

IER # 12 - Appendix B

From: Owen, Gib A MVN on behalf of MVN Environmental
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2008 6:03 AM
To: Coulson, Getrisc MVN
Subject: FW: NOLA Environmental Comment - Gretna-Algiers

Gigi,
IER 12 Comment
Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section GNOHSDRRS Environmental Team
Leader New Orleans District
504 862-1337

-----Original Message-----

From: grimes08@yahoo.com [mailto:grimes08@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, May 23, 2008 4:33 PM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - Gretna-Algiers

I wish to submit a comment for the record on IER-12. The Corps is evaluating alternatives for 100 year flood protection in the Algiers and Harvey Canal Area.

I am very concerned with the alternatives being considered that would allow encroachment into the Bayou Aux Carpes 404c area, where wetlands are supposed to be protected from all dredge or fill activities.

I attended the public hearing on May 23 and incorrectly stated that I would like the Corps to strongly consider Alternatives 2-4. I later learned that alternative 2 would also destroy wetlands in the Bayou Aux Carpes area. I request that the Corps focus only on alternatives 3 and 4 that do not encroach into the 404c area.

We would all like to see hurricane protection for the area upgraded as soon as possible. In the interest of ensuring that these projects are completed in a timely manner, I hope the Corps avoids the inherent controversy and time that would be lost in selecting an alternative that destroys even a part of the 404(c)area.

Sincerely,
Jeff Grimes

IER # 12 - Appendix B

From: Owen, Gib A MVN on behalf of MVN Environmental
Sent: Thursday, June 05, 2008 7:37 PM
To: Labure, Linda C MVN; Connell, Timothy J MVN
Cc: Coulson, Getrisc MVN
Subject: FW: STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING TERMINUS STRUCTURES ON ALGIERS CANAL PROJECT NEAR HERO CANAL/INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY IN BELLE CHASSE

Linda,
Can you assign some one to forward an answer back to Gigi Coulson about this comment below.

Tim,
Please provide an answer back also for issues relevant to PM.

Gigi,
Please put together a response that we can send bad to Ms. Coyne.
Thanks
Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section GNOHSDRRS Environmental Team
Leader New Orleans District
504 862-1337

-----Original Message-----

From: Jody Coyne [mailto:jcoyne@bkiusa.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2008 11:23 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: STATUS OF DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING TERMINUS STRUCTURES ON ALGIERS CANAL PROJECT NEAR HERO CANAL/INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY IN BELLE CHASSE

MR. OWEN, I MET YOU AT THE PREVIOUS PUBLIC MEETING AT OUR LADY OF HOLY CROSS COLLEGE IN ALGIERS. AS I MENTIONED, MY FAMILY OWNS A TRACT OF LAND FRONTING ON THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY JUST SOUTH OF THE INTRACOASTAL'S INTERSECTION WITH THE HARVEY CANAL. BASED ON PRELIMINARY SKETCHES WHICH I HAVE SEEN WE APPARENTLY WILL BE IMPACTED BY EITHER OF THE PROPOSALS FOR A GATE/PUMPING STATION STRUCTURE IN THE CANAL WHICH ARE BEING STUDIED AT THIS TIME. WILL WE AS LANDOWNERS, BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER SUGGESTIONS TO MINIMIZE IMPACT ON OUR PROPERTY? WILL WE BE COMPENSATED FOR LOSS OF THE USE OF OUR PROPERTY DURING THE TIME IT IS NEEDED FOR CONSTRUCTION IN THE EVENT IT IS TAKEN, EITHER TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY? WILL THE CORPS MAINTAIN (IN A SAFE CONDITION) WALKER ROAD AND EAST BAYOU ROAD DURING THE ENTIRE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE PROJECT. WALKER ROAD AND EAST BAYOU ROAD IS A SCHOOL BUS ROUTE FOR OUR KIDS AS WELL AS THE MAIN ROUTE FOR OUR FAMILY'S DAILY ROUTE TO GET HOME. AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE ARE MANY CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS.

IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SPEAK WITH YOU AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING. JODY P. COYNE

DECEMBER 10, 2008

USACE NEW ORLEANS

ATTN: MR. TIM CONNELL, PROJECT MANAGER, WEST CLOSURE COMPLEX

DEAR TIM, IT WAS A PLEASURE REVIEWING YOUR PRESENTATION AT THE HARVEY FIRE STATION LAST NIGHT. IT IS OBVIOUS TO MYSELF AND MY ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE MEETING, THAT YOU ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE AS MANY OF THE NEEDS AND WISHES OF THOSE OF US WHO WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE PROPOSED PROJECT. THE SHEER SCOPE OF THE PROJECT IS FINALLY BEING REALIZED. AS YOU HAD STATED THE "LANDSCAPE" IN THE AREA OF THE PROJECT WILL BE GREATLY ALTERED BUT THE FINAL PROJECT CERTAINLY WILL PROVIDE A CRITICAL NEED, AND ULTIMATELY SHOULD HELP TO PRESERVE OUR INVESTMENT AS WELL AS AID EVERYONE IN OTHER AREAS SUCH AS RESALE VALUE AND INSURANCE RATES.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT THE ATTACHED ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS AND QUESTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL REPORT:

1. WHERE WILL THE POWER LINE THAT CURRENTLY SERVES OUR RESIDENCES BE RELOCATED? CAN THIS BE PLACED ALONG THE NEWLY RELOCATED ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO PREVENT HAVING TO TAKE OUT MORE TREES FOR ANOTHER LARGE POWER LINE RIGHT-OF-WAY?
 2. JUST TO MAKE YOU AWARE, ALL RESIDENCES ALONG EAST BAYOU ROAD GET THERE WATER SOURCE FROM WELLS ON THEIR PROPERTIES. IS THERE ANY POSSIBLE DETRIMENTAL IMPACT TO THE WATER QUALITY OF THESE WELLS AS A RESULT OF ANY CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES? ARE FUEL STORAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PUMP STATION GOING TO BE STRINGENT ENOUGH TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE SPILL FROM CONTAMINATING THE WELL WATER WHICH WE RELY ON? THESE WELLS ARE TYPICALLY 260 FEET TO 325 FEET DEEP.
 3. PLEASE CONSIDER MITIGATION EFFORTS TO SOFTEN THE IMPACT OF THE OVERALL PROJECT ON THE RESIDENTS OF EAST BAYOU ROAD.
 4. PLEASE CONSIDER RESTRICTING ALL CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES TO WAKER ROAD AND THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE.
 5. IF POSSIBLE PLEASE CONSIDER HARD SURFACING (ASPHALT) AND IMPROVING WALKER ROAD AND EAST BAYOU ROAD UP TO AND INCLUDING IN FRONT OF THE RESIDENCES WHICH WILL BE IMPACTED BY THE 4-5 YEARS OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. KEEP IN MIND THAT WALKER ROAD AND EAST BAYOU ROAD SERVE AS SCHOOL BUS ROUTES, GARBAGE DELIVERY ROUTES, AND AS A RURAL MAIL DELIVERY ROUTE. EAST BAYOU ROAD IS CURRENTLY SOMEWHAT NARROW IN SECTIONS WITH SUBSTANDARD SHOULDERS. WALKER ROAD ALSO HAS A POWER LINE RUNNING ALONG IT'S SOUTH EDGE WHICH IS QUITE CLOSE TO THE ROADWAY EDGE.
 6. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT BUCANEER ROAD BE IMPROVED AND MAINTAINED AS THE ONLY VIABLE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE FOR THE RESIDENTS .
 7. PLEASE RECONSIDER AND EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF UTILIZING THE "SPOIL" MATERIAL TO REBUILD THE AREA OF WETLANDS ALONG THE SOUTH SHORE OF HERO CANAL AS WAS SUGGESTED BY AN AUDIENCE MEMBER DURING THE MEETING LAST NIGHT. THE SAVINGS TO THE CORPS ON TRANSPORTATION (BOTH TIME AND FUEL) ALONE SHOULD JUSTIFY FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THIS ALTERNATIVE DISPOSAL SITE. THE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION GAINED FOR THE NEW LEVEE ON THE NORTH EDGE OF HERO CANAL BY HAVING VIABLE WETLANDS ALONG THE SOUTH EDGE SHOULD ALSO BE A FACTOR. THE "CRIB AREA" IN LAFITTE IS A GREAT PROJECT BUT THERE IS DEFINITELY A NEED FOR THE SPOIL RIGHT IN THE VICINITY OF THE CONSTRUCTION.
- THANKS AGAIN FOR YOU CONSIDERATION

