

Public Meeting Summary

Individual Environmental Reports 15, 16, 17 and borrow Lake Cataouatche Levee, Western Tie In, and Company Canal Floodwall

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

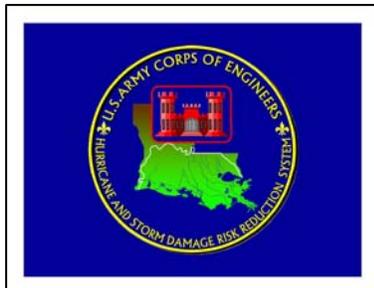
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| Location | Cytec's Tom Call Pavilion 10800 River Rd Westwego, LA 70094 |
| Time | Open House 6 p.m.-7 p.m. Presentation 7 p.m.-9 p.m. |
| Attendees | Approx. 23 attendees |
| Format | Presentation and Discussion |
| Handouts | Presentation Borrow Handout |
| Facilitator | Julie Morgan |
| Presenter | Julie Vignes, senior project manager |

Welcome

Dennis Nuss, St. Charles Parish Councilman

My name is Dennis Nuss I am the public relations director for Cytec and the Councilman for St. Charles Parish, District 7. Thank you for coming out.

Julie Morgan, public affairs



Good evening and thank you for coming tonight. My name is Julie Morgan and I work in public affairs at the Corps. We are happy to be here and we appreciate you coming after a long day. This is the 71st meeting we've held in the metro area. We are meeting with the public to talk about the progress and the road ahead on the West Bank Vicinity and Lake Pontchartrain Vicinity projects. We are also here to talk about NEPA environmental compliance on the projects. We look forward to constructive comments. First there will be a presentation to give you an update and it will be followed by a question and answer session.

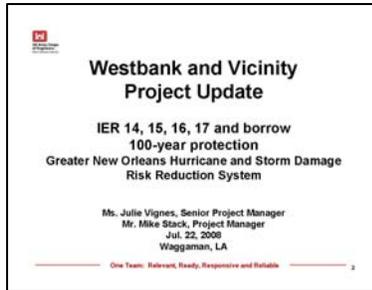
Thank you to Cytec for allowing us to use this venue. I want to recognize Shelly Tastet, St. Charles Parish Councilwoman; Terry Authement, St. Charles Parish Councilman-at-Large; and, Wendy Maise, from state representative Robert Billiot's office for being here tonight.

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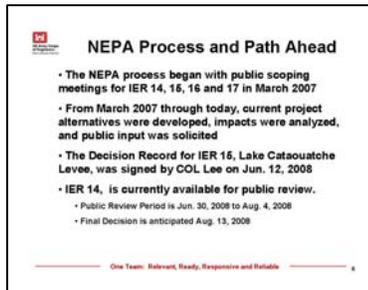
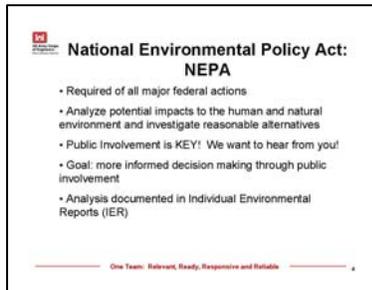
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We are here to give you an update. You are here to play a role in the process for selecting the appropriate alternative. You are important to the process and we would like to hear your comments. I request that if you could hold your comments until the entire presentation has been given then we will open the floor to question and answers. Julie Vignes is the senior project manager of the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project and she will be giving the presentation.

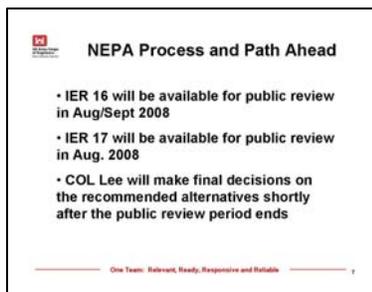
Julie Vignes, senior project manager



We are concentrating on four areas along the Westbank tonight. The system has been divided into different Individual Environmental Reports and we will be examining four of these reports tonight. First I want to give an update on the ongoing construction and improvements we're making to the system, then we'll discuss the alternatives being considered to reduce risk from a storm event that has a one percent chance of



occurring in any given year..



