Public Meeting Summary

Individual Environmental Report Supplemental IER #11b – Tier 2 Borgne
Public Meeting
October 13, 2010

Location	St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church
Time	Open House 6 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Presentation 6:30 p.m.
Attendees	Approx. 40
Format	Open House Presentation Discussion
Handouts	• Seabrook Complex Fact Sheet • Lake Borgne Surge Barrier Fact Sheet • Corps Approval Process brochure
Facilitator	Nancy Allen, public affairs

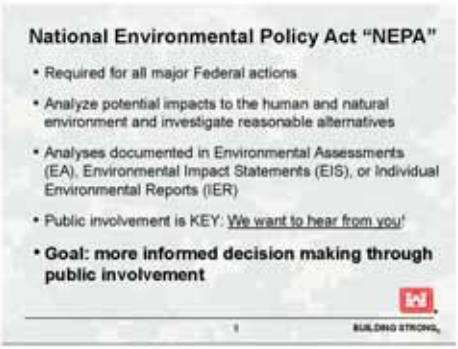
Nancy Allen: Welcome. I'm Nancy Allen, the public affairs officer for the Hurricane Protection Office. Our commander Col. Sinkler couldn't be with us this evening, but I want to welcome you and say thank you for taking time out of your schedule to be with us. I would like to introduce some staff members we have here tonight. We have Ron Elmer, our IHNC branch chief and he will be doing the presentation this evening. Bill Maloz, a project manager, Chantrelle Carriere, a project manager, Laura Lee Wilkinson and Lee Walker from environmental. We also have Joe Rochelle with us representing Councilwoman Clarkson's office, Gerry Gillen from the Orleans Levee District and Clay Miller from the Port of New Orleans.

Tonight's meeting is to discuss Individual Environmental Report Supplemental 11b Tier 2, which focuses on improved protection in the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. This IER Supplemental has not been released yet for public review, but tonight we will brief you on the information contained within it and take your questions and comments. We expect that it should be out by Friday. The 30-day public comment period for this document will start once it's released for the public. We ask that you let us get through all the slides and then we will open up the floor for questions and comments. I'll give you a brief update on the status of the system and then turn it over to Ron for some more information on specifics of the projects.

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.

I do want to give you a brief update of where we are on the construction of the hurricane and storm damage risk reduction system. This is a $14.4 billion dollar system that was authorized and fully-funded by Congress and we are well on our way of our goal of providing 100-year level of protection by June 2011. The Hurricane Protection Office is overseeing construction on the East Bank of Orleans Parish and St. Bernard Parish, including the IHNC corridor, and the outfall canals. Along the New Orleans metro lakefront from the 17th Street Canal to the IHNC, we are more than 95% complete with that work. We are finishing up some floodwall construction on the west ends and four ramps along Lakeshore Drive and those streets will be re-opened within a few months. In New Orleans East, this portion of work is 100% complete. We are doing work here on the floodwalls from the Lakefront Airport up to Lincoln Beach. On the east side adjacent to the Bayou Sauvage Wildlife Refuge, we are building some of the most massive levees in the system; these are approximately 300 feet wide with an elevation of 22-24 feet. In this area, which we call LPV – Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity 111, we are using a process called deep soil mixing where we are injecting cement into the soil to crate columns and that helps stabilize the foundation of the levees. The IHNC surge barrier here, the wall is complete and we are just finishing up work on the three navigation gates. Around St. Bernard, we are busy construction 23-miles of T-walls, two sector gates and two highway floodgates.

We do like to remind everyone that reducing risk is a shared responsibility. We can all do our part to reduce risk including implementing zoning and building codes, outreach and education, having an evacuation plan, having insurance and then the structural features of the system like levees, floodwalls and flood structures. However, there is always residual risk living in Southeast Louisiana. We do ask you to be alert and have an evacuation plan and if your local officials order an evacuation, please follow those orders.



The projects that we are discussing here tonight are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act or NEPA, which requires that we look at the impacts of this project and look at alternatives. These studies can be documented in different types of reports including environmental assessments, environmental impact statements or individual environmental reports and that is what we are talking about here tonight.