JODY P. COYNE, SR. (486-5901 EXT. 131)

5 January 2009

MR GIB OWENS
US ARMY CORP of ENGINEERS

SIR: PLEASE SEND IER # 12 ENTITLED "GIBOW, HARVEY AND ALGIERA'S
LEVEES FLOODWALLS", AND NOTE THE COMMENTS BELOW, ETC.

COMMENT

THE PEOPLE OF THIS NEW ORLEANS AREA HAVE CHOSEN
BY THEIR OWN FREE WILL AND VOLITION TO BUILD HOMES
AND BUSINESSES UPON LAND THAT IS AT OR BELOW SEA
LEVEL AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO PERIODIC AND FORESEEABLE
FUTURE TROPICAL CYCLONES. NOT ONE PENNY OF TAX DOLLARS
GENERATED BY THOSE OUTSIDE THE AREA SHOULD BE EXPENDED
ON ANY FUTURE PROJECTS INVOLVING LEVEES, WALLS, PUMPS
AND ALIKE. AND PERHAPS ALL EFFORTS WILL FAIL IN ANY
CASE SHOULD NEW ORLEANS BE HIT DIRECTLY BY ANY
HURRICANE WITH STRONG STORM SURGE AND HEAVY RAIN.

MY FEELING IS THAT TAX MONEY WOULD BE BETTER SPENT
ON INVESTIGATING CASES OF INJUSTICE, WHERE PERSONS WHO
ARE INNOCENT LANGUISH IN PRISONS AS THE RESULT OF
OBVIOUS POLICE AND PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT.

HEREFORE IN ADDITION TO HAVING MY OPINION MADE
PART OF THE RECORD REGARDING FURTHER FUTURE FLOOD
CONTROL EFFORTS IN NEW ORLEANS I RESPECTFULLY ASK
THAT THIS LETTER BE REFERRED TO THE UNITED STATES
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SO THAT THE RESPONSIBLE FOR
CLEARLY SPREAD CONSPIRACIOUS PERJURY AND
SUBORNATION CAN BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, RESTORING
CONFIDENCE IN OUR SYSTEM AND NATION AS A WHOLE.

THANK YOU.

George David Lester
GEORGE DAVID LESTER 292124

1/7/08

Dear Mr. Lib Owen:

I am requesting a copy of IER #12 and supporting documents.

My mailing address is - Carl Brad Ward
164587 - H8
100 Warrior Ln.
Bessemer, AL 35023

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,



Jan 07. 09

Glenn Trachen

PO Box 465
Burlington, NC 27216

Mr Owen.

hello. I'd like a copy of report
It enclosed.

Also, who could send drawings
to concerning new levees construction.
please reply.

requests to above.

Thanks much

Glenn

MISSISSIPPI RIVER RECYCLING



DIVISION OF
BAYOU STEEL CORPORATION

January 8, 2009

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
c/o Gib Owen, PM-RS
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

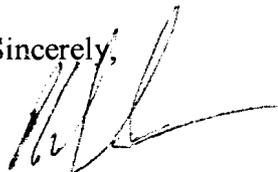
To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to write and express my company's concerns in regards to the new 100 year flood protection for the Algiers and Harvey Canals. As you know the Corps of Engineers is progressing with construction of the Harvey Floodwall along Peters Road and look to finish that project in 2010. When you move forward to construct the lower lock and pumping station, you will create a bowl affect for those companies trapped between the floodwall and the Harvey Canal.

As a business, we appreciate the efforts being put forward by the Army Corps of Engineers to protect property along the Algiers and Harvey Canals. We feel that protection should include funding and maintenance of the rear levees along all Peters Road businesses. Without maintenance the rear levee will be venerable to failure during large rain events when the storm surge barriers are closed. This will result in destruction of all businesses trapped between the floodwall and the 100 year storm protection.

During this public information period, we implore the Corps of Engineers to co-ordinate with state and local entities prior to construction to provide protection from rainwater by maintaining the rear levees in order to protect their tax payers.

Sincerely,



Philip Troxclair
Harvey Yard Manager



IER # 12 - Appendix B

From: Owen, Gib A MVN on behalf of MVN Environmental
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 7:38 PM
To: Coulson, Getrisc MVN
Subject: FW: Additional comments for inclusion in West Closure Complex Report

Attachments: SCN_20081210094141_001_001.pdf; TIM CONNELL DECEMBER 10.doc

Gib,
Attached is comment for IER 12.
Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/ HSDRRS Environmental Team
Leader New Orleans District
504 862-1337

-----Original Message-----

From: Jody Coyne [mailto:jcoyne@bkiusa.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2009 6:34 AM
To: MVN Environmental
Subject: FW: Additional comments for inclusion in West Closure Complex Report

Attn: Mr. Gib Owen I am asking that the attached letter which I wrote to Mr. Tim Connell, be included in the public comments in the final version of the IER#12 report. As you will note, I had asked several questions which concern our family's property in the vicinity of the West Closure Structure Location. I would appreciate an opportunity to discuss my comments with you.

1. In addition our family would like to know if once a final location is determined, if it impacts our family's small wharf, boat launch and ramp over the levee (all of which have been permitted in the past), will the Corps reconstruct these upon completion of it's activities at the front of our property. These were replaced in kind by the Parish after the last lift on the levee. We have recently spent around \$5,000.00 on limestone and equipment to improve the ramp to give us access to the boat launch.

2. Will the corps assist in replacing any fences which are disrupted by corps activities.

3. Will our family be reimbursed for any loss of commercial use of our current water-frontage on the intra-coastal waterway. This type of property commands premium prices along the opposite bank along Engineers Road. The apparent location of the new drainage pump station appears to negate the possible use of the canal frontage in our area.

IER # 12 - Appendix B

Please contact me at your convenience. Mr. Jody P. Coyne 486-5901-ext 131

From: Jody Coyne
Sent: Wednesday, December 10, 2008 10:06 AM
To: 'timothy.j.connell@usace.army.mil'
Subject: Additional comments for inclusion in West Closure Complex Report

Tim, I have attached a letter outlining some of the additional items you and I discussed. I have also included the review form for the meeting last night. If you need to reach me I am at 486-5901-ext. 131 or home at 393-2044. Thanks again Jody Coyne

Numa C. Hero & Son

428 PLANTERS CANAL ROAD
BELLE CHASSE, LOUISIANA 70037
(504) 394-5188
FAX (504) 394-5189

January 16, 2008

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, La 70160-0267

Attention: Gib Owen PM-RS
Re: IER 12

Gentlemen:

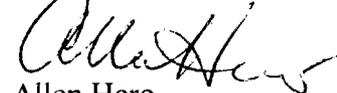
As a land owner in Jefferson Parish along the Harvey Canal affected by this proposed construction, we support this project. However, there remains to be resolved the details of the water retention reservoir on the protected side of the new flood structure.