The National Environmental Policy Act is a federal regulation governing the environmental process. Any federal agency that proposes a plan has to analyze the potential impacts to the human and natural environments. NEPA dictates we must consider the impacts to make an informed decision. Public involvement is “key” to the project and we want to hear your constructive comments.



For hurricane system projects, all NEPA assessments and descriptions are documented in Individual Environmental Reports. These reports are published and made available for public review.

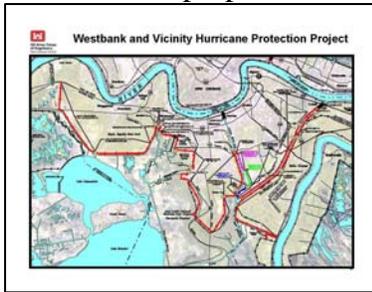
This [pointing] is how the entire greater New Orleans hurricane storm damage risk reduction system is divided and we are

discussing four reports on the Westbank. IER 15 covers the Lake Cataouatche area from Bayou

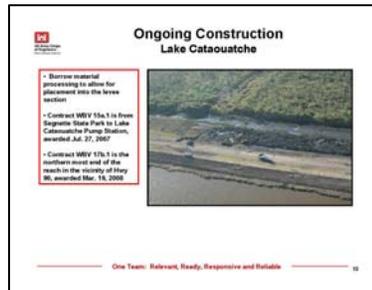
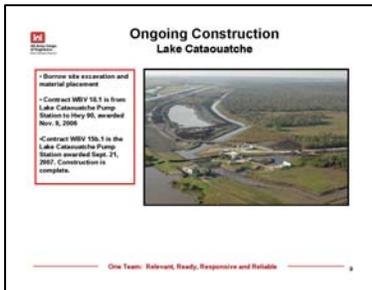
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Segnette floodwall west to Highway 90. That IER is published and Col. Lee has signed the Decision Record approving the recommended plan. IER 14 covers Westwego to Harvey and is available for public comment until Aug. 4. We are anticipating Col. Lee to make a decision by Aug. 13. IER 16 is the Western Tie-In project from Lake Cataouatche at Highway 90 west and how it ties into the Mississippi River levee system. The alternatives are being evaluated and a decision has not been made on the proposed action. The public review period is expected to be in the Aug./Sept. timeframe. IER 17 goes from Bayou Segnette to Company Canal. We've identified the proposed action and will describe it later in the presentation. The IER is expected to be available for public review in August.



This red line [pointing] shows where the West bank hurricane project is located. Tonight we are going to cover this area [pointing]: the Harvey and Algiers canals are in other environmental reports but tonight we are concentrating on everything west of the Harvey Canal.



There is ongoing construction and I want to give an update of where we are in the project. In Lake Cataouatche there is a contract that is raising the levee at the Lake Cataouatche pump station to south of Highway 90. The

contract was started in Nov. 2006 and is about 80-90 percent complete. The contract is raising the levee to elevation 11-12. The levee would need to be enlarged again to get to the 100-year level of protection but the first lift to elevation 11-12 is near completion. A contract was completed at the Lake Cataouatche pump station to provide protection against surge at the pump location.

A contract awarded in Jul. 2007 is underway on the east side from Lake Cataouatche pump station to the Bayou Segnette floodwall reach and is about 30-40-percent complete. The last piece of the Lake Cataouatche contract was awarded in Mar. 2008 and will tie in to previously awarded contracts at Hwy 90.



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Other features under construction the Harvey floodgate at Lapalco Bridge installed and operable.

