



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Project Fact Sheet

Date: March 2009

Donaldsonville to the Gulf Flood Risk Reduction Mississippi River & Tributaries

Project Purpose: This project provides hurricane and flood risk reduction to urban and agricultural areas on the Lafourche and west bank Mississippi ridges and to low-lying communities in the Barataria Basin from Donaldsonville, La., to the Gulf of Mexico. It reduces the risk from a storm event that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year, from abnormally high tides, from flooding caused by intense rainfall, and from combinations of these events. In addition to flood risk reduction measures, the study is evaluating measures that would improve navigation, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and other environmental values important to citizens.

Project Location: The project is located in the Barataria Basin from Donaldsonville, La., to the Gulf of Mexico, an area encompassing some 2,400 square miles. Parts of nine parishes are located in the study area including portions of Ascension, Assumption, St. James, St. John the Baptist, Lafourche, St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, and Plaquemines parishes. The basin boundaries include the developed natural levees on the east bank of Bayou Lafourche and the west bank of the Mississippi River on the east extending to Barataria Bay.

Project Features: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, will evaluate five structural alternatives, a non-structural alternative, and the 'no action' alternative during the feasibility study process. The structural alternatives include: earthen levees, inter-tidal flood gates, floodwalls, and navigation gates that would be located along existing hydrological barriers in the basin (such as State Highway 90, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, existing pipeline corridors, and the existing ridge/wetland interface). Structural alternatives range in length from approximately 23 miles to 160 miles. Common to all structural and non-structural alternatives are measures that would improve rainfall drainage in the upper basin. These measures include providing adequate drainage structures under highways and railways, removing impediments to sheet flow adjacent to bayous and canals, and providing means for additional freshwater sources to the basin's cypress-tupelo swamps. The Corps may incorporate non-structural measures with the structural alternatives. These non-structural actions could include relocations, elevating structures, and elevating and water-proofing utilities.

Project Status: The Corps began work on the feasibility study and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in March 2009. We held a series of public outreach meetings and plan additional meetings to inform stakeholders and others on the progress of the work and to receive input on the alternatives. The Corps plans to release the tentatively selected alternative in the late winter of 2009. We are scheduled to complete the draft feasibility and DEIS in spring 2010 and release them for public review and comment.

Comments on the draft feasibility and DEIS may be submitted to:

Donaldsonville@usace.army.mil or USACE, MVN-PAO, c/o Donaldsonville to the Gulf, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160.