As it was explained at the Corps' public meeting, the design of the retention reservoir on the protected side is based on an elevation of approximately four feet above mean gulf level. This retention design will work fine for the portions of the project which have levee district maintained levees along the Algiers GIWW. However, there is no public permanent flood protection along the water's edge on the east side of the Harvey Canal. The only protection now is a temporary structure designed to last only until 2011. Though there will be a flood wall along Peters Road, there is no permanent protection for the businesses between the waters edge of Harvey Canal and the said flood wall. Without a protection levee along the waters edge of Harvey Canal, the retention reservoir will flood these businesses located to the east of Harvey Canal to the design four foot level which is not acceptable.

As a part of this project, the alternatives are either the U.S. government must either take responsibility for the levee maintenance along the east side of Harvey Canal or require the appropriate local governmental agency to provide the maintenance to prevent the four foot high retention reservoir from flooding the businesses to the east of Harvey Canal.

Should you need further explanation of this situation please call me at 504- 394 - 5188.

Sincerely,
Numa C. Hero & Son



Allen Hero
Partner

January 12, 2009

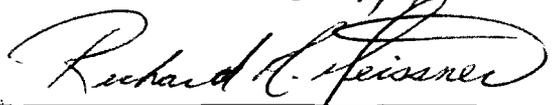
Richard A. Meissner
811632
Tomoka Correctional Inst.
3950 Tiger Bay Rd.
Daytona Beach, FL
32124-1098

Mr. Gib Owen
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P, P & P Management Division
Environmental Planning & Compliance Branch
CEMVN - PM-RS
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

I am formally requesting herein to receive from your office, a complete copy of IER #12 and supporting documents. The Individual Environmental Report (IER) #12 is titled, "GIWW, Harvey, and Algiers Levees and Floodwalls."

I am requesting this report so that I can make a proper informed review and comment concerning structure improvements along Harvey and Algiers Canals. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Richard A. Meissner



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
646 Cajundome Blvd.
Suite 400
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

January 20, 2009

Colonel Alvin B. Lee
District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Colonel Lee:

Please reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) draft Individual Environmental Report (IER) # 12, titled "West Bank and Vicinity (WBV), Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), Harvey, and Algiers Levees and Floodwalls, Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines Parishes." The draft IER was transmitted via a January 5, 2009, letter from Ms. Elizabeth Wiggins, Chief of your Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) submits the following comments in accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (83 Stat. 852, as amended; 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

The draft IER provides an adequate description of fish and wildlife resources in the study area, the purpose and need for the proposed action, and the potential impacts associated with each alternative. We commend the Corps efforts to investigate all of the concerns put forth by the natural resource agencies within the expedited environmental analysis period.

During the alternatives analysis, the no-action alternative and the alternative to raise the existing Hurricane Protection System to a 100-year level of protection were considered. The no-action alternative would not be implemented because it fails to provide the authorized level of protection to the Belle Chasse, Gretna-Algiers, and Harvey-Westwego sub-basins. The Corps also considered a series of alternative gate locations within the project area that would minimize the need for parallel protection. One of these alternatives included constructing a sector gate across the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Water Act (CWA) Bayou aux Carpes 404 (c) area. That alternative was considered to have significant impacts to fish and wildlife resources and the EPA CWA, Section 404 (c) designated wetlands.

The preferred alternative would include construction of navigable floodgate and ancillary structures on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) south of the confluence of the Algiers and Harvey Canals and upstream of the Hero Canal. The levees and floodwalls between the Old Estelle pumping station and the Harvey Canal, and south along the V-levee would be raised to

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the 100-year level of protection. Approximately 4,200 linear feet of floodwall would be constructed within a 100-foot-wide right-of-way along the periphery of the GIWW and the EPA CWA Bayou aux Carpes 404 (c) area to connect the proposed GIWW navigable floodgate with the existing flood protection system. Existing levees and floodwalls along Algiers and Harvey Canals will be incorporated into the protected side of the closure complex and would be integrated as features of the parallel protection system detention basin. Expansions of existing rights-of-way along several levee reaches would occur as a result of bringing those existing levees up to authorized levels of protection in order to provide necessary storm water retention during major storm events. To ensure habitat functions of the EPA CWA Bayou aux Carpes 404 (c) area are maintained, the proposed action includes several environmental augmentations along the Old Estelle pump station outfall canal and within the Bayou aux Carpes drainage area which will provide sheet flow and hydrologic exchange into, and within, the EPA CWA Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) area.

Due to the urgency of providing storm damage risk reduction to the Greater New Orleans area the design of the preferred alternative is not final. The Service and the Corps have evaluated the footprint of greatest impact to ensure that the IER addresses all potential impacts to forested and other fish and wildlife habitats. Based on the Service's analysis of the existing conditions within the proposed footprint, implementation of the preferred alternative would directly impact 252 acres of hydrologically-altered bottomland hardwood habitat, 2.4 acres of wet bottomland hardwood habitat, and approximately 75 acres of swamp habitat. The preferred alternative would result in the direct loss of 179.2 and 38.5 average annual habitat units (AAHUs), of bottomland hardwood forest and swamp, respectively. According to our Habitat Assessment Methodology (HAM) and Wetland Value Assessment (WVA) analyses, of those impacts approximately 2.4 acres of wet bottomland hardwood and 7.4 acres of swamp habitat (i.e., total of 9.8 acres) occur within the Bayou aux Carpes 404 (c) area along the GIWW interface.

The Service calculated the acreage of potential impacts to forested and other fish and wildlife habitat using 2005 aerial photography and proposed rights-of-way provided by the Corps. The proposed right-of-way within the EPA CWA Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) area encompasses an area 4,200 feet long by 100 feet wide and is positioned along the periphery of the EPA CWA Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) area. According to the draft IER the innovative T-wall constructed within this right-of-way would be fronted by a protective berm and access road which would be positioned along the waterline further impacting any remaining habitat outside and waterward of the proposed right-of-way (0.2 acres, according to 2005 aerial photography). The Service's habitat assessment, therefore, evaluated those additional impacts. We compared the proposed right-of-way to recently obtained 2007 aerial photography. That evaluation corresponded with the Corps' impact assessment within the EPA CWA Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) area (i.e., 9.6 acres). The Service will address these revised impacts in our final Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report.

Specific Comments

2.3, Proposed Action, Table 1: Proposed Action Components, Page 25 – According to the

proposed right-of-way provided by the Corps for our HAM analyses, approximately 7 acres of bottomland hardwood habitat and 64 acres of pasture land would be temporarily impacted by two proposed staging areas. We recommend revising the table to include those impacts and provide a discussion within the wetland impacts section (3.2.1.2.2.2) of the IER. Moreover, proposed staging areas allowed to revert back to a hardwood forest after construction is complete will likely be dominated by the exotic Chinese tallowtree for part of the project life. Therefore, bottomland hardwood habitat temporarily impacted by the proposed project, including those staging areas, should be managed to control invasive species, specifically Chinese tallowtree.

2.3, Detention Basin Improvements, Page 32 – The goal of the detention basin is to provide rainwater detention during a storm event when the proposed hurricane protection system south of the confluence of the Algiers and Harvey Canals is closed. The Service questions the need to improve the existing levees which would make up that detention basin to a hurricane design level comparable to 100-year level of risk reduction. For clarification please provide a reference with regards to the Corps’ standards and the requirements needed to achieve Federal factors of safety specifically for the detention basin.

3.2.1.2.2 Proposed Action, Table 6: Proposed Action (WCC) Wetland Impacts form WVA (acres), Page 63 – We recommend revising the table to include proposed impacts to 6.9 acres of bottomland hardwood associated with the staging area north of the closure complex and levee and road realignment. Also, under habitat type indicate that the 63.6 acre staging area is pasture.

3.2.1.2.2.2 Specific Wetland Impacts Due to the Proposed Action, Northern Levee..., Page 65, second paragraph – The second sentence should be revised to indicate that the entire northern section would directly impact 5.8 acres of forested habitat.

