 with the West Bank and Vicinity project,
14 and they're generally on the order of
15 tenths of a foot. Those storms are
16 pretty severe. We looked at a storm

17 approximately 6, approximately 8, and
18 approximately 12, all very severe storms
19 in this particular region.

20 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

21 Did you do one from Gustav --

22 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

23 We ran a storm similar to Gustav,
24 not exactly Gustav.

25 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

0127

1 Gustav was it too late for you-all
2 to do that -- you're saying similar, but
3 no storms are really similar. Like
4 Katrina -- still had a high storm surge,
5 correct?

6 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

7 When I say "similar," they picked a
8 storm from our set of a hundred fifty
9 plus storms that had a track most like
10 Gustav, had an intensity most like
11 Gustav, and a size most like Gustav.

12 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

13 Okay.

14 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

15 And the surge that it produced was
16 similar to the surge that Gustav
17 produced.

18 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

19 That was with the new floodgates and
20 all that included in that scenario?

21 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

22 Yes. We looked with and without the
23 project in place.

24 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

25 Okay. Without it in place what

0128

1 would it have been? Like it is now, we
2 would have been like we are so.

3 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

4 Without it in place we know that in
5 this region there's about a 2 percent
6 chance each and every year that the
7 surge will exceed 60. There's about a 1

8 percent chance each and every year the
9 surge will exceed about 8 feet. There
10 is a .2 percent chance each and year
11 that it will -- So we ran those storms
12 that produced roughly the surge with and
13 without the project.

14 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

15 Okay. Now, what I'm concerned about
16 is, where are -- how many models have we
17 done on the river now that you've
18 picking up this 14 miles? How many
19 environmental impact studies did you
20 take, how many storms have you looked at
21 for when the river levee goes up, how is
22 that going to affect us?

23 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

24 For the Mississippi River levees and
25 for West Bank project we will separate

0129
1 individual environmental report for
2 that. So the impact will be discussed
3 in that report.

4 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

5 Okay. So until those studies come
6 in, you really can't start doing
7 anything on those studies, correct?

8 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

9 That's correct.

10 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

11 Okay. And there will be
12 commentaries and things like this --

13 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

14 Yes. There will.

15 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

16 -- for that? Okay. Do you have to
17 get --

18 MR. GIB OWEN:

19 We will follow the process basically
20 what you have seen here -- public
21 meetings and come out and talk to you,
22 and then we will also have the 30-day
23 comment period when the draft document
24 is out.

25 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

0130

1 Got you. What kind of time frame
2 are you looking to do that, to get that
3 done?

4 MR. GIB OWEN:

5 I know right now they're working
6 with the -- we have been trying to get
7 the studies done in five to six months.
8 So a lot -- I don't know the exact date
9 right now. I don't know we are
10 expecting to get that --

11 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

12 -- (inaudible) -- have to go through
13 the same process that our levees are
14 going to have to go through. We don't
15 know what's going on with the state, who
16 we have to talk to, or is that going to
17 proceed carte blanche we are going to go
18 with it no studies without that 14 miles
19 protection of Belle Chasse and Algiers.
20 Am I correct?

21 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

22 It is authorized.

23 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

24 When is it authorized?

25 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

0131

1 It's authorized as part of the West
2 Bank and Vicinity project because --

3 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

4 You didn't know the first meeting
5 that that levee had to go up. You just
6 found that out a couple of months ago.

7 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

8 My understanding is the authority
9 the provide 1 percent for the entire so
10 there is authority to do that work in
11 the 14 miles of Mississippi River levee.

12 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

13 Where are they going to get the
14 money?

15 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

16 As Colonel Lee said earlier, we have
17 the funding in hand to do interim
18 protection, and we have to budget in the
19 future for permanent

20 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

21 That's temporary levee up until you
22 get the real money and then put the --

23 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

24 No. We are working on the
25 engineering for that. We don't know

0132

1 what the plan of action is going to be.

2 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

3 So before I heard maybe. Colonel
4 Lee, somebody said, they have to go
5 lobby for the money. Somebody said
6 that.

7 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

8 Since it is authorized and partially
9 funded, we can budget for it. We would
10 not have to lobby or the locals would
11 not have to lobby Congress is the way I
12 understand it.

13 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

14 Well, how much when you do this
15 modeling you are going to do the
16 hurricanes going up the river when you
17 picked this levee up to see how the
18 flood you are going to do have to do
19 environmental impact studies for the
20 wildlife and all that back there, or is
21 it just carte blanche, have to find one
22 of those -- Well, don't laugh. It
23 happens every day. So what happens if
24 you happen to come across something like
25 that on our side?

0133

1 MR. GIB OWEN:

2 There are no threatened and
3 endangered species in this area other
4 than --

5 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

6 That's the river.

7 MR. GIB OWEN:

8 But the levee will have no effect
9 with that. So we're --

10 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

11 Well, you're saying it's not going
12 to have an impact.

13 MR. GIB OWEN:

14 -- part of the environmental --

15 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

16 Wait. This levee that's built up
17 and just like we -- flooding 9 inches
18 from this way -- we are going to be from
19 that way. It just makes sense. The
20 East Bank is going to get flooded too
21 because of this. They're not -- I don't
22 know but -- Let me finish. So this
23 little surge what happens when the river
24 comes up and it floods it over into the
25 highway, and when the water goes away,

0134

1 they are flapping away with water?

2 MR. GIB OWEN:

3 That's what happens no action
4 alternative some of the --

5 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

6 I'm not -- I'm being serious. You
7 haven't looked at that yet. You're just
8 boring holes in the levee -- What
9 happens if you have -- you might have to
10 knock that whole levee down because
11 correct do that happen?

12 MR. GIB OWEN:

13 -- to Julie for engineering. We're
14 going to do an environmental impact
15 statement as individual environmental
16 report, one for Belle Chasse and one for
17 St. Bernard. They will look at the
18 whole range. They will look at all the
19 human impacts which will be flooding
20 above, below, east, west, anywhere. It
21 will look at the impacts on the natural
22 environment, the bugs, bunnies, rabbits.
23 It will all be in that report will

24 30-day public review.
25 MR. SCOTT SENNER:

0135

1 Well, I hope that this little snail,
2 whatever you call it, the sturgeon, that
3 Congress hears about this because they
4 stopping projects all over the place
5 because of extinct minnows. I don't
6 know if -- big fish or little fish, big
7 fish. I just think you-all didn't do
8 the whole scenario. You thought you had
9 it over here. Now you have another can
10 of worms over here. Not a shovel be dug
11 over there until that environmental
12 study is done and we go through the next
13 process that we're doing right now.

14 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

15 Thank you, sir. William Richard
16 Springfield.

17 MR. RICHARD SPRINGFIELD:

18 Hello. My name is Richard
19 Springfield. I like in Oakville, the
20 upper side of the community itself. My
21 concern about this floodgate is, we will
22 have a water event from the river again.
23 If it's going to take five more years to
24 get the levee raised, definitely, maybe
25 from just the river from the spring

0136

1 flooding, not so much from the other.

2 But if you-all put this gate in and
3 ther's a hurricane, the north wind is
4 going to be when the wind starts over
5 flowing. It's going to push all that
6 water into Oakville, and a hundred fifty
7 cubic feet per second takes two hours to
8 get 1 foot acre. So Oakville will end
9 up with 8 to 10 foot of water, and it
10 will take 8 and a half days to pump out.

11 That doesn't look good for us. That
12 will put 6 and a half foot in my house
13 before it starts to go down, and our
14 house -- The floor of my house is 7 and

15 a half feet above sea level. With
16 Katrina we had water 6 inches higher
17 than the floor outside the house before
18 it started to come in. Luckily -- we
19 had the doors we were stuffing stuff at
20 the bottom of all our doors.

21 They told me I didn't need flood
22 insurance for here. So we got flood
23 insurance. Now but we don't have full
24 because it's considered expensive. Now
25 we will have to get full flood insurance

0137

1 because we will be destroyed on the
2 first floor completely if this gate is
3 in and we've got water in a hurricane.
4 That's about all I want to let you-all
5 know.

6 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

7 Thank you, sir. Lois Zuvich.

8 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:

9 I'm from the southern part of the
10 parish, and I wanted to talk to the
11 panel. Okay? We were told right after
12 the hurricane that we were going to get
13 a hundred-year protection. They even
14 bought up land, tore down houses --
15 buras and some of the other places
16 because they were going give us this
17 hundred-year protection. The next thing
18 we knew, they can't do that because of
19 the base being too wide, too heavy, take
20 too much land. Okay. I understood
21 that. Then they talked about putting
22 like setback levees which is to break
23 the surge. So when the water comes in,
24 it would be -- out and our levees would
25 hold. That sounds good. I haven't

0138

1 heard another word about that. So I
2 guess that's off the table, too.

3 We will never get a hundred-year
4 protection is what I understand. The
5 most we're going to get is 50 and

6 probably not even that because you're
7 not talking anything that I have heard
8 that says that we're going get any other
9 protection than what we have got
10 already.

11 My other thing was, I wanted to know
12 when this come to the river that New
13 Orleans is talking about, is that going
14 to effect us down where we're at?

15 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

16 Gib --

17 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:

18 In other words if they're going to
19 put -- If they're pumping the water to
20 the river and we're down river, so water
21 has got to come down, is that going
22 affect our levees?

23 MR. GIB OWEN:

24 There is a proposal we have heard.
25 If they're authorized to study it and do

0139

1 an environmental impact statement done
2 on that. It's about -- I believe the
3 proposal is about a 2,000 CFS pump
4 station. That's fairly small when you
5 look at the flow of the river.

6 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:

7 Okay. I didn't know. That was just
8 what I was thinking about because I was
9 thinking, well, we get everything goes
10 high, water comes down from up north,
11 and I'm just wondering what more water
12 is going to have on us, you know, being,
13 you know, because that's plenty more
14 water. It's got to come down. It's got
15 to come down.

16 I had one other question. I don't
17 remember what it was. That was the main
18 thing. I wanted to know if there's
19 going to be any more thoughts about this
20 setback levee to give us a hundred-year
21 protection, or if that's just
22 nonexistent anymore.

23 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:
24 Can you put up the nonfederal levee
25 map?

0140

1 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:
2 Can I ask you a question also? All
3 you talk about is nonfederal levees.
4 They used to say that we were on a
5 federal levee down there.

6 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:
7 I want to ask you if you're below
8 this area or within this area. Are you
9 below this area?

10 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:
11 I'm in Buras. I don't know what
12 that area is.

13 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:
14 That's the existing nonfederal levee
15 area -- I'm sorry.

16 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:
17 We were told -- We were always told
18 that we had federal levees on the river
19 bank, not nonfederal levee. The only
20 nonfederal levee that I thought that we
21 had was the citrus land levee, that they
22 had a nonfederal levee in the citrus
23 land. That was the only nonfederal
24 levee. Everything else was federal
25 levee, but all that I hear you talk

0141

1 about is nonfederal levee. Do we have
2 any federal levee in Plaquemines Parish?

3 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:
4 Yes. This map shows the red area.
5 It shows the nonfederal levee we have
6 been talking about. The reason we're --
7 the top is the West Bank and Vicinity
8 project ties into it. The projects in
9 green are the existing New Orleans to
10 Venice federal levee. And we have money
11 and authorization to raise that to the
12 authorized level which, as you know, is
13 approximately about a 50-year storm. We

14 are moving forward with that.

15 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:

16 Are we talking river or marsh?

17 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

18 Everywhere you see on the West Bank,
19 it is --

20 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:

21 I'm not worried about the West Bank.

22 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

23 It's the back levee and the
24 Mississippi River levee on the west, and
25 on the East Bank it's only the back

0142

1 levee.

2 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:

3 We're talking about -- Excuse me.

4 I'm sorry. I thought you were talking
5 about Gretna, Marrero, and all of that.

6 I realize that Plaquemines Parish is
7 only here to protect New Orleans. So I
8 just want to make sure that you -- I'm
9 sorry. I didn't understand --

10 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

11 Talking about the West Bank of the
12 Mississippi River.

13 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:

14 Okay. I got you. I'm sorry. I'm
15 talking about the Plaquemines Parish
16 West Bank, yes.

17 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

18 Correct. We have authority for the
19 back levee and the Mississippi River
20 levee in those regions shown on this
21 map.

22 MS. LOIS ZUVICH:

23 Okay. I just wanted to know -- That
24 was my question. Thank you very much.

25 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

0143

1 Thank you. I have two more people
2 who haven't spoken. I just want to
3 remind you of our five-minute time
4 limit. Pete Stavros.

5 MR. PETE STAVROS:

6 -- (inaudible) -- hundred-year with
7 and without project there were ten
8 storms that were run?

9 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

10 That's correct.

11 MR. PETE STAVROS:

12 From the graphics that were shown on
13 the 19 September out here -- she said
14 that there were as much as plus nine but
15 as low as minus six on the storms.

16 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

17 I believe that's correct.

18 MR. PETE STAVROS:

19 Okay. How -- you said there was a
20 -- How were those ten storms chosen?

21 MR. BRUCE EBERSOLE:

22 Well, as I said there -- If you look
23 at the surge level, we looked at the
24 surge levels, 2, 1, and two-tenths of a
25 percent chance annually, and those surge

0144
1 levels ended up being approximately 6,
2 8, and 12 feet. So we went back into
3 the pool of 452 storm set and looked for
4 three events that produced roughly
5 6-foot surge sea area. We selected
6 three storms that approximately produced
7 8-foot surge and we selected three
8 storms that produced approximately
9 12-foot of surge there in the same area.

10 MR. PETE STAVROS:

11 I guess there was -- it looks like
12 there may have been a better selection
13 of storms a better model used if we are
14 seeing some of those storms that showed
15 minus whatever storm produced that was
16 one that you should have, I guess,
17 thrown away and used a better set, but
18 we can debate that later because I only
19 have four minutes remaining.

20 I would like to talk about, Colonel
21 Lee, every single slide we talked about

22 public engagement, and the alternative
23 talked about the requirement to have
24 public meetings, if you could show a
25 slide of that. Alternative arrangement

0145

1 Corps developments to provide after each
2 meeting. The meetings will be
3 advertised at least one week prior. The
4 locations will be selected to
5 accommodate public availability.

6 Since we were notified about April
7 14th, we had the one that was previously
8 scheduled on April 29th. You scheduled
9 another one because we -- and we waited
10 until the 19th of September to have the
11 open house. I'm looking backwards now
12 to August fourth or even as far as May
13 12th, and I certainly don't see a
14 monthly meeting.

15 MR. GIB OWEN:

16 What you see up here is a listing of
17 the meetings that we had were
18 specific -- where we specifically talked
19 about the Oakville project. We have had
20 to date, since this started back in
21 2007, this is Meeting 138. We had --
22 Maybe we didn't meet every single month.
23 Sometimes we had three, four, five a
24 month. It's just throughout the system,
25 not monthly specifically to this area.

0146

1 MR. PETE STAVROS:

2 I guess my point is, every time I
3 came to one of the other scheduled
4 meetings that the public relations
5 officer would stand up or the project
6 manager would stand up and say, "We are
7 only limiting comments to this phase.
8 We are not going to talk about the --
9 This is a problem because the public
10 engagement that's required by NEPA, the
11 alternative arrangement, it is NEPA.

12 MR. GIB OWEN:

13 Actually those were construction
14 meetings where they were meeting locally
15 with the people. They were not part of
16 the NEPA process. Those are actually
17 extra meetings, above and beyond what --
18 MR. PETE STAVROS:

19 Okay. I guess I didn't get the
20 notification, once I did register, that
21 there were any other monthly meetings
22 where I could have mentioned anything
23 about -- since April I have -- something
24 that's going to help us and there really
25 hasn't been any.

0147

1 I do want to say that part -- on the
2 11th of June, this is about a month
3 after we got the public meeting in May,
4 there was a meeting between Senator
5 Vitter and the Corps of Engineers. At
6 that meeting there were two alternatives
7 that were presented -- I did not make
8 this up. I just got a copy of the
9 slides -- that presented a tradition
10 levee from Oakville to alternative at
11 that time.

12 MR. GIB OWEN:

13 We did talk about that. We briefly
14 looked at it, engineering detail, to
15 determine if it was a reasonable and
16 feasible alternative.

17 MR. PETE STAVROS:

18 Okay. At that time and again on
19 June 26th, there was a site survey done
20 by individuals both at Oakville, the
21 neighborhood of Jesuit Bend -- That was
22 mentioned in the addendum under a
23 different heading, under the transition
24 levee alternative. So at some point we
25 found that it potentially could be on

0148

1 the table.

2 And when I was up in DC in July and
3 engaging with the -- they at that time

4 thought that it was a potential to be
5 included. Somewhere in the month of
6 July it fell off the table. I was --
7 other meetings because of the need to
8 have conversation between and the Corps.
9 My request for any information on the
10 decision-making here has been denied
11 because it's still decisional. So there
12 has been a lack of transparency on a
13 number of different areas. They're not
14 following the --

15 MR. GIB OWEN:

16 We disagree. I mean, we have -- We
17 did not release information on the
18 decision-making process. That's a
19 standard federal practice until the
20 decision is made.

21 MR. PETE STAVROS:

22 My request was to find out what the
23 legal determination is, why -- At some
24 point authorization include -- option
25 fell off of the table because of the

0149

1 legal interpretation. I need to go back
2 to the Congressman to tell them why, but
3 held off and I have been denied access
4 to any of this means that we were there
5 discussing. So because of that I have
6 got -- I can and I am not something that
7 I have no idea what I'm lobbying for.

8 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

9 Donald Landry.

10 MR. DONALD LANDRY:

11 On September 19th we had the
12 discussion -- well, actually you-all did
13 the presentation, and it was my
14 understanding and I think Colonel Lee
15 actually said this, but Billy had led
16 into it, that the Corps has verbally
17 agreed to fund and do the design for a
18 hundred-year protection for each one
19 under the locally preferred plan. Was
20 that my understanding or -- (inaudible)

21 MR. DONALD LANDRY:
22 The difference in the design? I
23 apologize. That was my
24 misunderstanding. I thought we had to
25 come up with a different funding -- So

0150

1 the design hasn't even started?

2 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

3 President Nungesser, I need you to
4 speak into a microphone or hold this off
5 until after we are done.

6 PRESIDENT NUNGESSER:

7 When we were in Washington, the
8 Corps agreed to do 25 percent design --
9 So we design project, do the 25 percent
10 design, allow for bids, start
11 construction so, hopefully, we can make
12 the same time frame as Congressman
13 Vitter. The council members 200,000
14 vote on it next Thursday to fund the
15 extra environmental engineering loss --
16 to do that 25 percent design.

17 They have already been out and
18 tested the footprint for the
19 hundred-year and done all the data
20 gathering -- the lawyers in Baton Rouge
21 back to them, signed by Gary Graves,
22 200,000, and I'm guessing -- I'm still
23 waiting on the tax schedule to put their
24 data together. We need the design mid
25 next year or whatever and go out to bid

0151

1 and start construction. As long as this
2 is in the first part of next year, we
3 feel we get that 25 percent -- and
4 construction schedule.

5 MR. DONALD LANDRY:

6 So to reiterate, the Corps is
7 currently working on that design -- or
8 they are waiting for the state?

9 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

10 We are working on the field
11 investigations which could be considered

12 part of the design --

13 MR. DONALD LANDRY:

14 So progress is being made. She was
15 under at the impression that the Corps
16 was at a standstill until we got state
17 funding. So I wanted to clarify that,
18 that there are some tasks that are
19 taking place that would enable the
20 design to continue.

21 MS. JULIE LEBLANC:

22 Correct. We have to do surveys and
23 borings anyway no matter what plan -- We
24 have started that work. We have not
25 awarded a contract to an engineering

0152

1 firm to start the design using those
2 field investigations.

3 MR. DONALD LANDRY:

4 Okay. Another question I had was, I
5 understand that the 2000 June date that
6 was selected as a target in time for the
7 WBV closure, that was selected by the
8 Corps based on data when you were
9 requested to provide Congress with an
10 end date. Is that not correct?

11 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

12 The June 21 date?

13 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

14 Yes. It's a Corps goal --

15 THE WITNESS:

16 Congress mandated to you -- you
17 thought you could achieve this date, and
18 Congress said, I agree with you.

19 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

20 That's correct. It's established --

21 MR. DONALD LANDRY:

22 That was -- At what time frame did
23 you-all set that date?

24 COLONEL LEE:

25 Spring of 2007.

0153

1 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

2 Colonel Lee answered it. It was the

3 spring of 2007.

4 MR. DONALD LANDRY:

5 About two and a half years ago.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. NANCY ALLEN:

8 Thank you.

9 All right. First of all, you were
10 handed questionnaires when you came
11 in -- we would appreciate it if you fill
12 out and return to us there are two
13 research -- Both of these websites have
14 information about our projects. We
15 will -- Thank you very much for coming.
16 (Inaudible) -- November 25th.

17 MR. JOHN:

18 Just one quick question. I'm
19 John -- (inaudible) -- and I live in
20 Jesuit Bend. There's a certain portion
21 of the project where the gate goes in,
22 there's a certain time frame you got the
23 project -- got to be a date when at that
24 point we start -- and that's the day, I
25 guess, we're trying to get this back

0154
1 levee approved and finished by. So what
2 is that date?

3 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

4 Our current schedule is, we have to
5 finish the environmental compliance
6 process which will be the decision for
7 IER 13. So we are scheduling approval
8 of that in December of 2009. We have
9 been doing concurrent designs on the
10 features of the Eastern Tie-In. So we
11 do have construction schedules that will
12 award contracts in the February/March
13 2010 time frame.

14 MR. JOHN:

15 Projects -- You've got contracts.
16 You can cancel a contract at some
17 point --

18 MS. JULIE VIGNES:

19 We haven't awarded any construction

20 contacts at this point. We are
21 scheduled to do that -- 2010. We are in
22 the design phase concurrent --
23 MR. JOHN:
24 The gate and the levee to the -- is
25 kind of the last thing going in?

0155

1 MS. JULIE VIGNES:
2 We currently have -- (inaudible) --
3 award four contracts and that will be on
4 a closed construction contract award.
5 They will all be advertiser awards
6 between February and April of 2010, all
7 four contracts, which includes the gates
8 across the highway levees.

9 MR. JOHN:
10 2010 the whole project go in four
11 different parts. There's really no
12 stopping the gate at that point.

13 MS. JULIE VIGNES:
14 That's our schedule for awarding
15 construction contracts.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
17 You-all might think this is a done
18 deal, but we are not going to stop, to
19 stop you-all from doing this, to do the
20 right thing and do it the right way.
21 I'm tired of hearing you-all the Corps
22 of Engineers so-called screwing up every
23 parish. You-all screwed up Chalmette.
24 You screwed up Lakeview. Now just
25 recently you-all need to take the time

0156

1 to test the mud when you-all put it down
2 there for Buras because the grass
3 doesn't grow on it. So you think we're
4 going to trust you-all with our lives
5 and everything to put up a floodgate?
6 It's the wrong thing to do. We're not
7 going to let it happen. We're going to
8 stand our ground and stop you-all from
9 doing it. Am I right, you-all? Who's
10 behind me? Thank you.

11 * * * *
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

0157

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3
4
5 I, WILMA B. GERACI, Certified Court Reporter,
6 do hereby certify that the above-entitled
7 proceeding was reported by me in shorthand and
8 transcribed under my personal direction and
9 supervision, and is a true and correct transcript,
10 to the best of my ability and understanding;

11 That I am not of counsel, not related to
12 counsel or the parties hereto, and not in any way
13 interested in the outcome of this matter.

14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21 WILMA B. GERACI, CCR, RPR
22 CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER
23
24
25

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION.....	1
DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA.....	1
FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES.....	2
ALTERNATIVES UNDER CONSIDERATION.....	5
EVALUATION METHOD.....	6
PROJECT IMPACTS.....	7
FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MITIGATION MEASURES.....	8
SERVICE POSITION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	9
LITERATURE CITED.....	12

APPENDICES

Appendix A - WVA Analysis.....	A-1
--------------------------------	-----

FIGURES

Figure 1. IER 13 Study Area, WBV, Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana, and Existing Hurricane and Flood Protection Features.....	2
--	---

TABLES

Table 1: Potential Estimated Impacts for the Preferred Alternative.....	7
---	---

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.

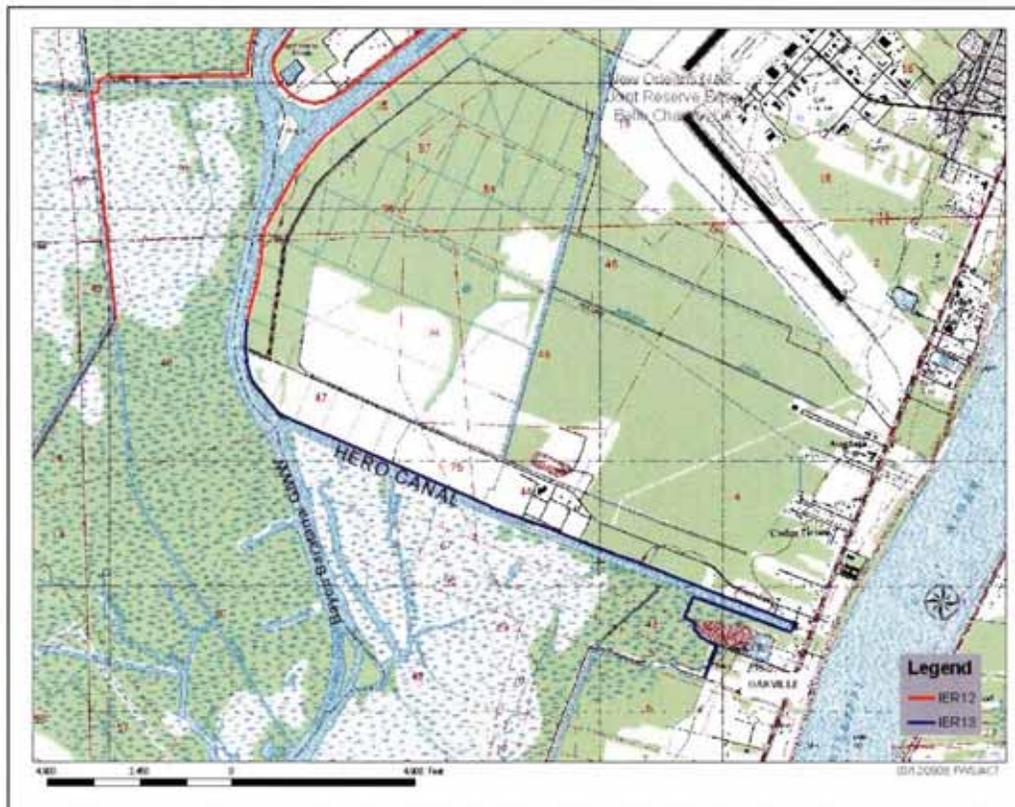
This report contains a description of the existing fish and wildlife resources of the project area, discusses future with- and without-project habitat conditions, identifies fish and wildlife-related impacts of the proposed project, and provides recommendations for the proposed project. This report incorporates 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 thorough 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) 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

PFO2 (swamp)		PFO1R (tidal BLH)		PFO1Ad (hydrologically altered BLH)		Total	
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	24		24		24		
	Pasture / Hay	2		2		2		
	Active Ag	2		2		2		
	Development	14		14		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	24						
	Pasture / Hay	2						
	Active Ag	2						
	Development	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 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 Pasture / Hay	20		20		20				
	Active Ag Development	3		3		3				
		17		17		17				
V7	Disturbance Type	Class 1	0.01	Class 1	0.01	Class 1	0.01			
	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 Pasture / Hay	20								
	Active Ag Development	3								
		17								
V7	Disturbance Type	Class 1	0.01	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
		HSI =	0.22	HSI =	0.22	HSI =	0.30

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				
		HSI =	0.33	HSI =	#VALUE!	HSI =	#VALUE!

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 – IER # 13 Public Comments

List of individuals and organizations that commented on IER 13 during the comment period.