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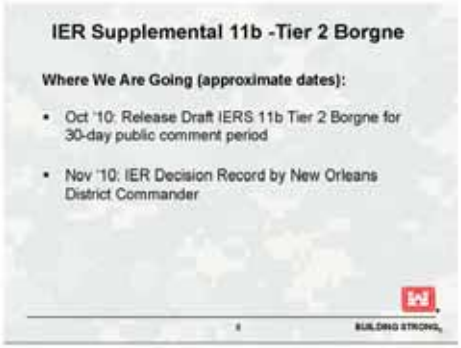
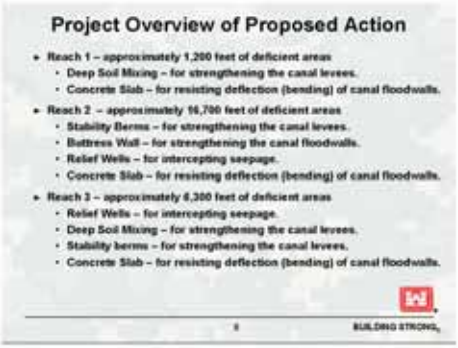


To give you a timeline, our document should be out by Friday and you will have 30 days to submit written comments and then in November 2010, we expect the IER decision record to be signed by the New Orleans district commander. All of our information regarding our environmental reports can be found on www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

Ron Elmer: I am the program manager for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal program and that includes all the barriers, the levees and floodwalls along the GIWW and IHNC as well as the Seabrook structure. The purpose of this IER is to identify and make public the areas that we have found deficient along the IHNC with respect to the new design guidelines that we are required to follow when we build new levee and floodwall systems. These guidelines have certain safety factors for stability and seepage. We have done an analysis of all the levees and floodwalls, approximately 30 miles, and there is about 4.6 miles of the system that doesn't quite meet those guidelines with respect to stability and seepage.

This slide shows you the ways and methods we plan on using to remediate and correct those deficiencies that we have found. In Reach One, this is the levee and floodwall system that runs along the Lower 9th Ward and the East Bank of the IHNC, the south side of the GIWW and ties into the barrier system by Bayou Bienvenue. Reach Two is the area in New Orleans East around the Michoud Canal along the GIWW and then on the east side going north towards the lake. The third reach is on the west side of the IHNC that runs from the lock at the river all the way to the lakefront. Those are the three reaches we broke up the work into.

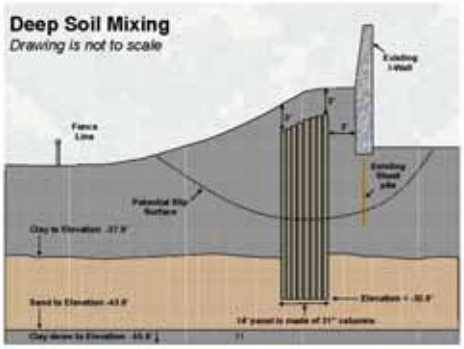


In Reach 1, based on the analysis to date, we are finding stability problems that we are correcting by using deep soil mixing and concrete slabs. We have some slides later that will show you graphically what we are doing. One Reach 2 there is approximately 16,700 feet of deficient area, which indicates different types of problems dealing with seepage and instability and these are the methods we plan on using to correct those deficiencies; stability berms, buttress walls, relief wells and concrete slabs. On Reach 3 there is approximately 63-hundred feet of deficiency areas and we plan on using the same type of corrective actions to take care of those

deficiencies.

This map in red shows the areas that are deficient and where they are located along the system. We are not quite finished all the analysis, but to date these are the areas we have found to be deficient and all indications are we can probably reduce the amount of work that is necessary once we finish analysis. The amount of work we are showing in the IER will potentially go down some.

Right now our proposed construction schedule once the IER public review is done and decision record signed, we can then go out with contracts. We plan on advertising contracts in early 2011 and there are several contracts and we should have everything done by next hurricane season, June 1, 2011. All the work that we are doing is within the existing footprint of the existing right-of-ways so we are not going out onto any private or commercial property within the footprint of the existing right-of-way of the levee system.



Deep soil mixing is one of the methods we have to remediate the deficiencies we have in certain areas. The problem is when the water gets high enough on the wall, there is a stability problem where the earth wants to rotate this way and fail. Our solution is doing deep soil mixing, which strengthens the area where this possible failure plain exist and it keeps it from sliding.

These are pictures of deep soil mixing that we have previously done along the IHNC along the West Bank. We did about 18-hundred feet of wall right after Gustav and it went well.