3.2.3.2.1 No Action, Page 74 – We recommend omitting “non-wet” when referencing “uplands.”

3.2.3.2.2 Proposed Action, Page 74 – This section states that “implementation of the proposed action would not directly impact any upland habitats.” Impacts to upland habitat are likely to be associated with the levee realignment within the closure complex and with upgrading/improving the existing levee alignment for the proposed detention basin. This section should be revised to address those potential impacts.

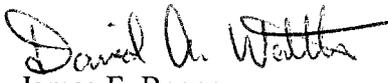
3.2.6.2.2.2 Specific Fisheries Impacts Due to the Proposed Action, Page 82, first paragraph – It appears that the word “not” was inadvertently omitted from the first sentence. Revise accordingly.

Please be advised construction within the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404 (c) area should not commence until the EPA’s decision to modify the designation to accommodate discharges into that area has been resolved. Furthermore, Congress is considering legislation to adjust the boundary of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (NHPP), Barataria Preserve Unit to include the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404 (c) area. In the meantime, the National Park Service (NPS) has constructive possession of the area. Therefore, the Corps should continue to coordinate with both the NPS and EPA regarding any proposed project feature that

may impact that area. For the NPS please contact Superintendent, David Luchsinger, (504) 589-3882 extension 137 (david_luchsinger@nps.gov), or Chief of Resource Management, David Muth, (504) 589-3882 extension 128 (david_muth@nps.gov). For the EPA please contact Ms. Barbara Keeler, 214/665-6698.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft IER, and we look forward to continuing coordination with the Corps and the other natural resource agencies to develop a feasible hurricane protection project for this region in a timely manner. If your staff has additional questions regarding our comments, please contact Angela Trahan at (337) 291-3137.

Sincerely,


James F. Boggs
Supervisor
Louisiana Field Office

cc: EPA, Dallas, TX
FWS, Atlanta, GA (ES/HC)
Jean Lafitte NHPP, New Orleans, LA (Attn: Mr. David Luchsinger)
Jean Lafitte NHPP, New Orleans, LA (Attn: Mr. David Muth)
NMFS, Baton Rouge, LA
Corps, New Orleans, LA (Attn: Mr. Gib Owen, CEMVN-PM-RS)
LDWF, Baton Rouge, LA



ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

571 State Park Rd 56 • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1100

January 22, 2009

Gib Owen
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CEMVN-PM-RS
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

On behalf of Chief Oscola Clayton Sylestine and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, our appreciation is expressed on your agency's efforts to consult us concerning the Individual Environmental Report (IER) #12, "West Bank and Vicinity, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Harvey, and Algiers Levees and Floodwalls" for Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines Parishes.

Our Tribe maintains ancestral associations within the state of Louisiana despite the absence of written records to completely identify Tribal activities, villages, trails, or grave sites. It is our objective to ensure any significances of Native American ancestry including the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe are administered with the utmost attention.

Upon review of the January 5, 2009 IER #12 submitted to our Tribe, no impact to religious, cultural, or historical assets of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas should occur due to the absence of corroborating evidence from recent cultural resource investigations. Therefore, we have no objections to the proceeding of this proposal.

In the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains and/or archaeological artifacts, activity in proximity to the location must cease and appropriate authorities, including this office, notified without delay. Should you require additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryant J. Celestine".

Bryant J. Celestine
Historic Preservation Officer

IER # 12 - Appendix B



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana

DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES
OFFICE OF WILDLIFE

ROBERT J. BARHAM
SECRETARY

JIMMY L. ANTHONY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY

January 26, 2009

Mr. Pete J. Serio, Chief
Regulatory Branch
United States Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

RE: *Draft of Individual Environmental Report # 12 (IER # 12) and related Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 public notice*
Public Notice Date: January 05, 2009

Dear Mr. Serio:

The professional staff of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) has reviewed the above referenced Public Notice. Based upon this review, the following has been determined:

During the detailed planning and construction phases, effort should be made to reduce wetland impacts, especially those impacts affecting higher quality wetlands. When practicable, access and construction activity should occur from existing waterways, and temporary workspaces and access roads should be minimized.

The impoundment of wetlands should be avoided; however, where impounding is unavoidable, measures aimed at maintaining hydrologic connections and natural flow regimes shall be taken. To this end, flood protection and control structures should be designed for operational flexibility and when deemed beneficial, control structures should remain open except when a risk of flooding exists.

LDWF would like to remain part of any Bayou aux Carpes management plan development, as well as have opportunity to review any modifications, and additional impacts. The department would also like involvement in any further detailed planning of project features and to be granted an opportunity to review and submit recommendations on such.

Additionally, the Corps shall provide adequate and appropriate mitigation for any additional unavoidable impacts to wetland functions.

Page 2

IER # 12 - Appendix B

Draft of Individual Environmental Report # 12 (IER # 12)

January 26, 2009

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries appreciates the opportunity to review and provide recommendations to you regarding this proposed activity. Please do not hesitate to contact Habitat Section biologist Matthew Weigel at 225-763-3587 should you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle F. Balkum", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kyle F. Balkum
Biologist Program Manager

mw

c: Matthew Weigel, Biologist
EPA Marine & Wetlands Section
USFWS Ecological Services



Appendix B

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

January 29, 2009 F/SER46/GC:jk
225/389-0508

Mr. Gib Owen
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
Planning, Programs, and Management Division
New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the draft **Individual Environmental Report (IER) #12** transmitted by letter from Ms. Elizabeth Wiggins dated January 5, 2009. The draft IER evaluates and quantifies the impacts associated with providing 100-year level of hurricane protection through the construction of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex.

NMFS staff has previously concurred with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) recommendations on IER #12 outlined in the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. We find the recommendations provided previously to the New Orleans District by FWS have been adequately incorporated into the document. As such, we have no comments to provide on the draft IER #12.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the draft IER.

Sincerely,

Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

c:
FWS, Lafayette
EPA, Dallas
LA DNR, Consistency
F/SER46, Swafford
Files





IER # 12 - Appendix B
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

FEB -5 2009

Mr. Gib Owen
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

We offer this letter as documentation of our review of the January, 2009 Draft Individual Environmental Report (DIER) # 12, prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to evaluate the projected impacts from constructing and operating a series of upgraded and new 100-year flood protection measures for the Harvey and Algiers segment of the Mississippi River West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) in Louisiana. Though DIER # 12 represents the Corps' public disclosure requirements in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), it is not presented as a typical NEPA document. Rather, it has been prepared according to alternative provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality. Accordingly, our review of the draft NEPA document is a bit atypical in that it has been prepared while important data and decisions are still forthcoming.

This review represents a significant milestone in the extensive coordination between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Corps on this project. The EPA focus for this section of the larger HSDRRS project is the Bayou aux Carpes Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404(c) area in Jefferson Parish. EPA has a long record of protecting these wetlands, dating back to the early 1970's and culminating in the 1985 decision to restrict the discharge of dredged and fill material.

Section 404(c) of the CWA authorizes EPA to restrict or prohibit the use of a wetland area as a disposal site for dredged or fill material if the discharge will have unacceptable adverse effects on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas), wildlife, or recreational areas. In over three decades since this authority has existed, EPA has finalized only 12 such CWA Section 404(c) actions. Together, those few actions have protected the ecologically significant functions and values of over 73,000 acres of wetlands.

The Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) site lies in the upper Barataria basin within the Mississippi deltaic plain, an area experiencing some of the highest historic rates of coastal wetland loss in the county and on a worldwide basis. This region experienced a spike in wetland loss and degradation as a result of hurricanes over the last several years. The Bayou aux Carpes

Letter to Mr. Gib Owen
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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site, however, has weathered the storms and other natural and human-induced forces, existing today as a unique and productive wetland system, providing ecological, flood storage, and water quality benefits. The approximately 3,000 acres of wetlands within the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) site are currently owned by the federal government and legislation has been proposed which would incorporate them into the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve. There is no doubt that these wetlands represent a regional and national asset.