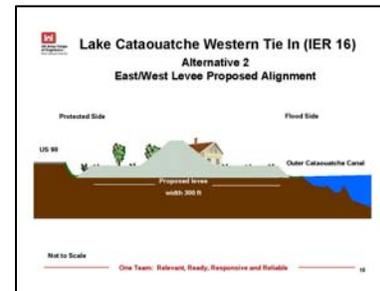
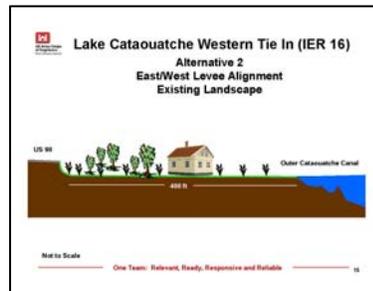


The Cousins pump station discharge walls are also complete. We can block surge from entering the Harvey Canal. The floodwalls on the east side are divided into five segments. The first contract is from Boomtown Casino and goes south to the Hero Canal. It was awarded in March and is almost complete. We have awarded three more contracts for that alignment that covers everything from Lapalco to the Hero Canal. We have one remaining task order and that contract will be awarded in Sept. 2008.

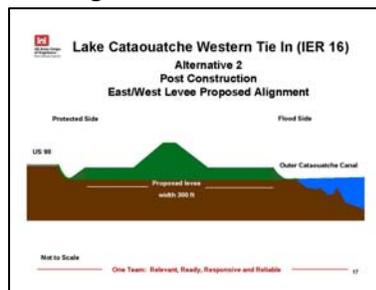
At the Company Canal following hurricanes Katrina and Rita we looked at the design criteria and increased the safety of the design. We made a decision to improve the protection at the Company Canal. A barge gate was installed and that installation was complete so it is now operable. If the Company Canal was threatened we could close the gate and block the surge.



There are three alternatives under consideration to improve the system to the 100-year level of protection. This is Highway 90 [pointing] and this is the Lake Cataouatche loop. The first alternative would include a crossing of the highway and then a T-wall that would go north along S. Kenner Road. Then it would follow this red alignment as an earthen levee south of the railroad. This would include some railroad gates and drainage structures.



Alternative 2 ties into the existing Lake Cataouatche levee south of Hwy 90 but north of the drainage canal. It would include drainage structures and would have to cross Hwy 90 then go



north along the existing Davis Pond guide levee. Then it would tie in the structure at the Mississippi River levees.

This slide shows the impacts. Currently you have Highway 90 with land that varies but some places approximately 40 feet deep. We have some structures in this alignment such as camps and residences. This alternative would include the construction of a

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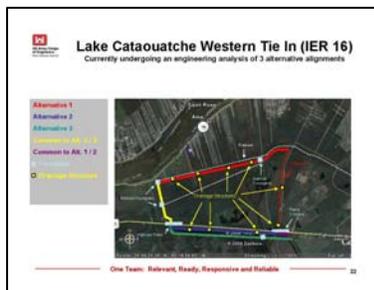
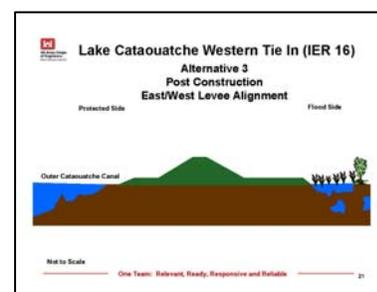
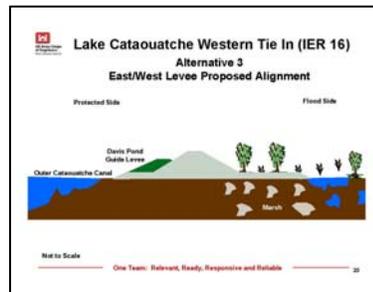
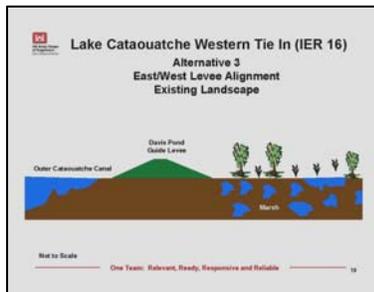
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levee and it would take up the majority of depth between the highway and drainage canal. It would impact some residences, landowners and businesses. This is a representation of the levee that runs east and west.



