



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Public Meeting Summary

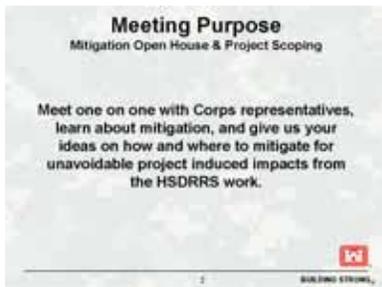
Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Mitigation Public Meeting
St. Charles Parish
May 26, 2010

Location	American Legion Post 366 12188 River Road St. Rose, LA 70087
Time	Open House 6:00 p.m. Presentation 6:30 p.m., followed by a discussion
Attendees	Approx. 10
Format	Open House Presentation
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Approval Process Brochure • 2009 Status map
Facilitator	Cheryn Robles

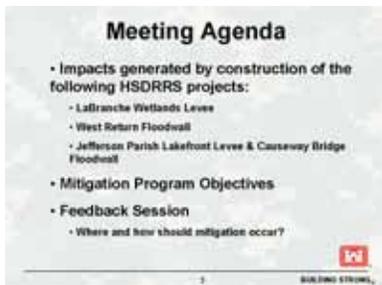


VJ St.Pierre, St. Charles Parish President: Good afternoon and welcome. Would everyone rise and we will start with the Pledge of Allegiance please. (Pledge of Allegiance). I would like to thank everyone for coming out to get some updates on Corps projects in St. Charles Parish and Jefferson Parish. I will turn it over to the Corps.

Cheryn Robles: Hello everyone and thanks for coming out tonight. This is our 151st public meeting that we've held to develop the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. I'm Cheryn Robles and I'm a contractor in the Public Affairs Office.



The purpose of tonight's meeting is to talk about mitigation for impacts that we've generated from building and designing the hurricane system.



Tonight we are going to talk about the impacts that we've generated building the levee at the LaBranche Wetlands. These impacts were covered in the Individual Environmental Report #1, which is an environmental document that captures all the impacts created from building the project. We are also going to talk about the West Return Floodwall, which runs along the parish line between Jefferson and St. Charles Parish. That was captured in the Individual Environmental Report 2 and then there are the Jefferson Parish levees which were documented in Individual

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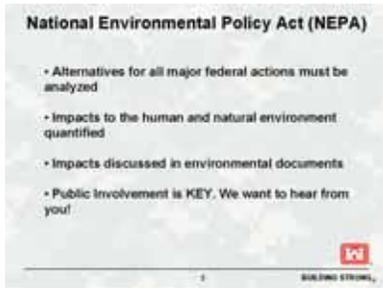
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Environmental Report 3. Then Libby Behrens will go over the different impacts that we've had to the system and how we are going to mitigate for those. Then we will have a feedback session. This is a little unlike other public meetings, we are just going to go through the presentation and then once we are through, we are going to ask you to please step to the back and give us some ideas on where we should be mitigating for some of the impacts.



This is a slide we like to show to help people understand that although we are building levees and floodwalls and hard structures, there will always be residual risks. We will never be able to protect against every act of nature, so it's up to everyone in this room to take some responsibility in helping to reduce their risk by having an evacuation plan and other safety measures in place.



The purpose of tonight's meeting is to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). When a federal action is in the planning stages, we have to go through and account for all the impacts that we might generate. We look for feedback from the public to help us minimize those impacts. The purpose of this meeting tonight is to get your feedback on the different impacts that we've generated. Every [anticipated] impact was already captured in the environmental reports and

now this is our way of capturing how we are going to fix or replace any impacts that we weren't able to avoid.



In the normal NEPA process, the Corps would prepare one large environmental document showing what the impacts are in building the system. After Hurricane Katrina, we got special permission from the President's Council of Environmental Quality to split the Greater New Orleans area into 17 different project areas and conduct the environmental assessments concurrently. Once the assessments were completed, we were able to move on to construction and we could build the system

faster. Now I'm going to introduce Libby Behrens who is going to go over the impacts from the first three environmental reports.