1. Glen Fleming, comment dated 3 April 2009
2. Geneva P. Grille, P.E., comment dated 6 April 2009
3. Ivo Tesvich, comment dated 8 April 2009
4. Unknown, comment dated 9 April 2009
5. Blaine Bergeron, comment dated 18 April 2009
6. Denise Tague, comment dated 23 April 2009
7. Douglas LeBlanc, comment dated 24 April 2009
8. Unknown, comment dated 24 April 2009
9. Calvin Anticich, comment dated 27 April 2009
10. Shannon Cooke, comment dated 27 April 2009
11. Ava Hingle, comment dated 27 April 2009
12. Tara Means, comment dated 27 April 2009
13. Lela Sercovich, comment dated 27 April 2009
14. Unknown, comment dated 27 April 2009
15. Alaina Loup, comment dated 28 April 2009
16. Frank and Linda Giardina, comment dated 28 April 2009
17. John H. Golden, comment dated 28 April 2009
18. Alex Rogers, comment dated 28 April 2009
19. Timothy J. Schotsch, comment dated 28 April 2009
20. Kenny Stewart, comment dated 28 April 2009
21. Tim Schotsch, comment dated 28 April 2009
22. Unknown, comment dated 28 April 2009
23. Charlie Burt, comment dated 29 April 2009
24. Derek & Claudia Nelson, comment dated 29 April 2009
25. John H. Golden, comment dated 30 April 2009
26. Don Heironimus, comment dated 30 April 2009
27. Norwood R. Kelly, Jr., O.D. , comment dated 30 April 2009
28. Douglas P. LeBlanc, comment dated 30 April 2009
29. Missy Orgeron, comment dated 30 April 2009
30. Celeste G. Stricklin, comment dated 30 April 2009
31. Unknown, six different comments received from same individual
Dated 30 April 2009
32. Unknown, comment dated 30 April 2009
33. Unknown, comment dated 30 April 2009
34. Public Flyer April 2009
35. Chris Arbourgh, two comments dated 1 May 2009
36. Kevin Rau, comment dated 1 May 2009
37. Unknown, comment dated 1 May 2009
38. Jason Kaliszkeski, two comments dated 2 May 2009
39. Dinah Thompson, two comments dated 2 May 2009
40. Unknown, two comments dated 2 May 2009
41. Unknown, comment dated 3 May 2009
42. Norwood R. Kelly Jr., O.D, comment dated 3 May 2009
43. Pam Robeaux, comment dated 3 May 2009
44. Edna J. Adolph, comment dated 4 May 2009
45. Billy Nungesser, comment dated 4 May 2009
46. Pamela A Robeaux, comment dated 4 May 2009
47. Rory A Robeaux, comment dated 4 May 2009
48. Dinah Thompson, comment dated 4 May 2009
49. Bobby Wilson, comment dated 4 May 2009

50. Charlie Burt, comment dated 5 May 2009
51. Michael and Angela Carron, comment dated 5 May 2009
52. John Golden, comment dated 5 May 209
53. Roxanne Tillotson, comment dated 5 May 2009
54. Unknown, comment dated 5 May 2009
55. Unknown, comment dated 5 May 2009
56. Unknown, comment dated 5 May 2009
57. Unknown, comment dated 5 May 2009
58. Unknown, comment dated 5 May 2009
59. Unknown, comment dated 5 May 2009
60. Unknown, comment dated 5 May 2009
61. Dinah Thompson, two comments dated 6 May 2009
62. Unknown, comment dated 6 May 2009
63. Dinah Thompson, comment dated 7 May 2009
64. Roger and Dinah Thompson, comment dated 7 May 2009
65. Bobby Wilson, comment dated 7 May 2009
66. Dinah Thompson, comment dated 8 May 2009
67. Roxanne Tillotson, comment dated 8 May 2009
68. Steven P. Kennedy, comment dated 10 May 2009
69. Bobbie Stockwell, comment dated 11 May 2009
70. Michelle Weatherford, comment dated 11 May 2009
71. Unknown, comment dated 11 May 2009
72. John M. Adams, comment dated 12 May 2009
73. Cindy Austin, comment dated 12 May 2009
74. Heidi Rink LDN, RD, comment dated 12 May 2009
75. Jamie Stavros, comment dated 12 May 2009
76. Cory and Stephanie Lott, comment dated 13 May 2009
77. Virginia Williams, comment dated 15 May 2009
78. Toddy and Missy Orgeron, comment dated 16 May 2009
79. Geneva P. Grille, P.E, comment dated 17 May 2009
80. Susan Becnel Levasseur, comment dated 17 May 2009
81. Toddy Orgeron, comment dated 17 May 2009
82. Kevin Bernard, comment dated 18 May 2009
83. Carroll & Patricia Boudreaux, comment dated 18 May 2009
84. Anita Conovich, verbal comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009
85. Judy Daigle Verbal Comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009
86. Joseph Futch Verbal Comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009
87. Francis Glaeser Verbal Comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009
88. Donald Landry, comment dated 18 May 2009
89. Ned F. Malley Sr. , comment dated 18 May 2009
90. Cindy Mancuso, comment dated 18 May 2009
91. Kevin Rau, comment dated 18 May 2009
92. Monica Senner, comment dated 18 May 2009
93. Jennifer Shelley Verbal Comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009
94. Peter D. Stavros, comment dated 18 May 2009
95. Roxanne Tillotson Verbal Comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009
96. Danny Trosclair Verbal Comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009
97. Lori Trosclair Verbal Comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009
98. Corinne Van Dalen Voicemail Comment 18 May 2009
99. Corinne Van Dalen On Behalf of Counsel for Oakville Community Action Group, comment dated 18 May 2009
100. Peggy Willy Verbal Comments taken over the Phone 18 May 2009

101. Peggy Willy Voicemail Comment 18 May 2009
102. Unknown, comment dated 18 May 2009
103. Jim Tucker, comment dated 19 May 2009
104. Geneva P. Grille, P.E., comment dated 19 May 2009
105. Roxanne Tillotson, comment dated 19 May 2009
106. Unknown Voicemail Comment 19 May 2009
107. Kevin Pedeaux, comment dated 20 May 2009
108. Bobby Wilson, comment dated 20 May 2009
109. Unknown, comment dated 20 May 2009
110. Unknown, comment dated 21 May 2009
111. Unknown, two comments dated 21 May 2009
112. Unknown, comment dated 25 May 2009
113. Unknown, comment dated 25 May 2009
114. Jean and Frank Guerrero, comment dated 28 May 2009
115. Christie Lauff, comment dated 28 May 2009
116. Gerald Raynal Jr, CMSgt , LA ANG, comment dated 28 May 2009
117. Monica Senner, comment dated 28 May 2009
118. Celeste Stricklin, comment dated 29 May 2009
119. Leander H. Perez, III, comment dated 31 May 2009
120. Sydney Perez, comment dated 31 May 2009
121. Jeffrey Robichaux, comment dated 31 May 2009
122. Dionne & Armand Daigle, comment dated 1 June 2009
123. Edmond H. Fitzmaurice, III, comment dated 1 June 2009
124. Nadine Parker, comment dated 1 June 2009
125. Sydney Perez, comment dated 1 June 2009
126. Gerald Raynal Jr., comment dated 1 June 2009
127. Peter Stavros, comment dated 1 June 2009
128. Celeste G. Stricklin, comment dated 1 June 2009
129. Chris Arbourgh
130. Nicholas Arbourgh
131. Mrs. A.W. Austin
132. Andrew P. Boudreaux
133. Melinda Boudreaux
134. Dana Castoe
135. Liz Jackson
136. Wendy W. Keating
137. Christie Lauff
138. Ned F. Malley Sr.
139. Claudia Nelson
140. Mario Popich
141. Pamela Robeaux
142. Bobby Stockwell
143. Tiffany Vickneer Voicemail Comment
144. Ty Zigner Voicemail Comment
145. Unknown
146. Unknown
147. 935 Petition Signatures Against IER 13

Comment [CRR1]: These didn't print out when I printed the comments. Are they there?

Comment [CRR2]: Dates?

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.

Belle Chasse, LA

6 April 2009

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

From: Geneva Grille

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.

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

Fax: 936 - 563 - 1183

[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:[REDACTED]
27 April 2009

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

From: Cooke, Shannon [REDACTED]
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

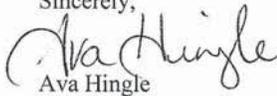
US Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Gib Owen
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

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]

28 April 2009

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

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2009 10:14 AM
To: Elizabeth_Weiner@Landrieu.Senate.Gov; Amanda_Beheynt@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]

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 [REDACTED]
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



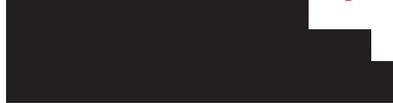
28 April 2009

-----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!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

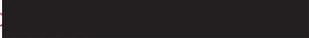
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

SINCERELY,
MISSY ORGERON

Celeste G. Stricklin

30 April 2009

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

From: Celeste G. Stricklin [mailto:
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



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: [REDACTED]
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 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

Belle Chase, LA

1 May 2009

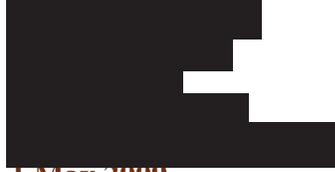
Voicemail Comment

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

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the original recipient or the person responsible for delivering the email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error, and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete the original.

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]

Jason Kaliszeski

[REDACTED]
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

[REDACTED]
2 May 2009

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

From: jknbc@bellsouth.net [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 02, 2009 9:54 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

During the last few major storms, the Plaquemines Parish authorities built a temporary levee accross 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 barracaded 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]
[REDACTED]
[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.

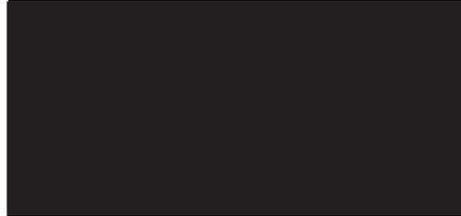
[REDACTED]
Belle Chase, LA [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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 LIVED SOUTH 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 8th 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 29th 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

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

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, 1st 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, 1st 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, 1st 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, 1st 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, 1st 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

[REDACTED]

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@mvn.com]
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 3:56 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Times Picayune Troncale, Terri; 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://plaquemeslevee.com/resources/U_S_+Army+Corps+of+Engineers+New+Orleans+District+Eastem+Tie-In.mht

I am posting this on our website <http://plaquemeslevee.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]
[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
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

[REDACTED]

5 May 2009

From:

[REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

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" were 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

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
6 May 2009

From: Roger and Dinah Thompson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2009 7:40 AM
To: Garland@wwl.com; Amanda_Beheytt@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 BEINGPOSTED: <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

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
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
CC: Anthony L. Buras, Jr. Council District 5, via email to: lois_jeune@plaqueminesparish.com
CC: letters@timespicayune.com
CC: 60m@cbsnews.com
CC: Pete.stavros@plaquemineslevee.com
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_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
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. 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 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
CC: Anthony L. Buras, Jr. Council District 5, via email to: lois_lejeune@plaqueminesparish.com
CC: letters@timespicayune.com
CC: 60m@cbsnews.com
CC: Pete.stavros@plaquemineslevee.com
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_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

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:]
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

[REDACTED]
11 May 2009

From: [REDACTED]

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:

Sent: 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

Voice mail

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 Becnel 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

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.

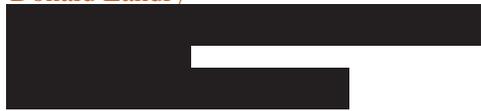
Don't get me wrong, I don't want to start a blame game. I think we all need to unite to correct these major issues. I'm sure no one foresaw the catastrophic impact when it was done. Louisiana has the largest environmental disaster that man has caused in this country (by a factor of 100's, maybe 1000's 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 losing 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
Parishes, Louisiana

Dear COL Lee:

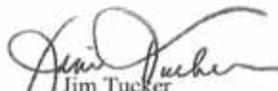
I am writing to express my fierce opposition to the proposed flood wall and flood gate at
Highway 23, north of Jesuit Bend.

It is 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 homes denied 100-year flood protection. Not only will these residents endure
the increase in 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:]
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

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the original recipient or the person responsible for delivering the email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error, and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete the original.

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]

[Page 11337-11340]

From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]

[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.

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.

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.

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 18th. 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 5th.

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:

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 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.

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

Vocicemail 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 1st. 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

[REDACTED] m |
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* floodso 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 catastropic 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 BELLE CHASSE 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/>> , 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

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: [REDACTED]]
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

g

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
[REDACTED]

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

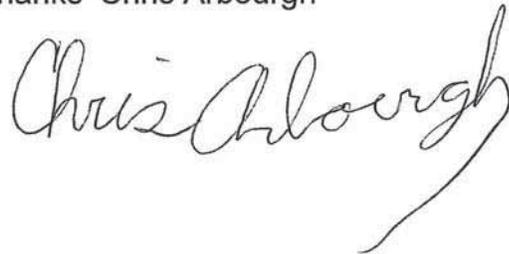
Hi my name is Chris Arbourgh I live at [REDACTED] in Jesuit Bend. After Katrina we were asked to come back rebuild and invest in our community and my family did without hesitation. If I would have been told to come back to pay these ridiculously high insurance premiums, be divided from the rest of my 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

[REDACTED]

Belle Chase, LA 70037

[REDACTED]

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
Herc Canal use Herc 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

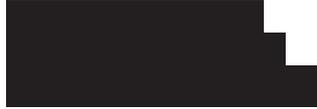


Individual Environmental Report
Public Comment

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

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, ^{and they} 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.

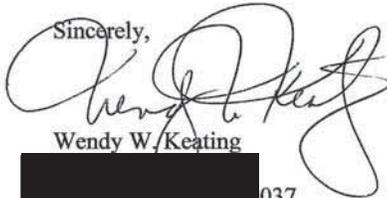
No one can predict the future.....not even the government. Look at the situation we are currently in with all the BAILOUT MONIES!! Would we have ever guessed we would be bailing out banks, car factories, and insurance companies?

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

P:\ppadoc\apf09doc\Public

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.

Page 3 of 3

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 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



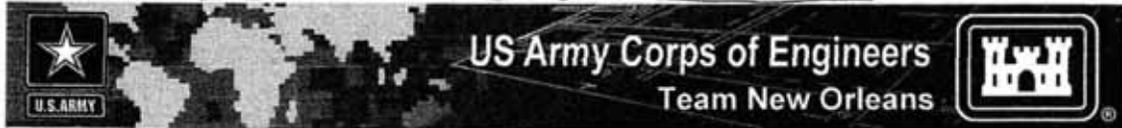
Recap of Previous Public Meetings

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

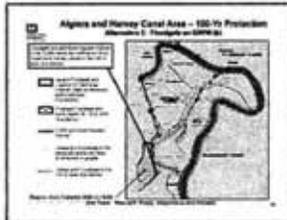
Public Meeting Summary

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."

Copyright 2009 by WDSU.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

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

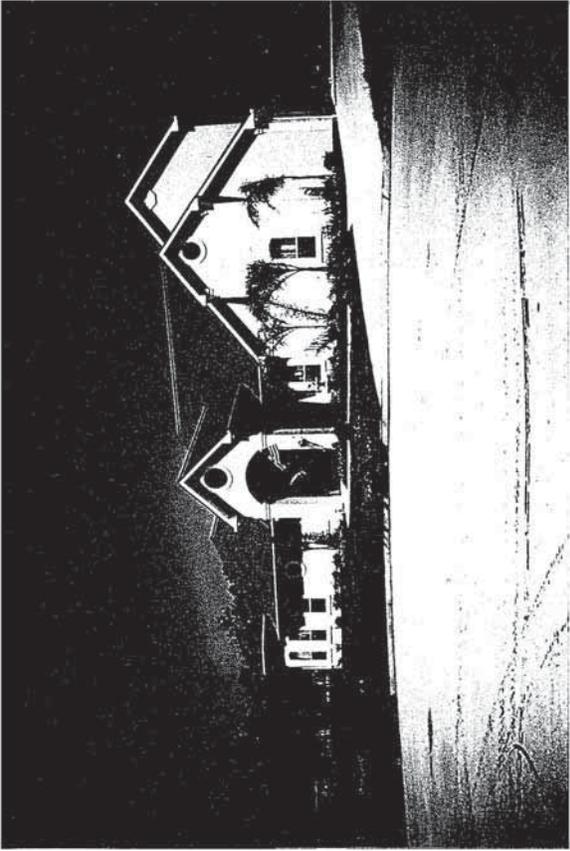
[REDACTED]

email: clauden@pacbell.com

This is my home located @
[redacted]
Bellchase, CA 94003
(Yosemite Bend)

This is what I want to
protect and what I'm fighting
for
Claude
[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

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 insurance rates, 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

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]

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

Unknown

Individual Environmental Report
Public Comment

Comments: Why BELAULT the Corps. you dynamited a canal when
it was not necessary. you built MARGO AGAINST the wishes of virtually
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

Petition Signatures Against IER 13

24. AGAINST: Paul Helm
25. AGAINST: Mark Dini
26. AGAINST: Alfred Gross
27. AGAINST: Edith Gross
28. AGAINST: Ralph A. Honnig
29. AGAINST: Henry Witte
30. AGAINST: Marlene Witte
31. AGAINST: James J. Jorovic
32. AGAINST: Robert J. Jorovic
33. AGAINST: John J. Jorovic
34. AGAINST: Rae Nell Hunter
35. AGAINST: Reggie Whit
36. AGAINST: Thyllis Di Zetto
37. AGAINST: Susan E. Khoney
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: Timothy D. Holard
51. AGAINST: J. H. Wald
52. AGAINST: Ray St
53. AGAINST: Ray St
54. AGAINST: Ray St
55. AGAINST: Tim W. Suvorich
56. AGAINST: Bug Stecker
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: Notrika Mathews
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: Joseph Motherhead
111. AGAINST: Jan Motherhead
112. AGAINST: Edith Sercovich
113. AGAINST: May Sercovich
114. AGAINST: Amy Sercovich Jr.
115. AGAINST: Thomas 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 Yoon
175. AGAINST: Michael Robey
176. AGAINST: Paula Robey
177. AGAINST: Freda Adolph
178. AGAINST: Jennie Gustin
179. AGAINST: Randy Gustin
180. AGAINST: Helen Morin
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 F. V. Jr
- 193. AGAINST: Arva Vaughn
- 194. AGAINST: Jedie S Rollo
- 195. AGAINST: Wayne A Rollo
- 196. AGAINST: Marshall Benat
- 197. AGAINST: Dick Benat
- 198. AGAINST: Michael J. Conroy
- 199. AGAINST: Sammy Comaru
- 200. AGAINST: Roy L. G.
- 201. AGAINST: Leah Mistic
- 202. AGAINST: Mark Mistic
- 203. AGAINST: Danae Burt
- 204. AGAINST: Chris Burt

208. AGAINST: Rakot Trust 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 Bruskotter
215. AGAINST: Donna Bruskotter
216. AGAINST: Devick Dybeck
217. AGAINST: Harvey Hobert
218. AGAINST: Lamochia Regas
219. AGAINST: Polanna Regas
220. AGAINST: Joni Cornier
221. AGAINST: Deise S. Smith
222. AGAINST: Courtney Mier
223. AGAINST: Jay Robbins
224. AGAINST: Shoni Hines

229. AGAINST: Fulton Hamer
230. AGAINST: Samuel H. Hays
231. AGAINST: B. Lewis
232. AGAINST: Lois H. Hansen
233. AGAINST: Paul V. Harris
234. AGAINST: James B. Hayes
235. AGAINST: Clifford J. Hayes
236. AGAINST: Robert Hayes
237. AGAINST: Robert Hayes
238. AGAINST: Clement J. Hayes Jr
239. AGAINST: Emergency Committee
240. AGAINST: Nicky Hayes
241. AGAINST: Lith. Committee
242. AGAINST: Boyd Carrasella
243. AGAINST: Art Lloyd - ANTHONY LLOYD
244. AGAINST: Paul R. Kelly
245. AGAINST: Jean Kelly

- 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 Plaxson
- 259. AGAINST: Ming Crosby
- 260. AGAINST: Charles Hendry III
- 261. AGAINST: Anna Mayfield
- 262. AGAINST: Kyle Hancock
- 263. AGAINST: Bridgett Hancock
- 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: Furcell King
282. AGAINST: Hughes Sanders
283. AGAINST: Pamela Black
284. AGAINST: Barbara Winder
285. AGAINST: Oscar K. Anderson
286. AGAINST: Mrs & Mrs. Jules Anderson Jr. E 2 NAMES

290. AGAINST: George W. Roth
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: Maie Landry Means
298. AGAINST: Tom Means
299. AGAINST: Kim H. Means
300. AGAINST: Brian Means
301. AGAINST: Billy Means
302. AGAINST: Danni Kennair
303. AGAINST: Tom Kennair
304. AGAINST: Sette Kennair
305. AGAINST: Jo Ann Lloyd
306. AGAINST: Juliana Carroll

- 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: Deed Nelson

331. AGAINST: Denise Jague
332. AGAINST: Frank 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 Melhu
343. AGAINST: Pt P. Oj
344. AGAINST: Man B. D
345. AGAINST: Christie Layff
346. AGAINST: King Layff
347. AGAINST: Haligh Spomes

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: Jean Rehnert
361. AGAINST: Becky Rehnert
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 Parks
382. AGAINST: Kashona Woodside
383. AGAINST: Molly LaFrance
384. AGAINST: William Price
385. AGAINST: John P. McGinn
386. AGAINST: Lucia McGinn
387. AGAINST: Gerald Reynal Skye
388. AGAINST: Brenda Williamson

393. AGAINST: RAY JOHNSON
394. AGAINST: Kathy Nelson
395. AGAINST: Christ Nelson
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 ← Zimmer

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 Bue

636. AGAINST: Ann Vairon

637. AGAINST: Bob Hink

638. AGAINST: Harry Hink

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

697. AGAINST: De [unclear]
698. AGAINST: Paul Suss
699. AGAINST: Michael Wilkins
700. AGAINST: Cody Brockhoff
701. AGAINST: Mimi Smith
702. AGAINST: Jane Watson
703. AGAINST: Alice Higgins
704. AGAINST: John Cheney
705. AGAINST: Robert Brown
706. AGAINST: Christina Fredinich
707. AGAINST: E. Dale Sandy Jr
708. AGAINST: Junior H. H. H.
709. AGAINST: Kate M. 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. Balts
737. AGAINST: Brigitte Balts
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: Rynn 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 Canyonbon

760. AGAINST: 1 missing copy
761. AGAINST: Contrina Turner
762. AGAINST: Steven Mitchell
763. AGAINST: Andre Turner
764. AGAINST: Dwayne Brown
765. AGAINST: Wayne Brown
766. AGAINST: Gail Martin
767. AGAINST: John Ware
768. AGAINST: Theresa Ware
769. AGAINST: Ruby T. Marks
770. AGAINST: Daniel Marks
771. AGAINST: Genevieve Theriot
772. AGAINST: Steven Zegura
773. AGAINST: Terri Coats
774. AGAINST: Sonny Coats
775. AGAINST: Reginald D. Osborne

776. AGAINST: 1/1/1
777. AGAINST: Glenn W. Scheffnyder
778. AGAINST: Barbara L. Scheffnyder
779. AGAINST: ~~Glenn W. 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. KLEIN

793. AGAINST: SMH

794. AGAINST: Maria Spangola

795. AGAINST: Angela

796. AGAINST: Kouy Yuen

797. AGAINST: Bianca

798. AGAINST: Joy Dyg

799. AGAINST: R.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: Buragendy 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. Dingle
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: James 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 Hneac
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: Delance 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: Jonett 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: Melinda Barthelmy
- 84. AGAINST: Johnny Williams

86. AGAINST: Barbara Kraetz
87. AGAINST: Cathy Williams
88. AGAINST: Rozz 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: Luane 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: John St. Francis

145. AGAINST: Lewis A Reddick SR

146. AGAINST: Janell Duncan

147. AGAINST: Harold Syle, Jr.

148. AGAINST: Erin Syle

149. AGAINST: Barbara Syle

150. AGAINST: Rachel Syle

151. AGAINST: [Signature] 

152. AGAINST: [Signature]

- 154. AGAINST: Joseph Sabell
- 155. AGAINST: Dorothy Demelle
- 156. AGAINST: Dondulla Haines
- 157. AGAINST: mel u. Hunt
- 158. AGAINST: Stemmy Williams
- 159. AGAINST: Percy J. Parker
- 160. AGAINST: Anita Henry
- 161. AGAINST: Condita 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 ^{with kids}
- 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: Marbonne Turner
177. AGAINST: Wendell Turner
178. AGAINST: Rose B. Thini
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: Corine 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 Iler
196. AGAINST: Ellet Iler
197. AGAINST: Ronda Iler
198. AGAINST: Tommy Lindy
199. AGAINST: Olete Reppelle
200. AGAINST: Benny Wilson
201. AGAINST: Sumi Mettman
202. AGAINST: Felix Iler
203. AGAINST: Jim Beller

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 Priest
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: Geneva Barthelemy
219. AGAINST: Gracelia Barthelemy
220. AGAINST: Shirley Barthelemy

- 222. AGAINST: Karl Bartholomey
- 223. AGAINST: Helle Lyke
- 224. AGAINST: Stephen Jefferson
- 225. AGAINST: Wallace Picout
- 226. AGAINST: Janique Paquet
- 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 Alves
- 234. AGAINST: Barry Alves
- 235. AGAINST: Aline Cosse
- 236. AGAINST: Jimmy Cosse
- 237. AGAINST: Holly Alves

239. AGAINST: Douglas Edwards Jr.
240. AGAINST: Allen Barthelmy
241. AGAINST: Wanda Barthelmy
242. AGAINST: Stephanie Barthelmy
243. AGAINST: Joannie 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: Madhava Suresh
254. AGAINST: Vinay Suresh

256. AGAINST: Moxie 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 Mackay
275. AGAINST: Wanda Mackay
276. AGAINST: Kendra Murch
277. AGAINST: Cordera Mackay
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 Sorieney
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: ~~that~~ Jackson Williams Carson
336. AGAINST: Mafine B. Carson
337. AGAINST: Blake Sylve
338. AGAINST: Morris Sylve Jr
339. AGAINST: Camille Mequies

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 Jr
349. AGAINST: Samantha Darciso
350. AGAINST: Kermit Darciso
351. AGAINST: Betty Bartholomeo
352. AGAINST: Toni Anon
353. AGAINST: Salor 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: Antoinette 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: Norman Sylve, Sr
- 373. AGAINST: Dail Sylve

375. AGAINST: Amy Ague
376. AGAINST: Ronald Ahe
377. AGAINST: Glenda Barthelmy
378. AGAINST: David Barthelmy
379. AGAINST: Graketh Ahe
380. AGAINST: Shanna Ahe
381. AGAINST: Marie Ague
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 Ahe

392. AGAINST: Joell Syle
393. AGAINST: Americ Syle
394. AGAINST: Vanasa 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: Don 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: Thord Mase

877. AGAINST: Le Thuy Nguyen

878. AGAINST: Tran Duong

879. AGAINST: John Sarovich

880. AGAINST: Lisa Sarovich

881. AGAINST: AGAO

882. AGAINST: Kevin McCoy

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 Brane

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: Kateley Adams

916. AGAINST: J. B. Archin's

917. AGAINST: Sandra Guindria

918. AGAINST: Theresa Cuthbert

919. AGAINST: Dani's Cuthbert

← 2 NAMES

921. AGAINST: Marilyn C Zeto
922. AGAINST: Robert H. Zeto
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 Sandoz
930. AGAINST: Gary Sandoz
931. AGAINST: Roland Breen
932. AGAINST: Constance Breen
933. AGAINST: Floyd Faulstich
934. AGAINST: Mott Mitech
935. AGAINST: Betty Mitech

AGAINST: Phillipe Rosa

AGAINST: Tennel 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

www.nolaenvironmental.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.

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.

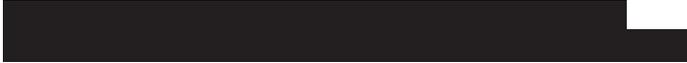
In the past year, the residents of the Jesuit Bend area have discovered that their area was not included in the authorized Westbank Hurricane

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.

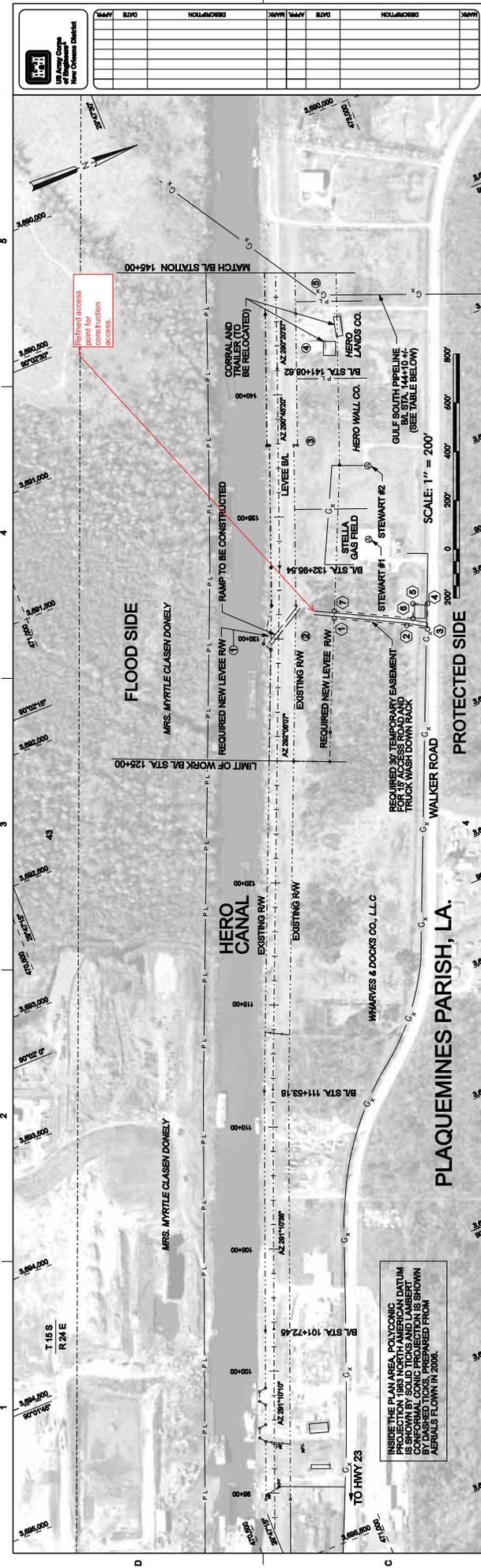
Sincerely,

Geneva P. Grille, P.E.

Retired DOTD District Design, Water Resources and Development Engineer



Appendix D - Detailed Project Footprint Plates



ROW 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 LANDS COMPANY
⑤	143+80.43 TO 145+00.00	0.46	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO., L.L.C.