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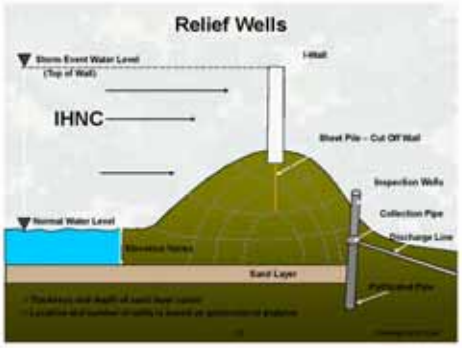
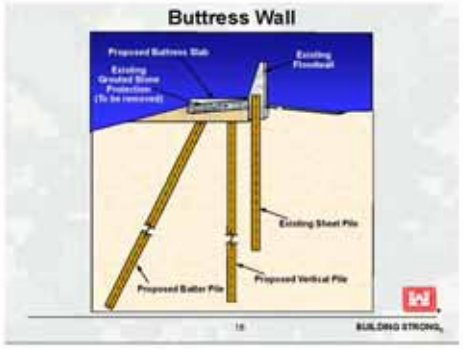


Relief wells are another method for taking care of seepage problems; this is the canal side and this is the protected side. When the water gets up into the canal the water pressure in the sand layers that exist in some areas, builds up and the soil starts to move and the pressure so high that you will get movement of sand layer and the system will slide. The bank becomes unstable because of movement of the sand layers below. To relieve that pressure we put in a relief well where that water is controlled into a pipe and into the drainage system so that it prevents the pressures from building up and moving the material.

These are some pictures of some wells that are along the protected side of the canal. There are quite a few of them in some areas and they do function quite well.

This is another method of repairing for a stability problem. Some areas where the stability problems exist we can solve that problem by adding additional dirt on the backside to compensate for that slow failure. This is quite an easy fix and goes quickly.



This is a buttress wall and another stability problem fix. There are existing grouted mats behind the wall for overtopping and erosion protection and that is where we see some stability problems in the smaller areas. What we are doing is going in removing this existing erosion protection, driving piles and building a slab behind to compensate for the stability problem.

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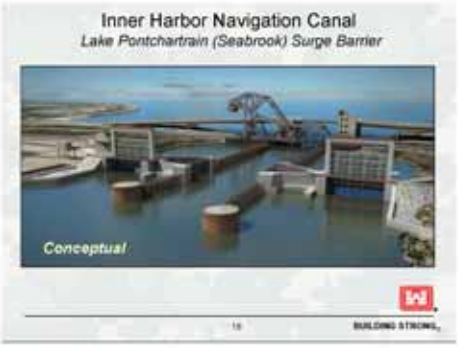
There are some things that can be expected during construction, but most of the construction areas aren't in too many residential areas, but there will be some construction impacts. There may be some elevated noise levels from the pumps, generators and motors of the equipment. We don't see any road closures, but in some isolated areas there may be limited access during construction with the road traffic. We do expect to do some extended work hours where we will be working six days a week, 12 hours a day. To minimize impacts, we will have requirements for controlling dust when the trucks are rolling in the street. We will use approved haul roads so we shouldn't have any impact with the areas we are talking about in the construction efforts we will have going on.



This is the Seabrook structure; the IER doesn't cover this, it covers the levees and floodwalls, but this is an integral part of the system where the levees and floodwalls along the canal tie into the lakefront. This work has started and we are under construction and we are moving well with the construction. We don't see any problems right and all indications is that we will have the 100-year level of protection next hurricane season and it's moving quite well.

The canal is closed at the Railroad Bridge at Seabrook because of us building the sector gates and lift gates. We are underway and the canal is closed and we are anticipating roughly a 12-month closure period.

Nancy Allen: Some additional items we want to bring to your attention. We do have an IER available for public review and you see the review dates here. It is for the Contractor Furnished Borrow. You can submit your comments by phone, by e-mail or at www.nolaenvironmental.gov.

On Monday Oct. 25th we will have a meeting on the Westbank regarding the Belle Chasse Tunnel construction impacts

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On Oct. 26th, we will be in New Orleans East at the St. Maria Goretti Church for a New Orleans East construction update as well as to take additional comments and questions on the IER 11b Supplemental. So we will be giving a briefing on this project and provide an update on other New Orleans East projects at that time. Also on Tues. Oct 26th, there is a meeting about SELA and that is at Loyola New Orleans.