It is within this landscape that the Corps has been charged with developing a set of alternatives to provide additional storm protection for the people of the west bank of the Mississippi River, as well as for residential and commercial properties in the greater New Orleans metropolitan area. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were the impetus for supplemental federal appropriations passed by Congress in the several years following the hurricanes of 2005.

In an effort to reconcile the potentially conflicting goals of increased flood protection and ecological protection, the New Orleans District of the Corps and EPA Region 6 have worked closely together and with other federal partners, State and local agencies, and many stakeholders in an effort to understand fully the possibilities for accommodating these serious needs. Seeing no acceptable option but to recommend flood control measures which would have adverse environmental impacts on the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) wetlands, the Corps has asked EPA to modify the 1985 CWA Section 404(c) determination to allow the construction of a berm and floodwall in an area disturbed by dredged material discharges predating the EPA designation.

The portion of the construction area within the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) site in the proposed alternative, described in DIER # 12 as the GIWW West Closure Complex, is located along the west bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), or Bayou Barataria, from its junction with the Old Estelle Pumping Station Outfall Canal to a point at which the Corps proposes to construct a sector gate across the GIWW. As described in the Corps' modification request to EPA (letter dated November 4, 2008) and in DIER # 12, the berm, floodwall, and associated features would rise up to 14 to 16 feet high and would occupy an area no greater than 4,200 linear feet by 100 linear feet. No more than ten acres of wetlands in the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) site would be affected and other design and construction features have been incorporated to minimize further the impacts to these wetlands.

The proposed GIWW West Closure Complex alternative is one of two alternatives presented which would entail adverse impacts to the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) area. Of those two, we agree that the potential impacts associated with the proposed action are far less significant. EPA has not yet, however, decided whether the existing Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) determination will be modified to allow the discharges which would cause those impacts.

The second alternative involving impacts to the CWA Section 404(c) site is presented in DIER # 12 as the "Southern Closure Complex." This design plan would include a new 3,000 foot-long floodwall, bisecting the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) area. Early in the planning process, EPA Region 6 notified the Corps of our determination that this option would present irreparable environmental impacts, most likely resulting in the loss of over 600 acres of

Letter to Mr. Gib Owen
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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unique flotant marsh wetlands, and would not be in compliance with the provisions of the 1985 Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) determination.

The "No Action" alternative affords the greatest level of protection to all environmental features within the planning segment covered by DIER # 12, including the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) area. While both the Algiers Gate and the Parallel Protection alternatives would avoid impacts to the Bayou aux Carpes Section 404(c) area, there would be environmental impacts to other areas of the flood protection planning segment covered by DIER # 12.

Based on the Corps' recommendations regarding the relative flood protection benefits, social and economic costs, as well as the hydrologic, engineering, and navigation constraints, the GIWW West Closure Complex and the Southern Closure Complex alternatives were initially subjected to the greatest level of environmental analysis by our staff. Having reached agreement with the Corps that impacts from the Southern Closure Complex would present serious roadblocks to project implementation, we have since largely focused on the design features of the GIWW West Closure Complex alternative.

We have provided guidance on avoiding and minimizing the impacts to the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) site from the GIWW West Closure Complex alternative and we are continuing to evaluate the possibilities for minimizing and mitigating those impacts. In addition, we are working with an interagency team to evaluate an array of other features that might provide environmentally beneficial hydrologic and habitat impacts. Also, the alternative NEPA procedures developed for the HSDRRS include a provision for a cumulative impact assessment to be published as one of the last pieces in the NEPA documentation process. For these reasons and others explained above, we are not currently able to offer a final evaluation of the full range of impacts associated with the proposed GIWW West Closure Complex alternative.

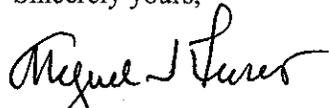
The Corps is currently gathering baseline data to evaluate potential wetland mitigation options and other project features to improve the existing hydrology of the Bayou aux Carpes area, as well as developing a long-term monitoring plan for the CWA Section 404(c) site. The Corps has committed to constructing those additional features if the analyses indicate that they would be ecologically beneficial. Discharges of dredged or fill material associated with such construction would require no additional modification to the CWA Section 404(c) designation, which contains an exception for approved habitat enhancement projects.

In the meantime, EPA is undertaking a review of the Corps' request to modify the 1985 Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) determination. Our decision in that matter will be a key factor in determining whether the Corps may proceed with the recommended GIWW West Closure Complex alternative. As a part of our review of the Corps' request, we are soliciting public comments and will conduct a public hearing on the matter on February 11, 2009 (74 FR 2072, January 14, 2008). After considering all comments submitted, the ecological recommendations of other resource agencies, and the technical evaluations of our staff, EPA Region 6 will transmit to the EPA Office of Water in Washington, D.C., a written recommendation on whether the CWA Section 404(c) modification request should be granted or denied. The Assistant Administrator for Water will make the final decision and publish a notice of its availability in the Federal Register.

Letter to Mr. Gib Owen
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We recognize the need to balance flood control and environmental protection in south Louisiana and we have seen that these goals do not necessarily have to be exclusive. We have strived diligently to work with your staff and the interagency evaluation team on the HSDRRS project to protect the quality of the unique human environment of coastal Louisiana. Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is any way we can provide additional assistance. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Barbara Keeler at (214) 665-6698.

Sincerely yours,



Miguel I. Flores
Director
Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure

cc: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lafayette, LA

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Baton Rouge, LA

*Feb. 9, 2009
509 Third Ave.
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*Gib Owen, PM-RS
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P. O. Box 60267
NOLA 70160-0267*

*Barbara Keeler (6WQ-EC)
EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733*

mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil keeler.barbara@epa.gov

Dear Sir and Madam:

I am writing today in regard to the GIWW West Closure Complex, the Corps' Individual Environmental Report 12, and the Corps' request to impact the Bayou aux Carpes 404© area here in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. Common sense dictates that the 404© area continue to receive full protection, and that the Corps request be denied.

For my entire adult life, the Corps of Engineers has served as a combination lap dog/lap dancer/towel girl for the Louisiana Congressional delegation, which has always ranked at or near the top in terms of corruption and its penchant for acting in direct contrast to the welfare of its constituents. Admittedly, Alaska probably kept Louisiana out of the top spot the last few years, but not for lack of trying. Some of what can only be considered to rank amongst the nation's greatest eco-terrorists have been members of the Louisiana delegation: Billy Tauzin, J. Bennett Johnston, John Breaux, and Bob Livingston, to name a few. And today's delegation has been guilty of tremendous neglect. Over 20 years after the creation (against terrific political opposition) of the only National Park in the State, the park's boundaries have yet to be normalized.

For close to 40 years, I have been active in attempts to stop the Corps from either destroying or allowing the destruction of Louisiana's wetlands. But the Corps has routinely either encouraged or allowed the continued destruction of our wetlands. Thousands upon thousands of needless projects were approved by or thought up by the Corps with the primary intent of destroying wetlands that could protect and nurture us all for the sake of some individual's or corporation's short-term gain. Wherever and whenever possible, the Corps ignored the law and

shirked its duties, dreaming up garbage like Nationwide Permits and delegating its authority to local programs like that of Jefferson Parish, which has always tried to destroy as many acres of wetlands as is humanly possible.