REQUIRED NEW LEVEE RIGHT OF WAY SUMMARY			
UTILITY, PIPELINE OR STRUCTURE	APPROXIMATE BL STATION	ELEVATION	OWNER AND REPRESENTATIVE TO BE NOTIFIED
STELLA GAS FIELD GAS LINE FROM HERO WALL COMPANY TO STEWART #2	134+00	+2.5'	MR. JEFF HYDE HERO WALL COMPANY P.O. BOX 227, SCOTT, LA 70583 OFFICE: 337-898-9451 EXT. 208
12" GULF SOUTH GAS PIPELINE	144+10	+2.5'	GULF SOUTH PIPELINE MR. JEFF PENDLETON 111 PARK PLACE, SUITE 100 CHICAGO, LOUISIANA, 70363 985-988-1012
CORRAL AND TRAILER	142+00	+8.0' ±	UNKNOWN

EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS			
BL STATION	OFFSET	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	*	

NEW RIGHT OF WAY TABULATIONS			
BL STATION	OFFSET	OFFSET AZIMUTH	
129+65.83	31.28 LT	*	
131+38.44	61.64 LT	*	
131+38.44	30.82 LT	*	
125+00.00	67.77 RT	*	
125+00.00	245.98 RT	*	
129+16.98	216.20 RT	*	
137+06.75	280.68 RT	*	

TEMPORARY EASEMENT TABULATIONS			
POINT	BL STATION	OFFSET	OFFSET AZIMUTH
①	130+87.58	226.61 RT	*
②	130+83.76	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+91.82	549.42 RT	*
⑦	131+17.82	227.28 RT	*

TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT = 0.387 ACRES			
POINT	BL STATION	OFFSET	OFFSET AZIMUTH
①	130+87.58	226.61 RT	*
②	130+83.76	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+91.82	549.42 RT	*
⑦	131+17.82	227.28 RT	*

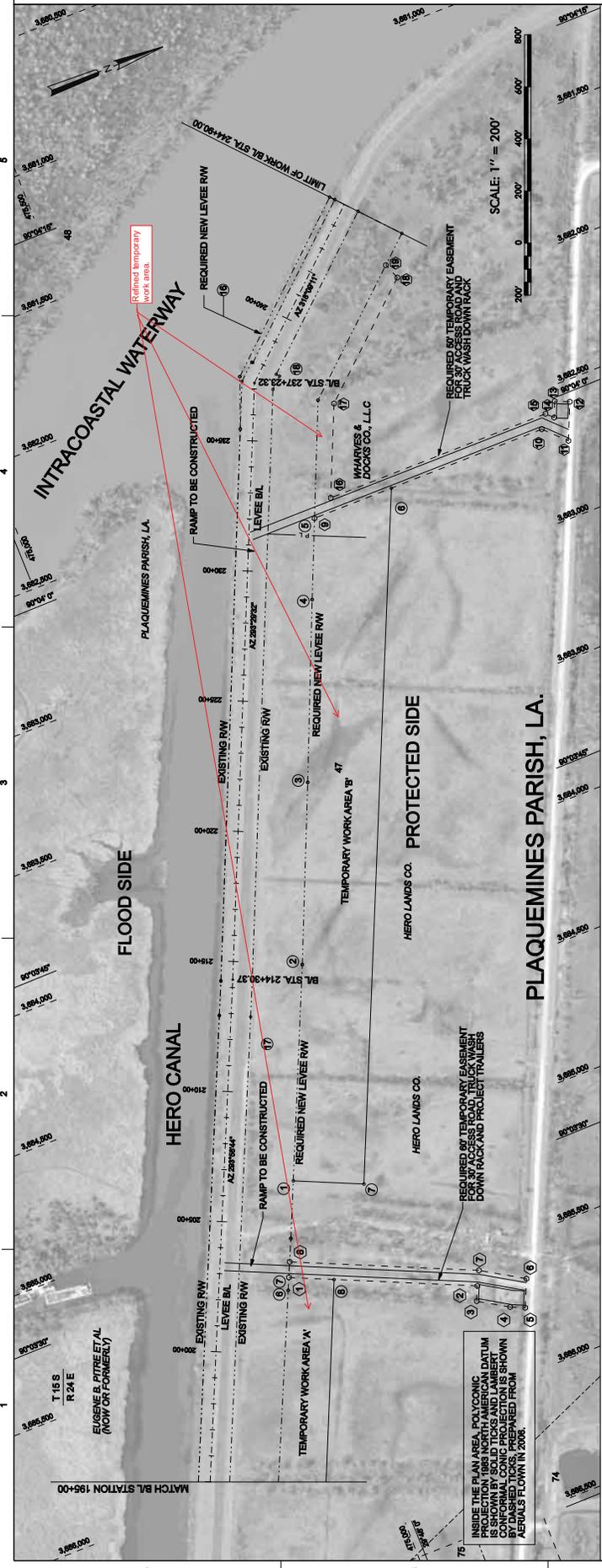
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY WATERWAYS DIVISION
1000 PINE BLVD., SUITE 100
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119
DATE: 08/11/2015
DRAWN BY: JMM
CHECKED BY: JMM
DESIGNED BY: JMM
PROJECT NO.: 145-000
CONTRACT NO.: 145-000
PLANS NUMBER: 145-000-001

HNTB
HNTB CONSULTANTS, INC.
1000 PINE BLVD., SUITE 100
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119
PHONE: (504) 586-1000
FAX: (504) 586-1001
WWW.HNTB.COM

FOR STA. 122+35 TO 145+00
RIGHT OF WAY PLAN
East of Algiers Canal Hero Canal Reach West Y12
Preparation: Phyllis, Louisiana
Second: L.H. Laves Engstrom
Third: Robert Laves Engstrom
West Bank and Viable Wetlands Protection Project

FILE NUMBER: 145-000-001
DWG. 2 OF 4

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	110°47'28.38"
214+23.19	44.80 LT	60.74 LT	
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+23.14	75.07 RT	214+80.00	204.92 RT
237+40.09	72.06 RT	221+47.75	206.17 RT
237+48.95	74.91 RT	239+48.38	251.62 RT
237+40.23	60.06 RT	239+48.53	246.38 RT
246+88.78	56.68 RT	244+80.00	247.05 RT
		244+80.00	56.98 RT

TEMPORARY EASEMENT TABULATIONS

POINT	BIL STATION	OFFSET	EASTING		NORTHING
			OFFSET AZIMUTH	OFFSET	
1	202+47.64	286.75 RT	3,895,316.48	474,828.46	475,077.379
2	202+47.61	890.62 RT	3,895,612.68	475,927.84	475,412.994
3	202+49.00	590.62 RT	3,895,688.24	475,584.02	475,887.573
4	202+22.11	1119.97 RT	3,895,794.24	475,676.34	476,959.418
5	202+22.10	1177.86 RT	3,895,797.77	475,726.23	476,082.030
6	203+33.61	1177.87 RT	3,895,656.89	475,773.56	476,959.418
7	203+57.61	894.04 RT	3,895,263.78	474,951.11	476,959.418
8	203+11.88	248.48 RT	3,892,640.70	478,082.03	476,959.418
9	236+45.30	1108.60 RT	3,892,640.70	477,016.79	476,959.418
10	236+44.44	1212.30 RT	3,892,719.51	477,087.60	476,959.418
11	236+44.44	1212.30 RT	3,892,581.74	477,167.38	476,959.418
12	236+44.44	1212.30 RT	3,892,581.74	477,167.38	476,959.418
13	236+44.44	1212.30 RT	3,892,581.74	477,167.38	476,959.418
14	236+44.44	1212.30 RT	3,892,581.74	477,167.38	476,959.418
15	236+44.44	1212.30 RT	3,892,581.74	477,167.38	476,959.418
16	236+44.44	1212.30 RT	3,892,581.74	477,167.38	476,959.418
17	236+44.44	1212.30 RT	3,892,581.74	477,167.38	476,959.418
18	243+83.62	247.24 RT	3,891,856.88	476,891.67	476,959.418

TEMPORARY WORK AREA B

PI	BIL STATION	OFFSET	AZIMUTH	EASTING		NORTHING
				OFFSET	OFFSET	
1	206+88.8	286.83	286.83	3,894,876.377	475,077.379	475,412.994
2	214+80.00	284.92	280.17	3,893,676.039	475,887.573	476,959.418
3	221+47.75	251.62	249.48	3,892,826.148	476,082.030	476,959.418
4	233+81.19	540.07	540.07	3,892,640.886	476,959.418	476,959.418
5	239+48.38	581.30	581.30	3,892,067.703	476,959.418	476,959.418

REQUIRED NEW LEVEE RIGHT OF WAY SUMMARY

R/W SECTION	BIL STATION LIMITS	OWNER	AREA (ACRE)
16	236+43.84 TO 244+80.00	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO., L.L.C.	0.40
17	195+00.00 TO 231+45.00	HERO LANDS CO.	15.67
18	231+46.00 TO 244+90.00	WHARVES AND DOCKS CO., L.L.C.	5.13

TEMPORARY WORK AREA A

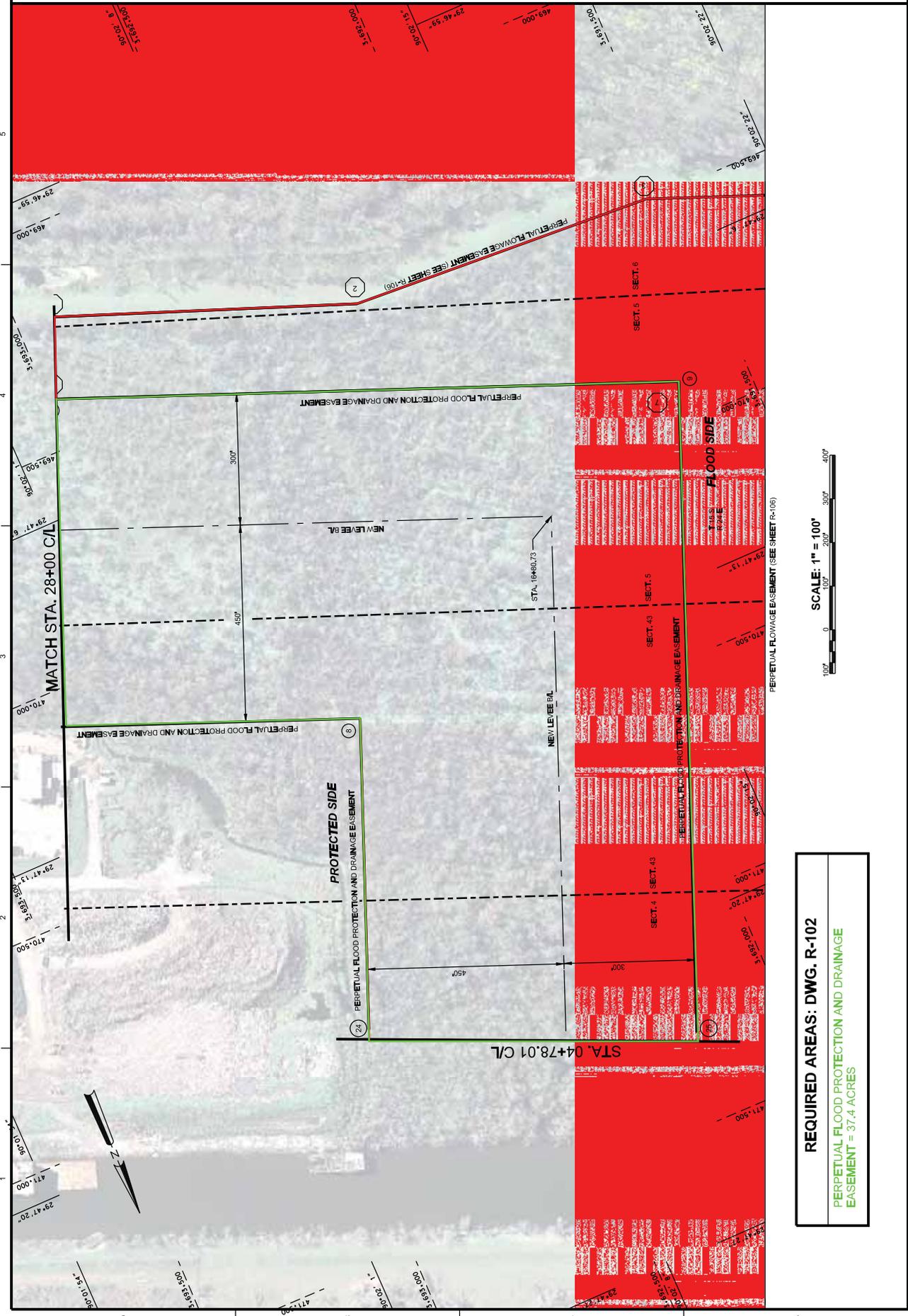
PI	BIL STATION	OFFSET	AZIMUTH	EASTING		NORTHING
6	202+47.64	286.50	3,895,363.671	474,908.076	475,077.379	
7	202+47.64	286.75	3,895,316.475	474,928.460	475,077.379	
8	202+47.64	440	3,895,389.017	475,085.033	475,077.379	

TEMPORARY WORK AREA X

PI	BIL STATION	OFFSET	AZIMUTH	EASTING		NORTHING
6	202+47.64	44.94 LT	99°59'01.29"	474,908.076	475,077.379	
7	202+47.64	45.07 LT	99°59'01.29"	474,928.460	475,077.379	
8	202+47.64	44.07	99°59'01.29"	475,085.033	475,077.379	

NOTE: TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT = 1.511 ACRES
 NOTE: TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT = 2.725 ACRES
 NOTE: TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'A' = 1.38 ACRES
 NOTE: TEMPORARY WORK AREA 'B' = 16.56 ACRES
 NOTE: ALL OFFSETS ARE PERPENDICULAR TO THE BIL UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

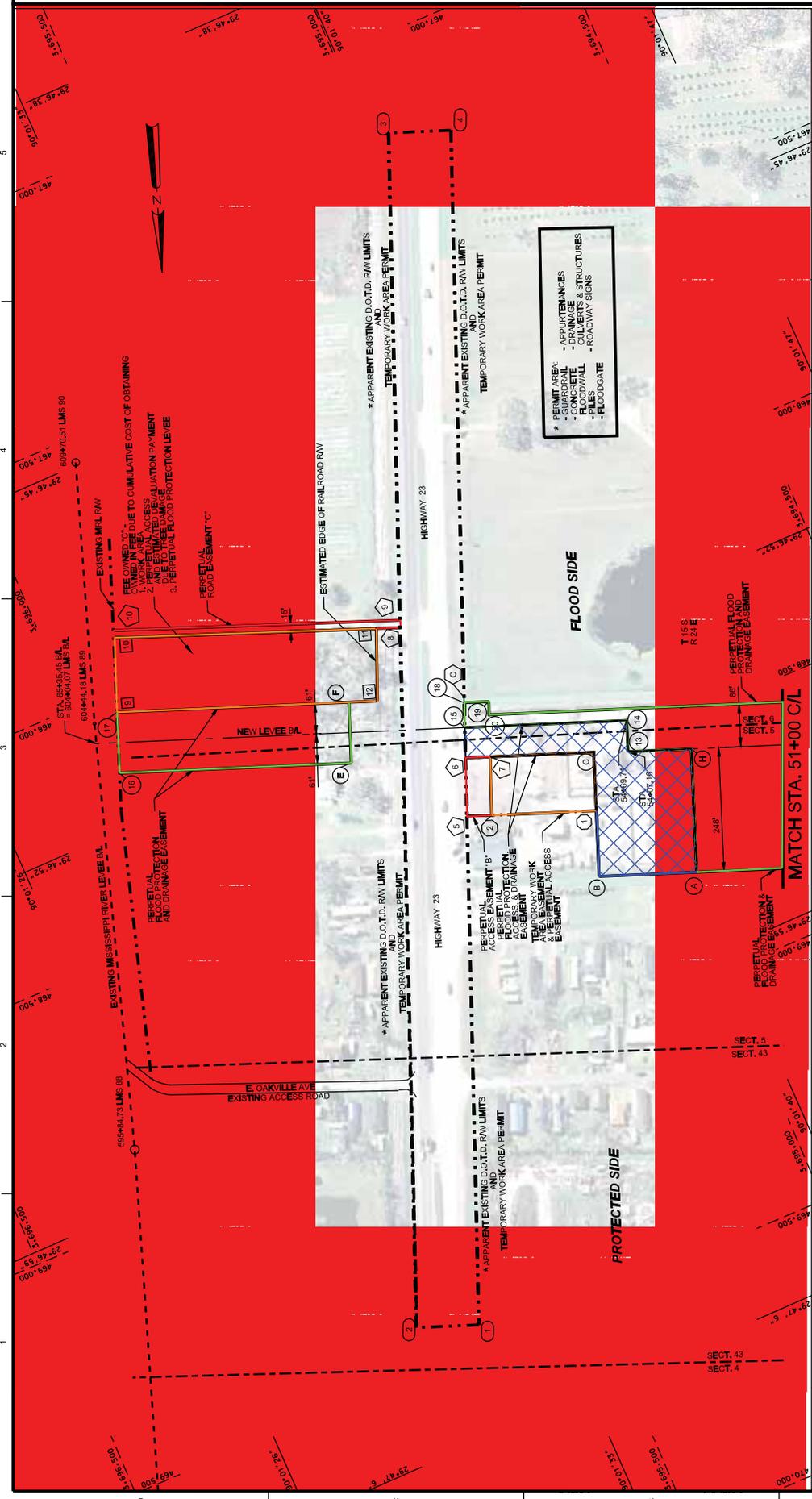
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT MISSISSIPPI PROTECTION PROJECT WEST OF ALBANY CANAL WEST OF ALBANY PHASE II (WBV D9A) FIRST LIFT EASEMENT FLORENCE PARISH, LOUISIANA STA. 04+78.01 TO STA. 28+00.00		NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT MISSISSIPPI PROTECTION PROJECT WEST OF ALBANY CANAL WEST OF ALBANY PHASE II (WBV D9A) FIRST LIFT EASEMENT FLORENCE 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 FLORENCE 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



SHEET IDENTIFICATION
R-102



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
- * APPURTENANCES:
 - DRAINAGE
 - CULVERTS & STRUCTURES
 - ROADWAY SIGNS

OWNED IN FREE DUE TO CUMULATIVE COST OF OBTAINING
 1. PERPETUAL ACCESS
 2. PERPETUAL FLOOD PROTECTION AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT
 3. 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

T 119 S R 24 E

MATCH STA. 51+00 C/L

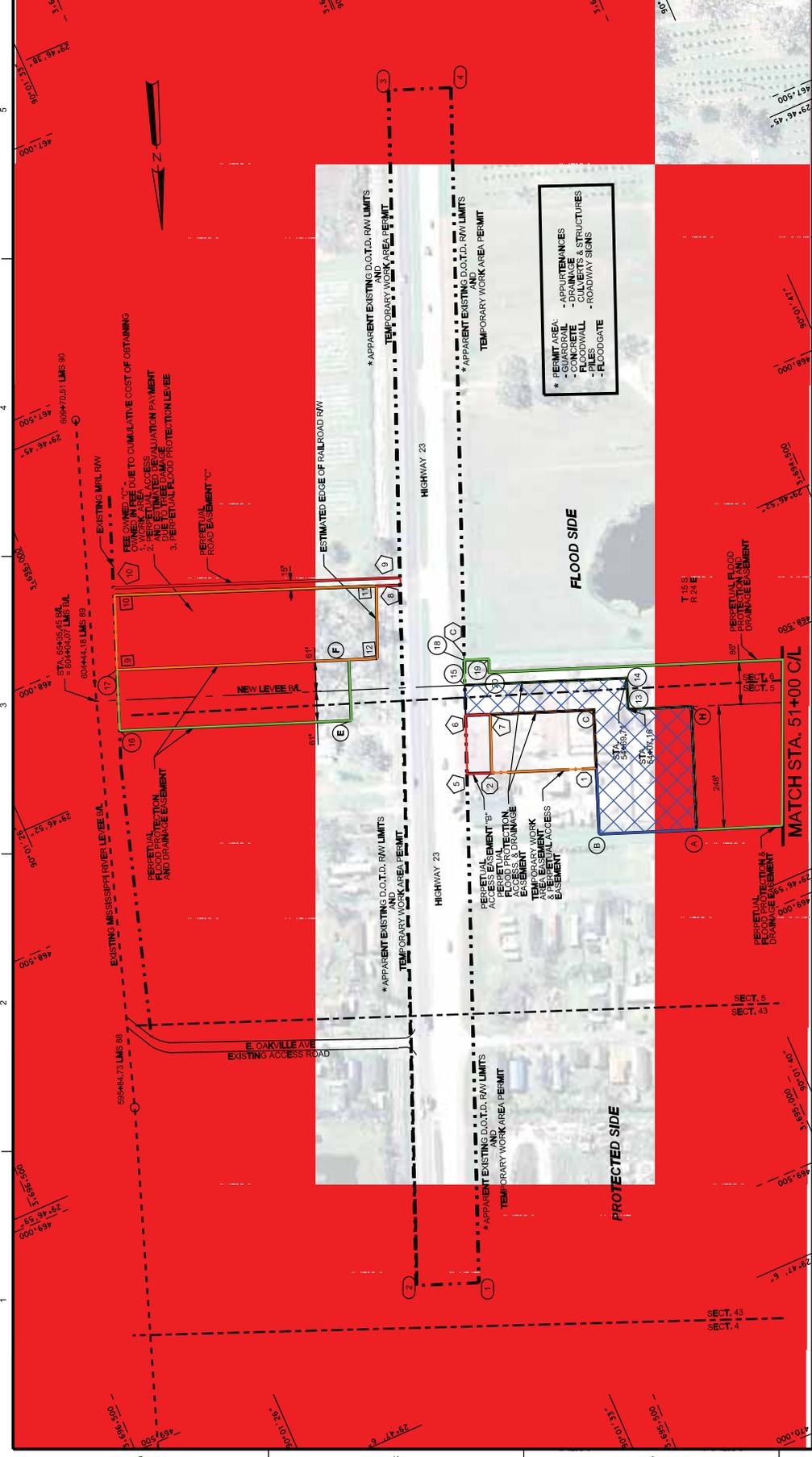
HIGHWAY 23

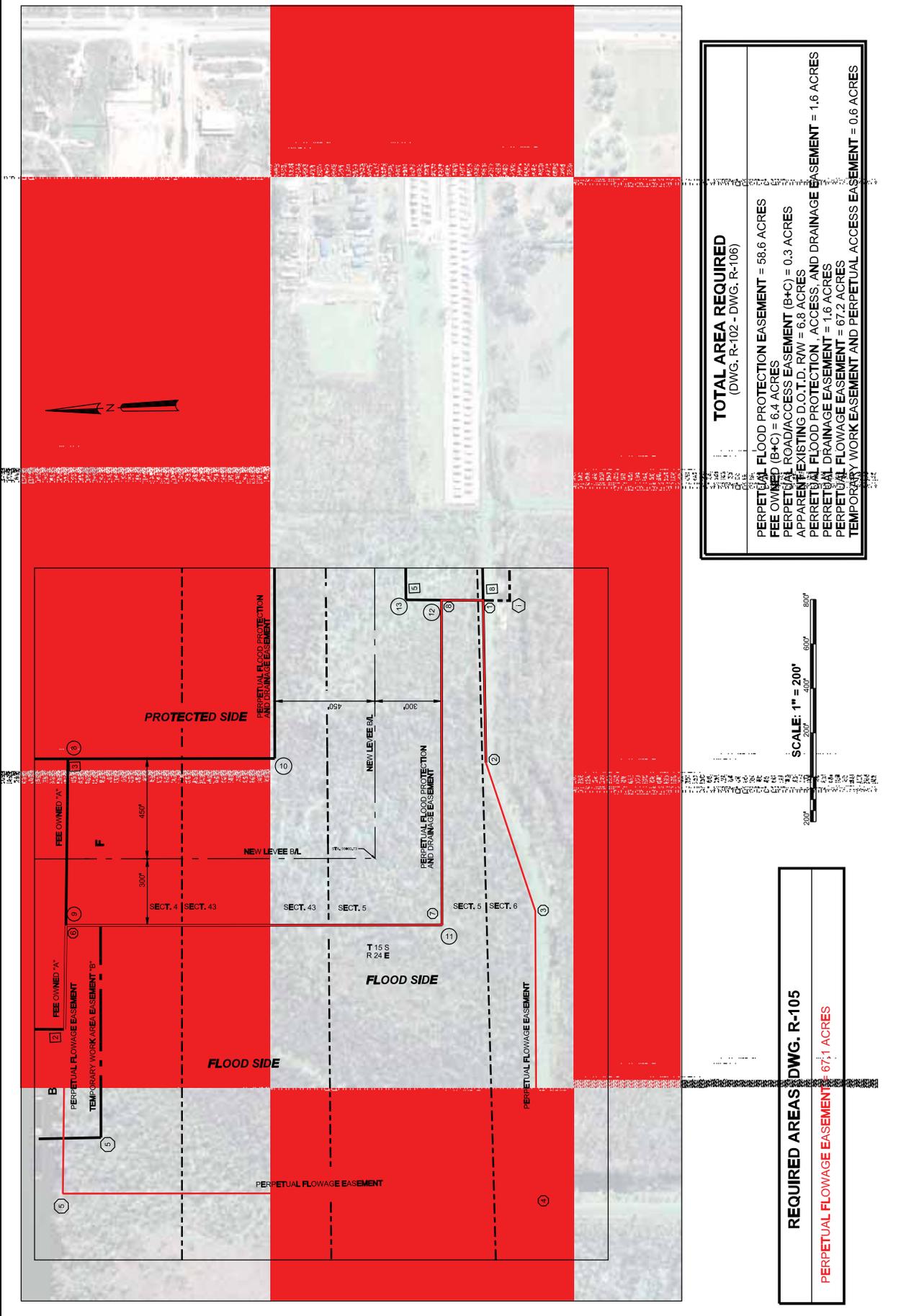
FLOOD SIDE

PROTECTED SIDE

SECT. 43
SECT. 4

SECT. 15
SECT. 15





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 = 67.1 ACRES

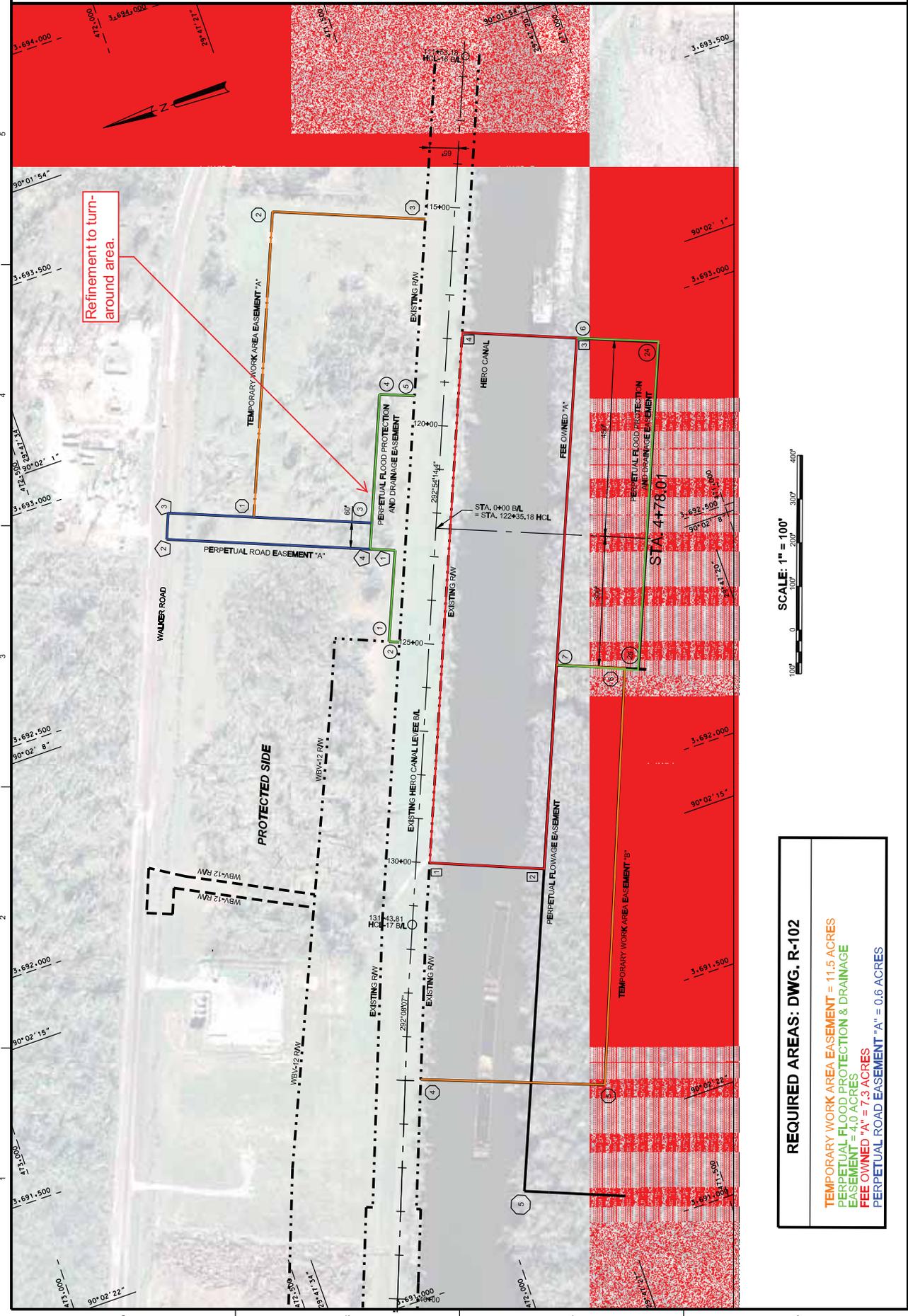
SCALE: 1" = 200'

200' 400' 600' 800'

1 2 3 4 5

D C B A

		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, LOUISIANA MISSISSIPPIAN PROVINCE PROJECT WEST OF ALGIERIA CANAL		NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS MISSISSIPPIAN PROVINCE	
FIRST LITTLE PHASE II HERO TO OAKVILLE PHASE II (WBV 098) BENTONVILLE STA. 0+000 BIL TO STA. 0+400 BIL		WEST BANK & MOUNTAIN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA MISSISSIPPIAN PROVINCE PROJECT WEST OF ALGIERIA CANAL	



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
--

Appendix E – Addendum to IER # 13 Public Comments

List of individuals and organizations that commented on the Addendum to IER 13 during the public comment period

- a. Mr. Sydney Perez, comment dated November 17, 2009
- b. Mr. Michael J. Ford, comment dated November 20, 2009
- c. Mr. Jeffrey Robichaux, comment dated November 22, 2009
- d. Mr. Saxon Becnel, comment dated November 22, 2009
- e. Mr. Douglas Moore, comment dated November 22, 2009
- f. Ms. Bernadette M. Courcelle, comment dated November 23, 2009
- g. Mr. Matt Zuvich, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- h. Ms. Marilyn Stavros, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- i. Ms. Melanie Hinkel, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- j. Ms. Liz Jackson, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- k. Ms. Rosie Mahoney, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- l. Ms. Cathy Logan, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- m. Mr. Jane Mix, comment dated November 24, 2009
- n. Mr. Morgan Mix, comment dated November 24, 2009
- o. Anonymous, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- p. Ms. Wendy Keating, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- q. Ms. Michelle Ranatza, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- r. Mr. George Cognevich, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- s. Ms. Monica Senner, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- t. Ms. Christie Lauff, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- u. Anonymous, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- v. Mr. Ralph Sonnier, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- w. Mr. Donald Landry, email comment dated November 24, 2009
- x. Ms. Nicole Sostarics, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- y. Mr. Leon Houston, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- z. Mr. Michael Stavros, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- aa. Ms. Melissa Manix, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- bb. Mr. David Hoffman, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- cc. Mr. Norwood Kelly, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- dd. Mr. Jon Stavros, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- ee. Ms. Catherine Hamblen, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- ff. Mr. and Mrs. Zeke Austin, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- gg. Mr. Douglas LeBlanc, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- hh. Mr. John E. Rink, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- ii. Mr. Jamie Stavros, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- jj. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Heironimus, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- kk. Mr. Donald Landry, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- ll. Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Childress, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- mm. Janet, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- nn. Ms. Stacey French-Lee, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- oo. Ms. Renee Davis, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- pp. Capt. Robin Corradi, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- qq. Ms. Suzanne Fowler, email comment dated November 25, 2009

- rr. Ms. Kerry Cook, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- ss. Petition containing 32 names submitted by Mr. Pete Stavros, email dated November 25, 2009
- tt. Mr. Pete Stavros, email comment dated November 25, 2009
- uu. Mr. Matthew McBride, 21 email comments submitted between the dates of November 01, 2009 through November 24, 2009.

Gilmore, Tammy H MVN

From: Stiles, Sandra E MVN
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 2:53 PM
To: Gilmore, Tammy H MVN
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Subject: FW: IER #13 Public Comments: Received from Donald Landry

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Attachments: document2009-11-25-124655.pdf



document2009-11-25-124655.pdf ...