There are always opportunities for you to give us feedback. Make sure you sign in and you will be added to our mailing list. Comments can always be submitted on www.nolaenvironmental.gov and you can address your comments specifically to Patricia Leroux for this and other projects. Comments here tonight will also become part of the official record.

We have two web resources. There is www.nolaenvironmental.gov, all of our environmental documentation is there. We also have the New Orleans District webpage, which is www.mvn.usace.army.mil and this information is also on all our fact sheets in the back of the room. We also have a construction impacts hotline; if you have issues or questions or see something please call this hotline and someone will get back in touch with you and try to minimize those impacts in your neighborhood.

We also have several networks at Twitter to give out short, brief messages. If you are curious about any of these projects, please visit Flickr, which is a photo-sharing website and you can find pictures of all of our projects. We are also on Facebook. We also like to have people come out and see our projects so if you have a community group, you can schedule a field trip or have someone speak to your group, please let us know and we will get your information.

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These are our direct links to all social media.

We are now going to open it up for your comments or questions. We don't have speaker cards so we are just going to line up at the microphone and I'll take you in that order. I do ask that you be respectful of everyone and keep your comments to three to five minutes so we can get to everyone. If you still have questions or concerns afterwards, you can see any of the Corps folks. All comments will be considered part of the public record. We will do our best to answer questions about other projects, but if we don't have the answer, we will get back to you.

Billy Marchel: You say you are repairing or fixing deficient areas, how are you defining deficient?

Ron Elmer: We are following the guidelines set following Katrina for design of floodwalls based on the stability and seepage.

Billy Marchel: So is that going to say maintaining the existing elevation of the IHNC floodwalls with the 500-year survivability?

Ron Elmer: Yes, what we are doing is making sure they satisfy the design criteria for stability and seepage. The existing levees and floodwalls vary in height anywhere from 12-15 feet and that is being analyzed for what they are for water to the top of those walls for the specs they have set for the design criteria.

Billy Marchel: And the strength and survivability for overtopping we can ….

Ron Elmer: They are presuming for the 500-year, yes…

Billy Marchel: So if you look at the LACPR Report that shows for a 400-year event with the Michoud Gate and Seabrook Gate in place, the water in the industrial canal will be 12 feet.

Ron Elmer: No it won't, it will be 10 feet.

Billy Marchel: So, what you are saying is with that wall in place, that this side of that wall would be survivable and hold up to a 400-year event.

Ron Elmer: Right now, the 100-year storm event, if we had design solved, there would be eight feet of water in that canal, that's the theory. If we have a 500-year storm, it would get up to 10 feet.

Billy Marchel: The walls are now 12 feet with a 500-year survivability, so we would have potentially 500-year protection o this side of that wall for some overtopping.

Ron Elmer: There shouldn't be any overtopping, no.

Billy Marchel: Ok, plus we have 18.5 foot lakefront levee and a 500-year survivability so between New Orleans and the Industrial Canal and the 17th Street Canal, we will basically have 500-year protection in the part of New Orleans.

Ron Elmer: What we are saying is that the system being designed to be resilient to the 500-year storm; I'm not saying we have a 500-year level of protection. We have a 1% of a 100-year

level of protection is what we are building. It is resilient to withstanding the 500-year storm is what I'm staying. You will have substantially more overtopping on the 500-year event on other features of the system, but within the IHNC it will be 10 feet because it's the secondary line of protection. You have the barrier and the Seabrook structure that is your 500 line of protection.

Billy Marchel: I'm just saying that the lakefront is not going to overtop in a 4 or 500-hundred event ….

Ron Elmer: You are going to have some splash over for the 500-year event….

Billy Marchel: Not with the LACPR you aren't…

Ron Elmer: Well I'm not familiar with the LACPR report.

Howard Rogers: I'm a resident of Gentilly and the director of the New Orleans Council on Aging. My question is about the Seabrook floodgate. Looking at the floodgate and looking at the description that you have, I noticed that the existing floodwalls don't meet the standards and I understand you are going to build a flood gate to tie into the floodwall. The other question I asked of the engineers a few years ago. When the floodwall was breeched in the Lower 9th Ward, there was an I-wall that replaced a T-wall and we asked the question of why not come along and raise the rest of those I-wall to that same height of the T-wall that is there?