Jefferson Parish politicians wanted desperately to destroy the Bayou aux Carpes area. The Corps desperately wanted to help them do so. Only the miraculous intervention of EPA stopped that destruction from occurring. The same people who threw their weight around in those days are still around today. There may be new people in the Corps with whom I am not acquainted, who may actually want to obey the law and do what's morally right. I hope so, although I would note that the Corps has yet to correct the situation in Crown Point, where Jefferson Parish has been illegally draining wetlands for over 30 years.

If our observations are correct, the talweg of the GIWW is now a few hundred feet from shore. The project was approved as a 125' by 12' channel, so there appears to be a tremendous amount of room for constructing a "T-wall" between the boundary of the Bayou aux Carpes 404© area and the boundary of the 125' authorized channel. We find no reason to encroach upon the 404© area to accomplish the Corps' stated purpose.

I myself live on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish. I need hurricane protection as much as anyone else. But there never was, and there is no reason to destroy wetlands to accomplish the completion of a hurricane protection levee system. Certainly, an area like the 404© area at Bayou aux Carpes is ever more rare, and as such ever more valuable as both habitat and a natural storm buffer. We cannot allow any of it to be lost. We cannot allow contaminated sediment to be placed in it. We cannot allow contaminated water to be pumped into it. We cannot bear to hear the word "mitigation", which has historically been as pathetic a failure as the Jefferson Parish motto "Jefferson's got to grow."

I hereby ask the Corps to modify its design to move the "T-wall" further in the direction of the GIWW talweg to spare any and all parts of the 404© area, and I hereby ask EPA to not allow the destruction of any part of the Bayou aux Carpes 404© area.

Thank you.

*Yours truly,
Joseph I. "Jay" Vincent*



UNITED FOR A HEALTHY GULF

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Phone: (504) 525-1528 Fax: (504) 525-0833
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February 11, 2009

Mr. Gib Owen, PM-RS
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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Barbara Keeler (6WQ-EC)
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1445 Ross Avenue
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RE: DRAFT INDIVIDUAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT 12 AND PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO 404(C) ACTION

Dear Mr. Owen and Ms. Keeler:

I am writing on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network (GRN), a diverse coalition of individual citizens and local, regional, and national organizations committed to uniting and empowering people to protect and restore the resources of the Gulf of Mexico. Please accept the following comments regarding the Army Corps of Engineers' *Draft Individual Environmental Report: GIWW, Harvey, and Algiers Levees and Floodwalls, Jefferson, Orleans, and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana (IER #12)*, and the *Proposed Modification to the Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) Action*.

While we recognize that the protection of our coastal resources is urgent, we have some comments and concerns about several aspects of IER #12 as it is currently written. These concerns are outlined below:

1. Public Participation is Not Adequate

While the public comment period was extended to at least coincide with the public hearing, this is still not adequate. If the public hearing lasts until 9:00 pm, this only allows the public three hours to process and comment upon any information presented by the Corps or other commenters. *Because of this, we request the public comment period be extended to allow for the public to comment upon new information gained at the hearing.*

2. Full Avoidance of Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) Must Be Further Analyzed

We would first like to applaud the Corps for working with us and EPA to develop the proposed alignment, instead of selecting an alignment that would have bisected the Bayou aux Carpes area. It is important that the Corps continue to recognize the importance of this ecologically sensitive area.

However, we feel that the 9.6 acres in the Bayou aux Carpes could be further avoided. On page 49, it is stated that “alternatives that would avoid impacts to that area were considered...this alternative was eliminated from further consideration due to constructability and navigation concerns” because it would “create engineering and construction challenges...” This statement is not supported. The navigation channel is authorized to be 125 feet wide, while the waterway is 400-500 feet wide. The Corps does not demonstrate in this IER why it is not feasible to place the T-wall further out into the waterway. Assuming the channel is in the approximate center of the canal, this would still allow a large buffer between navigation and hurricane protection. Because of this lack of justification and failure to demonstrate the necessity of impacting the 9.6 acres of the Bayou aux Carpes, we request that the moving of the t-wall further out be analyzed in order to further reduce, or even eliminate the wetland impacts. We request that an analysis be done examining moving the flood wall different distances out into the water. Since this would constitute a significant change, the IER should also be re-noticed. Additionally, EPA should not grant a 404(c) modification until it is shown that the Corps thoroughly explored all options for the reduction or elimination of impacts to the 404(c) area.

3. Wetland Impacts Must be Considered Fully

While Table 6 on page 63 presents the total direct wetland impacts anticipated, secondary and indirect impacts are not addressed. With increased storm protection comes increased development pressure. In fact the Bayou aux Carpes area was originally going to be drained and developed several years ago. On page 47, the Corps even admits that rezoning “could minimize future damages from new development in flood-prone areas,” thus implying that the surrounding areas very well could be developed given current zoning. This secondary effect must be taken into account. Further, taller and more expansive levees and flood walls have the potential to disrupt the flow of water through wetlands, potentially impacting these wetlands.

In order for this IER to fully address its environmental impacts, secondary and indirect impacts must be accounted for within the report, and slated to be mitigated for, just as direct impacts are.

Additionally, cumulative impacts are not thoroughly addressed. Acknowledging that cumulative impacts will be discussed fully in the CED, more on cumulative impacts should be included in this IER. In past meetings with the Corps, they have presented a spreadsheet that had current impacts and anticipated impacts. This analysis, or best estimate of cumulative impacts should be included in this and all subsequent IERs

4. *Augmentation Features Must Be Thoroughly Researched and Planned*

In order for EPA to make a truly informed decision the “augmentation features” must be further designed and studies. The impact to the 404(c) area is partially justified because some augmentation features are being examined, the largest of which would be the gapping of the canal to the north of the area to allow storm runoff to flow through the wetland. A baseline study of at least two years should be done to see if this would indeed augment the area. Given that this water would be urban runoff, which could potentially be carrying high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, metals, and petroleum products, care must be taken to ensure that this “fresh” water is truly fresh and not too contaminated to cause damage to the wetland over the short and long term.

The operating plan and funds for the augmentation features are also not discussed in this IER. On page 39, it is stated that “modifications to the banks and shell plug in the Bayou aux Carpes CWA Section 404(c) area would not be expected to require [operation and maintenance].” However the monitoring and control of flood structures in the canal would require monitoring, operation, and maintenance for at least several years after they are put into operation. The operation and management of the augmentation features must be addressed and guaranteed for years to come.

We also request if this action proceeds, a contingency plan is written into the project. Specifically if some or all of the augmentation features are not beneficial to the area, more mitigation should be required within or adjacent to the 404(c) area, since part of EPA’s decision depends on the success of these augmentation features.

5. *Beneficial Use*

It is stated that dredge material will be used beneficially in the “crib” area to build wetlands. This must be detailed more in the IER. Specifically, contaminants and wetland building plans must be further addressed. The dredge materials must be tested for contaminants to ensure that humans *and* wildlife will not be acutely or chronically harmed by any contaminants from industrialized navigation channels. Additionally if contaminated sediment is identified, and it is landfilled, this sediment would probably first be de-watered, which could cause large water quality issues.

Since this would be an obvious environmental impact, the effects of this dewatering of contaminated sediment must be addressed fully in the IER.

Further, a specific plan for wetland creation utilizing dredge material should be detailed in this report. It is not acceptable to defer this to the mitigation IER, as dredge disposal is an integral part of this project. This plan is vital in order to ensure that dredge material is not simply dumped in the crib area, but a plan is followed that will give wetlands the best opportunity for sustainable production.

Also regarding beneficial use, it is stated on page 29 that “overburden material...would be mulched and used on site or hauled away to a landfill.” At a recent meeting we asked why this overburden cannot be used beneficially in wetland creation instead of being hauled to a landfill, and our question was not adequately answered, so we ask again if the Corps looked into this beneficial use of overburden. If so, this information should be in the IER, if not, we formally request that this be explored within this IER.