Alternative 3 is a similar alignment and it ties into the existing Lake Cataouatche levee but it is south of the drainage canal. So we would have to deal with the Bayou Verret. This alternative would need a navigable floodgate allowing recreational boats. It is near the Davis Pond Guide Levee that needs improvements and it would have a ramp that would cross Hwy 90 tying into the structure. Here is the existing canal and the Davis Pond Guide

Levee. Our levee would be larger to provide hurricane protection. So we would be left with a section that looked like this [pointing].



This slide is a summary of the three alternatives. We thought we would have the decision to move forward but we are not there just yet. Alternative 1 poses many technical challenges because of the landfill and railroad. Due to the time and cost it is the least favorable alternative. We are collecting more information about Alternatives 2 and 3 so we make the best decision. We know alternative 2 would have impacts to residences because there are camps impacted in alternative 3. Alternative 3 has more environmental impacts and it is a challenge because it could impact the operation of the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project. [Inaudible] it could have water up to the levee so we would have to do interim construction. We are looking closely at fresh water diversion project could work as we assess the alternatives. Alternative 2 and 3 are in play and we welcome any feedback. We are planning to have a decision in 2 to 4 weeks.



The Lake Cataouatche area IER has completed the comment period and the recommended plan is approved. We are going to enlarge the earthen levees which already under consideration to

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We looked at two other locations for navigable gates. These will be published in IER 17.

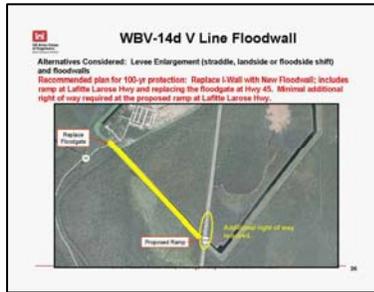
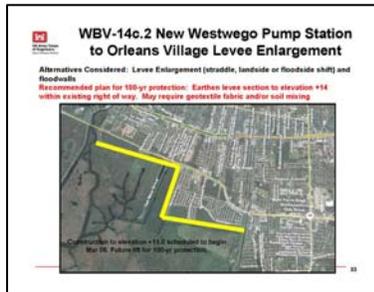


The Westwego to Harvey section of the Westbank ties in to IER 14. This is currently available for public comment. We have identified the recommended plan to do the 100-year system.

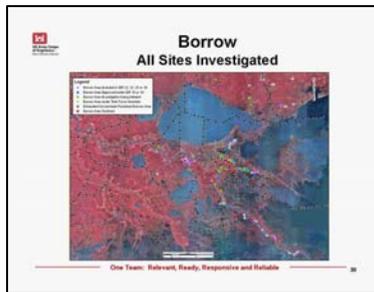
This is currently under construction but to get it to 100-year we will raise the levee higher to elevation 14.

There are pumps in this alignment and those pumps will get

fronting protection. [Inaudible] that levee will be enlarged. This is an I-wall but we will replace it with a higher T-wall. We will replace a gate and [inaudible].



As we get to the other side we will be building an earthen levee section that will shift to the protected side.



These are all the areas we will consider for borrow. We have been investigation the locations in a large region. This shows locations that have been investigated and it is to give you a feel for borrow areas. This is Lake Cataouatche levee and this shows what areas have been investigated

to see if there is suitable borrow.

These are the existing borrow sites and we are investigating other sites.

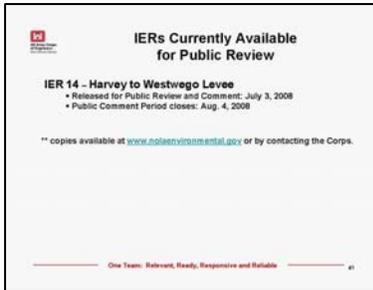
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This IER 14 is currently available for public comment closing August 4. They are available at nolaenvironmental.gov. It is where those reports are located. We can send you the report if you just ask us.

Gib is our environmental person for the whole system. You can contact him.



This is the Web site where you can find the information.

We have a number of our staff here tonight and we have people who also know the system.



Julie Morgan, public affairs

When we travel and hold public meetings we bring senior managers and project manager to answer your questions. I would like to introduce those people and they will be here after the discussion so you can ask them one-on-one or you can ask them

here.