Ron Elmer: When we were first authorized by Congress to proceed with the construction of the barrier and Seabrook, we looked at several alternative ways of proving the 100-year protection. Now, we are protecting for a storm surge that is 18.5 feet high right here. The highest wall you have in here is 15 feet and that's the new one. We are designing for a 10.5 foot lake surge for the same storm and that's the difference. You have 18.5 feet of water trying to get through this way and you have 10.5 feet of water coming from here. So we looked at what was the best way of getting 100-year level of protection. If we have to design these walls and levees for that 18.5 foot surge here, these walls would have to be 18 to 19-feet high; that would make it a 100-year level of protection. The cost of building and replacing all these levees and floodwalls, every one of them, the cost is phenomenal compared to building the barrier here and building the Seabrook structure and controlling the level of water. That is why we did not go into raising all the levees and floodwalls. All we were authorized to do after the storm was repair the ones that were damaged and that is what we did. What we are doing now because the change in the design guidelines, and we are depending on these walls for as secondary line of protection and they meet the guidelines, so the best alternative for giving this area the 100-year level of protection was to block surge here and here and not have to replace all these levees and floodwalls. We would have to tear out even the new ones we built after Katarina because they are not sufficient; we couldn't add onto them.

Howard Rogers: My last question is what is going to stop any kind of storm surge coming up the river?

Ron Elmer: Well, the design storm doesn't give you a surge large enough to overtop the lock that's in place. The lock is high enough to protect you against a 100-year storm surge elevation that is produced in the river at that location.

Leigh Bock: I represent folks who are on the inside of the floodwall, not the side that everyone else is on. This does nothing for us expect guarantee that we are going to get flooded.

Ron Elmer: You do not get flooded any more than you would if we didn't build this barrier and we had to raise all these levees.

Leigh Bock: Can I ask why there were no pumps designed to this system?

Ron Elmer: Because it wasn't considered necessary because we have the storage to handle any overtopping of the structures.

Leigh Bock: In the process you are flooding everybody on the inside.

Ron Elmer: No, if those structures weren't there and you get the same event, the level of water surface would be higher.

Leigh Bock: I understand that, but you are pumping the rest of the city into that area, correct?

Ron Elmer: Correct, and we have all the elements that take into account …

Nancy Allen: You are not pumping the entire city into there…

Ron Elmer: No

Leigh Bock: But you just said is we are going to get an eight foot flood…

Ron Elmer: You are going to get an eight food elevation for that design storm. If that happens, you will get eight feet of water…

Leigh Bock: And if that happens, I have six feet of water on my property.

Ron Elmer: Correct. If the barrier and Seabrook structure weren't there and we raised the walls to say 18 to 20 feet, you would have more than eight foot; you would have 10 or 12 feet.

Leigh Bock: I just want the record to show that nothing is being done to protect the people on the inside. You are creating a situation where the city is pumping into there and deliberately raising the water up to an eight foot level during a 100-year storm, which means I have six feet of water on my property.

Ron Elmer: Correct, and if we did not have the barriers in place, you water elevation would be higher than that.

Leigh Bock: I agree, but shouldn't there be some kind of pump system to alleviate that you are pumping water in; don't you need to pump it out?

Ron Elmer: There is enough storage that amount of water. You are on the flood side of a hurricane protection system. You are going to get flooded.

Leigh Bock: Yeah, but the idea of putting the locks at either end was to stop that, right?

Ron Elmer: No, it was to protect the populated areas; it wasn't to protect the area that is on the flood side of the hurricane protection. We are not making it worse; we are making it better. You will have less water for those storm conditions. You will have less water elevation in here than you have had in the past.

Billy Marchel: As a follow-up comment, on the west side of the Harvey Canal, they put a pump system in and they designed it with gate closures that can pump over 20,000 cfs and they are maintaining a water level of five feet as opposed to +8 on that side. Plus five was chosen because that supported the industries inside the floodwall so there is a difference for those who designed the system in the Harvey – Algiers Canal versus the group that's made the decision over here and that's worth talking about. We are getting short shifted on this side.