See attached

Sandy
504-862-1583

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

From: Carr, Jr Theodore D MVN
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 1:14 PM
To: Lee, Alvin B COL MVN
Cc: Vignes, Julie D MVN; Trotter, Rita E MVN; Stiles, Sandra E MVN; Amato, Stephen C MVN-Contractor
Subject: IER #13 Public Comments: Received from Donald Landry

Sir,

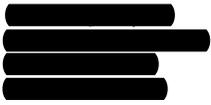
Today I received from Donald Landry a sealed envelope and a unsealed letter from Riverbend Nursing & Rehabilitation Center addressed to you for entry into the public record as comments received during the public comment period for the Addendum to Draft Individual Environmental Report No. 13. Attached is an information copy Mr. Landry gave me of the letters signed by the Plaquemines Parish Council members that are contained in the sealed envelope. Also attached is a scan of the letter from the Riverbend Nursing & Rehabilitation Center Chief Operating Officer, Michael J. Ford.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Ted Carr, Jr.
Project Manager
Protection and Restoration Office
USACE New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118-3651
(504) 862-1321

Riverbend

Nursing & Rehabilitation Center



Colonel Alvin Lee
US Army Corps of Engineers

11-20-09

Subject: Corps proposed Crossing of Hwy 23 at Oakville IER-13

Dear Colonel Lee,

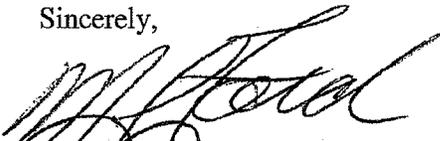
My name is Mike Ford and I am one of the owners and Chief Operating Officer of Riverbend Nursing and Rehab Center in Jesuit Bend. At a recent town hall meeting I stated that if we must have a closure, I would prefer earthen ramp to allow this to be more natural and not hurt our property values. I have looked at the recent proposals and like what I see and encourage you to strongly consider using this ramp with some modifications as to not divide the Oakville community. The proposal to start a ramp after Saint Peters Street in Oakville that shifts the highway crossing 200 feet south of the current proposed crossing using a T-wall running parallel to the highway.

Certainly you are aware of the benefits of such a ramp over the eyesore of a gate that closes off the highway. This proposal would also allow first responders and my staff at the nursing home to have full access during an evacuation or shelter in place incident. As I also stated, if at all possible I would prefer to shelter in place with the 120 residents of the facility because moving them always exposes the staff and residents to injury or worse.

Please consider this ramp proposal instead of the floodwall. Just think of how much better this would be for the community now and in years to come.

Thanks for your time and consideration

Sincerely,



Michael J. Ford
Chief Operating Officer

Gilmore, Tammy H MVN

From: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 5:27 PM
To: Stiles, Sandra E MVN; Gilmore, Tammy H MVN; Behrens, Elizabeth H MVN
Subject: Fw: Comments RE: Draft IER 13 Addendum Per the Public Comment Period 10/27 - 11/25

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Attachments: Picture (Metafile) 1.jpg; Picture (Metafile) 2.jpg



Picture (Metafile)
1.jpg (4 KB...



Picture (Metafile)
2.jpg (2 KB...

For the record

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Lee, Alvin B COL MVN
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Wed Nov 25 14:48:52 2009
Subject: Fw: Comments RE: Draft IER 13 Addendum Per the Public Comment Period 10/27 - 11/25

Fyi.

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Brien, Betsy: [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Lee, Alvin B COL MVN; LeBlanc, Julie Z MVN
Sent: Wed Nov 25 14:30:19 2009
Subject: Comments RE: Draft IER 13 Addendum Per the Public Comment Period 10/27 - 11/25

November 25, 2009

Colonel Alvin B. Lee
New Orleans District Commander and District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70118

SENT VIA US MAIL AND MVNENVIRONMENTAL@USACE.ARMY.MIL

Re: West Bank and Vicinity Project - Levee Tie-in

Dear Colonel Lee:

Thank you for the focused attention that you and the Corps of Engineers team have given to the West Bank and Vicinity Levee Project and the adjoining Plaquemines Parish Non-Federal Levee Project.

I attended the Plaquemines Parish West Bank and Vicinity Project Community Meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2009. I appreciate the candor in which you and the team answered the questions from the community members.

At the meeting you mentioned that you selected a swing gate option for the eastern tie-in because one had not been suggested by Plaquemines Parish. In addition you mentioned that Plaquemines Parish needed to provide a unified front in regards to the decision making process. Mr. Donald Landry, a Plaquemines Parish resident, took your advice to heart and, has created a modified version of the earthen ramp gate and has proceeded to obtain buy-in from the community and parish government representatives.

In addition, in the July 15, 2009 letter from CPRA Chair Garret Graves written to your attention states that "the preferred method for a levee system that crosses over a highway is first ramps, then bridges, with floodgates considered as a last resort." CPRA then reaffirmed their position in a letter to the Parish President Billy Nungesser on November 3, 2009 stating that "the state supported the earthen levee alternative because our engineers considered it the safest and most reliable flood protection solution."

I respectfully request that the Corps of Engineers team consider the earthen ramp option for the West Bank and Vicinity tie-in and incorporate it or a similar design (like Mr. Landry's) into the West Bank and Vicinity levee project at the eastern tie-in. We support a modified ramp option, as per Mr. Landry's design, because, by shifting the peak of the Hwy. 23 ramp further south, the full height necessary for the highway can be achieved, eliminating the need for a 2.5' floodwall. By eliminating the floodwall, we can eliminate the cost, construction and maintenance of the invisible floodwall infrastructure and the emergency bypass around the floodwall.

The earthen ramp seems worthy of consideration for the project since it is now supported by the local government, the Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, the Louisiana Department of Transportation, the ConocoPhillips Alliance Refinery and the local community.

We continue to offer our support and cooperation to progress this project through right of entries and the creation of borrow pits. Please let us know if we can assist in any other ways. As we have previously communicated, we support these projects moving ahead without delay. But we do support a review of an earthen ramp if it can be done without delaying either project.

If you have any questions regarding our position, please do not hesitate to call. I can be reached at (504) 656-3213.

In closing, I applaud you and the Corps of Engineers team for the work that you have done to move this project forward. I realize that there is a great deal of energy and time that goes into each decision that is made. I thank you for considering this letter and for actions that you take to ensure the success of this important project to protect the citizens and infrastructure of Plaquemines Parish.

Sincerely,

Chris Chandler


11/28/2009

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment

Comments: I went to the meetings, had no ~~the~~ direct answers to many questions. Everyone with the Corps of Engineers went around all ~~the~~ questions with words and did not answer anything. It ~~seems~~ seems you all want to flood Jesult Bend and protect New Orleans. We are screwed and nobody cares about us. How can you sleep at night. Put yourself in our shoes - what would you say or do?

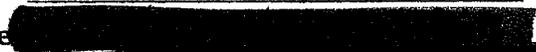
Name Bernadette M. Bouselle Affiliation _____
Street _____ Phone _____
City, St Zi _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment

Comments: Colonel Lee
It doesn't matter - you don't care
you will do what you want.
We are seniors - had our house
up for sale since April - 2009
No one wants to buy a house in Jesuit Bend
because of Flood Wall. Now we won't be
able to retire because we invested in our
Property.

Name Bernadette^m Courcelle Affiliation 
Street  Phone 
City, St Zi  Fax _____
E-mail _____

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment

Comments: In 1965, Hurricane Betsy came up the Miss.
River, and washed over the levee all the way
up to Belle Chasse. 40 years later, in 2005
Hurricane Katrina did the same thing, only worse.
In those 44 years up until today, the Corps
of Eng. have NOT raised the elevation of the
Miss. River levees in the North of Plaquemines
Parish, NOT 1 inch! Think about it, there is
something wrong with this. Big Time!

Name Saxon R. Beemel Affiliation Saxon Beemel & Sons LLC
Street [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]
City, St Zip [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]
E-mail _____

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

**Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment**

Comments: The exclusion, even for a short time, of the residents south of Oakville is inexcusable. The alignment of this flood control structure is ridiculous at best. The most economical alignment for this project, and the most sensible, would be a straight line across Hwy 23 from the North Heron Canal levee to the Miss. R. levee. If this alignment could be altered for the sake of one community, it should be altered for the sake of ^{the} much larger (and still living) community of Jesuit Bend.

Name Jeffrey Robichaux Affiliation [REDACTED]
Street [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]
City, St Zip [REDACTED] Fax [REDACTED]
E-mail [REDACTED]

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

19

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt Zuvich [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 10:42 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER-13 comment

Dear Colonel Lee,

Judge Duval stated, "It is the Court's opinion that the negligence of the Corps... was not policy, but insouciance, myopia, and shortsightedness. For over forty years, the Corps was aware that the levee protecting Chalmette and the Lower Ninth Ward was going to be compromised. ...The Corps had an opportunity to take a myriad of actions to alleviate this deterioration... and failed to do so. Clearly the expression 'talk is cheap' applies here."

Col. Lee, with all due respect, I hope similar words don't come back to haunt you concerning our community being left out of IER-13.

* As stated by the Department of Transportation a gate across highway 23 is a last resort. Highway 23 is not only the main highway but the ONLY HIGHWAY in and out of this parish.

* Affordable Insurance- Julie Vignes states in the 08 Jan 09 meeting, "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." Why have you not consulted with private insurers or the Louisiana Department of Insurance to get their position on the adverse risk of not having 100 year protection?

* Property Value goes Down- Where is your final document or report from your economist. "Talk is Cheap"

Col. Lee many of your responses to our questions were answered with "I am bound by Congressional Authorization to complete the WBV Eastern tie in at Oakville."

* Did you know about the Plaquemines Parish Land Use Plan for Walker Road to La Reussite that was introduced in July of 1995?

It is stated in this plan that "Residential land uses, especially in this area, will comprise one of the largest portions of the area when completely developed. Small areas of commercial use will be interspersed for the convenience of the residential areas but no industrial areas should be planned for this area. Future industrial areas should be planned around the Hero Canal (Walker Road) area to the north and around Citrus Lands and other more suitable lands to the south of the La Reussite Fresh Water Diversion Plant. This report presented probability growth models ranging between a high of 40,000 and a low of 13,000 persons for this 7-mile reach. The report also states that "The total area for many years is now beginning to exhibit signs of some large residential subdivision development. This is particularly true around the Jesuits Bend area."

* The expanding residential area from Jesuit Bend to La Reussite is no more than 14 years old. In 1996, when congress added everything east of the Algiers Canal, did you fail to mention the planned growth for the area within 8 miles south of the southernmost part of the alignment?

* Your mission statement states, "Team New Orleans provides comprehensive water resources management to include navigation <<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/od/navigation.asp>> , hurricane and storm damage risk reduction <<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/index.asp>> and environmental <<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/environmental/priorities.asp>> stewardship for south Louisiana to ensure public safety and benefit the nation. " How are you ensuring our public safety by not including us in IER-13?

Respectfully yours,
Robin Zuvich

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt Zuvich
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 11:00 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER-13 comment

Dear Colonel Lee,

Judge Duval stated, "It is the Court's opinion that the negligence of the Corps... was not policy, but insouciance, myopia, and shortsightedness. For over forty years, the Corps was aware that the levee protecting Chalmette and the Lower Ninth Ward was going to be compromised. ...The Corps had an opportunity to take a myriad of actions to alleviate this deterioration... and failed to do so. Clearly the expression 'talk is cheap' applies here."

Col. Lee, with all due respect, I hope similar words don't come back to haunt you concerning our community being left out of IER-13.

* As stated by the Department of Transportation a gate across highway 23 is a last resort. Highway 23 is not only the main highway but the ONLY HIGHWAY in and out of this parish.

* Affordable Insurance- Julie Vignes states in the 08 Jan 09 meeting, "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." Why have you not consulted with private insurers or the Louisiana Department of Insurance to get their position on the adverse risk of not having 100 year protection?

* Property Value goes Down- Where is your final document or report from your economist. "Talk is Cheap"

Col. Lee many of your responses to our questions were answered with "I am bound by Congressional Authorization to complete the WBV Eastern tie in at Oakville."

* Did you know about the Plaquemines Parish Land Use Plan for Walker Road to La Reussite that was introduced in July of 1995?

It is stated in this plan that "Residential land uses, especially in this area, will comprise one of the largest portions of the area when completely developed. Small areas of commercial use will be interspersed for the convenience of the residential areas but no industrial areas should be planned for this area. Future industrial areas should be planned around the Hero Canal (Walker Road) area to the north and around Citrus Lands and other more suitable lands to the south of the La Reussite Fresh Water Diversion Plant. This report presented probability growth models ranging between a high of 40,000 and a low of 13,000 persons for this 7-mile reach. The report also states that "The total area for many years is now beginning to exhibit signs of some large residential subdivision development. This is particularly true around the Jesuits Bend area."

* The expanding residential area from Jesuit Bend to La Reussite is no more than 14 years old. In 1996, when congress added everything east of the Algiers Canal, did you fail to mention the planned growth for the area within 8 miles south of the southernmost part of the alignment?

* In your mission statement you state, "Team New Orleans provides comprehensive water resources management to include navigation <<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/od/navigation.asp>> , hurricane and storm damage risk reduction <<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/index.asp>> and environmental <<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/environmental/priorities.asp>> stewardship for south Louisiana to ensure public safety and benefit the nation." How are you ensuring our public safety by not including us in IER-13?

Respectfully yours,
Robin Zuvich

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Nicole Sostarics [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 8:58 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Message to the Corps

Don't flood them!

Please protect them!

Please include them in the 100-year protection!

Don't take away their property values!

Nicole Sostarics

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Leon Houston [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 6:40 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NO WALL!!!

To whom it may concern,

Please do not build this wall because it will destroy our property value and way of life. The Army Corps of Engineers is basing this project on out dated information and studies. My question is.... will the Army Corps of Engineers be responsible for the increase in insurance, future property damage and declining property value? I am begging you please do not build this wall!!!

Jesuit Bend Estates Resident,

Mr. & Mrs. Leon Houston III and Family

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Melanie HINKEL [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 7:54 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Oakville floodgate

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to voice my concern on the proposed floodgate at Oakville. I am a resident of Jesuit Bend and will be outside of protection if this floodwall happens. This will cause a definite negative economic impact not only to myself but to many others. I worked very hard to build my home 13 years ago. If I knew that I would be faced with someone building a floodwall across the only road in and out, and leaving me outside of protection, I'm sure I would have reconsidered. I am asking you to reconsider the impact that this will have on everyone that lives below this floodwall. I am afraid of what this will do in regard to insurance and property value, but most of all, the safety of my family. The thought of having to evacuate before the floodwall closes or the increased risk of flooding scares me to death. Please help us to get 100 year protection and reconsider this floodwall.

Respectfully,

Melanie Hinkel

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Liz Jackson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 9:14 PM
To: MVN Environmental; Liz Jackson
Subject: Plaquemines Levee

Please don't build this wall and seal the fate of all those on the other side. There has to be a way to include everyone in your 100 yr plan. Please let us see that America is really worth fighting for and that every home and every life is worth fighting for. I have friends that have given their lives to protect our country and in turn, have been fighting for their lives and the futures of their children just to be able to keep the home that they built and keep it insured at a reasonable cost.

The things I have seen and heard have been unbelievable to accept that things like this still happen in the United States. Money and power should not rule over truth and honesty. I cannot believe how the 'good ole boy system' is still alive and spreading in New Orleans in the 21st century. Just let it be known that the news of this has spread and people will know the truth. It's not confined to your small little piece of the country. People do know and will continue to look towards the outcome.

Please don't go forward with your current plans. The fate of many lives are in your hands. It's not a question of 'if' the next Katrina will happen, but 'when' and if this wall goes up, those who can't get out will most likely perish or will have nothing to come back to.

Thank you for your time,

Liz Jackson

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Rosie Mahoney [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 11:15 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Plaquemines Parish - public comment

To the Army Corps of Engineers,

I write in support of the residents of Plaquemines Parish, particularly those citizens of the Western area of the Parish, who will be adversely affected if the construction of the levee proceeds as currently planned. The people there value family, belong to a strong community, and many of them have dutifully served our country.

I have recently returned from a visit to New Orleans, and I am saddened at the continuing palpable emotional and (visual) physical impact that remains in that fair city as a result of faulty levees. My recent observations in New Orleans (4 years after Katrina) prompt me to write this letter.

It seems to me that for the Corps to proceed with the currently planned levee places the Corps at a significant risk of inadequately protecting the citizens of Plaquemines Parish, and I suspect that is not an error that anyone is eager to repeat.

Please complete a thorough impact study before proceeding. Lives depend on this process. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Mahoney
[REDACTED]

Portland, Maine
(sent from El Paso, TX)

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Melissa Manix [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 2:47 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: reference IER13

Please do not take the value of our homes!!

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: David Hoffman [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 6:12 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: pete.stavros@plaquemineslevee.com; marilyn@stavrosfamily.net

How can you state that there will be no economic impact if a complete and thorough study has not been done? Your action of constructing

the West Bank and Vicinity project will harm property values and will change the economy of Plaquemines Parish.

How can your economist not see this? Where is the report from the modeling done by the hydrologists to show that there will not be

any induced risk of flooding?

S D Hoffman

Chandler, AZ

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: butch kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 10:36 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

ACOE Ref: IER13

I have previously voiced my opposition to IER13. It is both economically feasible and within the time frame mandated by Congress, for the ACOE to include the Jesuit Bend area all the way to Lauercite in the IER13 federalized levee. The flood gate at Oakville would not be needed.

Norwood R. Kelly Jr.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 8:13 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

I spent quite a bit of time on the West Bank this past summer. I was truly amazed at the lack of Legal Ethics there. How is it possible to use a twenty-three year survey to entice and mislead a decision for a Flood Wall that would effect thousands of people and homes, Wasn't Katrina enough miserary for those people. That experience will be forever be scared in their minds. Many have still not recovered and never will. Many died. Who is it among us that has the right to decide who lives or who dies. The last time that I heard, it was "Our Heavenly Father", Why is it necessary to cheat and lie against your neighbors. This is 'American'! We don't leave people behind. It is 'One for All, and All for One'.....United We Stand Divided We Fall".....these statements were sad out of Peril and under sege, yet they still ring very true today. I emlore you to do the right thing and save everyone and raise the Wall so all can survive. It is the right thing to do andWe are Proud Americans

Sincerely, Catherine Hamblen

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 9:27 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

I spent quit a bit of time on the West Bank this past summer. I was truly amazed at the lack of Legal Ethics there. How is it possible to use a twenty-three year survey to entise and mislead a decision for a Flood Wall that would effect thousands of people and homes, Wasn't Katrina enough miserary for those people. That experience will be forever be scared in their minds. Many have still not recovered and never will. Many died. Who is it among us that has the right to decide who lives or who dies. The last time that I heard, it was "Our Heavenly Father", Why is it necessary to cheat and lie against your neighbors. This is 'American'! We don't leave people behind. It is 'One for All, and All for One'.....United We Stand Divided We Fall".....these statements were sad out of Peril and under sege, yet they still ring very true today. I emplore you to do the right thing and save everyone and raise the Wall so all can survive. It is the right thing to do andWe are Proud Americans

Sincerely, Catherine Hamblen

2

Gilmore, Tammy H MVN

From: Cathy Hamblen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 10:22 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

Please ignore the first email. I used the term Wall instead of Levee. I am not from the area where levee's are seen much and I mistakenly called it a Wall. I meant to say. ' Please raise the Levee to protect everyone, and not just a few.

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

From: catlou2 [REDACTED]
To: MVNenvironmental@usace.army.mil
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 10:26 PM
Subject: IER13

I spent quit a bit of time on the West Bank this past summer. I was truly amazed at the lack of Legal Ethics there. How is it possible to use a twenty-three year study to entise and mislead a decision for a Flood Wall that would effect thousands of people and homes, Wasn't Katrina enough miserary for those people. That experience will be forever be scared in their minds. Many have still not recovered and never will. Many died. Who is it among us that has the right to decide who lives or who dies. The last time that I heard, it was "Our Heavenly Father', Why is it necessary to cheat and lie against your neighbors. This is 'America' !!! We don't leave people behind. It is 'One for All, and All for One'.....United We Stand Divided We Fall".....these statements were sad out of Peril and under sege, yet they still ring very true today. I emplyre you to do the right thing and save more people. Raise the Levees to La Reussitte with NO FLOODWALL, so that everyone can survive. It is the right thing to do andWe are Proud Americans that care for one another.

Sincerely, Catherine Hamblen

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 3:23 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

Col. Lee,

Today is the last day of the public comment period for the IER 13 project. YOU failed to listen to us for the last 6 months, so please listen to our one last plea. Please do the right thing and don't sign-off on the Oakville floodgate. We have the time to do the right thing; the raised road at Lareusitte with 100 heights for the NFL levee from Oakville to Lareusitte. Please work with the Parish, State and Federal officials to include us the IER13 now with 100 height protection. You know that you have not satisfactorily addressed our concerns. The Oakville floodgate will negatively effect our property values and the future cost of insurance. No one knows for sure what the next storm and the new WBV pumping station will do to us if the floodgate is built at Oakville and the NFL aren't built to 100 year levels. We don't want to face the same fate as the folks in St. Bernard Parish; one MRGO fiasco for the COE is enough. DO THE RIGHT THING for the us and the children who call Jesuit Bend their home!

Zeke & Cindy Austin

16

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 6:00 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER-13

Dear Sirs,

As a resident of Jesuit Bend, LA I am writing to please ask you to consider what you are doing to the lives of the people on the wrong side of this floodwall.

We built our home here ten years ago with the idea of it being part of our retirement when we needed something smaller and closer to hospital and grocery. You are taking that away from us and thereby placing our lives in jeopardy. No one will be buying our home now and we will be forced to live our senior years in a home we can't maintain and that we will be forced to evacuate from at greater frequency and with increasing difficulty.

I don't understand how you can state there won't be an economic impact. No one will buy our houses. I wouldn't buy my house.

Please, before you create another MRGO, reconsider your plans. All we want is to be included, not to prevent other peoples' protection. You have been presented with do-able plans that would protect so many more people, and that are endorsed by our parish officials.

Please don't make yourselves responsible for any more loss of property and lives -- do what is right and what you are supposed to do -- PROTECT US ALL.

NO WALL!!!

Cathy L. Logan

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Douglas LeBlanc [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 3:46 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER 13

I am a resident of Jesuit Bend in Plaquemines parish. I live south of Oakville where the corps is planning on putting a floodwall. I am adamantly opposed to a floodwall in this location. There are other solutions to provide 100 year protection to the West Bank of New Orleans, La. that would include Plaquemines parish below Oakville. I have attended all of the corps meetings concerning IER 13 and have made my feelings known regarding this matter. It seems that the corps does not even listen to the pleas of all the concerned citizens who attended these meetings! All we hear are the condescending answers of Colonel Lee and the panel of representatives from the corps saying that they understand our concerns, but that congress has only approved funding of the current IER 13 proposal. Why have these meetings if the matter is already decided? I don't believe that the corps and Colonel Lee are telling us the truth about what can be done to resolve this matter. Nor do I trust our parish officials (President Billy Nungesser, Councilman Anthony Buras, etc). I have stated at these meetings that I feel that the residents below Oakville have been sold out by the parish! I am sure that our parish representatives are able to take a more active role in fighting this floodwall than they have, but just don't really care to! The resolution made by the council to oppose this floodwall is just a deception to try and placate us.

We have been told by the corps that our property values will not go down because of this floodwall. Anyone with any common sense at all will realize that this is just plain hogwash!!! Also, our insurance rates are sure to rise, but the corps disputes this too!!! Does the corps think that we are just a bunch of hicks who can't think rationally or cannot investigate these false claims on our own?

In light of the ruling made in favor of the people of St Bernard parish concerning the liability of the corps for the MRGO causing major flooding in that parish, I would think that the corps should reconsider their stand on IER 13! The placing of a floodwall at Oakville will almost certainly cause flooding in Jesuit Bend and below to the Alliance refinery if a major hurricane should occur in the future. They have said that the floodwall will only cause the water to be six inches higher below Oakville. Even if that is true, my home in Jesuit Bend only had maybe 1/2 an inch or less for a very short time during Katrina, but would have at least 6" more after the floodwall which would cause much more extensive damage.

I think that the hurricane protection for us and all of the West Bank should be done right the first time. Don't let the lessons learned from Katrina go unheeded!!!

Sincerely,

Douglas P. LeBlanc

5

Gilmore, Tammy H MVN

From: Don Heironimus [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 7:58 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Are you going to buy my house?

Since we will not be able to sell it or keep affordable insurance, my question is-what am I supposed to do with a house I can't sell? We no longer live in Louisiana but I can't sell it. I don't know how you sleep at night knowing what you are doing to the residents in lower Plaquemines Parish. We are being lied to-doesn't surprise me as it IS LA. Business as usual. There WILL be a lawsuit. I hope the COE enjoys the negative press that will follow.

Donald & Renee Heironimus

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Cmlauff [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 3:39 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: luke.theriot@mail.house.gov; rachal_perez@vitter.senate.gov;
wes_kungel@landrieu.senate.gov; amanda.behey@mail.house.gov; Billy Nungesser;
anthony_buras@plaqueminesparish.com
Subject: IER13 Addendum Comment
Attachments: IER13 Addendum Comment.doc



IER13 Addendum
Comment.doc (40...

Col. Lee and to whom it may concern,

Attached is my final comment for the IER13 Addendum.

Christie Lauff
Jesuit Bend Resident

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

November 20, 2009

Col. Lee and whom it may concern,

Re: IER-13 and Addendum to IER-13

This will be my final comment on a project that I was not properly informed of and will be adversely affected by. I have not had a subscription to the newspaper for quite a few years and was not informed by my local government, or the ACOE of this project that will affect my residence. As far as the required monthly public meetings, they have not been monthly and I have not been properly informed on those either.

I worked in a lab before Hurricane Katrina. When putting together any form of report, it had to include any and all effects from the project, both positive and negative, within and outside of the procedure. You have acknowledged that up to 8 miles south of the proposed project will be affected from the entire WBV project. The addendum states, "The difference in peak surge diminishes to 0 to 0.1 ft. approximately 8 miles south of Oakville." What I surmise from the meeting Thursday night is that you can't discuss the negative impacts the project will have 8-miles south of the project because it's not part of the authorized project. How can you do such a massive project and not discuss in length the potential affect it will have on the area outside of it? If you will have adverse affects 8 miles south of this proposed project, then why is that data not included in your report? How can you only address the area that will benefit from this system and not address the area left in harms way resulting from this project? Why are you only acknowledging an area 1-mile out from this project if up to 8-miles will be affected? This does not sound like a full report.

The addendum states, "This project is absolutely critical to the entire Westbank. Without it, the area is vulnerable to storm surge." I am about 3 miles south of this proposed project and a little common sense tells me that I will then become vulnerable to storm surge if this project is put in place as is.

Julie Vignes states in the 08 Jan 09 meeting, "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." Therefore, those "inside of the closed system" will have affordable insurance and those "outside of the closed system" will not. It is not just a matter of being able to get insurance, it is a matter of being able to afford the insurance. The Emergency Alternative Arrangements revised on February 2, 2007 states "In the absence of certified hurricane protection works, flood insurance would not be available to the area residents and commercial interests at an affordable level. As a consequence, area redevelopment would be stifled." I think this says it all since my residence will not be within the "certified hurricane protection works."

The Addendum to Draft IER#13 states, "The area south of the WBV proposed action in Plaquemines Parish has developed since the original 1996 Congressional authorization. Risk reduction for the communities located in Plaquemines Parish south of the proposed action will be discussed in the socioeconomic analysis contained in the New Orleans to Venice Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (NFL SEIS)." The negative impacts IER13 will have to the 8-mile area south of the project should be addressed in the IER13 document. Why would you address negative impacts of one project report in another projects report? Why did you only do a study to evaluate the benefits of the project? How do you justify omitting the negative impacts the project will have on the community within the southern 8-miles being affected?

In 1996, when congress added everything east of the Algiers Canal, did you fail to mention the planned growth for the area within 8 miles south of the southernmost part of the alignment? The expanding residential area from Jesuit Bend to La Reussite is no more than 14 years old.

There was a Land Use Plan for Walker Road to La Reussite that was introduced in July of 1995. It is stated in this plan that "Residential land uses, especially in this area, will comprise one of the largest portions of the area when completely developed. Small areas of commercial use will be interspersed for the convenience of the residential areas but no industrial areas should be planned for this area. Future industrial areas should be planned around the Hero Canal (Walker Road) area to the north and around Citrus Lands and other more suitable lands to the south of the La Reussite Fresh Water Diversion Plant. This report presented probability growth models ranging between a high of 40,000 and a low of 13,000 persons for this 7-mile reach. The report also states that "The total area for many years is now beginning to exhibit signs of some large residential subdivision development. This is particularly true around the Jesuits Bend area."

If you continue south with the levees to the La Reussite Fresh Water Diversion Plant and then cross Highway 23 to the Mississippi River levee, the "path to close the system" is not as wide and would not require a floodgate to cross the highway. An elevated road would be sufficient and there would be less impact on residences and businesses, which could alleviate some of the real estate acquisitions and other issues in the current proposed alignment. You would also be following the footprint of the current levee system.

Again, this project is being based off of a 23 year old study, which is not appropriate or up to date for the current alignment being proposed. What good are the levees from Jesuit Bend to La Reussite if they do not concur with the new 100-year protection standard, which will not afford us affordable insurance rates and will decrease our property values?

When is the Draft CED supposed to be released to include analysis of the indirect effects of the entire system of levees and structures of the Westbank and Vicinity project on the hydrology south of Oakville?

How can you base the current project on EISs and Environmental Assessments that were written in the past when the area is clearly economically different than what it was in 1986? It's stated in the Emergency Alternative Arrangements revised on February 2, 2007 that "No additional significant impacts are anticipated to occur as the result of the repair, restoration, and rehabilitation of these projects." This is not true.

At the April 29, 2009 meeting, it was said that the anticipated date for the release of the EIS was late summer and that will take into account the analysis from Oakville, south. Where is it?

With all do respect, I would appreciate a timely reply.

Sincerely,

Christie Lauff

Plaquemines Parish Government

DISTRICT 7 COUNCIL OFFICE

28028 Highway 23
Port Sulphur, Louisiana 70083

JOHN J. FRIEDMAN
Council Member

FAX: (985) 564-6384
PHONE: (985) 564-6099
(985) 564-6382

From: Plaquemines Parish Council District #7

To: Colonel Alvin Lee

Cc: LA CPRA, LA DOTD, Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter, Congressman Melancon, Senator Heitmeier, Senator Crowe, Congressman Wooten

Subject: Corps proposed crossing of Highway 23 at Oakville IER-13

The Parish council passed Resolution 09-156 objecting to any structure crossing at Oakville.

It is still my position that 100 yr. flood protection should extend 8 miles South to LaReusite with closure there.

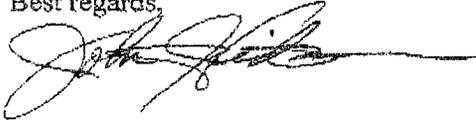
It is apparent that the Corps has decided to move forward with the closure located at Oakville.

As an elected official I understand making difficult decisions are necessary. I request the Corps consider an earthen ramp with modifications that would minimize the impact to the Oakville area and the ramp option is a one time fix with no restrictions at any time to Traffic on Hwy. 23. The ramp solution also has many other benefits and is also the Preferred method of the CPRA & DOTD as per their letter dated July 15, 2009:
Example, earthen ramp at St.Jude.

Speaking to members of the council with input from our constituents, we agree that a Modified ramp would best serve our needs and also fall within the scope of your Authorization.