Tonight we have:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Dean Arnold | Project manager for risk and reliability |
| Durand Elzey | Project manager Mississippi River levees |
| Maj. Tim Kurgan | Chief of public affairs |
| Soheila Holley | Senior project manager borrow |
| Todd Klock | Real estate |
| Gib Owen | Senior environmental manager |

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| Robert Lewis | Regulatory branch |
| Al Naomi | Chief of the West Bank Vicinity |
| Mike Stack | project manager Lake Cataouatche |
| Rob Thomson | Real estate |
| Stuart Waits | senior project manager Westbank floodwalls |
| Deanna Walker | Real estate |
| James McMenis | LA Coastal Protection and Restoration Agency |
| Jamie Phillips | LA Dept of Environment Quality |
| Benny Roussell | LA Dept of Natural Resources |

Before we begin I have a few ground rules. We handed out evaluation forms before the meeting and if you would fill those out we would greatly appreciate it. The feedback received helps us to have better meetings in the future. Please make sure you signed in because we will mail or send e-mails about upcoming meetings and information available. If you have a question I ask that you raise your hand and state your name because we are recording the meeting. The Colonel will read your comments before making a decision on the proposed alternatives. Please limit your comments to 3 minutes and if you have more we will come back to you. We are here until we have answered all your questions. We look forward to constructive comments to aid in selection the best alternative.

Question 1. Frank Matherne: If Katrina came through Lake Cataouatche to Davis Pond what would have happened? How long will the diversion be?

Response 1. Al Naomi: The levee is not designed for hurricane protection. The only thing that helps is the soft acres of the fresh water diversion.

Question 2. Frank Matherne: By putting the levee on that side it would serve two purposes?

Response 2. Al Naomi: Yes, it would make it more resilient and would be at hurricane standards.

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Question 3. Frank Matherne: So it could save money?

Response 3. Al Naomi: It might but the subsurface foundation is poor. It would have to be higher.

Question 4. Ricky Dufrene: If the Corps starts the design process with a preference does that allow you to gather data to support your preference?

Response 4. Al Naomi: Generally we do not have a preference when we start. We want our analysis to be objective. We say Alternative 1 is less promising because of the impacts we see. Whatever alternatives are workable, we gather the alternatives to determine the best alternative.

Question 5. Ricky Dufrene: Alternative 3 would have more environmental impacts; do you consider the human element as part of the environment?

Response 5. Gib Owen: We look at human and natural environments. There are extensive natural impacts if we have to shut the system down to build the levee.

Question 6. Ricky Dufrene: [Inaudible].

Response 6. Gib Owen: We are weighing it out but it is hard to guarantee the diversion.

Question 7. Ricky Dufrene: All the work done has been to Alternative 2 and I was wondering if this is a fair process?

Response 7a. Gib Owen: On the environmental side we look at all the impacts as equal.

Response 7b. Mike Stack: [Inaudible] the surveying and boring. We built Davis Pond and we know what we have and what we do not. [Inaudible]. The water levels will be different. There is a short time in the window for the work we have to do. [Inaudible].

Question 8. Unidentified person: The levee in St. Charles Parish is that 100% funded?

Response 8. Julie Vignes: You're talking about the Western Tie-In. The portions being built now are 100 percent funded. Congress told the Corps to complete the system and do it at the federal expense. Now that we have authorization to build to 100-year elevations we'll accomplish both project goals and we'll raise it to elevation 10. The amount of money needed to get to elevation 15 is cost shared 65 federal and 35 non-federal. The non-federal sponsor is the State of Louisiana.

Question 9. Lyle Boyer: The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion, would it be better to close it because the benefit is minimal because you are changing the salinity? To build there now you are

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inviting the water in without a floodgate to keep the water in, and then it is going to overflow. [Inaudible].

Response 9. Al Naomi: The salinity issue is important because if you allow salt water in you will kill the wetlands. There is aquatic growth because of the diversion and it is serving a positive purpose. Environmental people would argue that it is important to the Barataria Basin.

Question 10. Lyle Boyer: But it sinks and it does not move sediment.