John Koferlo: I'm from Citizens Against Widening the Industrial Canal. I want to make sure I understand what you are saying. At a meeting a year ago, I asked you about a levee that we would like to see built between the surge barrier and the IHNC and you at that time said you weren't planning on building a levee there because we were all inside the wider hurricane protection area. I remember talking about that because we didn't feel safe. Now you are saying with that drawing up there, I don't really understand what those yellow lines mean, but you are saying you are going to now replace all the existing levees with….

Ron Elmer: We are not replacing, we are remediating those areas so that the y satisfy the design guidelines that we are required to satisfy. I showed you the examples of how we remediate those areas with deep soil mixing, relief wells, etc.

John Koferlo: So across the top, those yellow lines…

Ron Elmer: This is just the levee alignment. The areas in red are where we are proposing to do work.

John Koferlo: From the bridge to the surge barrier, we have an earthen levee there now that is 12 feet high and on the water side of it, we have an old part of the MRGO that is 41-feet deep so that's basically the earthen side of MRGO, it's still there?

Ron Elmer: All of this is earthen levee system for the most part on this side, yes. There is some wall but it's a small amount of wall and it ties into the barrier right here. You have existing levee, which is about 15-feet high. The only area where it's 12 is the wall area some old walls.

John Koferlo When you get done fixing those walls on the West Bank of the Industrial Canal, how high is the levee going to be across the top of the Lower 9th Ward there?

Ron Elmer: We are not raising the levees or walls.

John Koferlo Well, I'm here to say that you need to; you need to have a good levee there because we have listened to you over the years and we have objected to your solutions even before you were here. We have flooded twice; we flooded in Betsy because of MRGO and you said no problem we will take care of it. We flooded in Katrina and Rita and those were times where you assured us we wouldn't flood. We are tired of that and we are tired of being the last people consulted when these plans are made. This is really the first time we've been invited in to hear this plan and we know you've talked to Clay Miller and others and we know that the [Inaudible] has plans for the new lock and other things, which I think is going to be built along this area here and these are things that really bother us because we get in on the tail end of it and we've flooded before and we don't want to flood again. We don't think it's fair and just the way the procedures are. We like you a lot, but it has not worked for us and we really need a levee there that's as strong as the levees in St. Bernard and everywhere else around the IHNC. I noticed also on this IER #11, that the way the document is authorized it's to protect the IHNC and the other IERs were to protect the populations in that area and …

Ron Elmer: We are protecting the populated area that abut to the….

Vanessa Gueringer: I am the chair for Community Voice in the Lower 9th Ward. I am very upset and I'll just say I don't like the Corps and I don't like [Inaudible]. I was late this evening because I had two bridges up at one time in my neighborhood and Tuesday I had three bridges up in my neighborhood and we are trapped like rats down there. [Inaudible]…just the inside the degradation that you all do where you all go into our neighborhoods. It's the city, it's the Corps, it's the port, y'all don't care about us, about population down there. Our levee is at 12 feet and y'all have authorization from Congress to raise it everywhere else except in the Lower 9th. We have flooded in Katrina, Betsy, and in Gustav we had water overlapping the Upper 9th; they didn't show the water on the other side but it was equally as high. You think that these surge barrier and the Seabrook structure is going to suffice; you don't care about us, because you protect the population of the city that you want to protect. We are the Achilles heel, just like your former commander said and they don't have any intention of being fair about this. You want to do the locks and hold us hostage with two antiquated bridges that clearly need to be replaced and the Corps comes into our neighborhood and say it's going to be 10-15 years of construction , traffic jams, bridges up. Now we are going to destroy your neighborhood some more and [Inaudible]. I will fight you the Corps, the port, the city because it is wrong what you are doing on the Lower 9th Ward and New Orleans East [Inaudible]. Get real and do the right thing. Do you go to church and believe in God? You must believe in the devil that's what you believe in. You don't believe in us. You would rather see us rot and die. Why couldn't the levees be higher? Tell me why we have an earthen levee in our community that needs to be addressed. Tell me why the day before the meeting you see it in the paper? Because you [Inaudible]...we did community outreach. Even if ten people show up you want to be able to justify it. It's wrong for you to do that. Sit on stuff for months and then and you come here and we have 30 days to respond. Ya'll got to stop this stuff and guess what, there's more than me fighting so we are going to be here doing this dance for a long time. It is environmental racism; environmental injustice [Inaudible]. I sat in the council chambers this week talking to Reinventing the Crescent folks, which was supposed to come into my neighborhood, but the port then signed an agreement with the city to make sure they get to use the land they wanted to, but it's not coming down to my neighborhood. Someone decided along the way it wasn't going to happen and I'm sick and tired of coming to these meetings and hearing all of this. We are nowhere on your minds. When you show all these drawing of surge barriers, it's not going to protect us.