6. Non-Structural

This IER, as well as other IERS that we have reviewed do not adequately address non-structural options to potential projects for the 100 year protection for metro New Orleans. On page 47, it stated that “no combination of non-structural tools could independently achieve the required 100-year level of risk reduction needed to provide hurricane surge protection on the [West Bank and Vicinity] as intended by federal statutes.” However, the question is not “can non-structural tools *eliminate* the need for structural storm protection,” but can it be used in *combination* with structural components to achieve protection that is sustainable and reduces the impact on the natural environment. We feel that the Corps is misinterpreting WRDA. While WRDA states that nonstructural measures can be considered independently or in combination with structural measures (p. 45 of IER #12), the combination of structural and nonstructural is completely ignored.

Additionally, when discussing the “raise in place” option, the IER assumes that all structures would have to be raised, and that each residential structure averages 1,800 square feet. Given that nonstructural and structural can be used together, the assumption that all buildings would have to be raised is a false assumption. Additionally, we request evidence to support the assertion that the average home in this area is 1,800 square feet.

February 11, 2009
Gulf Restoration Network
Page 5 of 6

7. Preliminary Alternatives Screening Table is Not Complete

Table 3 on page 50 has errors in the key, and thus is not correct. In the table there are checks, dots, and x's, however nowhere in the table is it stated what a check is. This is a very important table, as it is supposed to summarize how each alternative was screened. Without knowing what the symbols are, it is impossible to interpret this table. Given the importance of this table, we request a re-notice of this IER, so we and EPA can be positive that the best option was truly chosen.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on IER #12 and the 404(c) modification. While we are pleased that the Corps has worked towards avoiding impacts to the 404(c) area, we feel that more could potentially be done to protect the area. Given this, we request that EPA not modify the 404(c) action until IER #12 is truly completed, including the additions that are suggested above.

We trust that the Corps and EPA will take all of the above comments seriously, as they would enhance the project. We look forward to a timely written response. Further, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with the agencies to discuss our concerns.

Sincerely,

Matt Rota
Water Resources Program Director

CC:

John Ettinger, US EPA
Horst Greczmiel, US CEQ
Jill Mastrototaro, Sierra Club
Melissa Samet, American Rivers
Barry Kohl, LA Audubon Council
Jill Witkowski, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic
Mike Murphy, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic
John Lopez, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
Carlton Dufrechou, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation
Mark Davis, Tulane University
Maura Wood, National Wildlife Federation
Juanita Constable, National Wildlife Federation
Natalie Snider, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Comments RE: IER #12 and Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) modification

February 11, 2009

Gulf Restoration Network

Page 6 of 6

Steven Peyronnin, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana

Paul Kemp, National Audubon Society

Haywood Martin, Delta Chapter Sierra Club.



Louisiana Audubon Council

1522 Lowerline St., New Orleans, LA 70118

February 11, 2009

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Barbara Keeler (6WQ-EC)
EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue,
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Combined public hearing on the Draft IER-12, on the modification of CWA Sec. 404(c) determination for Bayou aux Carpes; and hearing on GIWW West Closure Complex.

Dear Ms. Keeler and Mr. Owen,

First, the Louisiana Audubon Council wants to be on record as supporting a safe hurricane protection levee for the entire New Orleans area including the Westbank of Jefferson Parish. The Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (JLNHPP) and Bayou aux Carpes (BAC) wetlands will provide non-structural protection and reduce the hurricane tidal surges before they reach the westbank levee system. Non-structural protection is provided by forested and non-forested wetlands and have been documented as reducing the height of tidal surges during Hurricanes Rita, Gustav and Ike.

We thank EPA and the other resource agencies for recommending to the Corps a change in their original preferred alternative, which was the Southern Closure option, GIWW-A. This alignment would have segregated the BAC, Sec. 404(c) area and adversely impacted 600 acres of flotant marsh.

The Corps' new preferred alignment (Alternative 2, GIWW-WWC) would directly take 9.6 acres of the BAC. While this is a large decrease in the taking of wetlands of national significance, the Corps should not stop there. Additional structural changes to the eastern levee and closure complex would avoid any wetland loss to the BAC. The Corps Alternative 2, should be modified to avoid any direct or indirect impacts to the Sec 404(c) wetlands. (see below).

Alternative 2, GIWW-WWC: (a suggested modification)

It is our opinion that the encroachment into the BAC wetlands can be avoided entirely by moving the "innovative T-wall", berm and riprap further into the waterway by 100 ft., thereby avoiding the 404(c) wetlands. Bayou Barataria includes the GIWW barge channel which has a congressionally authorized width of 125 ft and a depth of 12 ft (USACE, 1998). The GIWW barge channel is a minor constituent of the waterway which is now 500-650 ft wide along the eastern side of the BAC project area. Moving the T-wall 100 ft into an area which, based on Corps maps was land prior to 1971, would be a slight alteration of the preferred alternative.

A waterway with a width of 400 ft was sufficient in 1971 and provided adequate space for a 125 ft barge channel (which then was 31 % of the waterway width). The present width of the waterway, due to erosion by barge traffic, is now 100- 200 feet wider than in 1971 (USACE, 1971). This increased width reduces the portion of the waterway needed for the barge channel to 21 % of the total width. There are additional opportunities to improve the structural design of the T-wall and gate complex to avoid the BAC all together. The Corps stated that it intends to reduce the structural impacts on the BAC.

Alternative G-GIWW C: Sec. 2.5.3.4 (p. 49)

This section is a misrepresentation of the facts. It states that this alternative, of moving the "innovative T-wall" to avoid impacts to the 404(c) wetlands, would be to "construct the eastern innovative floodwall completely within the GIWW . . ." and that "construction of a floodwall within the heavily used navigation channel . . . would create engineering and construction challenges . . . "

The Corps suggests that building the floodwall in the navigation channel is the only other option to its preferred alternative. The navigation channel is only 125 ft wide in a waterway which is 600 feet in width. It appears that this misrepresentation is deliberately being used to discredit the practicability of this alternative.

What should be considered is moving the T-wall into the shallow water area which would still leave 500 ft to accommodate a 125 ft wide navigation channel. Congress authorized a 125 ft channel for most of the GIWW. If a wider channel was needed, Congress would have authorized it. Barges moored along the Harvey and Algiers Canals significantly reduce the waterway width available for barge navigation. This is evidently not a hazard to navigation. The alternative G-GIWW C was never presented in stakeholder meetings attended by our organization. Why weren't alternative designs presented in the DIER-12? Based on the various engineering designs of the sector gates and pumping station configurations (posted on the Corps' website), surely one could be modified to avoid the 404(c) wetlands all together. This deficiency should be corrected in the amended IER.

- Appendix K (Figure entitled, "Current Proposed Site Plan"): The description states that the "orientation of the pump station, gates, bypass channel and levee on east side of GIWW are not final and could change as design progresses." This means that there is still some flexibility and the final engineered design could avoid the 404(c) wetlands.

- Diagram 1 on p. 27 should be drawn to scale. It should also include the present width of the waterway and the position (centerline) of the 125 ft navigation channel. A scale showing the water depth should also be added. These figures should not be conceptual in this document.

Contaminated sediments: Appendices L, L(b) and M

The chemical analyses of the Algiers Canal sediments are not included in the Appendix of DIER-12. Only two contaminants are discussed but there is not a complete listing of COCs in which the bottom sediments were tested. Additional testing has been recommended but there is very little discussed in the DIER. A new document, dated Jan. 5, 2009, was posted on the website but not included in the DIER.

Of major concern to our organization is that the Corps intends to use the dredged material from the bottom of the Algiers Canal and barge it to the JLNHPP. The plan is to use the spoil to plug an erosional area along Lake Salvador and the Park boundary by placing the dredged material into a Geocrib. We support the use of clean spoil for beneficial use but oppose the introduction of contaminated material into the Park's ecosystem.