Your consideration in looking into a modified ramp as a preferred option would be Greatly appreciated.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Friedman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John J. Friedman

Plaquemines Parish Government

PLAQUEMINES PORT HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT

28028 Highway 23
Port Sulphur, LA 70089

BURGHART H. TURNER
Councilman, District 6
Email: gal_6_9@msn.com

Office: (985) 564-1855
Cell: (504) 329-0503
Fax: (985) 564-6995

November 20, 2009

From: Plaquemines Parish Council District 6

To: Colonel Alvin Lee

CC: LA CPRA, LA DOTD, Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter, Congressman Melancon, Senator Heitmeier, Senator Crowe, Congressman Wooten

Subject: Corps proposed crossing of Highway 23 at Oakville IER-13

The Resolution 09-156 we passed on May 6, 2009 objecting to the flood wall across Highway 23 still stands. If the Corps can not provide 100 year protection in the time frame needed for areas below Oakville and leaves us with the only option of a closure, and if we must pick a closure structure for the Westbank and Vicinity levee protection project crossing Highway 23 at Oakville, I strongly recommend the earthen ramp with a modification. The ramp that is in the final set of 4 proposals with a barrier running down Highway 23 dividing the Oakville community in half would never be acceptable. A better proposal would be a ramp starting after Saint Peter Street in Oakville that shifts the highway crossing 200 feet south of the current proposed crossing, using a T-wall running parallel to the highway. This proposal does not impact the cohesion of the residents in Oakville.

The ramp solution has many benefits for the parish and is also the preferred method of the CPRA and the DOTD, as per their letter dated July 15, 2009. The most important benefits are - First Responders would have full access throughout the area and the main evacuation route would not have to be closed for most threats (once every 10 years as stated in Corps documents).

We appreciate the Corps' opinion on the pros and cons of the swing gate and the ramp, BUT the parish will have to live with the final solution. In our opinion it should be our decision to weigh the pros and cons of the proposals and come to a decision that the citizens of the parish will have to live with. We agree that the modified ramp is the best solution that serves our needs and meets the objective of your authorization. We are very competent to weigh the pros and cons, discuss as a group and make that decision ourselves as a parish that will have to live with the solution everyday and through every hurricane threat.

11/20/2003 10:10 0000040000 TIME 07:00

We appreciate the Corps' work and efforts in this matter but we feel we are closer to the real impact of each of these solutions. We feel our decision should be the final authority on such matters. We are the locally elected representatives and are the closest to all of the citizens that will be impacted by this closure.

Realizing the little time we have to address this important issue (open comment ends Nov. 25), the council as a whole will not be able to propose and vote on a resolution. I understand I am joining most other parish officials in supporting this proposal, so please consider this as a unified consensus for the best solution. We need to work as a team to provide the best solutions for all the citizens of Plaquemines Parish as we move forward. Colonel Lee as a member of the team for providing the citizens of Plaquemines with levee protection, please work with us to make this solution happen

Respectfully submitted,

Burghart H. Turner

Burghart H. Turner
District 6 Councilman

Plaquemines Parish Government

BELLE CHASSE OFFICE

106 AVENUE "G"
BELLE CHASSE, LOUISIANA 70037

DR. STUART J. GUEY, JR.

Council Member District 4

(504) 297-5304

(504) 297-5294

FAX (504) 392-5659

Email: district4@plaqueminesparish.com

November 23, 2009

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

RE: Corps Proposed Crossing of Highway 23 at Oakville IER-13

Dear Colonel Lee:

I have been asked by a Mr. Donald Landry of Jesuit Bend to contact you regarding a new proposal for IER-13. It is my understanding that Mr. Landry is representing many of the property owners in Jesuit Bend. I was respectfully asked to comment to you on their new proposal. I am doing so and would not only appreciate your consideration on this matter but also a reply as to your decision. Resolution No. 09-156 passed by the Plaquemines Parish Council on May 6, 2009 objecting to the flood wall across Highway 23 still stands. If the Corps cannot provide 100 year protection in the time frame needed for areas below Oakville and leaves us with the only option of a closure, and if we must pick a closure structure for the Westbank and Vicinity levee protection project crossing Highway 23 at Oakville, I strongly recommend the earthen ramp with a modification be considered. The ramp that is in the final set of four proposals with a barrier running down Highway 23 dividing the Oakville community in half would never be acceptable. A better proposal would be a ramp starting after St. Peter Street in Oakville that shifts the highway crossing 200 feet south of the current proposed crossing, using a T-wall running parallel to the highway. This proposal does not impact the cohesion of the residents in Oakville. However, I do have concerns about the impact to the landowners situated to the South of the ramp and their opinion on this ramp modification must also be considered.

The ramp solution has many benefits for the parish and as I understand it is also the preferred method of the CPRA and the DOTD, as per their letter dated July 15, 2009. The most important benefits are - First Responders would have full access throughout the area and the main evacuation route would not have to be closed for most threats (once every 10 years as stated in Corps documents).

I appreciate the Corps opinion on the pros and cons of the swing gate and the ramp, BUT the parish will have to live with the final solution. I agree with Mr. Landry that the modified ramp needs

Colonel Alvin Lee
November 23, 2009
Page 2

consideration and may be the best solution that serves our needs and meets the objective of your authorization. We appreciate the Corps work and efforts in this matter but I feel we are closer to the real impact of each of these solutions. As a locally elected representative and I am the closest to all of the citizens that will be impacted by this closure.

Realizing the little time we have to address this important issue (open comment ends November 25), the council as a whole will not be able to propose and vote on a resolution. We need to work as a team to provide the best solutions for all the citizens of Plaquemines Parish as we move forward. Colonel Lee, as a member of the team for providing the citizens of Plaquemines with levee protection, please consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart J. Guey, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Stuart J. Guey, Jr.
District 4 Council Member

cc: LA CPRA
LA DOTD
U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu
U.S. Senator David Vitter
U.S. Congressman Charlie Melancon
LA Sen. David Heitmeier
LA Sen. A. G. Crowe
LA Rep. Ernest Wooton

Plaquemines Parish Government

BELLE CHASSE OFFICE

106 Avenue "G"
Belle Chasse, LA 70037

JERRY HODNETT

Council Member, District 3

(504) 297-5303

(504) 297-5293

Fax: (504) 392-5659

November 23, 2009

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

RE: Corps Proposed Crossing of Highway 23 at Oakville IER-13

Dear Colonel Lee:

I have been asked by a Mr. Donald Landry of Jesuit Bend to contact you regarding a new proposal for IER-13. It is my understanding that Mr. Landry is representing many of the property owners in Jesuit Bend. I was respectfully asked to comment to you on their new proposal. I am doing so and would not only appreciate your consideration on this matter but also a reply as to your decision. Resolution No. 09-156 passed by the Plaquemines Parish Council on May 6, 2009 objecting to the flood wall across Highway 23 still stands. If the Corps cannot provide 100 year protection in the time frame needed for areas below Oakville and leaves us with the only option of a closure, and if we must pick a closure structure for the Westbank and Vicinity levee protection project crossing Highway 23 at Oakville, I strongly recommend the earthen ramp with a modification be considered. The ramp that is in the final set of four proposals with a barrier running down Highway 23 dividing the Oakville community in half would never be acceptable. A better proposal would be a ramp starting after St. Peter Street in Oakville that shifts the highway crossing 200 feet south of the current proposed crossing, using a T-wall running parallel to the highway. This proposal does not impact the cohesion of the residents in Oakville. However, I do have concerns about the impact to the landowners situated to the South of the ramp and their opinion on this ramp modification must also be considered.

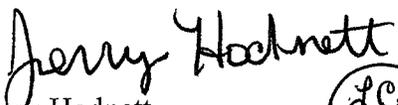
The ramp solution has many benefits for the parish and as I understand it is also the preferred method of the CPRA and the DOTD, as per their letter dated July 15, 2009. The most important benefits are - First Responders would have full access throughout the area and the main evacuation route would not have to be closed for most threats (once every 10 years as stated in Corps documents).

Colonel Alvin Lee
November 23, 2009
Page 2

I appreciate the Corps opinion on the pros and cons of the swing gate and the ramp, BUT the parish will have to live with the final solution. I agree with Mr. Landry that the modified ramp needs consideration and may be the best solution that serves our needs and meets the objective of your authorization. We appreciate the Corps work and effort in this matter but I feel we are closer to the real impact of each of these solutions. As a locally elected representative and I am the closest to all of the citizens that will be impacted by this closure.

Realizing the little time we have to address this important issue (open comment ends November 25), the council as a whole will not be able to propose and vote on a resolution. We need to work as a team to provide the best solutions for all the citizens of Plaquemines Parish as we move forward. Colonel Lee, as a member of the team for providing the citizens of Plaquemines with levee protection, please consider this request.

Sincerely,


Jerry Hodnett
District 3 Council Member

cc: LA CPRA
LA DOTD
U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu
U.S. Senator David Vitter
U.S. Congressman Charlie Melancon
LA Sen. David Heitmeier
LA Sen. A.G. Crowe
LA Rep. Ernest Wooton

Plaquemines Parish Government

DISTRICT 8 COUNCIL OFFICE

Post Office Box 7148
Buras, Louisiana 70041

LYNDA G. BANTA
Council Member

CELL: (504) 421-4670
PHONE: (504) 297-5000
(504) 392-6690

November 23, 2009

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

RE: Corps proposed swing gate identified in IER-13

Plaquemines Parish Council passed Resolution 09-156 on May 06, 2009, objecting to a flood wall across Highway 23. That resolution is still in effect. The goal of that resolution was to promote 100 year protection for all of Plaquemines Parish.

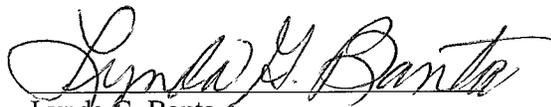
If the Corps cannot provide 100 year protection in the time frame needed then I will reconsider and opt for an earthen levee/ramp with modification. A new proposal would be a ramp starting after St. Peter Street in Oakville that shifts the highway crossing 200 feet south of the current proposed crossing thereby using a T-Wall running parallel to the highway. This proposal does not impact the cohesion of the residents in Oakville.

The ramp is the preferred method of the CPRA and the DOTD, as per their letter dated July 15, 2009. The most important benefits are First Responders would have full access throughout the area and the main evacuation route would not have to be closed for most threats.

Realizing the little time we have to address this important issue (open comment ends November 25), the council as a whole will not be able to propose and vote on a resolution. I understand I am joining most other parish officials in supporting this proposal, so please consider this as a unified consensus for the best solution. We need to work as a team to provide the best solutions for all the citizens of Plaquemines Parish as we move forward. Colonel Lee, I respectfully request your time and patience to work with us to provide the best solution for Plaquemines Parish and the Corps as well.

Thanks to you and the Corps for your continued hard work.

Respectfully,



Lynda G. Banta
Council Member District 8

Plaquemines Parish Government

DISTRICT 9 COUNCIL OFFICE

112 GILLIE LANE
BURAS, LA 70041

MARLA F. COOPER
Council Member, District 9

Office: (985) 453-7754
(985) 534-7102
Cell: (504) 915-6457

November 20, 2009

Honorable Colonel Alvin Lee,

On May 6, 2009 the Plaquemines Parish Council passed a resolution stating that we oppose a flood wall crossing La. Hwy 23 in Oakville. I being a member of this nine person council hold my position and oppose a flood wall in Oakville.

I do know that the Corps has decided that they will construct some sort of flood wall in that area. I know that the Corps has the final decision. If, and only if it is absolute that a flood wall has to be built in Oakville then I will have to agree with residents in that area on which design to build. I agree that a modified ramp is the best solution. I am told that this modified ramp would shift the highway crossing 200 feet from the proposed crossing using a T-wall running parallel to the highway and would not impact the cohesion of the residents in Oakville.

Let me stress my position again: I am in NO way in favor of any flood wall being built in Oakville but must agree with the residents of that area and support the modified ramp as the last option.

I will be not able to attend that final meeting of public comments on this subject so please accept this letter as my public opinion.

Best Regards,



Marla F. Cooper

Plaquemines Parish Government

DISTRICT 5 COUNCIL OFFICE

106 AVENUE G
BELLE CHASSE, LA 70037

ANTHONY L. BURAS, JR.
Councilman

(504) 297-5295
(504) 392-8211
Fax (504) 392-8462

November 22, 2009

Colonel Alvin Lee
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160

Re: Eastern Tie-In, IER-13, Oakville, LA

Dear Col. Lee:

As I hope you will recall, I represent the area from just south of the main entrance to the Naval Base to the Alliance Refinery. My district includes Oakville, LA, the proposed site for the eastern tie-in for the Westbank and Vicinity Levee (IER-13).

On May 26, 2009, the Plaquemines Parish Council passed Resolution No. 09-156 objecting to a flood wall being placed across Hwy. 23. This decision was based on input from the community of Jesuit Bend and a parish-wide petition containing nearly 2,000 signatures. At that time, the Council and Parish President had hoped the Corps would consider providing 100 year protection from Oakville south to LaReussite with a closure being placed across the highway at LaReussite. In addition, the Parish continues to explore a locally preferred plan to provide that coverage with the assistance of the Corps.

Because of the time constraints placed on the Corps regarding completion of the Westbank and Vicinity project, you recently announced your intention to utilize a swing gate at the Oakville site. The Parish had the opportunity to make a recommendation regarding the type of structure and was poised to recommend the "invisible wall" but again, pressure from the community caused the sponsor of the legislation to withdraw it prior to a vote being taken. Now, many of those same community members have asked us (the Council) to write you regarding another option, one proposed by an individual in the community.

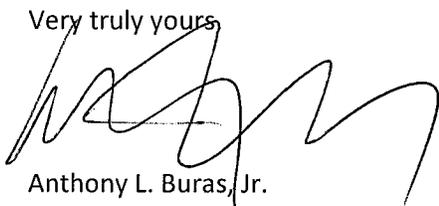
As the Councilmember representing the affected area I respectfully ask you to consider this proposed alternative to the earthen ramp option. Proposed by Mr. Donald Landry, this closure would be moved approximately 200 feet south of the Corps' original location. By doing so, the community of Oakville will not be cut in half. In addition, the ramp solution has many benefits for the Parish including not having to be closed for most threats and greater access for first responders to areas south of site. I also understand that a ramp was the option preferred by both the LA CPRA and the LA DOTD.

However, I would be remiss if I did not express that I have major concerns about the impact Mr. Landry's proposal will have on the landowners just to the south of the ramp and have expressed these concerns to Mr. Landry. The opinions of these residents must be taken into account fully.

I certainly respect the Corps' opinion on this matter but it is Plaquemines Parish and more importantly its residents, that have to live with the chosen alternative. Mr. Landry's alternative certainly warrants consideration.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,



Anthony L. Buras, Jr.
Councilman, District 5

Cc: LA CPRA
LA DOTD
U.S. Senator Mary Landrieu
U.S. Senator David Vitter
U.S. Congressman Charlie Melancon
LA Senator David Heitmeier
LA Senator A.G. Crowe
LA Rep. Ernest Wooton

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment

Comments: NOT TO complete the Tie-in would be absurd. The "Lower End" of the parish has always needed a protected Belle Chasse as a refuge for storms. However, an "Active system" such as a gate IS NOT as reliable as a passive system such as just raising the road. And, no emergency by-pass would be required. The road would, indeed, need a swing gate.

However, if the Corps of Engineers continues to fight re-flooding and rebuilding the protective marshes, the point is moot: we are done anyway, the port would survive, though, and that seems the Corp's main interest.

Name Douglas W. Moore P.E. Affiliation Resident
Street 113 Noble Dr Phone 504-432-3362
City, St Zip Belle Chasse, LA 70037 Fax _____
E-mail doug@swmooreinc@att.com

www.mvp.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Darrel Childress [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 11:49 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

My brother-in-law & sister-in-law live in Belle Chasse. After all of the national furor that was created by the flooding after Katrina, I cannot believe that the government would be willing to create the risk that even one home could possibly be flooded due to their reasoning behind building this floodwall. I thought that these types of projects were supposed to be designed to protect everyone, and not just the lucky ones that happen to be on the "right" side of the wall. Why not use the money for this project to raise the levels of the current levees rather than risking more lives and destruction of property, not to mention reduced home values and increased insurance rates?

Darrel & Gina Childress

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Golden [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 9:08 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13 Wall Placement

Col Lee,

The placement of a gated structure across LA HWY 23 is wrong in so many ways. Poor project management in previous years has resulted in a project that will induce flooding in a community that has not significantly flooded in the past. It is wrong for the Corps to go forward with the wall at Oakville as planned because it is the easy thing to do. Past mistakes by the Corps should not be compounded by continuing that legacy. A gate across the highway will not only hamper residential evacuations, but it will severely effect the evacuations of our oil and gas industry, an industry that is vital to the American economy.

The obvious choice is a raised road near the Connoco refinery. Your project engineer, Ted Carr, admitted that during an media interview with Val Bracy back in May. His answer to her question, "If you know the better solution is to extend the levee down the road, why not tell Congress and do it right the first time?", was very telling. His answer, "It's not our Job".

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 4:00 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

Col. Lee: I am still awaiting a reply from the corps regarding the economic impact this floodgate will have on homeowners south of this floodgate, specifically the availability and affordability of homeowner insurance. THIS QUESTION HAS BEEN ASKED BY MYSELF 4 TIMES NOW. It is your duty to acknowledge my question and provide an INTELLEAGENT AND RESEARCHED RESPONSE!

Wendy Wortmann Keating
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

November 20, 2009

SENT VIA FAX [REDACTED]

Senator David Vitter
United States Senate
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite SH-516
Washington, DC 20510

RE: IN RESPONSE TO YOUR E-UPDATE ON GULF OYSTER JOBS PROTECTION ACT

Senator Vitter:

Thank you for the email regarding the Louisiana Oyster Industry and the new bill (Gulf Oyster Jobs Protection Act) that you are trying to pass. Unfortunately, this may all be a mute point and let me tell you why. On Sept 17, 2009 you sent a letter to our parish president, Billy Nungesser advising that you would do everything possible to see that the residents in Jesuit Bend would have 100 year storm protection. To date, I have not gotten any correspondence from you stating that you have passed a bill to authorize the Army Corps of Engineers to include us in 100 year protection. As a matter of fact, on November 5, 2009, Col Lee with the USACOE specifically stated that he is going to sign off on IER-13 with a swing floodgate and EXCLUDE Jesuit Bend from 100 year protection. **IF YOU ALLOW THIS TO OCCUR, LOUISIANA WON'T HAVE AN OYSTER INDUSTRY WORTH SAVING!!!!**

Senator Vitter, what happened between Sept 17, 2009 and November 5, 2009? Obviously, there has been little or no communication between Congress and the USACOE or with our local officials. However, the residents of Jesuit Bend have continued to rally together to come up with alternative and better solutions to protect the ENTIRE parish as a whole. Don't you realize if this floodgate goes up the entire parish will suffer. Have you researched the negative economical impact this floodgate will have on not just Plaquemines but also the State of Louisiana and the country? Plaquemines parish generates a vast majority of the revenue for the State of Louisiana. By splitting our parish in half, not only will the state's revenue be affected but also the country. Did you realize that Conoco Phillips Refinery (who will be on the south side of the floodgate) produces 15% of the nation's jet fuel?

The USACOE **hasn't** given the public answers to all their substantive comments. As a matter of fact, they only decided that three questions were worth addressing and their answers were poorly researched and very vague. The USACOE has insulted our intelligence!!

The residents of Jesuit Bend have put in hours and hours of time and effort educating the public as to why this floodgate will create a negative impact on the parish, state and country. Senator Vitter, would you buy property south of this proposed floodgate? I doubt it! Why would anyone purchase property that will not be included in 100 year storm protection? However, when I purchased my land in 1997 and built my dream house in 1998, I did it because I was told that there was a plan in place to include Jesuit Bend in 100 year storm protection.

Senator Vitter, I asked Col Lee a substantive question in May 2009, September 2009 and again in November 2009 regarding Homeowner Insurance. To date, I still have not received an intelligent response!!!! Since Hurricane Katrina, homeowner insurance has become a major issue in Southeast Louisiana. Ask any realtor who has sold property in the metropolitan area since Hurricane Katrina and

they will confirm that affordability and availability of homeowner insurance has become a key component to closing the deal. My question to Col Lee on November 5, 2009 was, "Could the construction of this floodgate negatively impact the problem that already exists with respect to homeowner insurance, specifically the availability and affordability?" I further asked Col Lee "Did you or any of your staff consult with private insurers or the Louisiana Department of Insurance to get their take on the adverse risk of this floodgate?" History has shown that private insurers will avoid adverse risk. Once this proposed floodgate goes up, private insurers will have a decision to make. Do they want to continue to insure property south of the gate? If so, there's a good possibility that the area south of this floodgate will be reclassified as "Coastal Plaquemines" and insurance premiums will be significantly higher or insurance carriers may decide to pull out of the area all together? The economist representing the USACOE advised that no one from the Corps consulted with private insurers or the Louisiana Department of Insurance. Quite frankly, his attempt to answer these questions was juvenile at best and insulted my intelligence!

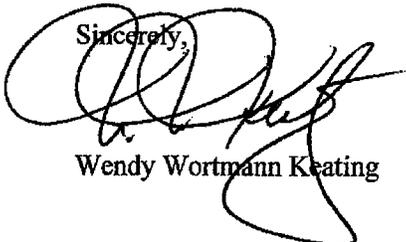
Senator Vitter, I currently pay \$4200 per year for only Homeowner Insurance. If my insurance carrier reclassifies us as "Coastal Plaquemines" and decides to pull out of the area and I am forced to secure insurance through Louisiana Citizens, my premium will go from \$4200 to over \$11,000. I am a single parent trying to put a son through college and another son through private school. There will be no way I can afford to pay these high premiums and will be forced to sell my dream house at a lower market value or better yet, let the mortgage company foreclose because I will not be able to sell the house for what I owe on it. Maybe, then I'll get a BAIL OUT from Congress and I'll be a contributor to the national deficit.

How can the USACOE use twenty-nine year old data to determine where the floodgate should go? Senator Vitter, would the Defense Department use twenty-nine year old data to send our troops into a war zone? I SURE HOPE NOT!!!!!!!

Over the past seven months, the residents of Jesuit Bend, Louisiana have focused all their spare time and energy fighting to get the residents south of this floodgate INCLUDED in 100 year storm protection. It is the DUTY of CONGRESS to give the USACOE the authorization to provide equal protection to ALL RESIDENTS. By Congress not authorizing equal protection, CONGRESS is stating that the residents south of the floodgate are LESS IMPORTANT than those residents north of the floodgate. THIS IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL!!!!

You personally went on record a few months ago and stated that the Jesuit Bend community should be included in 100 year protection. All we are asking you to do is keep your word and give this your top priority!! I MAKE THIS PROMISE TO YOU, SENATOR VITTER, IF YOU COME THROUGH FOR THE RESIDENTS SOUTH OF THIS FLOODGATE, WE WILL COME THROUGH FOR YOU DURING YOUR RE-ELECTION!!!

Sincerely,



Wendy Wortmann Keating

cc: United States Army Corps of Engineers
Col Lee
Fax # 862-2088

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Janet [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 7:05 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

To Corps of Engineers,

None of you on the board must not live in this area or you wouldn't be taking the value of our homes away and your not worried about the floods that can come and destroy us. If there are all these questions still out there and unanswered how can you continue saying our area will not be affected??

How can you state that there will be no economic impact if a complete and thorough study has not been done.

Are you betting our future and the values of our homes on your economist Kevin Lovetro?

Where is the technical analysis which the economist used to make his conclusion that our property values will NOT be affect? How can he state that our values may actually go UP??

Where is the report from the modeling done by the hydrologists to show that there will not be any induced risk of flooding?

How was the selection of 10 model storms done? How can this be a thorough study to show that we will not be affected?

Aren't you creating another MRGO?

Please do not take the value of our homes!!

Your action of constructing the West Bank and Vicinity project will HARM our property values and will change the economy of Plaquemines Parish. How can your economist not see this??

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: MICHELLE RANATZA [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 10:55 PM
To: MVN Environmental [REDACTED]
Subject: IER13

To Whom It May Concern:

Let me begin by saying, my name is Michelle Ranatza and I live at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] This is south of your proposed flood wall and what i call HOME,

I would like to thank you for hearing my concerns and those of my family, friends, neighbors and fellow residents of Plaquemines parish.

I have several questions and concerns for my home and what will essentially change my life here in the parish should the plans for the proposed wall move forward.

I am not confident that all of the studies that have been done are thorough and accurate with detail. Have they been updated since the 1980's? Without this information you cannot accurately and without a doubt tell me what affect this wall will have on property value, insurance rates or our economy. Where is the technical analysis which the economist, Kevin Lovetro used to make his conclusion that our property values will NOT be affected? How can he state that our values may actually go UP? Can you provide to me in writing without a doubt any of these answers? Are you willing to bank the end results of this wall on the words of one man?

Your action of constructing the West Bank and Vicinity project will HARM our property values and will change the economy of Plaquemines Parish. How can your economist not see this? In speaking with friends and people I do business with, I have been told on several occasions that they are looking at property in Plaquemines parish but WILL NOT move into the parish if this wall is built. You do not need to be an economist to know that this would be a negative impact on the growth of the parish.

All technical points aside, it comes down to this...HOME. Why would you want to put so many people, not cows and citrus trees, but people at risk to just simply meet a deadline. Are you able to sleep at night knowing that this wall will ultimately put not only property, but lives in danger. Why not take the time and look at all options with an open mind. Without concentrating on other issues such as 100year protection and saving the wetlands, you will actually set into motion changing what our map even looks like forever.

Everyday I drive my 7yr old daughter to school. We talk about things they do in class. We talk about things going on in the world such as her brother, who is a marine and will be deployed to Afghanistan in April, as she sings the star spangled banner. One morning she saw the signs that were up all along Hwy 23 and began to read them. She asked why they were there. So we discussed it. She began to get upset because her friend in school would not be protected by the wall. What she did not realize is that neither would she. This wall that you want to construct, I will pass everyday with my daughter in the car and she will see it as a reminder that someone who does not live here in Belle Chasse made a decision as to who needed to be protected and who didn't, and to this person, we did not need to be protected.

My home is where my children play without a care in the world. An environment here in Belle Chasse where God has blessed me with being able to live. Here, they run next door and see their aunt and cousins or their grandparents. This to me is the American dream.

Please stop, take more than a minute, and really look at the total impact this wall will have not only on my life, but on the lives of so many others. There is a better way. You just need to put it in motion.

Thank you again for your time

God Bless,

Michelle Ranatza

on behalf of:

Frank Ranatza Sr.
Patricia Ranatza
Rhonda Miller
Dustin Miller
Brandon Miller
Frank Ranatza Jr
Michelle Ranatza
Zachary Ranatza
Hailey Weatherford

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: george cognevich [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 10:31 PM
To: MVN Environmental; MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

Hi, my name is Anita Cognevich and I reside at [REDACTED]. I am a very concerned resident of lower Plaquemines Parish. I feel that your action of constructing the West Bank and Vicinity project will HARM my property value and will also change the economy of Plaquemines Parish. How can your economist not see this?? Aren't you creating another Mr. GO? Please do not take the value of our homes!! Please review the proposed plan.

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Monica Senner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 8:54 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

To Whom It May Concern:

The storm modeling you provided today, 11/24, determined the increased risk of flooding that Jesuit Bend would incur due to IER13.

I find that the short amount of time that you provided us with this information inadequate for us to evaluate it.

Also, shouldn't storm modeling be from more directions, wind speeds and landfalls than just that small area studied and include more storms?

The eastern-in tie will block water going north that will top the Miss. River levees; where are your storm surge models reflecting water coming from the east or south?

If the nonfederal levees in the storm model studies are at the future authorized height and conditions, what are the advanced measures that will be taken until this levee project is completed?

If the model storm studies reflect the nonfederal levees in their current condition, where are the studies that show the current condition of these levees?

Are the hesco baskets used in determining their current height? Do you know what materials were used on these levees?

Please do not put our community at increased risk to protect others.

Thank you,

Monica Senner

20

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Rink John [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 2:43 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13S

DEAR SIRs,

WITH THE MASSIVE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE AREA SOUTH OF OAKVILLE IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL THAT FULL DISCLOSURE OF PROJECT IER13S BE MADE AVAILABLE. I AM REQUESTING THAT FULL DETAILED ANALYSIS REGARDING THE PROJECT IER13S BE MADE PUBLIC ALONG WITH THE ERDC REPORTS.

THANK YOU,

JOHN RINK

Gilmore, Tammy H MVN

From: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Sunday, November 22, 2009 11:16 AM
To: Gilmore, Tammy H MVN; Wallace, Frederick W MVN; Holder, Ken MVN
Subject: FW: IER13S

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Joan M. Exnicios
Chief,
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch CEMVN-PM-R P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, LA
70160-0267 Desk (504) 862-1760 Fax (504) 862-2088 Cell (504) 432-7104

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

From: Rink John [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 2:43 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13S

DEAR SIRs,

WITH THE MASSIVE POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE AREA SOUTH OF OAKVILLE IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL THAT FULL DISCLOSURE OF PROJECT IER13S BE MADE AVAILABLE. I AM REQUESTING THAT FULL DETAILED ANALYSIS REGARDING THE PROJECT IER13S BE MADE PUBLIC ALONG WITH THE ERDC REPORTS.

THANK YOU,

JOHN RINK

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Rink John [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 9:11 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER 13 RHETORIC

WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I would like it to be part of public record that I am extremely against the proposed flood wall project crossing HWY 23 in Plaquemines Parish, La. I would also like it to be part of the public record that the so called " PUBLIC MEETINGS" which began in May 2009 have been nothing more than RHETORIC. Each meeting found hundreds if not a thousand people outcry against this proposed project. From the very conception of this project in 1996 it has been handled egregiously. With the immense negative impact on the community south of the proposed flood wall in Oakville, everything must be done to legally stop this project. Why have public meetings if when you receive so much resistance against a project, you ignore the public input and do what you want. I would like it to be part of the public record the Col. Lee egregiously insulted everyone in the auditorium at the last meeting in early Nov. 2009 before the final decision by saying in his opening statement " NOT TO SACRIFICE THE LIVES OF 100,000 PEOPLE BY HOLDING UP THIS PROJECT ANY LONGER." Why would he start the "public meeting" with such an insult to the people he will be negatively impacting the most. Do our life savings in our homes, do our personal effects in our homes not count as much as our neighbors above this so called flood gate? We are being financially and emotionally impacted by this project with no regards to the thousands of people who have expressed there concerns. No one has disclosed scientific or evidence based financial impact on our negative impact this project will cause us south of the flood wall project. TO SIGN OFF ON THIS PROJECT WITH SO MUCH NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM CITIZENS IN PLAQUEMINES PARISH IS UNTHINKABLE AND MOST LIKELY UNLAWFUL. The courts recently handed down a negative decision against the Corp. regards the MRGO and when my property is negatively impacted by induced flooding after this project is completed this letter will be part of a long list of law suites filed against the Corps for this flood wall across HWY 23.