Darryl Malek-Wiley: I am the environmental justice organizer of the Sierra Club and this just goes back to the whole process of the IERs. We've been saying from day one that this whole process is limiting comment from the public and we don't feel like it meets the full requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. I've yet to see any document on the cumulative impact of all the IERs; it's sort of yes, trust us and we will fix in it all in the end and I have the problem with the concept of the Corps fixing anything in the end in the beginning here. So this whole process of community involvement needs work; we are here talking about a document that is not going to be released until Friday. I would like to have something I can read before I have a meeting so we can have more informed discussion. I know that you work hard to make sure the document is correct, but we would like to have a chance to read it before we get up here and talk about it. The whole process from day one on these IERs is that the document is coming tomorrow, but tell us what you think tonight and the Sierra Club and other environmental groups don't think that is proper and that this whole process if flawed and that we have to see what comes up at the end.

Nancy Allen: This was not the intention of tonight's meeting to have the meeting before the document was released. We scheduled the meeting and rather than canceling and rescheduling, we just decided to go ahead and have this meeting. We will have another meeting on Oct. 26th so you will

have plenty of time to review that document and either submit your comments in writing or we will be there on the 26th to answer your questions and take your comments then.

Billy Marchel: I just want to make address the comments on the levee on the north side of the IHNC and the comments from the lady in the Lower 9th. Both of those areas, New Orleans East and the Lower 9th Ward, will have the same level of protection and the same strength of levees, whether it's a levee or floodwall, it will be built to a 100-year elevation and 500-year survivability. That means it will last to a 500-year storm, but it may have some overtopping. So no one is discriminating against New Orleans East or the Lower 9 anymore than they are discriminating against the people that live west of the Industrial Canal. The system is being built with the same specifications throughout and for someone to think they are getting shorted; the only ones who are getting shorted are the Industrial Canal people versus the Harvey Canal people. Everyone in the area is getting 100-year protection, which is a starting point, it's not where we need to go in the long run, but don't say anyone is discriminating against you because you are in the Lower 9th or you are in New Orleans East because that is not the case.

Vanessa Gueringer: I beg to differ. It has been a campaign of degradation and disrespect towards our protection in the Lower 9th Ward. This lock project, and I didn't speak on that, you want to store all this sediment that's in that canal on Bayou Bienvenue right in our community. So, there has been disrespect and discrimination. It is a known fact that this is what the government does in poor neighborhoods. They put things they wouldn't put in other's neighborhoods and it is a form of environmental racisms; that's what it is. I beg to differ. We have been flooded and until you live where I live and been flooded all these times, you can't say that. Walk in our shoes and you will see what I'm saying.

Simon Hand: I live in the Lower 9th Ward. I want to reiterate what was said about this levee wall here on the GIWW. We have 20-foot levees in St. Bernard and 18-foot levee there on the canal and just a 12-foot there along the GIWW so I want to second what was said about that levee needing to be higher. I have a question about the walls on the Industrial Canal. On the Claiborne Bridge there is a step down in the wall where the new wall ends that you put in and where the old wall begins and there is a step down about 3 to 4 feet there, can you explain how that works? By the looks it seems to be a problem if you have water in the canal and within a short space….

Ron Elmer: The lowest elevation on the GIWW currently existing is 12 feet and it occurs in a number of different locations. We have some walls that are 12.5 or 13 feet, it varies all the way through. The design conditions, the water will never be higher than 10 feet and that's with the 500-year storm event, a storm that is worse than Katrina. The water will only get to 10 feet in here.