Response 10. Al Naomi: If you look at how the river was built it was over years. I agree that sediment is necessary but if I dredged it would settle wherever. The purpose of Davis Pond is to save the wetlands that we have.

Question 11. Lyle Boyer: If you put \$30 million into building a levee then you would not be worrying about diversion.

Response 11. Al Naomi: In this area you do not want a levee without wetlands in front of it.

Question 12. Lyle Boyer: [Inaudible] what is the cost ratio to that, where are the numbers?

Response 12. Al Naomi: If you save the wetlands you reduce surge and will be more protected.

Comment 13. Lyle Boyer: You are wrong because you have to move sediment. The land was put there by sediment.

Question 14. Sandy Dares: Is there any consideration given prior to selecting the alternatives because there is a narrow point where the Lake Cataouatche levee is close to the east guide levee. As a possible alternative you would accomplish two things right here [inaudible].

Response 14a. Julie Morgan: It was closer to \$100 million.

Response 14b. Mike Stack: There has been a levee here for 50 years on Lake Cataouatche then we came in and built Davis Pond. This levee was consolidated. It is more economical because it is just 5 feet high. [Inaudible].

Question 15. Sandy Dares: It is not just the guide levee. The levee is not all that vulnerable.

Response 15. Mike Stack: These levees are going to 15 feet but they are going from 7-feet to 15-feet. It is a valid consideration but we can work off the foundation here.

Question 16. Sandy Dares: What storm water surge is going to come up in there? On another note I am not hearing anything about providing public access. I am curious how we are going to respond to disasters if I have to go to Des Allmonds to get boat access.

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Response 16a. Mike Stack: We can consider access in the mitigation features. Right now Pier 90 is [inaudible] when we put the gate in it will be open at all times except when there is a hurricane. We are looking at soil information because of the drainage structure. Next to Pier 90 there is a smaller structure than a sector gate. There is an opportunity to move the alignment within that 400-foot footprint to maintain operation of Pier 90 and the existing boat launch. [Inaudible].

Response 16b. Gib Owen: On loss of habitat, when we did Davis Pond we recognized we would lose habitat but there was a net gain. By improving the habitat [inaudible].

Question 17. Unidentified person: Alignment 2 would make it St. Charles Parish's responsibility to maintain the structure. If you work on Alignment 3 then we can work the funds from the diversion to prevent tax increases.

Response 17. Mike Stack: We have talked about this but the consideration of what it would take to build Alignment 3 with cost, we have not figured out yet.

Question 18. Frank Matherne: What is the cost difference between Alternative 2 and 3?

Response 18. Mike Stack: It depends on what happens with Davis Pond. We are trying to figure out how to make that work because that offsets Davis Pond. Those details are being worked out. [Inaudible].

Question 19. Frank Matherne: Before Davis Pond started flowing what kind of habitat did we have then compared to now?

Response 19. Al Naomi: The impact where the water was being affected was saline and now it is fresh. This means the wildlife and fisheries benefit from the freshwater and are doing great. [Inaudible].

Question 20. Frank Matherne: Before the Diversion we had squirrel, rabbit, and deer but now they are gone.

Response 20a. Al Naomi: Those areas are flooded but it is more than just the habitat. Now you can find eagles are benefiting. The whole concept is to save 700 acres.

Response 20b. Julie Morgan: At Canarvan in St. Bernard before Katrina ravaged it, there was the new marsh land created by freshwater diversions [inaudible].

Question 21. Frank Matherne: You talked about vegetation earlier, that is important?

Response 21. Al Naomi: Yes, it lets nutrients in the pond regenerate which is part of what we are trying to do.

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Question 22. Frank Matherne: Why did we spray it last year?

Response 22. Al Naomi: Who sprayed it?

Question 23. Frank Matherne: It was not me it was in the paper.

Response 23. Al Naomi: Right now Davis Pond [inaudible].

Question 24. Ricky Dufrene: If you are not seeing impacts a mile or two away, was the project worth the cost? [Inaudible].