Libby Behrens: As Cheryn said, we are going to be going over the impacts from environmental reports 1 through 3, but we are also going to go over the whole system's impacts from the Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, which I will refer to as the HSDRSS.

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LaBranche Wetlands Levee
Individual Environmental Report 1

Construction began June 2007

Two contracts are complete. 11 of the remaining 13 contracts have been awarded.

Plan is to:
Build earthen levees along the existing Levee alignment to elevation 18 to 18.5 ft.

Replace and modify existing floodwalls and drainage structures to meet 100 yr design criteria and elevations of 18.5 to 18.8 ft.



9 BUILDING STRONG

Individual Environmental Report 1 is in St. Charles Parish, 2 is on the parish line between St. Charles and Jefferson and 3 is in Jefferson Parish. Individual Environmental Report 1 covers impacts in the LaBranche Wetlands Levee and it covers upgrading the existing hurricane protection levee by upgrading the earthen levees, the floodwalls and the drainage structures to the 100-year level of protection standards. The project area is 9.5 miles long and it extends from the Bonnet Carre Spillway Guide Levees to the Lakefront Airport.

LaBranche Wetlands Levee
Individual Environmental Report 1
Impacts - Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAH/yr)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	0	0
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	112	69.23
Marshlands	0	0
Total	112	69.23

AAH: Average Annual Habitat Unit is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat.

9 BUILDING STRONG

Impacts from this work consisted of 112 acres of swamp impacts and 70 annual average habitat units. Average annual habitat units are a numeric measure of the quality of the habitat that got destroyed. When we go to mitigate for our projects, we will replace these average annual habitats units, not just the acres.

West Return Floodwall
Individual Environmental Report 2

- Construction to began this summer
- Northern contract from the lake to north of I-10 is undergoing proposal evaluation
- Southern contract from I-10 to the Airport is currently being advertised

Plan is to:
Build a new I-wall approx 38 ft from existing wall on floodside to elevation 16 to 17 ft.

Replace re-curve wall at the lake with new I-wall.

Modify the portion of the existing alignment that lies in the airport levee to remove sharp 90° angle.



10 BUILDING STRONG

Individual Environmental Report 2 covers impacts to the West Return Floodwall from doing the HSDRSS work. This consists of moving the I-wall and T-walls 35 feet to the west and replacing them with just T-walls. The project area is 3.5 miles long and extends from the [Louis Armstrong International] New Orleans Airport to [Lake Pontchartrain]. In addition, the re-curve wall will be replaced with a T-wall.

West Return Floodwall
Individual Environmental Report 2
Impacts - Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAH/yr)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	0	0
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	2	1.58
Marshlands	33.5	20.45
Total	35.5	22

AAH: Average Annual Habitat Unit is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat.

11 BUILDING STRONG

Impacts from the West Return Floodwall work come out to approximately two acres of swamp and 33.5 acres of marsh.

Jefferson Parish Lakefront Levee & Causeway Bridge Floodwall
Individual Environmental Report 3

- Construction began November 2008
- 10 of 13 contracts in this area are under construction

Plan is to:
Build earthen levees along the existing alignment to elevation 18.5 ft and provide foreshore protection/levee attenuation.

Replace and modify existing floodwalls, floodgates and fronting protection to meet 100 year design criteria and elevations of 18.5 to 21 ft.



12 BUILDING STRONG

Lastly, Individual Environmental Report 3 covers improvements to the Lakefront Levee including upgrading the earthen levees, the floodwalls, floodgates and fronting protection to the pumping stations. We will also be constructing a T-wall across the Causeway and doing a ramp up and over that T-wall. The project area is approximately 10 miles long and extends from the West Return Floodwall to the 17th Street Canal.