Simon Hand: Is that because of the storm surge [Inaudible]

Nancy Allen: It's because of the IHNC surge barrier …

Ron Elmer: Once this barrier is completed the water can't get into the system. The only water that is getting into the system is water overtopping the barrier and what we did was calculate how much water would overtop the barrier. The barrier is 26 feet high. The 100-year storm surge is 18.5 feet high so if you got 18 feet of additional wall where the waves are barely splashing over, we know how much water will come over in that 100-year storm. We put that water in the basin and there are a set of pumping stations that contribute water into that system and that's roughly 7,400 cfs that's pumped in and that's if each pump is pumping at a 100% capacity over a 24-hour period during the event. All that water is added into the calculation and I can tell you, if anyone knows anything about pumping stations, they do not pump at 100% capacity so we are being conservative with the amount of water with the amount of water we are calculating into the canal. So, you have the overtopping on the barrier, you have rainfall and

then you have the actual rainfall into the canal that's not pumped in and then you add wind setup at 8.5 feet and assuming we are closing the canal when it's at +3 elevation, that makes it less than eight feet of water and we are being conservative with the amount of water we are putting in there because you will never get 100% capacity. During Katrina, only one of the seven pump stations kept up and it was the one in Michoud facility; the rest of them were down and not pumping. So we did a conservative estimate on what possible water would come into that closed system and high the water would get and that is what we calculated. Even with the 500-year storm on the barrier with the surge elevation at 20 feet, you still have another six feet of wall and the only thing that is getting over the wall is the splash of waves and when you contribute all that water, it gets up to 10 feet. With a Katrina storm you should not have problem with anything in the canal once we finish all the work. They were tested in Gustav. We had only 12 feet of water in the canal during Gustav and that won't happen once the barrier and Seabrook is in place.

Simon Hand: One other comment about the different treatment of the Lower 9th Ward and other parts of the city. I understand about what you are saying that the whole system being built to the same standards….

Ron Elmer: Same level of protection across the city…

Simon Hand: But, the Lower 9th Ward is the only place where the lock extension project is being built right next to it. In other words, that neighborhood is the only one that has a giant project being built right next to it that is going to last 10 – 15 years and it is going to cause traffic delays and noise, possibly jeopardizing that floodwall there and making that canal deeper and more dangerous so I think that needs to be recognized even though the same level of protection might be being provided throughout the city. This is lock expansion project is a whole different thing; I'm pretty sure there is nothing else in the system like that being built right up next to a….

Ron Elmer: In an urbanized area, you are correct. Probably nowhere else in the system, but I'm not involved in the lock project so I can't answer too many questions.

Male Speaker: If that would have been in play you wouldn't have had the flooding from the industrial canal you had because there would have been a new, stronger T-wall along there.

Nancy Allen: I just want the emphasis we are not here to talk about the lock as we are not the office that is building the lock. The IHNC Lock Replacement has been authorized for more at least 50 years and it's funded on a yearly basis. What we are here to talk about is the construction of the 100-year system with the goal of having that protection in place for the entire system, same level of protection, on one June 2011.

Simon Hand: I think it needs to be mentioned in the context of this area that we are looking at here. You can say it's a separate thing, but I think it needs to be talked about with this because you can't separate the two.

Ron Elmer: True. If and when a new lock is built, it will have to be built for hurricane protection. It will have to satisfy the same criteria and all these other things. When they design that new lock, it will have to satisfy the same conditions for hurricane situations; it has to be built to the same criteria.

Billy Marchel: I can't imagine being in my house when I had this much water. When the surge barrier is closed and the pumps in the rest of the city aren't working because of a storm that is out in the gulf and coming in and we have a stalled storm with a lot of rain, I can imagine very well a scenario where the Lower 9th Ward floods in these conditions because the water can't get and the pumps aren't

working and it's just raining for days. I would love to see your model one day but I just know that is going to happen unless measures are taken to change that.

Nancy Allen: I do want to reiterate that this document will be released by Friday and it will be open for a full 30-day comment period and you will have a chance to look at the at document and then come back to a public meeting if you choose on Oct. 26th in New Orleans East. We will answer your questions and hear your comments on this document.

Vanessa Gueringer: Why don't you have a public meeting in the Lower 9th Ward?

Nancy Allen: That wasn't where we scheduled the meeting. We move the meetings around. We added a second on the 26th that was the only one that would be after the release of the documents.

Vanessa Gueringer: You should be having a meeting in the Lower 9th.

Nancy Allen: You can make that request as part of the 30-day comment period. We are going to stay and can answer any more questions and we have materials in the back. Again, we are more than happy to schedule group visits out to the surge barrier or to other projects. We have surveys in the back of the room if you can fill them out before you leave. Thank you for coming.