Response 24. Al Naomi: The impacts are long term. It does not happen over night. [Inaudible]. If we loose the marsh we will never get it back and if we do not do it we would regret it.

Question 25. Paul Egle: I would be directly affected by Alternative 2 and 3 because Alternative 2 would move me [inaudible].

Response 25. Al Naomi: We are not going to shut Davis Pond down. [Inaudible].

Question 26. Ricky Dufrene: So did it impact the amount of area we hoped it would?

Response 26a. Al Naomi: I have been off the project for three years and I do not know the status [inaudible].

Response 26b. Gib Owen: We have not achieved the full benefits but there is not a set schedule. We are seeing new aquatic vegetation and more birds wading. A survey by Natural Resources shows that there are more birds, more animals and we are seeing the results. There is not a set schedule but they are saying in five years we would see more benefits.

Question 27. Ricky Dufrene: Has it impacted a large area as you had hoped in design?

Response 27a. Gib Owen: [Inaudible]. In a couple of years we will be able to answer. [Inaudible].

Response 27b. Al Naomi: I was the project manager during construction but I have not been involved since.

Response 27c. Julie Morgan: We will get back to you.

Question 28. Paul Egle: I am still upset with the process the Corps is going through. You are going to directly impact a residence, my home, and I have small children. We do not want to move. This is a stressful situation for my family and no one from the Corps has contacted us. I would have to move with both alternatives. It looks like I will have limited notice.

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Response 28a. Julie Morgan: Deanna can give a synopsis and we would be happy to meet with you to talk more.

Response 28b. Julie Vignes: We have not completed the impacts and we are looking to provide a decision on the alternatives by October. Built into the schedule is a 6 to 10 month period to complete relocations. This project would not start construction for another year. To ease your mind we are still looking at the alternatives. We should identify the recommended alternative in 2 to 4 weeks. It has to go through the NEPA process then Mike is going to meet with you so you would be prepared.

Response 28c. Todd Klock: We have not notified you because it is premature. Once the alternative is selected you would be notified and the property would be appraised. You would get a fair market value and then we would provide the relocation benefits. We would work this out with you.

Comment 29. Paul Egle: What about comfort level? There is no where else to keep kids in the same school. This is where I want to return, where I want to stay. How are you going to compensate for that because you are taking my lifestyle?

Question 30. Frank Matherne: Where are you going to put me where I do not have to drive to go hunting or fishing like I have in my current home?

Response 30a. Julie Morgan: We travel all around the area and face the same questions. Lakeview residents are upset because we are going to build pump stations. St. Bernard wants people to come back to their area. The government looks at the projects that are cost effective but also provide the most benefit. Throughout history we sacrifice few for the benefit many.

Response 30b. Deanna Walker: If you are not currently living in a subdivision we are not going to move you to another. We are going to assess the situation and try to find something compatible. It can not always be the same but do not think we are going to plop you into a suburb. There will be many meetings and provisions with timeframes before you would be required to move. There is a process and law that we have to adhere to if that alignment is selected. We cannot approach you until the alignment is selected.

Comment 31. Frank Matherne: I think the decision was made a year ago that the alignment was going to go through my property.

Question 32. Ricky Dufrene: I think the response to failure is levees.

Response 32. Julie Morgan: If a storm is coming you can not rely on man made levees or floodwalls. The levees are there to reduce risk. We have evacuation warnings and we are trying to improve the system.

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Question 33. Paul Egle: If it is going to cost more to save my land, home, and lifestyle in another option then it is feasible to me. My concern would be if there was not an option but there is one.

Response 33a. Julie Morgan: That is why we have alternatives and are studying them.
[Inaudible].

Response 33b. Maj. Kurgan: Cost is a factor but not the only factor. We do not just choose a project because it cost less. We have to base our decisions on the impacts to the environments. We are here to get your input and get the human impacts to the project. If Alternative 2 is selected you have rights defined by the law and we follow them. We will come out and communicate with you but there is a long process. There has not been a decision and Colonel Lee makes the decision. He has not done that yet.

Julie Morgan, public affairs

Thank you everyone for coming. Our project managers will be here to answer your questions. Be careful going home tonight.