My family and I reside at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] We have been paying property tax since 1993 to plaquemines parish. We rebuilt our homes after hurricane Katrina with the aid of the LRA because of our love of our community. A community which is about to be devided. Only to discover that we have been sold out by our elected officials and the army corp of engineers. If I would have known this in 2006, I would not have invested so much time and money to repair my house after hurricane Katrina.

Thank you,

JOHN E. RINK
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

17
Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 5:13 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER-13 comment

Attachments: IER13 Addendum Comment.doc



IER13 Addendum
Comment.doc (40...

I just wanted to make sure my comment was sent to the proper e-mail address.

Christie Lauff

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Cmlauff [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 5:39 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER-13 comment

Importance: High

If the Corps of Engineers can't be held accountable and/or can't do anything about the public comments without authorizations from Congress, why do you have public comment periods without having Congress present?

November 20, 2009

Col. Lee and whom it may concern,

Re: IER-13 and Addendum to IER-13

This will be my final comment on a project that I was not properly informed of and will be adversely affected by. I have not had a subscription to the newspaper for quite a few years and was not informed by my local government, or the ACOE of this project that will affect my residence. As far as the required monthly public meetings, they have not been monthly and I have not been properly informed on those either.

I worked in a lab before Hurricane Katrina. When putting together any form of report, it had to include any and all effects from the project, both positive and negative, within and outside of the procedure. You have acknowledged that up to 8 miles south of the proposed project will be affected from the entire WBV project. The addendum states, "The difference in peak surge diminishes to 0 to 0.1 ft. approximately 8 miles south of Oakville." What I surmise from the meeting Thursday night is that you can't discuss the negative impacts the project will have 8-miles south of the project because it's not part of the authorized project. How can you do such a massive project and not discuss in length the potential affect it will have on the area outside of it? If you will have adverse affects 8 miles south of this proposed project, then why is that data not included in your report? How can you only address the area that will benefit from this system and not address the area left in harms way resulting from this project? Why are you only acknowledging an area 1-mile out from this project if up to 8-miles will be affected? This does not sound like a full report.

The addendum states, "This project is absolutely critical to the entire Westbank. Without it, the area is vulnerable to storm surge." I am about 3 miles south of this proposed project and a little common sense tells me that I will then become vulnerable to storm surge if this project is put in place as is.

Julie Vignes states in the 08 Jan 09 meeting, "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." Therefore, those "inside of the closed system" will have affordable insurance and those "outside of the closed system" will not. It is not just a matter of being able to get insurance, it is a matter of being able to afford the insurance. The Emergency Alternative Arrangements revised on February 2, 2007 states "In the absence of certified hurricane protection works, flood insurance would not be available to the area residents and commercial interests at an affordable level. As a consequence, area redevelopment would be stifled." I think this says it all since my residence will not be within the "certified hurricane protection works."

The Addendum to Draft IER#13 states, "The area south of the WBV proposed action in Plaquemines Parish has developed since the original 1996 Congressional authorization. Risk reduction for the communities located in Plaquemines Parish south of the proposed action will be discussed in the socioeconomic analysis contained in the New Orleans to Venice Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (NFL SEIS)." The negative impacts IER13 will have to the 8-mile area south of the project should be addressed in the IER13 document. Why would you address negative impacts of one project report in another projects report? Why did you only do a study to evaluate the benefits of the project? How do you justify omitting the negative impacts the project will have on the community within the southern 8-miles being affected?

In 1996, when congress added everything east of the Algiers Canal, did you fail to mention the planned growth for the area within 8 miles south of the southernmost part of the alignment? The expanding residential area from Jesuit Bend to La Reussite is no more than 14 years old.

There was a Land Use Plan for Walker Road to La Reussite that was introduced in July of 1995. It is stated in this plan that "Residential land uses, especially in this area, will comprise one of the largest portions of the area when completely developed. Small areas of commercial use will be interspersed for the convenience of the residential areas but no industrial areas should be planned for this area. Future industrial areas should be planned around the Hero Canal (Walker Road) area to the north and around Citrus Lands and other more suitable lands to the south of the La Reussite Fresh Water Diversion Plant. This report presented probability growth models ranging between a high of 40,000 and a low of 13,000 persons for this 7-mile reach. The report also states that "The total area for many years is now beginning to exhibit signs of some large residential subdivision development. This is particularly true around the Jesuits Bend area."

If you continue south with the levees to the La Reussite Fresh Water Diversion Plant and then cross Highway 23 to the Mississippi River levee, the "path to close the system" is not as wide and would not require a floodgate to cross the highway. An elevated road would be sufficient and there would be less impact on residences and businesses, which could alleviate some of the real estate acquisitions and other issues in the current proposed alignment. You would also be following the footprint of the current levee system.

Again, this project is being based off of a 23 year old study, which is not appropriate or up to date for the current alignment being proposed. What good are the levees from Jesuit Bend to La Reussite if they do not concur with the new 100-year protection standard, which will not afford us affordable insurance rates and will decrease our property values?

When is the Draft CED supposed to be released to include analysis of the indirect effects of the entire system of levees and structures of the Westbank and Vicinity project on the hydrology south of Oakville?

How can you base the current project on EISs and Environmental Assessments that were written in the past when the area is clearly economically different than what it was in 1986? It's stated in the Emergency Alternative Arrangements revised on February 2, 2007 that "No additional significant impacts are anticipated to occur as the result of the repair, restoration, and rehabilitation of these projects." This is not true.

At the April 29, 2009 meeting, it was said that the anticipated date for the release of the EIS was late summer and that will take into account the analysis from Oakville, south. Where is it?

With all do respect, I would appreciate a timely reply.

Sincerely,

Christie Lauff

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Stacey French-Lee [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 1:49 PM
To: MVN Environmental; MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

I've seen the devastation of property and lives as the result of Hurricane Katrina. Knowing of that devastation, I am interested in decisions being made concerning the West Bank and Vicinity project. I would like to know how was the selection of 10 model storms was done and how can this be a thorough study to show that people will not be negatively affected?

I look forward to you reply.

Sincerely,
Stacey French-Lee

"I maintain my pride in the face

of men, but I abandon it before

God who drew me out of nothingness

to make me what I am." Alexandre

Dumas

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 3:36 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

Your actions are going to take away from the values of our homes and are going to affect a lot of people please do what is right for everyone.
Renee Davis

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Corradi, Robin M CPT RES USAR 377TH TSC G3 [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 9:47 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Think beyond the wall (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

To Whom it May Concern:

I have been to several of the town hall meetings and I am a homeowner in Jesuit Bend. Full disclosure was not given to me when I purchased this home in 2007 yet at the meetings I was hearing that this has been in the works for many years. I must say I don't have full faith and confidence in the thought and planning that is behind the IER13 project. As a taxpayer and a voter, I am irritated that a project "must be done" just because some committee mandated it. That committee does not live and work and where we do; they have not seen what happens when a hard rain comes in and where the water comes from. Those of us who live here, and many have lived all there lives, have offered other solutions but I don't think we are taken seriously. Just because we are not hydrologists or employees of the corps does not mean we don't collectively have an intelligent, creative and forward thinking population down here in our part of the parish. Don't dismiss us. Don't cut us off. Don't you be the one who makes a decision from a pile of papers that changes the lives of thousands and divides a parish.

CPT Robin Corradi

[REDACTED]

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 8:56 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: SAVE THE PARISH

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS:

PLEASE FIND A WAY TO SAVE THEM ALL. WWJD (WHAT WOULD JESUS DO??) HE WOULD FIND A WAY TO HELP THEM ALL! WHY EXCLUDE SOME AND BESIDES WHO ARE YOU TO DECIDE WHO TO SAVE. PLEASE LOOK AT ALL THE OPTIONS AND DO NOT MAKE RASH DECISIONS. THERE HAS GOT TO BE A GOOD SOLUTION FOR ALL. IF UNABLE TO COME UP WITH, PLEASE GET HELP FROM SOMEONE HIGHER THAN YOURSELVES THAT CAN. I AM SURE NEITHER YOU, NOR YOUR FAMILY WILL BE EFFECTED, BUT WHAT IF????? THESE PEOPLE HAVE WORKED ALL THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR HOMES AND A NICE PLACE TO RAISE THEIR FAMILIES. A LOT OF THESE PEOPLE ARE PROTECTING YOU AS WELL AS MYSELF FOR OUR COUNTRY AND THIS IS HOW YOU ARE TRYING TO REPAY THEM.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

SUZANNE FOWLER

Top Online Degrees

Browse our directory of 1000 degree to find your best fit. Free info!

<<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL2132/c?cp=>

5VwfDaHRITOPCL67f64DpQAAJz3jyQ5kV8HBSsRNIA1Kzd2TAAQAAAFAAAAOgCjT4AAAM1AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AQRQAAAA=>

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Kerry Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 11:22 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Reference : IER13

I have observed the progress of this issue with great interest. In the world of Government decision making I have one question. Where is the report from the modeling done by the hydrologists to show that there will not be any induced risk of flooding?
Kerry Cook

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 7:11 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: re:plaquemines' flooding

The Corps of Engineers should have been working on flooding problems for Plaquemines Parish for years instead of turning a blind eye toward the marshes behind the parish that have been eroding for years due to Corps neglect.

Dirt from the dredging of the Mississippi River, which occurs to enable larger ships to reach New Orleans, could have been used and still be used to rebuilt these marches.

The dirt would be the same as the back levee as the River silt is what built the area and emptied into the marsh.

There is NO excuse for the "blind eye" of the Corps to now threaten people with their "do it my way or else" attitude. They allowed the problem to develop and now they want to sacrifice the people for THEIR neglect.

When will the people who represent Plaquemines Parish in Washington stand up and point the finger where it belongs and MAKE the Corps spend the money to do the job right. They say it is too costly! Ask these people who are willing to destroy our lives if they live in this Parish, if so, where? You 'll find the answer is "no". Do you really think they would allow this to happen if their life savings and lives were at risk ... it would never have become an issue.

Put the blame where it belongs and spend the money ... remember it is our tax dollars that have been thrown away on useless ventures and now that we need help, we are told to turn the other cheek. Instead of riding on the riverside levee, they should have being doing aerial views of Barataria Bay since our storms generally come from the south, not north. Isn't there any educated people in this government agency that has the courage to tell the truth and stand up for what is right?

I pray someone has a conscience and uses it before the largest financial contributing parish in Louisiana is washed away due to politics and stupidity because of unknowledgible and non-willing to learn Corps personnel.

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Sonnier, Ralph P [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 8:25 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Plaquemines Parish Flood wall/Levees

Where is the report from the modeling done by the hydrologists to show that there will not be any induced risk of flooding?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

THIS E-MAIL AND ANY MATERIALS TRANSMITTED WITH IT MAY CONTAIN CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY MATERIAL FOR THE SOLE USE OF THE INTENDED RECIPIENT. ANY REVIEW, USE, DISTRIBUTION OR DISCLOSURE BY OTHERS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE THE INFORMATION FROM THE RECIPIENT, PLEASE NOTIFY THE SENDER BY REPLY E-MAIL AND DELETE ALL COPIES OF THIS MESSAGE.

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 1:41 PM
To: Lee, Alvin B COL MVN
Cc: [REDACTED] Vignes,
Julie D MVN; MVN Environmental; ted.carr@usace.army.mil
Subject: Corps proposed crossing of highway 23 at Oakville IER 13
Attachments: Earthen Ramp 200ft South.jpg



Earthen Ramp
200ft South.jpg (...)

From: Donald M. Landry

To: Colonel Alvin Lee, US Army Corps of Engineers

CC: Garrett Graves, Michael Stack, Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter, Congressman Melancon, Congressman Scalise, Senator Heitmeier, Senator Crowe, Congressman Wooten, Julie Vignes, Ted Carr, Joan Exnicios

Subject: Corps proposed crossing of highway 23 at Oakville IER 13

Attachment: Modified Ramp Proposal sketch

My name is Donald Landry, a lifelong resident of Plaquemines Parish. I have been trying to come up with a solution to the Westbank and Vicinity levee protection project crossing of Highway 23 at Oakville that is acceptable to the whole parish community. At the Corps of Engineers meeting Thursday evening, Nov. 5, Col. Lee stated that since there was no unified consensus for one of the four proposals, the Corps would pick the easiest & least expensive solution, the swing gate. This solution divides our community and is most disruptive & offensive.

I strongly recommend if the Corps can not provide 100 yr. levee protection from Oakville to La Reussite in the self imposed time frame, and we are forced to choose a closure structure that it would be a Modified Ramp - not the ramp location that is in the final set of 4 proposals that would never be acceptable with a barrier running down highway 23 dividing the Oakville community in half. A reasonable proposal for a ramp would be starting south of Saint Peter Street.

I took measurements from the current proposed crossing to the last streets in Oakville (Saint Peter Street). Using the same Corps ramp measurements, I propose the same type of ramp as in the final 4 proposals, that would start after St. Peter Street, which is 510 ft. center to center from the current alignment south of Captain Larry fs. Moving the center of the highway crossing 200 feet south. Turning the current proposed T-wall at Captain Larry fs south 40 ft. from the highway running parallel to the highway to meet that crossing and same on the east side of the highway This proposal does not impact the cohesion of the residents in Oakville!

The ramp solution has many benefits for the parish and is also the preferred method of the CPRA and the DOTD, as stated in their letter dated July 15, 2009. The most important benefits are - First Responders would have full access throughout the area and the main evacuation route would not have to be closed for most threats (once every 10 years as stated in Corps documents).

We appreciate the Corps opinion on the pros and cons of the swing gate and the ramp, BUT the citizens of the parish will have to live with the final solution. In our opinion, it should be our decision to weigh the pros and cons of the proposals and come to a decision that the citizens of the parish will have to live with. We agree that the "Modified Ramp"

is the best solution that serves our needs and meets the objective of your authorization. We can weigh the pros and cons, discuss as a group and make that decision ourselves as a parish that will have to live with the solution everyday and through every hurricane threat. We appreciate the Corps work and efforts in this matter but we feel we are closer to the real impact of each of these solutions.

Realizing that the little time we have to address this important issue, open comment ends Nov 25, the council as a whole will not be able to propose and vote on a resolution. I am personally walking this proposal to all the parish government officials (President, council members), local businesses, Oakville Community Action Group, Plaquemines Association of Business and Industry, and petitions from as many citizens from the whole parish (Belle Chasse, Jesuit Bend, Port Sulphur, Buras). The parish council will introduce at the next council meeting on Dec. 10 a resolution stating support for the Modified Ramp and have an ordinance filed with the state to that effect.

We need to work as a team to provide the best solutions for all the citizens of Plaquemines Parish. Colonel Lee, as a member of the team for providing the citizens with levee protection, please work with us to make this solution happen (Modified Ramp).

@

Please call me to discuss. [REDACTED]

Thanks for your time. We, the whole parish community, would like to express that this solution be considered.

Sincerely,

Donald Landry

Doctoral Degrees Online

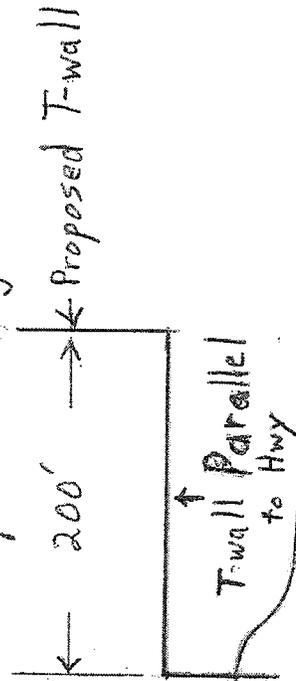
Explore our directory of degrees. Move ahead with a Doctorate Degree!

<<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL2232/c?cp=EWTfn21AYP->

jVNTRaDXrCAAAJz7jyQ5kV8HBSsRNIA1Kzd2TAAQAAAAFAAAAALx0kz4AAAMlAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAkSEAAAAA=>

Earthen Ramp 200' South of

Proposed Alignment



W St Peter Street

Road Elevation above current 6.5'

5'

2'

E St Peter Street

Swing Gate for railroad

200'

Proposed Alignment 500'

Scale 1" = 100'

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment

Comments: We need this Floodgate
Thanks for making this happen.

I think the swing gate is the best decision
because of the fact that it is easiest to
close.

Name Jane Mix Affiliation home owner
Street [REDACTED] Phone _____
City, St Zip [REDACTED] Fax _____
E-mail _____

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

**Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment**

Comments: I am happy to know that the
flood gate will be completed by June 2011,

Name Jane Mix Affiliation home owner
Street [REDACTED] Phone [REDACTED]
City, St Zip [REDACTED]
E-mail [REDACTED]

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

New Orleans to Venice, LA (NOV) Plaquemines Parish Federal Levee
Public Scoping Comment

Comments: Thank you for the information and
the presentation. I would
like to see the roller gate or swing
gate flood gate used. Those two
look strong.
I am glad that the non federal levee will be
raised.

Name June Drift Affiliation _____
Street _____ Phone _____
City, St Zip _____ Fax _____
E-mail _____

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment

Comments: The "Swing Gate" Flood Gate
sounds like the simplest way to go.
Thanks for all your time meeting
with with the residents. Please know
that most people in Belle Chasse proper
want this flood gate but were afraid
to say anything because of the
people down past the Oakville area.

Name Morgan Max Affiliation home owner
Street [REDACTED] Phone _____
City, St [REDACTED] Fax _____
E-mail _____

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.noiaenvironmental.gov

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 3:28 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

As per the workshop meeting held on September 19th, 2009 at the Belle Chasse High School, I was encouraged to see that the Parish Officials and the Corp of Engineers were providing a joint coordinated effort in coming closer to a resolution for both the Eastern Tie-In as well as addressing the concerns for the residences south of Oakville. In that meeting, what I understood was that the Corp would continue to develop the Eastern Tie-In final details and simultaneous to that continue developing a segment of the New Orleans to Venice project that would extend from Oakville to Laureusette such that both projects could be completed by the June 2011 deadline giving Belle Chasse and residences south of Oakville including Jesuit Bend and residences in Laureusette 100 year Hurricane protection and a Federalized Levee System. I am highly in favor of this approach and hope that the Corp can expeditiously accomplish this in that timeframe. I do applaud the residences south of Oakville for providing such a united front and hope that the overall outcome of these projects benefits us all.

Regards,
Bobby Wilson

Eastern Tie-In
Individual Environmental Report 13 Addendum
Comment

Comments: See Attachment

Name GENEVA P. GRILLE Affiliation RESIDENT
Street [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

November 12, 2009

Please consider the following information in support of your approval of placing the swing gate option for the eastern tie-in floodgate closure at Oakville as presented in your public hearing of Nov. 5, 2009. This construction should be started as quickly as possible while proper authorities seeks a PAC to the WBV project for federal inclusion of the area south of Oakville into 100 year protection. The Belle Chasse Polder is a much older and more significantly developed area, long under pumped drainage. Approximately 80% of the polder is drained wetlands lying significantly below sea-level. This includes the area of the NAS. Land elevations are as low as EL -6.0 ft NAVD88, each side of the GIWW (Algiers Canal). Much development occurred before the Parish's entrance into the FIP at lower elevations than the low EL. -1.5 ft NGVD in the A zones of this polder. With no adequate closure at Oakville and the Hero Canal, the Belle Chasse and English Turn areas are under extreme hurricane risk in even a moderate hurricane event before Corps 2011 improvements in place.

The area Jesuit Bend area below Oakville is a more recently developed residential area. Most of the area is a narrow strip lying along the natural banks of the Mississippi River with approximately 20% of the area below sea level. Elevations in the drained swamplands near the back levee fall to a low of EL -2.0 ft NAVD88. The previous lowest BFE on the FIRM map in this area pre-Katrina was +1.0 ft NGVD.

A copy of the 1984 Plaquemines Parish contour maps and elevations are provided for your use in this consideration. Be aware that there have been some changes in council district boundaries since the maps were published and the survey datum is NGVD. Present NAVD88 elevations are approximately 1.0 ft lower than the elevations shown on the maps. I have secured these maps from the Parish's Engineering Department and have highlighted the elevations below sea level in yellow. Information regarding the NAS is restricted but the contours are obvious. No elevation information in Orleans Parish is shown on these maps. I am furnishing this information as a resident of Belle Chasse for more than 22 years and have been waiting for adequate hurricane protection for the Belle Chasse since the time I moved here. I actively worked on the WBV project since 1985 for 18 years as the DOTD District Design Engineer before my retirement.

Geneva P. Grille, P.E.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geneva P. Grille". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Pete and Jamie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 11:48 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: [REDACTED] Lee, Alvin B COL
MVN: [REDACTED] Powell, Nancy J MVN; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: URGENT: Public Comment on IER13: FLOOD DATA DOES NOT REFLECT ACCURATE INDUCED RISK
Attachments: fort.maxzetaft.Storm_018.SL15_2007_r09a.63.z3.tiff



fort.maxzetaft.Stor
m_018.SL15_...

Ms Exnicios,

In addition to my comments about economic impact below, please add these comments as part of the public record for IER13. If any of these documents were not transferred electronically, please let me know, and I will attempt to re-send. A Return Receipt is requested..

Upon review of the flood data posted on nolaenvironmental.gov yesterday, I see several glaring problems with the flood analysis used in the Addendum to IER13.

Back in April, I encouraged a study be done comparing the flood risk before WBV (base condition) and after the WBV is constructed (with project condition).

While I agree these tests were set up correctly, changing only one variable, I see that there are THREE MAJOR problems with the analysis done, and my conclusions have been confirmed by Dr. Joseph Suhayda, former associate professor in the Louisiana State University Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and former director of the Louisiana Water Resources Research Institute.

First:

The Base Condition does not reflect the current condition

Reference:

http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/nola_public_data/projects/usace_levee/docs/original/IER13AddConRec.pdf
<http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/nola_public_data/projects/usace_levee/docs/original/IER13AddConRec.pdf>

From the ADCIRC runs on pages 14-18, Appendix A, not a single storm chosen for the base condition causes flooding of the areas adjacent to the Harvey Canal or Algiers Canal. Not

a single one! This indicates that the base condition is either not accurate (been manipulated), or the West Closure Complex is COMPLETELY unnecessary, because according to the runs shown here, there is no risk of flooding to these areas currently. By modifying the Grid using "authorized levee elevations" and setting them to 30 feet (page 2), you are not displaying the true surge maximums for the model storms before the WBV is constructed. In general, I would say that these maximums are too high in your test runs.

I have attached a copy of the ADCIRC run 018 done by the COE for FEMA, using 2007 base. There are other examples we can cite of flooding of the Harvey/Algiers area. I showed this example at our meeting with the Corps on September 21st. You can zoom in to see the Harvey area in more detail.

The CORRECT base condition would show flooding in the areas near Harvey Canal and Algiers Canal. Remember we should be looking at the effects the ENTIRE SYSTEM of the WBV (from the Western Tie-in to WCC to Eastern Tie-in) has on the area from Oakville to LaReussite.

If the base condition is not accurate, then comparison of the additional induced risk (WITH PROJECT CONDITION) cannot be measured accurately!!

Your conclusions about NO ADDITIONAL FLOOD RISK to Jesuit Bend are in error.

Second:

The 10 storms chosen for the modeling do not reflect the true worst case of flooding on Jesuit Bend levees.

Of the 10 storms chosen, only 5 of them produce statistical surge levels at Ollie Canal behind Jesuit Bend (L274 save point 10), see Table 2 on page 6.

There are much better storms which would model pushing of water toward the Jesuit Bend levees. Intuitively, those storms should generally run from SW to NE direction.

Data points should also be evaluated using points along the northern end (Perez land), south end (LaReussite), and INSIDE the protected areas of the reach from Oakville to LaReussite.

To conclude from this small sampling of storms, and the small sampling of data points that there is minimal induced flood risk (9 inches), or even a decreased risk of flooding (!) is faulty reasoning due to incomplete data.

And Third:

The "WITH PROJECT CONDITION" does not reflect the preferred alternative of IER13

From the test runs made WITH PROJECT, Appendix B, pages 19-23, the Eastern Tie-in does not

cross HWY 23 at Oakville, it is shown as terminating at the northern end of the Non-Fed levees behind Oakville. Flooding is shown north of Oakville in several runs.

Again, how can accurate data be if we are not comparing the whole system BEFORE it is constructed with the system AFTER the project is constructed, and to do this, you should analyze the preferred alignment.

SUMMARY

This analysis of induced risk of flooding does not look at the WBV/WCC as a system. It only looks at BEFORE and AFTER of WCC project, NOT the WBV project, and even then it does not accurately depict the base condition. The conclusions drawn from this study are faulty and will put the area south of Oakville at risk.

A much more in-depth look at this needs to be done...or we will certainly have another MRGO scenario.

The WBV project, from St Charles Parish to the eastern tie-in in Belle Chasse, will put the citizens of Jesuit Bend at a much greater flood risk once it is constructed.

Several times in the April 29th meeting, May 4th meeting, and the September 19th workshop, project managers have acknowledged that we have woefully inadequate levees protecting us currently. The NFL project will not be built in time to give us protection from the induced risk of flooding due to WBV. While we haggle over how much the NFL project needs to be raised to account for the induced risk of flooding, the more prudent Course of Action would be to include the northern reach of the NFL in the WBV project, design and build it to the 100-year standard, and do it SIMULTANEOUSLY with the Hero Canal Reach to avoid putting the citizens at risk for 2-3 years waiting for NFL to be built.

Please re-read the Environmental Operating Principles below, especially PRINCIPLE # 5.

THIS WILL PUT US AT RISK!!

Pete Stavros

Jesuit Bend Resident
[REDACTED]

From: Pete and Jamie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 12:03 AM

To: 'Pete and Jamie'; 'MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil'
Subject: Public Comment on IER13

Ms. Ignicios,

Please consider this email as a comment for the record on the addendum to IER-13 released 27 October 09.

First I will say that the addendum for which we were waiting over 6 months does little to address our very real concerns about induced flood risk and economic influence on the area south of Oakville. We were waiting six months for your response. I would have thought your addendum would have been much more thorough and comprehensive in order to answer our fears of devastation.

First with regards to the induced risk of flooding, I do not think that your investigation into the induced risk of flooding captured the true risk of the entire system of levees and structures of the WBV and WCC on our inadequate levees in Jesuit Bend. The choice of 10 storms do not represent the worst case of induced flood risk, and give a false sense that WBV "system" of levees will not harm us. This is a re-creation of MRGO scenario, and your staff has not adequately addressed this.

With respect to the economic impact of WBV on the area south of Oakville, Kevin Lovetro's response indicates a lack of both preparation and thorough analysis of the true effects of this project. From all Corps documentation the HSDRRS is required by FEMA to provide 100 year flood protection to provide "affordable" flood insurance. By excluding over 3000 residents from this much-needed certification, you are inducing great financial damage to our property values.

Keven Lovetro did not fully research the growth potential for the Oakville to LaReussitte Reach.

There was a land use study the parish published in 1995. It indicated a large potential for residential growth in the area from Oakville to LaReussite. At the time of the study there were 1339 residents. There are nearly three times that count today, and the study shows a capacity of over 13,000 residents in the future, in this reach alone. From the original authorization date of the project and present day, the human environment has changed significantly. This IER falls short because it does not adequately define the environment, which is required by CEQ. Kevin Lovetro's conclusions about the economic effects the WBV will have on our homes are admittedly not backed up by any form of analysis or research. See email below in attachment 2.

There have been numerous studies done to show how flood protection affects property values. The conclusions made by one award-winning study done in Florida indicate that property values depend on many factors, and flood protection is one very real effect. These real estate experts analyzed the sales prices of properties INSIDE and OUTSIDE flood protection. As expected, these researchers concluded the seller commanded a lower sales price for properties located outside flood protection over a 17-year period. Because flood protection in Louisiana has gained much greater public attention since Katrina, this effect will be much more dramatic once WBV is constructed. One additional conclusion made

in this study concerned effects of sales price on homes valued greater than \$250K. Because the cap on NFIP insurance policies is \$250k, the downward pressure on homes valued at greater than \$250K is much more pronounced than those less than \$250K. If a thorough flood plain inventory had been accomplished as part of IER-13, Kevin Lavetro could have shown you how a large number of homes in this area are valued greater than \$250K. To state that our property values will not be affected by being left out of the 100-year protection of the WBV is downright negligent.

Lastly I'd like to address the topic of public engagement. From the beginning the Corps has stated that the key to better decision making is thorough public engagement. Yet your public relations office has repeatedly held off our requests for meetings with the Hydraulics and Hydrology section. I attended other Corps meetings, but was told that questions about IER13 would not be addressed. Meetings were repeatedly scheduled, then cancelled at the last minute, and then in September, I was told I could not bring an expert to a meeting with your H/H staff. I was told that Dr. Suhayda was involved in litigation against the Corps (which was absolutely NOT true), and that the Corps did not want him to use the flood data against them. I protested this ruling by your P.R.O., because I failed to see how this met the intent of public engagement. How could you hold back data which would be used to make a decision which could hurt so many people?

I was reluctantly allowed to speak with your staff on Monday, 21 September, AFTER the September 19th Open House meeting in Belle Chasse. Even then, this meeting was held in the legal counsel's conference room, with attorneys present and we were instructed to ask no questions outside of the flood analysis study. No methodology or engineering assumptions were given; it was merely a re-hash of the conclusions and graphic displayed at the meeting two days earlier. Only TODAY, on the 24th of NOVEMBER, was the report on the effects of flooding released. Why was this report held until the LAST day of public comment, when we now do not have an opportunity to analyze the methodology used?!!! This is COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!

In early September, because there had been no release of information on flood analysis or economic impact assessment, we filed a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. This request was dismissed because the case was still "pre-decisional." This, to me, does not make for "better decision-making through public involvement in the process." Nor does it meet with the intent of the Environmental Operating Principles the Corps of Engineers is supposed to live by. Please read each of these again in attachment 1, and see how these principles have NOT been applied in our case.

Please re-consider the option of including the reach from Oakville to LaReussitte as part of the WBV project, to protect 1450 homes and over 3000 residents in this area. It was considered in June 09 as an alternative but did not appear in the addendum.

Please do not put us in harm's way...

Pete Stavros

████████████████████

████████████████████

Attachment 1: Environmental Operation Principles

Environmental Operating Principles

- <http://www.usace.army.mil/environment/Documents/Environmental_Operating_Principles.pdf>
1. Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
 2. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
 3. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.
 4. Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.
 5. Seeks ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
 6. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
 7. Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by formalizing a set of "Environmental Operating Principles" applicable to all its decision-making and programs.

These principles foster unity of purpose on environmental issues, reflect a new tone and

direction for dialogue on environmental matters, and ensure that employees consider conservation, environmental preservation and restoration in all Corps activities.

Sustainability can only be achieved by the combined efforts of federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, and the private sector, each doing its part, backed by the citizens of the world. These principles help the Corps define its role in that endeavor.

By implementing these principles, the Corps will continue its efforts to develop the scientific, economic and sociological measures to judge the effects of its projects on the environment and to seek better ways of achieving environmentally sustainable solutions. The principles are being integrated into all project management process throughout the Corps.