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Jefferson Parish Lakefront Levee & Causeway Bridge Floodwall
Individual Environmental Report 2
Impacts - Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHU ²)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	0	0
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	0	0
Swamp	0	0
Marshlands	0	0
Total	0	0

AAHU² (Average Annual Habitat Unit) is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat.

Currently we've been able to avoid any impacts to these habitat types from this work.

Mitigation

- Avoid impacts to natural resources
- Minimize impacts to the greatest extent possible
- Compensate for unavoidable impacts
- Mitigation plans will be discussed in environmental documents
- Mitigation is funded



In the planning and design phase of a project, we try first to every extent possible to avoid impacts. Then we minimize these impacts and lastly, we compensate for unavoidable impacts. Plans to mitigate for these impacts are discussed in Individual Environmental Reports or IERs. Mitigation is funded as a project feature from the project that incurred the impact. So if there is a levee project part of the funding is set aside for mitigation to mitigate for those impacts.

Mitigation Policies

Generally mitigation would follow:

- As close as possible to the impact area
- Within the same hydrologic basin (Parish or Lake/Pentacouffray)
- Within same habitat type
 - Replace quantity (acres)
 - Replace quality (AAHU²)
- Before or concurrent with impacts



As of right now, the policies that govern the way we plan our mitigation projects have us doing certain things. When we go to mitigate, we will try to mitigate an area that is as close to the impacts as possible. Then we try to stay within the hydrologic basin if at all possible for our mitigation projects. We will mitigate within the same habitat type and replace our AAHUs and to the greatest extent possible, we try to implement our mitigation concurrent with construction.

Example Mitigation Project
Terrebonne Parish Non-Federal Levee

- In 2008, USACE constructed a 9.5 mile surge protection levee in Dular, LA
- To mitigate the levee construction
 - Marshlands are currently under construction
 - Bottomland hardwood credits will be purchased from a mitigation bank



Here is an example of a mitigation project we are currently constructing. We did some work on the Terrebonne non-federal levee upgrading about 6.5 miles of levee. We had impacts to marsh and bottomland hardwoods. What we are currently doing is creating some marsh adjacent to the levee and we are buying some credits at a mitigation bank to replace the impacts that we have done to the bottomland hardwoods.

Example of Project Impacts
BINC Surge Barrier

- Construction began May 2008
- Types of impacts
 - Direct
 - Indirect
 - Cumulative

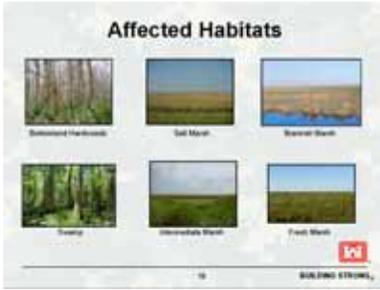


There are three types of impacts: direct, indirect and cumulative. I will use the IHNC Surge Barrier project to give you an example of what those are. The picture is of the floodwall they are installing and the footprint of that floodwall would be a direct impact. If the adjacent marsh were eroding due to water hitting the surge barrier, that would be an example of indirect impacts. For cumulative impacts, you would look at this project in relation to any other projects in the vicinity and see if there is an incremental increase in impacts from all of those projects together.

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The types of habitats that we've impacted to date are bottomland hardwoods, both wet and dry, swamp and the different types of marsh - salt, brackish, intermediate and fresh. If you need any additional information on these habitat types, we do have a story board in the back that has the definitions.

Total LPV Impacts
Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity Projects
HSDRRS - Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHU/yr)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	291.99	136.31
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	236.00	73.44
Swamp	143.71	70.81
Marshlands	825.96	423.63
Total	1477.29	704.29

AAHU: Average Annual Habitat Unit is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat.

Looking at the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity area of the HSDRRS project, our total impacts to date are about 1,500 acres of impacts and about 700 average annual habitat units that we are going to have to mitigate for.