Attachment 2: email from Gib Owen to Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
To: Matt McBride <mcbri35@yahoo.com
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=mcbri35@yahoo.com&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
Cc: "Lovetro, Keven MVN" <Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 6:38:21 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride,
There were no formal reports or other documents completed for this analysis. The Economist assigned to the project can provide additional information on the process followed in making the determination documented in the IER 13 Addendum.

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/ HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader New Orleans District
504 862-1337

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 11:46 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Belle Chasse

IER 13: Comment for the record

After initially failing to notify residents adequately of the Highway 23 floodwall plan, the Corps had an opportunity to study the substantive issues raised by Plaquemines Parish residents south of the floodwall. Instead, the Corps has continued to rely on flawed and outdated analyses of the region and has refused to allow independent technical analyses or access to modeling done by their hydrologists and economists.

It's one thing to fail to recognize the value of protecting Jesuit Bend and areas south of Oakville (...It was certainly easy enough for the Corps to change its boundaries in Oakville from its original plan...); it's quite another to create risk by its acts.

The Corps intends to forge ahead with its flawed plan, which clearly will block effective evacuation and access to rescue vehicles, will induce flooding, and will cause negative economic impact without mitigation.

The Corps must face the fact that to push through the floodwall plan with a vague promise that the areas south of Oakville may be protected in a few years from now is a dangerous proposition and is in fact absurd.

Date: November 24, 2009
Marilyn E. Stavros, Kennebunkport, Maine

signed:

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 10:04 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Please Reconsider

By building a wall across hwy 23, you lock people out from safety, and moreover, you create a situation where you put people in harms way. If this goes through, and a flood occurs, there will be a human cost and the corps will bear the responsibility - especially since there has been an outcry from the community affected.

There are many reasons not to build that wall and substanstive comments have been made but not addressed. Reasons such as planning based on outdated maps, reducing property values, making it more costly for homeowners and businesses to get flood insurance. Failure to release studies from hydrologists and listen to one that has been outspoken against the floodwall are more reasons to stop and take the time to realize the errs in the studies and reconsider.

Do the right thing and put a halt to the wall. Protect Plaquemines Parish the correct way by tying into and building up the non-federal levees.

The actions of the corps affect my family. Please - No Wall.

Michael Stavros
Freeport, ME

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Pete and Jamie [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 11:58 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: FW: sustan comment that jamie was typing for you

Ms. Ignicios,

Please consider this email as a comment for the record on the addendum to IER-13 released 27 October 09.

First I will say that the addendum for which we were waiting over 6 months does little to address our very real concerns about induced flood risk and economic influence on the area south of Oakville. We were waiting six months for your response. I would have thought your addendum would have been much more thorough and comprehensive in order to answer our fears of devastation.

First with regards to the induced risk of flooding, I do not think that your investigation into the induced risk of flooding captured the true risk of the entire system of levees and structures of the WBV and WCC on our inadequate levees in Jesuit Bend. The choice of 10 storms do not represent the worst case of induced flood risk, and give a false sense that WBV "system" of levees will not harm us. This is a re-creation of MRGO scenario, and your staff has not adequately addressed this.

With respect to the economic impact of WBV on the area south of Oakville, Kevin Lovetro's response indicates a lack of both preparation and thorough analysis of the true effects of this project. From all Corps documentation the HSDRRS is required by FEMA to provide 100 year flood protection to provide "affordable" flood insurance. By excluding over 3000 residents from this much-needed certification, you are inducing great financial damage to our property values.

Keven Lovetro did not fully research the growth potential for the Oakville to LaReussitte Reach.

There was a land use study the parish published in 1995. It indicated a large potential for residential growth in the area from Oakville to LaReussite. At the time of the study there were 1339 residents. There are nearly three times that count today, and the study shows a capacity of over 13,000 residents in the future, in this reach alone. From the original authorization date of the project and present day, the human environment has changed significantly. This IER falls short because it does not adequately define the environment, which is required by CEQ. Kevin Lovetro's conclusions about the economic effects the WBV will have on our homes are admittedly not backed up by any form of analysis or research. See email below in attachment 2.

There have been numerous studies done to show how flood protection affects property values. The conclusions made by one award-winning study done in Florida indicate that property values depend on many factors, and flood protection is one very real effect. These real estate experts analyzed the sales prices of properties INSIDE and OUTSIDE flood protection. As expected, these researchers concluded the seller commanded a lower sales price for properties located outside flood protection over a 17-year period. Because flood protection in Louisiana has gained much greater public attention since Katrina, this

effect will be much more dramatic once WBV is constructed. One additional conclusion made in this study concerned effects of sales price on homes valued greater than \$250K. Because the cap on NFIP insurance policies is \$250k, the downward pressure on homes valued at greater than \$250K is much more pronounced than those less than \$250K. If a thorough flood plain inventory had been accomplished as part of IER-13, Kevin Lavetro could have shown you how a large number of homes in this area are valued greater than \$250K. To state that our property values will not be affected by being left out of the 100-year protection of the WBV is downright negligent.

Lastly I'd like to address the topic of public engagement. From the beginning the Corps has stated that the key to better decision making is thorough public engagement. Yet your public relations office has repeatedly held off our requests for meetings with the Hydraulics and Hydrology section. I attended other Corps meetings, but was told that questions about IER13 would not be addressed. Meetings were repeatedly scheduled, then cancelled at the last minute, and then in September, I was told I could not bring an expert to a meeting with your H/H staff. I was told that Dr. Suhayda was involved in litigation against the Corps (which was absolutely NOT true), and that the Corps did not want him to use the flood data against them. I protested this ruling by your P.R.O., because I failed to see how this met the intent of public engagement. How could you hold back data which would be used to make a decision which could hurt so many people?

I was reluctantly allowed to speak with your staff on Monday, 21 September, AFTER the September 19th Open House meeting in Belle Chasse. Even then, this meeting was held in the legal counsel's conference room, with attorneys present and we were instructed to ask no questions outside of the flood analysis study. No methodology or engineering assumptions were given; it was merely a re-hash of the conclusions and graphic displayed at the meeting two days earlier. Only TODAY, on the 24th of NOVEMBER, was the report on the effects of flooding released. Why was this report held until the LAST day of public comment, when we now do not have an opportunity to analyze the methodology used?!!! This is COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!

In early September, because there had been no release of information on flood analysis or economic impact assessment, we filed a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. This request was dismissed because the case was still "pre-decisional." This, to me, does not make for "better decision-making through public involvement in the process." Nor does it meet with the intent of the Environmental Operating Principles the Corps of Engineers is supposed to live by. Please read each of these again in attachment 1, and see how these principles have NOT been applied in our case.

Please re-consider the option of including the reach from Oakville to LaReussitte as part of the WBV project, to protect 1450 homes and over 3000 residents in this area. It was considered in June 09 as an alternative but did not appear in the addendum.

Please do not put us in harm's way...

Pete Stavros

Jesuit Bend Resident

██████████

Attachment 1: Environmental Operation Principles

Environmental Operating Principles

<http://www.usace.army.mil/environment/Documents/Environmental_Operating_Principles.pdf>

1. Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
2. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
3. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.
4. Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.
5. Seeks ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
6. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
7. Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by formalizing a set of "Environmental Operating Principles" applicable to all its decision-making and programs.

These principles foster unity of purpose on environmental issues, reflect a new tone and direction for dialogue on environmental matters, and ensure that employees consider conservation, environmental preservation and restoration in all Corps activities.

Sustainability can only be achieved by the combined efforts of federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, and the private sector, each doing its part, backed by the citizens of the world. These principles help the Corps define its role in that endeavor.

By implementing these principles, the Corps will continue its efforts to develop the scientific, economic and sociological measures to judge the effects of its projects on the environment and to seek better ways of achieving environmentally sustainable solutions. The principles are being integrated into all project management process throughout the Corps.

Attachment 2: email from Gib Owen to Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
To: Matt McBride <mcbri35@yahoo.com
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=mcbri35@yahoo.com&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
Cc: "Lovetro, Keven MVN" <Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 6:38:21 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride,

There were no formal reports or other documents completed for this analysis. The Economist assigned to the project can provide additional information on the process followed in making the determination documented in the IER 13 Addendum.

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/ HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader New Orleans District
504 862-1337

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Pete and Jamie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 12:03 AM
To: 'Pete and Jamie'; MVN Environmental
Subject: Public Comment on IER13

Ms. Ignicios,

Please consider this email as a comment for the record on the addendum to IER-13 released 27 October 09.

First I will say that the addendum for which we were waiting over 6 months does little to address our very real concerns about induced flood risk and economic influence on the area south of Oakville. We were waiting six months for your response. I would have thought your addendum would have been much more thorough and comprehensive in order to answer our fears of devastation.

First with regards to the induced risk of flooding, I do not think that your investigation into the induced risk of flooding captured the true risk of the entire system of levees and structures of the WBV and WCC on our inadequate levees in Jesuit Bend. The choice of 10 storms do not represent the worst case of induced flood risk, and give a false sense that WBV "system" of levees will not harm us. This is a re-creation of MRGO scenario, and your staff has not adequately addressed this.

With respect to the economic impact of WBV on the area south of Oakville, Kevin Lovetro's response indicates a lack of both preparation and thorough analysis of the true effects of this project. From all Corps documentation the HSDRRS is required by FEMA to provide 100 year flood protection to provide "affordable" flood insurance. By excluding over 3000 residents from this much-needed certification, you are inducing great financial damage to our property values.

Keven Lovetro did not fully research the growth potential for the Oakville to LaReussitte Reach.

There was a land use study the parish published in 1995. It indicated a large potential for residential growth in the area from Oakville to LaReussite. At the time of the study there were 1339 residents. There are nearly three times that count today, and the study shows a capacity of over 13,000 residents in the future, in this reach alone. From the original authorization date of the project and present day, the human environment has changed significantly. This IER falls short because it does not adequately define the environment, which is required by CEQ. Kevin Lovetro's conclusions about the economic effects the WBV will have on our homes are admittedly not backed up by any form of analysis or research. See email below in attachment 2.

There have been numerous studies done to show how flood protection affects property values. The conclusions made by one award-winning study done in Florida indicate that property values depend on many factors, and flood protection is one very real effect.

These real estate experts analyzed the sales prices of properties INSIDE and OUTSIDE flood protection. As expected, these researchers concluded the seller commanded a lower sales price for properties located outside flood protection over a 17-year period. Because flood protection in Louisiana has gained much greater public attention since Katrina, this effect will be much more dramatic once WBV is constructed. One additional conclusion made in this study concerned effects of sales price on homes valued greater than \$250K. Because the cap on NFIP insurance policies is \$250k, the downward pressure on homes valued at greater than \$250K is much more pronounced than those less than \$250K. If a thorough flood plain inventory had been accomplished as part of IER-13, Kevin Lavetro could have shown you how a large number of homes in this area are valued greater than \$250K. To state that our property values will not be affected by being left out of the 100-year protection of the WBV is downright negligent.

Lastly I'd like to address the topic of public engagement. From the beginning the Corps has stated that the key to better decision making is thorough public engagement. Yet your public relations office has repeatedly held off our requests for meetings with the Hydraulics and Hydrology section. I attended other Corps meetings, but was told that questions about IER13 would not be addressed. Meetings were repeatedly scheduled, then cancelled at the last minute, and then in September, I was told I could not bring an expert to a meeting with your H/H staff. I was told that Dr. Suhayda was involved in litigation against the Corps (which was absolutely NOT true), and that the Corps did not want him to use the flood data against them. I protested this ruling by your P.R.O., because I failed to see how this met the intent of public engagement. How could you hold back data which would be used to make a decision which could hurt so many people?

I was reluctantly allowed to speak with your staff on Monday, 21 September, AFTER the September 19th Open House meeting in Belle Chasse. Even then, this meeting was held in the legal counsel's conference room, with attorneys present and we were instructed to ask no questions outside of the flood analysis study. No methodology or engineering assumptions were given; it was merely a re-hash of the conclusions and graphic displayed at the meeting two days earlier. Only TODAY, on the 24th of NOVEMBER, was the report on the effects of flooding released. Why was this report held until the LAST day of public comment, when we now do not have an opportunity to analyze the methodology used?!!! This is COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE!

In early September, because there had been no release of information on flood analysis or economic impact assessment, we filed a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. This request was dismissed because the case was still "pre-decisional." This, to me, does not make for "better decision-making through public involvement in the process." Nor does it meet with the intent of the Environmental Operating Principles the Corps of Engineers is supposed to live by. Please read each of these again in attachment 1, and see how these principles have NOT been applied in our case.

Please re-consider the option of including the reach from Oakville to LaReussitte as part of the WBV project, to protect 1450 homes and over 3000 residents in this area. It was considered in June 09 as an alternative but did not appear in the addendum.

Please do not put us in harm's way...

Pete Stavros

Attachment 1: Environmental Operation Principles

Environmental Operating Principles

<http://www.usace.army.mil/environment/Documents/Environmental_Operating_Principles.pdf>

1. Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
2. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
3. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.
4. Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.
5. Seeks ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
6. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
7. Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively, and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.

Background

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has reaffirmed its commitment to the environment by formalizing a set of "Environmental Operating Principles" applicable to all its decision-making and programs.

These principles foster unity of purpose on environmental issues, reflect a new tone and direction for dialogue on environmental matters, and ensure that employees consider conservation, environmental preservation and restoration in all Corps activities.

Sustainability can only be achieved by the combined efforts of federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, and the private sector, each doing its part, backed by the citizens of the world. These principles help the Corps define its role in that endeavor.

By implementing these principles, the Corps will continue its efforts to develop the scientific, economic and sociological measures to judge the effects of its projects on the environment and to seek better ways of achieving environmentally sustainable solutions. The principles are being integrated into all project management process throughout the Corps.

Attachment 2: email from Gib Owen to Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
To: Matt McBride <mcbri35@yahoo.com
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=mcbri35@yahoo.com&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
Cc: "Lovetro, Keven MVN" <Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil
<https://webmailcluster.perfora.net/xml/webmail/mailDetail;jsessionId=285B5AF2DC4AD95B49562FE051DC527C.TC135b?__frame=_top&__lf=AdresseUebernehmenFlow&__sendingdata=1&resyncFolder.Doit=true&resyncFolder.TreeID=leftNaviTree&createMail.Action=create&createMail.To=Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil&__jumptopage=mailNew&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=resyncFolder&__CMD%5bmailDetail%5d:SELWRP=createMail> >
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 6:38:21 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride,

There were no formal reports or other documents completed for this analysis. The Economist assigned to the project can provide additional information on the process followed in making the determination documented in the IER 13 Addendum.

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/ HSDRRS Environmental Team Leader New Orleans District
504 862-1337

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Jon Stavros [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 8:29 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

How can you continue with your plans when you have not fully researched the potential fallout? There are approximately 3,000 human beings who will be negatively impacted (property value lowered, availability of flood insurance diminished)...PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE STOP YOUR PLANS AND RECONSIDER A NEW ONE, A NEW PLAN THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE!!!!!!

J C Stavros, Davison, MI

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Pete and Jamie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 11:59 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13 COMMENTS FOR PUBLIC RECORD

Attachments: CPRA letter 15 Jul 09.pdf; Eastern_Tie_In_Path_Forward_COL[1] slides.ppt



CPRA letter 15 Jul Eastern_Tie_In_Pat
09.pdf (438... h_Forward_CO...

Colonel Lee,

I have to tell you that these past 8 months have been the absolute worst in my life. We count on people in command to be educated and have the fortitude to do the right thing. You have stated at a couple of different public meetings that you have a lot of people counting on you to do the right thing. I reminded you that it was you wasting time by not doing the right thing immediately. Here my comment is: Col. Lee, YOU HAVE WASTED OUR VALUABLE TIME BY MERELY PROLONGING THE COMMENT PERIOD WITHOUT DOING THE REQUIRED WORK.

You have made a grave error, weighing one American against another based on self-imposed date. In short, your fear of not being promoted has caused you to have tunnel vision. It takes a big man to say we need more of a work force and a bigger budget to do the job the right way. In short in order to keep our area safe and afforded the same protection that our neighbors north have you must include us. That fact that you haven't is criminal and will be seen for that in the future. How do you think a person that is told as an American that we are not worth the same protection as the other part of your town feels? How would you feel supporting a family and working towards a positive future if you were treated the way we have been? I would like an answer to that. HERE MY SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT IS THAT YOU ARE IN DERELICTION OF DUTY. Hands down--no grey areas.

We are not ignorant bumpkins and will not be treated as such. You have not shown us ANY of the transparency that you brag about. And putting us on an egg timer when we speak at meetings for fear of educating others is dark and deceptive. Especially when I decided to give my time to my husband Pete and you all had a problem with that. What would that problem be??? Every meeting different speaking rules applied in just the same way you do business, change what ever you need to fit the end result. You write your own handbook as you go instead of following rules in place. You wanted to cut us out of 100 year protection so you decided to write the 4th supplemental to change it all and cut us out. MY COMMENT HERE IS NOT FOLLOWING ANY OF THE RULES THAT WERE WRITTEN FOR A REASON

We have experienced that you have not done thorough investigations regarding the protection of us environmentally or economically or you would be going down to La Reusitte. To prove that you don't follow through and investigate, I would like to point out the fact that you offered the Invisible Floodgate and then withdrew it based on calling Oakville a "high theft area" If this is what you found of Oakville, then I'm guessing the same findings would have been found if you LOOK/RESEARCHED sooner. You offered us the Invisible floodgate and then withdrew it based on the fact that once again, the Corps didn't do their homework. MY COMMENT HERE IS THAT YOU DO NOT TRULY DO THE PROPER RESEARCH REQUIRED. YOU WASTE TAX DOLLARS AND DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

Col Lee, if you continue down the same negligent road keeping us out of IER-13, which I in turn see as disregarding my family and our safety then I will have go as far as saying that you are in violation of Punitive Articles 133 and 123 of the UCMJ. I have included them so that you may refreshen your memory as to how an officer is expected to conduct himself. Any commissioned officer, cadet, or midshipman who is convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman shall be punished as a court-martial may direct. Thus, a commissioned officer who STEALS PROPERTY violates both this article and Article 121 <<http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/mcm/bl121.htm>> 1. In short if an officer, LIES, CHEATS OR STEALS is in violation of the UCMJ. In this instance YOU AND YOU ALONE are making the decision. You cannot merely say the corps is stealing the property. You have the responsibility and accountability when the value and safety of our property is taken. You are changing the economic layout of our parish.

From the UCMJ ARTICLE 133-Conduct unbecoming an Officer - Nature of offense. Conduct violative of this article is action or behavior in an official capacity which, in dishonoring or disgracing the person as an officer, seriously compromises the officer's character as a gentleman, or action or behavior in an unofficial or private capacity which, in dishonoring or disgracing the officer personally, seriously compromises the person's standing as an officer. There are certain moral attributes common to the ideal officer and the perfect gentleman, a lack of which is indicated by acts of DISHONESTY, UNFAIR DEALING, indecency, indecorum, lawlessness, INJUSTICE, or cruelty. Not everyone is or can be expected to meet unrealistically high moral standards, but there is a limit of tolerance based on customs of the service and military necessity below which the personal standards of an officer, cadet, or midshipman cannot fall without seriously compromising the person's standing as an officer, cadet, or midshipman or the person's character as a gentleman. This article prohibits conduct by a commissioned officer, cadet or midshipman which, taking all the circumstances into consideration, is thus compromising. This article includes acts made punishable by any other article, provided these acts amount to conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. Thus, a commissioned officer who STEALS PROPERTY violates both this article and Article 1211. Whenever the offense charged is the same as a specific offense set forth in this Manual, the elements of proof are the same as those set forth in the paragraph which treats that specific offense, with the additional requirement that the act or omission constitutes conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman.

Colonel Lee you lied when you said that going down to LaReusitte wasn't an option. I have a copy of the option that you proposed given to me by Sen. Vitter to go down to La Reusitte. I also HEARD you personally offer it on the table. On Nov. 5th, Pete Stavros asked you on public record with regards to going down to LaReusitte, and you denied that it was ever an option. If this is so, why did you offer it to a Senator and a Parish President if it wasn't an option? I find dishonesty here. In fact I KNOW YOU ARE DISHONEST HERE. I am entering the document that shows you offered going to LaReussite and raising the road a little there. Please find it attached.

No one believes you when you speak about what's mandated by Congress. We know that you are a bunch of smiling faces that together run the big ugly Corps machine that does what it wants. Dept of Transportation and LACPRA asks you not to block our only hwy and you want to do it anyway. You don't listen to anyone's authority on anything. You do what you want even if you don't have proper data to support it. Please find documents from LACPRA asking you to not block HWY 23 our ONLY WAY OUT!

I am completely disgusted that you all were told in one of your previous "poorly advertised" Oakville public meetings by a landowner that we would be angry about the closure at hwy 23 & did nothing. This was completely shady that you were warned that we would be mad and still didn't advertise better or make sure we were notified. Then after this time frame, after being told by a local at your meeting that Jesuit Bend is going to be angry...you still don't notify us about any of this. In fact when I called to ask if there was anything to a rumor I heard about a floodgate, the corps denied it. Awful.You have ruined our neighborhood by dangling 100 year protection like food for the hungry. You say that it was so publicized what was going on...then why did the ACOE deny it. Why did

a landowner deny it also? We were friends with the Trosclairs they are part owner in Cpt, Larry's. Since Danny Trosclair is a real estate agent I asked him if he knew of any problems why our home insurance rates would be sky rocketing. Wondering if maybe some of his clients were having problems with insurance. I also stood in front of his wife and a room full of other Jesuit Bend residents and asked if anyone had heard anything about a floodgate crossing at Cpt Larry's? (I saw survey teams there) Lori Trosclair shook her head no and acted puzzled. Can you tell me why friends would be keeping this floodgate a secret. Apparently she hadn't told anyone in the room either, because of about 20 people...noone knew in Feb. 09. And after my husband and I start informing the community about the floodgate that we FINALLY found out about on EASTER SUNDAY Danny Trosclair sicked his lawyer on us with a letter. He also gave me the finger in my own front yard with 6 small kids and neighbors watching. Also in my front yard he screamed out and called me a f_cking bitch and yelled out for me to tell my husband that I was a f_cking bitch. His wife stood in the middle of the road smacking her backside calling me white trash...all in front of my 5& 6 year old son, 4 other small children and neighbors. Danny trosclair called my husbands boss and tried to start trouble for us there. Fortunately the base knows something about home values and the truth about Danny Trosclairs constant attacks on my family. There is more to this story of which I don't have all night to write but I have an added fire to tell this story today because just today his 9 year old nephew gave my 5 and 6 year the finger as he passed our front yard on his bike. Thank goodness I didn't have to explain to my kids what the giving the finger or the bird is again because you see Danny Trosclair a stakeholder of Captain Larry's in Oakville has already taught my kids all about giving the finger earlier. You see Colonel Lee you came to our town and didn't do your job right. You created a Lord of the Flies atmosphere and broke up the cohesiveness of Jesuit Bend...we are STAKEHOLDERS TOO AND HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS TO HAVE COHESIVENESS AS the OAKVILLE COMMUNITY! Your deceptive ways of business has hurt Jesuit Bend. I hope my story of what our family has endured as helped you to see that. I have more to say about what my family has endured but I think you see my point. Would you like your children to endure this?

I brought my kids to the public meeting that was held on a Saturday at BCHS Auditorium. You know the one that you held during the 3 weeks of duck hunting season and on the day of a LSU game and also on the day when most kids play some sort of organized sport My kids were dressed in their soccer gear because we were hoping to make the game which didn't happen. Niko, my six year old told me after seeing you. Mommy don't worry, you didn't tell me that the military was going to be there. They will take care of us. You know initially I thought the same misguided thought. In all my husbands 22 years of military service, I have never met someone that I felt was in complete derelict of duty. I felt after speaking with you that you were truly listening. Not just going through the motions to make it look like you cared. If you take away my property values and put us in harms way I hope one day your children/family find out the legacy that you will leave to us. You alone Col Lee took command of allowing the map of Louisiana to change. What you are doing to us, closing us off behind a floodgate and shutting off water where it once traveled and letting it stack up on our inefficient levees then turning on the WORLDS LARGEST PUMPING STATION and pumping it down our way (or that would be into a bowl until it overflows onto us) is CRIMINAL. You haven't done proper studies to allow you to do this. You are hurting us and ignoring that fact. When I built here I didn't BUY THAT ADDED DANGER OR DECREASE IN PROPERTY VALUE. THOSE WERE NOT THE ODDS I BOUGHT INTO. You took away the protection that I had and gave me something back called '50 year flood protection' and gave upper Belle Chase 100 yr flood protection. Two different plans therefore creating the HAVES AND HAVE-NOTS. My husband and I haven't busted our buns our whole lives to be served up a big plate of the ACOE's HAVE-NOT SPECIAL!. No thank you I did not order it. The Plaquemines Parish Comprehensive Plan states that we had reasonable expectation of growth in our area. This report was full of promise for us in July 1995 and since then we have almost tripled our population. No where in it is any suggestion made that we are less than upper Belle Chasse or for that matter state that we will be getting only 50 yr protection in the future. Did you read this study before sneaking into our parish and dividing it up Corps style? Why did you ignore this important document in planning? What documents did you use when planning this easter tie in that came in out of the blue? Congress did not mandate you to close us off behind a floodgate. You did Colonel Lee YOU DID AND YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE.

Colonel Lee I have knocked on many doors south of Oakville. I have been to nearly every

door on every paved, dirt road south of Oakville. I have talked with many different people. One of the most troubling things that I keep hearing is I don't have the money to leave, so I will not. Once they shut that gate, they'll never let me back in, so I'm not leaving. You ARE COMPLETELY DISRESPECTING OUR PARISH WHEN YOU CONSIDER THE FEW IN OAKVILLE FOR COHESIVE REASONING AND DISREGARD THE SAFETY OF THE ENTIRE PARISH FROM THE MIDDLE ALL THE WAY DOWN. If a storm similiar to Rita heads our way and the stress of closing the floodgate is imminent people will play the odds and stay and if that storm turns a little and we flood the SOULS OF THE LOST WILL BE ON YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Remember we will be weaker. We have levees made up of who knows what with hesco baskets already failing and then you will shut up the WBV and start pumping. Even if you have given us our little bit of dirt on our levees we will still be in trouble. This will be on you Colonel Lee and you team of deception experts. I will be here with all my passion in tow ready to testify with all the fire in my Irish soul. If you do this Colonel Lee, if you take down and community bought and mortgaged with American sweat and labor you are WRONG and should be charged with UCMJ article 133 and 123 CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER.

If you cannot see doing any of this, then do the right thing and buy us out, so that we may escape the most certain damages which face us.

Jamie Stavros

Punitive Articles of the UCMJ

Article 133—Conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman

By Rod Powers <<http://usmilitary.about.com/bio/Rod-Powers-6341.htm>> , About.com Guide Text.

"Any commissioned officer, cadet, or midshipman who is convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman shall be punished as a court-martial may direct."

Elements.

- (1) That the accused did or omitted to do certain acts; and
- (2) That, under the circumstances, these acts or omissions constituted conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman.

Explanation.

- (1) Gentleman. As used in this article, "gentleman" includes both male and female commissioned officers, cadets, and midshipmen.

(2) Nature of offense. Conduct violative of this article is action or behavior in an official capacity which, in dishonoring or disgracing the person as an officer, seriously compromises the officer's character as a gentleman, or action or behavior in an unofficial or private capacity which, in dishonoring or disgracing the officer personally, seriously compromises the person's standing as an officer. There are certain moral attributes common to the ideal officer and the perfect gentleman, a lack of which is indicated by acts of dishonesty, unfair dealing, indecency, indecorum, lawlessness, injustice, or cruelty. Not everyone is or can be expected to meet unrealistically high moral standards, but there is a limit of tolerance based on customs of the service and military necessity below which the personal standards of an officer, cadet, or midshipman cannot fall without seriously compromising the person's standing as an officer, cadet, or midshipman or the person's character as a gentleman. This article prohibits conduct by a commissioned officer, cadet or midshipman which, taking all the circumstances into consideration, is thus compromising. This article includes acts made punishable by any other article, provided these acts amount to conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. Thus, a commissioned officer who steals property violates both this article and Article 121 <<http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/mcm/bl121.htm>> 1. Whenever the offense charged is the same as a specific offense set forth in this Manual, the elements of proof are the same as those set forth in the paragraph which treats that specific offense, with the additional requirement that the act or omission constitutes conduct unbecoming an officer and gentleman.

(3) Examples of offenses. Instances of violation of this article include knowingly making a false official statement; dishonorable failure to pay a debt; cheating on an exam; opening and reading a letter of another without authority; using insulting or defamatory language to another officer in that officer's presence or about that officer to other military persons; being drunk and disorderly in a public place; public association with known prostitutes; committing or attempting to commit a crime involving moral turpitude; and failing without good cause to support the officer's family.

Lesser included offense.

Article 80 <<http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/mcm/bl80.htm>> 2—attempts

Maximum punishment .

Dismissal, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for a period not in excess of that authorized for the most analogous (similar) offense for which a punishment is prescribed in this Manual, or, if none is prescribed, for 1 year.

Next Article> Article 134 <<http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/mcm/bl134.htm>> 3-
General article >

Above Information from Manual for Court Martial, 2002, Chapter 4, Paragraph 59

This About.com page has been optimized for print. To view this page in its original form, please visit: <http://usmilitary.about.com/od/punitivearticles/a/mcm133.htm>

©2009 About.com, Inc., a part of The New York Times Company <<http://www.nytimes.com/>> . All rights reserved.

Links in this article:

1. <http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/mcm/bl121.htm>
2. <http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/mcm/bl80.htm>
3. <http://usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/mcm/bl134.htm>

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2009 9:45 AM
To: 'Matt McBride'; MVN Environmental
Cc: Coulson, Getrisc MVN
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

Gib Owen checked with Nancy Powell and sent this to me. Here is their response

Joan

Below is answer to Mr. McBride's question. His question/request for information came in via MVNEnvironmental. You will need to respond directly to him.
Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Planner/Biologist
Pacific Ocean Division RIT
Washington DC

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

From: Powell, Nancy J MVN
To: Owen, Gib A MVN; Wallace, Frederick W MVN; Northey, Robert D MVN; Holder, Ken MVN
Cc: Frost, Stacey U MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 10 15:54:46 2009
Subject: FW: IER13 Supplement supporting documents for induced flood risk

MVN H&H has no complete documents supporting the conclusions presented in IER13 - we have spreadsheets with calculations, ADCIRC and STWAVE input and output files; and we summarized the information of the analyses in the IER13 supplement.

MVS and MVR also do not have separate documents, they summarized their answers on the interior drainage in the IER.