Total WBV Impacts
West Bank & Vicinity Projects
Original Construction and HSDRRS - Current Working Estimate

Habitat Type	Quantity (acres)	Quality (AAHU/yr)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	1887.75	1067.55
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	29.85	10.62
Swamp	204.85	134.88
Marshlands	137.80	68.30
Total	2260.25	1281.35

AAHU: Average Annual Habitat Unit is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat.

On the Westbank and Vicinity Projects, we have about 2,300 acres of impacts and 1,300 AAHUs. When we go to mitigate for these impacts, we are looking for projects that are going to be of some similar scale so that is an idea to keep in your mind when you are giving us ideas on mitigation projects.

Mitigation Tentative Timeline

• Initial Public Meetings	May 2010
• Initial Screening of Measures	Summer 2010
• Final Screening of Measures	Spring 2011
• Identify Proposed Mitigation Plan	Summer 2011
• Release Individual Environmental Reports	Spring 2012
• Individual Environmental Reports Signed	Spring 2012
• Design Mitigation Projects	Fall 2012
• Start Construction	Fall 2013

Tonight is our last mitigation public meeting. Next, we will assemble all of the alternatives and run through an initial screening. At that point, we will go with the projects that have come through an initial screening and run additional habitat models, do investigations on the sites and go through a final screening of the measures. Hopefully that will happen by the spring of 2011. We will go to identify the proposed mitigation plan using a military decision-making process called an Alternatives Evaluation Process. We will hopefully be

releasing the IERs in the spring of 2012 and going toward construction in fall of 2013.

Upcoming Public Meetings

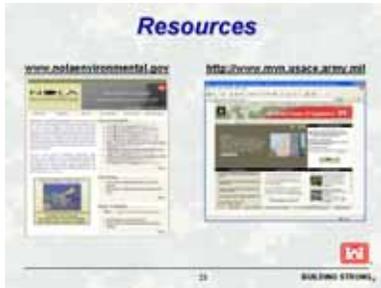
- Jun. 9, Cytec
 - ▶ Western Tie-in traffic impacts
- Jun. 29, Cytec
 - ▶ Proposed refinements to Western Tie-In (Individual Environmental Report Supplemental 1d)

Cheryn Robles: In a few weeks we have two public meetings to talk about the Western Tie-In, which is on the West Bank. The one on June 9th will be at Cytec and we will be talking about some traffic impacts of building that project. On the 29th we will be talking about some refinements we made to the plans to build the Western Tie-In.

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We are here to get your feedback tonight. If you have any questions about any construction happening we have a 1-800 number, it is 877-427-0345 and you can also submit comments to us at any time at www.nolaenvironmental.gov. The construction hotline goes to a real person, but if you want to talk to anyone in Public Affairs, our number is up there also or you can email us at askthecorps@usace.army.mil.

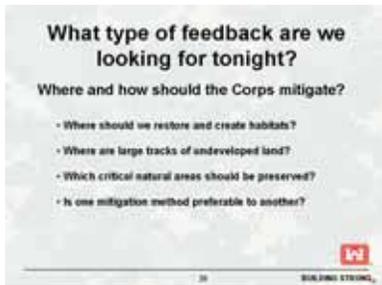


I mentioned nolaenvironmental.gov, but we also have our district website that has a bunch of information about different projects. It's probably easier if you just go to Google and type in "team New Orleans" if you want to find the website.



The Corps is getting involved in social media. We have a Twitter account and a Facebook account. And if you want to see construction images of the different projects going on, Flickr has a bunch of really good images showing ongoing

construction. These links will be posted online at nolaenvironmental.gov so you can click on the link if you want to go directly to it rather than look us up.



Tonight we are looking to you to give us feedback on where we should mitigate for some of the impacts that we have generated. Libby Behrens and Lissa Lyncker are here and we are going to be in the back capturing any feedback that you have on where we should be mitigating, where we should be building marshes and where we should be restoring or creating different habitats. We are looking for all that sort of feedback.



We will be collecting your feedback in the back at those two stations. And that's it for tonight. Please join us in the back as we would love to get your feedback. Thank you.