ERDC has a report that was sent to us on the ADCIRC and STWAVE modeling, but as I understand, the report is not complete. I provided some comments regarding the report and I do not know if they have been incorporated into the report. The report was ATR'd by New York District, we would also have comments on that, but I don't know in what format. We have a call into Keely Crowder, who is on developmental assignment, and I will let you know what we find out.

thanks

Nancy J. Powell, P.E., D.WRE
Chief, Hydraulics and Hydrologic Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District CEMVN-ED-H PO Box 60267 New Orleans, LA 70160 Phone - (504) 862-2449 Fax - (504) 862-2471 email - nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil

Joan M. Exnicios
Chief,
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch CEMVN-PM-R P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, LA 70160-0267 Desk (504) 862-1760 Fax (504) 862-2088 Cell (504) 432-7104

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

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 8:42 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN

Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Time is running short in the IER 13S comment period. Please release this report as soon as possible!

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 10, 2009 9:05:25 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Considering the short amount of time in the IER13S comment period, could you please give an update on the release of this report?

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.
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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 8:09 AM
To: MVN Environmental; Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios:

I was wondering if there has been time to consider my request below?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 7:07:51 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen:

The IER 13 Supplemental seems a little different than others I've read, since it does not appear to include a list of references used in the preparation of the document. Were such a list provided, I would be requesting that every document on it be posted to the nolaenvironmental.gov website.

I'd like to formally request such a list be produced before the end of the comment period, with the attached request that every document on that list be posted to the website.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Lovetro, Keven MVN" <Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 6:38:21 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride,

There were no formal reports or other documents completed for this analysis. The Economist assigned to the project can provide additional information on the process followed in making the determination documented in the IER 13 Addendum.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 6:44 PM

To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr Owen,

Are there any documents to back up the real estate analysis? I noticed there was no response to my inquiry on that matter.

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for

public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 8:05 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Considering the short amount of time in the IER13S comment period, could you please give an update on the release of this report?

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2009 8:03 AM
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Dear Ms. Exnicios,

I was wondering if you had been able to look into this?

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Mon, November 9, 2009 7:33:18 AM
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Joan,

Just for reference, here's the link for the August 6th City Council meeting:

http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/nola_public_data/projects/usace_levee/docs/original/Aug6CityCouncilMeeting.pdf

Matt

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sat, November 7, 2009 11:33:58 AM
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Joan,

Thanks very much.

Matt

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: mcbri35@yahoo.com; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sat, November 7, 2009 11:29:47 AM
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Matt

Been in St Paul for Corps. I will follow up on Monday

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Fri Nov 06 17:09:44 2009
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

In addition, could you please include the backup slides in that posting. Col. Sinkler said those slides include a more detailed briefing on the permanent pump stations.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 5:43:09 PM
Subject: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Could you please post the slides from the November 5, 2009 presentation given to the New Orleans City Council by Col. Sinkler and Karen Durham-Aguilera? A similar presentation from August, 2009 was posted previously to the website.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 09, 2009 6:33 AM
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Joan,

Just for reference, here's the link for the August 6th City Council meeting:

http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/nola_public_data/projects/usace_levee/docs/original/Aug6CityCouncilMeeting.pdf

Matt

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sat, November 7, 2009 11:33:58 AM
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Joan,

Thanks very much.

Matt

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: mcbrid35@yahoo.com; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sat, November 7, 2009 11:29:47 AM
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Matt

Been in St Paul for Corps. I will follow up on Monday

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Fri Nov 06 17:09:44 2009
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

In addition, could you please include the backup slides in that posting. Col. Sinkler said those slides include a more detailed briefing on the permanent pump stations.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 5:43:09 PM
Subject: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Could you please post the slides from the November 5, 2009 presentation given to the New Orleans City Council by Col. Sinkler and Karen Durham-Aguilera? A similar presentation from August, 2009 was posted previously to the website.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 07, 2009 10:34 AM
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Joan,

Thanks very much.

Matt

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: mcbrid35@yahoo.com; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sat, November 7, 2009 11:29:47 AM
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Matt

Been in St Paul for Corps. I will follow up on Monday

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Fri Nov 06 17:09:44 2009
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

In addition, could you please include the backup slides in that posting. Col. Sinkler said those slides include a more detailed briefing on the permanent pump stations.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 5:43:09 PM
Subject: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Could you please post the slides from the November 5, 2009 presentation given to the New Orleans City Council by Col. Sinkler and Karen Durham-Aguilera? A similar presentation from August, 2009 was posted previously to the website.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Saturday, November 07, 2009 10:30 AM
To: [REDACTED] MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Matt

Been in St Paul for Corps. I will follow up on Monday

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Sent: Fri Nov 06 17:09:44 2009
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

In addition, could you please include the backup slides in that posting. Col. Sinkler said those slides include a more detailed briefing on the permanent pump stations.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 5:43:09 PM
Subject: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Could you please post the slides from the November 5, 2009 presentation given to the New Orleans City Council by Col. Sinkler and Karen Durham-Aguilera? A similar presentation from August, 2009 was posted previously to the website.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 6:08 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen:

The IER 13 Supplemental seems a little different than others I've read, since it does not appear to include a list of references used in the preparation of the document. Were such a list provided, I would be requesting that every document on it be posted to the nolaenvironmental.gov website.

I'd like to formally request such a list be produced before the end of the comment period, with the attached request that every document on that list be posted to the website.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Lovetro, Keven MVN" <Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 6:38:21 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride,
There were no formal reports or other documents completed for this analysis. The Economist assigned to the project can provide additional information on the process followed in making the determination documented in the IER 13 Addendum.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 6:44 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr Owen,

Are there any documents to back up the real estate analysis? I noticed there was no response to my inquiry on that matter.

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]

Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.
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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 6:06 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Lovetro, Keven MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Lovetro,

Mr. Owen's assertion regarding the sections in the IER 13 Supplemental on the effect of the proposed action upon real estate values is somewhat stunning - especially considering this is a prime consideration of those affected by the action. Can you offer any more detail, or is what he said essentially correct, i.e. those paragraphs were written without any analysis of similar actions taken by the Corps elsewhere in the area, or even elsewhere in the country?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Lovetro, Keven MVN" <Keven.Lovetro@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 6:38:21 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride,
There were no formal reports or other documents completed for this analysis. The Economist assigned to the project can provide additional information on the process followed in making the determination documented in the IER 13 Addendum.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 6:44 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr Owen,

Are there any documents to back up the real estate analysis? I noticed there was no response to my inquiry on that matter.

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]

Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 5:10 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Subject: Re: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

In addition, could you please include the backup slides in that posting. Col. Sinkler said those slides include a more detailed briefing on the permanent pump stations.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, November 6, 2009 5:43:09 PM
Subject: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Could you please post the slides from the November 5, 2009 presentation given to the New Orleans City Council by Col. Sinkler and Karen Durham-Aguilera? A similar presentation from August, 2009 was posted previously to the website.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 6:44 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr Owen,

Are there any documents to back up the real estate analysis? I noticed there was no response to my inquiry on that matter.

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.
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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM

Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 06, 2009 4:43 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN
Subject: November 5, 2009 City Council presentation

Could you please post the slides from the November 5, 2009 presentation given to the New Orleans City Council by Col. Sinkler and Karen Durham-Aguilera? A similar presentation from August, 2009 was posted previously to the website.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents for induced flood risk

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:39:21 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents for induced flood risk

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents (i.e. reports) used in the induced flood risk analysis found on pages 16 through 19 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2009 3:39 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents for induced flood risk

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents (i.e. reports) used in the induced flood risk analysis found on pages 16 through 19 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2009 3:34 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 5:40 PM
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Cc: Powell, Nancy J MVN; Wilkinson, Laura L MVN; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear MVN Environmental

I saw the supporting documents put up today for the IER13 Supplemental (Eastern Tie-In in Plaquemines Parish):
http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/nola_public_data//projects/usace_levee/docs/original/IER13AddConRec.pdf

Doing so one day before the close of public comments leaves absolutely no time for the public to digest and analyze this information. For example, the fact the Corps used only 10 storms out of their suite of 152 storms for the analysis deserves a public airing.

I beg that you do the right thing and extend the public comment period at least two weeks, and possibly schedule a second public meeting to allow the public to comment on this information in person.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>;
laura.l.wilkinson@usace.army.mil
Sent: Mon, November 23, 2009 11:25:34 PM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios,

Since it has been a week with no postings on this topic, I assume there's no supporting documents (as mentioned below) and no extension on the comment period for IER 13S forthcoming? That's very sad.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: [REDACTED] MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 17, 2009 8:59:01 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr McBride

I have the lead HSDRRS environmental working on this request and will get back to you asap.

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Cc: Coulson, Getrisc MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 17 06:53:02 2009
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Can someone please give me a response on this? The public comment period ends in just over a week, and it appears the Corps is looking to run out the clock by keeping information away from the public.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Coulson, Getrisc MVN" <Getrisc.Coulson@usace.army.mil>; nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil
Sent: Sun, November 15, 2009 2:26:27 PM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios:

I would like to formally request that the review of the ERDC report be accelerated to allow it to be released on the nolaenvironmental.gov website before the end of the IER13 Supplemental comment period, along with the ADCIRC and STWAVE files. The inputs and outputs of the simulations are critical information to understanding the impacts of the Corps' proposed actions. The Corps should be able to defend their conclusions in the public realm, instead of simply presenting them in a report with no explanation of how they were determined.

If this cannot be done, I'd like to request an extension of the comment period to allow review of the report when it is posted. I am convinced the public would be keenly interested in knowing exactly which inputs were used to determine the level of flooding, e.g. how many of the 152 storms were used for the modeling? As I understand it, it may be as few as 10.

Again, time is running very short on the comment period.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED] MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Coulson, Getrisc MVN" <Getrisc.Coulson@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 12, 2009 10:44:47 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

Gib Owen checked with Nancy Powell and sent this to me. Here is their response

Joan

Below is answer to Mr. McBride's question. His question/request for information came in via MVN Environmental. You will need to respond directly to him.

Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Planner/Biologist
Pacific Ocean Division RIT
Washington DC

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

From: Powell, Nancy J MVN
To: Owen, Gib A MVN; Wallace, Frederick W MVN; Northey, Robert D MVN; Holder, Ken MVN
Cc: Frost, Stacey U MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 10 15:54:46 2009
Subject: FW: IER13 Supplement supporting documents for induced flood risk

MVN H&H has no complete documents supporting the conclusions presented in IER13 - we have spreadsheets with calculations, ADCIRC and STWAVE input and output files; and we summarized the information of the analyses in the IER13 supplement.

MVS and MVR also do not have separate documents, they summarized their answers on the interior drainage in the IER.

ERDC has a report that was sent to us on the ADCIRC and STWAVE modeling, but as I understand, the report is not complete. I provided some comments regarding the report and I do not know if they have been incorporated into the report. The report was ATR'd by New York District, we would also have comments on that, but I don't know in what format. We have a call into Keely Crowder, who is on developmental assignment, and I will let you know what we find out.

thanks

Nancy J. Powell, P.E., D.WRE
Chief, Hydraulics and Hydrologic Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District CEMVN-ED-H PO Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160 Phone - (504) 862-2449 Fax - (504) 862-2471 email - nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil

Joan M. Exnicios
Chief,
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
CEMVN-PM-R
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
Desk (504) 862-1760
Fax (504) 862-2088
Cell (504) 432-7104

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

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 8:42 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN

Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Time is running short in the IER 13S comment period. Please release this report as soon as possible!

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 10, 2009 9:05:25 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Considering the short amount of time in the IER13S comment period, could you please give an update on the release of this report?

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 10:26 PM
To: Enxicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Cc: Powell, Nancy J MVN; Wilkinson, Laura L MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Enxicios,

Since it has been a week with no postings on this topic, I assume there's no supporting documents (as mentioned below) and no extension on the comment period for IER 13S forthcoming? That's very sad.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: "Enxicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: [REDACTED] MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 17, 2009 8:59:01 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr McBride

I have the lead HSDRRS environmental working on this request and will get back to you asap.

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: Enxicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Cc: Coulson, Getrisc MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 17 06:53:02 2009
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Can someone please give me a response on this? The public comment period ends in just over a week, and it appears the Corps is looking to run out the clock by keeping information away from the public.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Enxicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Coulson, Getrisc MVN" <Getrisc.Coulson@usace.army.mil>; nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil
Sent: Sun, November 15, 2009 2:26:27 PM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios:

I would like to formally request that the review of the ERDC report be accelerated to allow it to be released on the nolaenvironmental.gov website before the end of the IER13 Supplemental comment period, along with the ADCIRC and STWAVE files. The inputs and outputs of the simulations are critical information to understanding the impacts of the Corps' proposed actions. The Corps should be able to defend their conclusions in the public realm, instead of simply presenting them in a report with no explanation of how they were determined.

If this cannot be done, I'd like to request an extension of the comment period to allow review of the report when it is posted. I am convinced the public would be keenly interested in knowing exactly which inputs were used to determine the level of flooding, e.g. how many of the 152 storms were used for the modeling? As I understand it, it may be as few as 10.

Again, time is running very short on the comment period.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED] MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Coulson, Getrisc MVN" <Getrisc.Coulson@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 12, 2009 10:44:47 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

Gib Owen checked with Nancy Powell and sent this to me. Here is their response

Joan
Below is answer to Mr. McBride's question. His question/request for information came in via MVNEnvironmental. You will need to respond directly to him.
Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Planner/Biologist
Pacific Ocean Division RIT
Washington DC

----- Original Message -----
From: Powell, Nancy J MVN
To: Owen, Gib A MVN; Wallace, Frederick W MVN; Northey, Robert D MVN; Holder, Ken MVN
Cc: Frost, Stacey U MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 10 15:54:46 2009
Subject: FW: IER13 Supplement supporting documents for induced flood risk

MVN H&H has no complete documents supporting the conclusions presented in IER13 - we have spreadsheets with calculations, ADCIRC and STWAVE input and output files; and we summarized the information of the analyses in the IER13 supplement.

MVS and MVR also do not have separate documents, they summarized their answers on the interior drainage in the IER.

ERDC has a report that was sent to us on the ADCIRC and STWAVE modeling, but

as I understand, the report is not complete. I provided some comments regarding the report and I do not know if they have been incorporated into the report. The report was ATR'd by New York District, we would also have comments on that, but I don't know in what format. We have a call into Keely Crowder, who is on developmental assignment, and I will let you know what we find out.

thanks

Nancy J. Powell, P.E., D.WRE
Chief, Hydraulics and Hydrologic Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District CEMVN-ED-H PO Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160 Phone - (504) 862-2449 Fax - (504) 862-2471 email -
nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil

Joan M. Exnicios
Chief,
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
CEMVN-PM-R
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
Desk (504) 862-1760
Fax (504) 862-2088
Cell (504) 432-7104

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

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 8:42 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Time is running short in the IER 13S comment period. Please release this report as soon as possible!

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 10, 2009 9:05:25 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Considering the short amount of time in the IER13S comment period, could you please give an update on the release of this report?

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>

To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:44 PM
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Cc: Powell, Nancy J MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios,

Can I assume the Corps will not be posting anything else? The comment period runs out in a matter of days.

If nothing else is forthcoming, that will be quite disappointing.

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 19, 2009 10:55:23 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios,

Is the Corps running the clock out? I feel that if there's not enough time to get the support documentation posted, then the comment period must be extended.

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 17, 2009 9:36:26 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios,

Thanks for the quick response. I look forward to seeing the relevant documents posted, along with giving the public sufficient time to digest and understand them before the public comment period expires.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: [REDACTED] MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Tue, November 17, 2009 8:59:01 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr McBride

I have the lead HSDRRS environmental working on this request and will get back to you asap.

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Cc: Coulson, Getrisc MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 17 06:53:02 2009
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Can someone please give me a response on this? The public comment period ends in just over a week, and it appears the Corps is looking to run out the clock by keeping information away from the public.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Coulson, Getrisc MVN" <Getrisc.Coulson@usace.army.mil>; nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil
Sent: Sun, November 15, 2009 2:26:27 PM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios:

I would like to formally request that the review of the ERDC report be accelerated to allow it to be released on the nolaenvironmental.gov website before the end of the IER13 Supplemental comment period, along with the ADCIRC and STWAVE files. The inputs and outputs of the simulations are critical information to understanding the impacts of the Corps' proposed actions. The Corps should be able to defend their conclusions in the public realm, instead of simply presenting them in a report with no explanation of how they were determined.

If this cannot be done, I'd like to request an extension of the comment period to allow review of the report when it is posted. I am convinced the public would be keenly interested in knowing exactly which inputs were used to determine the level of flooding, e.g. how many of the 152 storms were used for the modeling? As I understand it, it may be as few as 10.

Again, time is running very short on the comment period.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>

To: Matt McBride [REDACTED] MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Coulson, Getrisc MVN" <Getrisc.Coulson@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 12, 2009 10:44:47 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

Gib Owen checked with Nancy Powell and sent this to me. Here is their response

Joan
Below is answer to Mr. McBride's question. His question/request for information came in via MVNEnvironmental. You will need to respond directly to him.
Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Planner/Biologist
Pacific Ocean Division RIT
Washington DC

----- Original Message -----
From: Powell, Nancy J MVN
To: Owen, Gib A MVN; Wallace, Frederick W MVN; Northey, Robert D MVN; Holder, Ken MVN
Cc: Frost, Stacey U MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 10 15:54:46 2009
Subject: FW: IER13 Supplement supporting documents for induced flood risk

MVN H&H has no complete documents supporting the conclusions presented in IER13 - we have spreadsheets with calculations, ADCIRC and STWAVE input and output files; and we summarized the information of the analyses in the IER13 supplement.

MVS and MVR also do not have separate documents, they summarized their answers on the interior drainage in the IER.

ERDC has a report that was sent to us on the ADCIRC and STWAVE modeling, but as I understand, the report is not complete. I provided some comments regarding the report and I do not know if they have been incorporated into the report. The report was ATR'd by New York District, we would also have comments on that, but I don't know in what format. We have a call into Keely Crowder, who is on developmental assignment, and I will let you know what we find out.

thanks

Nancy J. Powell, P.E., D.WRE
Chief, Hydraulics and Hydrologic Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District CEMVN-ED-H PO Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160 Phone - (504) 862-2449 Fax - (504) 862-2471 email - nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil

Joan M. Exnicios
Chief,
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
CEMVN-PM-R
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
Desk (504) 862-1760
Fax (504) 862-2088
Cell (504) 432-7104

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

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 8:42 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Time is running short in the IER 13S comment period. Please release this report as soon as possible!

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 10, 2009 9:05:25 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Considering the short amount of time in the IER13S comment period, could you please give an update on the release of this report?

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 8:36 AM
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Cc: Powell, Nancy J MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios,

Thanks for the quick response. I look forward to seeing the relevant documents posted, along with giving the public sufficient time to digest and understand them before the public comment period expires.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: [REDACTED] MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 17, 2009 8:59:01 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr McBride

I have the lead HSDRRS environmental working on this request and will get back to you asap.

Message sent via my BlackBerry Wireless Device

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; MVN Environmental
Cc: Coulson, Getrisc MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 17 06:53:02 2009
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Can someone please give me a response on this? The public comment period ends in just over a week, and it appears the Corps is looking to run out the clock by keeping information away from the public.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Coulson, Getrisc MVN" <Getrisc.Coulson@usace.army.mil>; nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil
Sent: Sun, November 15, 2009 2:26:27 PM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Ms. Exnicios:

I would like to formally request that the review of the ERDC report be accelerated to allow it to be released on the nolaenvironmental.gov website before the end of the IER13 Supplemental comment period, along with the ADCIRC and STWAVE files. The inputs and outputs of the simulations are critical information to understanding the impacts of the Corps' proposed actions. The Corps should be able to defend their conclusions in the public realm, instead of simply presenting them in a report with no explanation of how they were determined.

If this cannot be done, I'd like to request an extension of the comment period to allow review of the report when it is posted. I am convinced the public would be keenly interested in knowing exactly which inputs were used to determine the level of flooding, e.g. how many of the 152 storms were used for the modeling? As I understand it, it may be as few as 10.

Again, time is running very short on the comment period.

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>
To: Matt McBride [REDACTED] MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Coulson, Getrisc MVN" <Getrisc.Coulson@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 12, 2009 10:44:47 AM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

Gib Owen checked with Nancy Powell and sent this to me. Here is their response

Joan
Below is answer to Mr. McBride's question. His question/request for information came in via MVNEnvironmental. You will need to respond directly to him.
Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Planner/Biologist
Pacific Ocean Division RIT
Washington DC

----- Original Message -----
From: Powell, Nancy J MVN
To: Owen, Gib A MVN; Wallace, Frederick W MVN; Northey, Robert D MVN; Holder, Ken MVN
Cc: Frost, Stacey U MVN
Sent: Tue Nov 10 15:54:46 2009
Subject: FW: IER13 Supplement supporting documents for induced flood risk

MVN H&H has no complete documents supporting the conclusions presented in IER13 - we have spreadsheets with calculations, ADCIRC and STWAVE input and output files; and we summarized the information of the analyses in the IER13 supplement.

MVS and MVR also do not have separate documents, they summarized their answers on the interior drainage in the IER.

ERDC has a report that was sent to us on the ADCIRC and STWAVE modeling, but

as I understand, the report is not complete. I provided some comments regarding the report and I do not know if they have been incorporated into the report. The report was ATR'd by New York District, we would also have comments on that, but I don't know in what format. We have a call into Keely Crowder, who is on developmental assignment, and I will let you know what we find out.

thanks

Nancy J. Powell, P.E., D.WRE
Chief, Hydraulics and Hydrologic Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District CEMVN-ED-H PO Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160 Phone - (504) 862-2449 Fax - (504) 862-2471 email -
nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil

Joan M. Exnicios
Chief,
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
CEMVN-PM-R
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
Desk (504) 862-1760
Fax (504) 862-2088
Cell (504) 432-7104

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

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2009 8:42 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Cc: Exnicios, Joan M MVN; Powell, Nancy J MVN
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Time is running short in the IER 13S comment period. Please release this report as soon as possible!

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tue, November 10, 2009 9:05:25 AM
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

To all,

Considering the short amount of time in the IER13S comment period, could you please give an update on the release of this report?

Thanks,

Matt McBride

From: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>

To: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Cc: "Exnicios, Joan M MVN" <Joan.M.Exnicios@usace.army.mil>; "Powell, Nancy J MVN" <Nancy.J.Powell@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thu, November 5, 2009 2:43:36 PM
Subject: RE: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Mr. McBride

I am working with the Chief of Hydrology to secure a releasable copy of the report. Hope to have an answer in the near future.

I will be leaving for a new job next week. Joan Exnicios will be the point of contact for any future questions or comments you have. The mvnenvironmental e-mail will still function as is, so feel free to contact us through that address.

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: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 11:36 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: Re: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

I was wondering if you'd had time to consider my request?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

From: Matt McBride [REDACTED]
To: MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Sun, November 1, 2009 4:33:38 PM
Subject: IER13 Supplement supporting documents

Dear Mr. Owen,

Could you please post to the nolaenvironmental.gov website any documents used in the real estate value analysis found on pages 19 through 21 of the IER 13 supplement now out for public comment?

Best regards,

Matt McBride

Leroux, Patricia S MVN

From: Pete and Jamie [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2009 12:01 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: IER13

Attachments: scan0003[1].pdf



scan0003[1].pdf
(275 KB)

Please accept this petition from the citizens of Ironton asking for inclusion in 100-year protection.

Please include this in the public record for IER13.

Pete Stavros

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2009 7:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Emailing: scan0003.pdf, scan0004.pdf

Jamie, Pete,

Let me know if this turned out okay and is the way you wanted it done. If it didn't work -- I'll try again.

scan0003.pdf
scan0004.pdf

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

Cathy L. Logan

WE ARE AGAINST THESE ACTIONS BY THE ARMY CORPS AND THIS IS OUR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS:

- The Army Corps of Engineers is currently planning to block HWY 23 with a floodgate in the event of a storm. This is dangerous and my only way out of the parish.

-The Army Corps of Engineers is hurting my land value. They are only giving me 50 year protection and giving my neighbors in Belle Chasse 100 yr protection, which takes away from the value of my land. This means that some people WILL HAVE protection and some WILL HAVE NOT! This very action is stealing.

- I cannot afford the high insurance premiums that this minimal 50 year flood protection that you are creating for my house/land.

- I do not want to take on your increase risk of flooding that your WORLD'S LARGEST PUMPING STATION will pump onto me. These new actions of pumping out of Belle Chasse in our direction and blocking the flow of water WILL CAUSE AN INCREASE IN THE RISK OF FLOODING. I am against this.

I am against all of these actions and want 100 year protection. I also do NOT want to live behind a floodgate and this is our substantive comments

NAME	ADDRESS
LEONARD R. Riley	[REDACTED]
Andrey T. Salvant	[REDACTED]
Clara Stalleris	[REDACTED]
Ellie Mae Riley	[REDACTED]
Travis Riley	[REDACTED]
Ron Stewart	[REDACTED]
Lonely Ouellet	[REDACTED]
Charles H. Jr	[REDACTED]
John St	[REDACTED]
Shirley St	[REDACTED]
Rita St. Cyr	[REDACTED]
Haywood St Cyr	[REDACTED]
Tesmaka St Cyr	[REDACTED]
ANDREA DELOUET	[REDACTED]
Andrey N. Philbr	[REDACTED]

WE ARE AGAINST THESE ACTIONS BY THE ARMY CORPS AND THIS IS OUR
SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS:

- The Army Corps of Engineers is currently planning to block HWY 23 with a floodgate in the event of a storm. This is dangerous and my only way out of the parish.

-The Army Corps of Engineers is hurting my land value. They are only giving me 50 year protection and giving my neighbors in Belle Chasse 100 yr protection, which takes away from the value of my land. This means that some people WILL HAVE protection and some WILL HAVE NOT! This very action is stealing.

- I cannot afford the high insurance premiums that this minimal 50 year flood protection that you are creating for my house/land.

- I do not want to take on your increase risk of flooding that your WORLD'S LARGEST PUMPING STATION will pump onto me. These new actions of pumping out of Belle Chasse in our direction and blocking the flow of water WILL CAUSE AN INCREASE IN THE RISK OF FLOODING. I am against this.

I am against all of these actions and want 100 year protection. I also do NOT want to live behind a floodgate and this is our substantive comments

NAME

ADDRESS

NAME	ADDRESS
Nadine Black	[REDACTED]
Benjamin + Althea Truin	[REDACTED]
Florence Watts	[REDACTED]
Daylette Watts	[REDACTED]
Michael Bourneau	[REDACTED]
Barbara Compton	[REDACTED]
James Compton	[REDACTED]
Harold Ross	[REDACTED]
Oldest Ross	[REDACTED]
Rev. Samuel J. Miller	[REDACTED]
Alvin Howell III	[REDACTED]
Therese Howell	[REDACTED]
Shel Barrett	[REDACTED]

WE ARE AGAINST THESE ACTIONS BY THE ARMY CORPS AND THIS IS OUR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENTS:

- The Army Corps of Engineers is currently planning to block HWY 23 with a floodgate in the event of a storm. This is dangerous and my only way out of the parish.

-The Army Corps of Engineers is hurting my land value. They are only giving me 50 year protection and giving my neighbors in Belle Chasse 100 yr protection, which takes away from the value of my land. This means that some people WILL HAVE protection and some WILL HAVE NOT! This very action is stealing.

- I cannot afford the high insurance premiums that this minimal 50 year flood protection that you are creating for my house/land.

- I do not want to take on your increase risk of flooding that your WORLD'S LARGEST PUMPING STATION will pump onto me. These new actions of pumping out of Belle Chasse in our direction and blocking the flow of water WILL CAUSE AN INCREASE IN THE RISK OF FLOODING. I am against this.

I am against all of these actions and want 100 year protection. I also do NOT want to live behind a floodgate and this is our substantive comments

NAME

ADDRESS

DREWLYNE GUY
JANIS WATSON
ALICE HIGGINS



Multiple horizontal lines provided for additional entries or comments.

Project IER13

I have questions and concerns regarding the investment of millions of dollars for a flood wall and gate in Plaquemines Parish. Why are we spending good money after bad?

1. How would this wall and gate have minimized damages caused by hurricanes, Betsy, Camille, Danny, Ivan, Katrina, Rita, Gustav or Ike? My grandparents lived in Jefferson Parish where Bayou Barataria and Bayou Des Families, at one time freshwater bayous (distributaries from the Mississippi River) come together, on the point. Their home was never flooded until Ike and that was due to wetlands loss, not lack of levees. Land loss and wetlands loss is our problem not, not having enough levees.
2. What is the walls purpose? Is this to create a false sense of security? New Orleans flooded after Katrina because the walls failed and not having wetlands to buffer the storms surge.
3. The idea that we can somehow protect New Orleans and its suburbs by building more walls and levees is financially irresponsible and foolish. The money should be spent rebuilding our barrier islands, wooded ridges (cheniers) and building spillways that would reintroduce freshwater and sediment to the wetlands, after all that is how the Delta was originally built. The spillways would also act as a relief valve when storm surges arrive. When we built the levee and 1928 we disconnected the river from the delta and estuary it built over the last 800 years. It was a mistake then and it is a mistake now. Haven't we learned from our mistakes?

This proposed wall is financially, socially, culturally and ecologically irresponsible and I strongly suggest you reconsider.

November 5, 2009

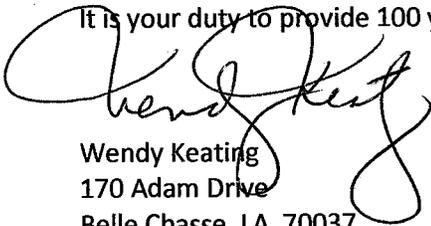
Col Lee:

One of the main concerns that I have had as a homeowner is the affordability and availability of Homeowner Insurance in Southeast Louisiana specifically Plaquemines Parish. Since Hurricane Katrina Homeowner Insurance has become a major issue. Asked any realtor who has sold property in the metropolitan area since Katrina and they will confirm that homeowner insurance availability and affordability has been a key component to close the deal. With that said, could the construction of this Floodgate negatively impact the problem that already exists with respect to availability and or affordability? Col. Lee did the Corps research this? Your addendum to IER-13 specifically addresses FLOOD INSURANCE. I have posed the question regarding homeowner insurance at the May meeting and again at the Sept meeting and have yet to get a response from you. Did any of your staff consult with private insurance companies or the Louisiana Dept of Insurance to get their take on this adverse risk?

In your Sept 2009 report, you stated it was "your commitment to provide the most accurate and up-to-date information so that each resident had the necessary resources to make good, risk informed decisions." However, in 1997 when I purchased my land in Jesuit Bend, I wasn't given accurate nor up-to-date information regarding this IER-13 project. Had I been given this information, back in 1997, I would not have taken the risk. My hope ~~that~~^{is} in the future that the government at all levels, local, state and federal ^{will} fully disclose projects ^{like} this. Unfortunately, now I will be on the WRONG side of the WALL and this will adversely affect my property value. Once that wall goes up, my property value will go down!

I wished I had the opportunity back in 1997 to make a risk-informed decision, but unfortunately, my local, state and federal government dropped the ball and now my family will have to suffer the aftermath.

It is your duty to provide 100 year protection to all! Equal rights and equal protection for ALL!!



Wendy Keating
170 Adam Drive
Belle Chasse, LA 70037
(504) 329-7765