We request that this section of the IER be rewritten to fully identify the procedures undertaken by the Corps to determine whether the sediments are safe for open water disposal. The detection limit chosen does not take into consideration the affects of contaminants on benthic organisms - only the affect on human health. That update should include the location of sediment cores, chemical analyses of the sediments and a presentation of all the results in an appendix as part of an amended IER.

It is important that the screening procedure identify the levels of concentration of toxic sediments that cause chronic affects to benthic organisms as outlined in the NOAA's ER-M, ER-L sediment criteria for COC. In Appendix M the executive summary was omitted from the report as well.

Appendix L(b) recommends, "more sediment sampling . . . to further delineate the contaminated area." This canal could be contaminated with PAHs and other hydrocarbon derived toxics. The executive summary dated 1/5/09 for Final Phase II ESAR (and posted on the website) must be included in the amended IER-12 as well as the sediment data. The detection limit for PAHs was set at 330 ppb which is too high to detect many PAHs that have a consensus based TEL below this detection limit (Macdonald et al., 2000). Many states are using the consensus based TEL as a screening level for cleanup of contaminated sediments to protect aquatic organisms.

The ESAR stated that the toxic review was based on human impacts not impacts to the biota and used the LDEQ RECAP screening standards which do not consider the broader environmental impacts. Since these sediments will be deposited in the National Park, they should be tested for impacts to the biota as the highest priority. Unless this is done we oppose any of the Algiers Canal sediments being used as fill in the Barataria Preserve.

Enterprise Pipeline Relocation:

We did not find one map that identified the location of the existing Enterprise pipeline nor a discussion of the impacts of relocation of the pipeline on the BAC wetlands. In Appendix K figure 1 is a dashed line labeled pipeline relocation. Does this pipeline belong to Shell? It is identified on earlier corps maps as a Shell pipeline (USACE, 1971). There should be a full discussion describing how the relocation will prevent any direct or indirect impacts to the BAC. Will the old pipeline be removed? How old is it? How much will be relocated? Between what reference points will the work be done? (point A to point B). Will the pipeline segment reconnect to the old pipeline. We request the amended IER include an expansion of the discussion section fully explaining the pipeline relocation procedure and impacts to the BAC.

Data Gaps and Uncertainties: (p. 16)

Of concern to us, is that any additional information gathered over the one-year baseline study will come after the project has been approved. This includes most of the impacts to the BAC area.

Also, the engineering design report for the gates and floodwalls has not been completed. On page 16 it states, "At the time of the submission of this report, engineering evaluations have not been completed for all of the proposed actions and alternatives."

In fact, this section lists the data not included in this DIER-12 as; 1) sources of levee material have not been identified, 2) environmental surveys are not complete, 3) cumulative impact data are not complete, 4) impacts on transportation remain unknown, 5) the engineering analysis is based on a concept level design and is not complete.

The DIER states that a Draft Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED), "will contain updated information for any IER that had incomplete or unavailable data at the time it was posted for public review." (DIER, p. 14). This means that potentially critical information will not be available at the time the IER is approved and construction commences. The long list of inadequacies admitted by the Corps shows that this document should have been withheld until the Corps had time to finish its work and prepare a complete IER prepared for public and agency review.

"Augmentation" issues:

Length of study:

We find the one year baseline study for the BAC too short. For a proper study, several annual cycles are needed especially for hydrologic information due to changes in rainfall patterns from year to year.

Monitoring:

The water monitoring should include the measurement of water flow under Highway 3134. The swamp on the west side of the highway is presently in the JLNHPP. This highway bisected the BAC in 1977. There should be water flow monitoring at the culverts which allow water to pass under the highway. The conditional permit given to the DOTD and the congressional authorization for the highway requires that normal water circulation be maintained. It has now been over 30 years since the highway embankment was completed. How much subsidence has there been? Are all the culverts open to normal water exchange under the highway? What is the effective culvert cross sectional area available for water flow? Is there tidal exchange at the culvert locations? If so, can it be measured on both sides of the highway?

Degrading levees:

We agree that oil and gas drill hole canals should have the spoil banks degraded and in some instances the canals should be plugged. This should be done carefully since the canals and spoil banks have been there for over 40 years. A hydrologic study should consider that the swamp may be in equilibrium with the man-made ponding and drainage. Changes to the system must not harm the ecosystem of the BAC.

Opening Bayou aux Carpes shell dam:

As with degrading the levees, the opening of the dam to water flow from Bayou Barataria, during hurricane surges, may harm the swamp. Salinity ranges need to be measured in Bayou Barataria to assure that flow into the swamp will not harm or raise salinities within the leveed system.

Estelle stormwater diversion:

There is insufficient information on how contaminants in the effluent discharge from the Estelle Pumping Station will be measured. A complete list of the analytes should be included in the amended IER. We are concerned that diverting the urban effluent into BAC may not be beneficial for the wetlands. The effluent of many of the pumping stations, monitored by Jefferson Parish, have been documented to contain lead, arsenic, chromium and mercury.

How much monitoring will take place to properly document the water quality of the effluent over decades if the water will be used in the BAC? As urbanization increases in the basin, water quality will decline as more polluted urban runoff is pumped into the Estelle Canal.

We suggest that the effluent be monitored for chemicals which have shown up in Jefferson Parish analysis of effluent discharge into the Barataria Preserve (such as the Ames and Crown Point pumping stations). Water effluent monitoring must be continued over the life of the project,

The Audubon Council requests a meeting with the federal and state resource agencies to review the results of the "augmentation studies". There must be public input and review before the final decision is made to modify the BAC 404(c) ecosystem.

Inclusion in the Barataria Preserve:

The Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) area will be included within the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve this year. Senate bill S. 22 has passed the US Senate and it is expected to pass the House soon. There are now two reasons to protect the BAC well into the future as, 1) a 404(c) area and, 2) part of the Barataria Preserve of the National Park.

Revision of the DIER necessary (IER addendum):

Because there are still important data omitted from the draft document, we request that a revised/amended IER be prepared and circulated to the public and resource agencies for review. According to the federal register, "an IER addendum responding to comments received will be completed and published for a 30-day public review period." (USACE, 2007). We are formally requesting that IER-12 be amended to include omitted information, and full responses to the public/agency comments on the DIER-12. The document should include:

- 1). Design of the sector gate complex with alternative designs presented- not "conceptual diagrams".
- 2). Alternative designs for the innovative floodwall to avoid the 404(c) area
- 3). Review of all dredged sediment data and chemical analyses. Decision whether dredged sediments can be utilized for beneficial purposes in the JLNHPP, based on acute and chronic impacts of toxic sediments to benthic organisms.
- 4). More specifics on the length of time and parameters measured for all studies discussed in the "augmentation" section of the DIER - including beneficial or adverse impacts to the 404(c) wetlands.

- 5). Monitoring plan details - include detailed section on rationale for placement of water flow instruments and hydrologic modeling
- 6). More details on the relocation of the Enterprise pipeline and its impacts to the 404(c) area.
- 7). A thorough analysis of the proposed diversion of urban discharges from the Estelle pumping station into the 404(c) wetlands. Also, include the impacts of pollutants on the 404(c) area.

All these issues and other data gaps must be thoroughly discussed and presented in the amended IER.

Summary:

1) In conclusion, we oppose Alternative 2, the preferred alignment, as presented in the DIER-12. The Corps admits that the engineering designs for the floodwall and gate complex are not complete and therefore we believe the design can be modified to avoid the 404(c) wetlands entirely. The new designs and supportive data should be presented in a IER addendum for public review and comment. We will reconsider our position based on the new document.

2) We also recommend that EPA deny the request by the Corps to modify its final determination on the Bayou aux Carpes CWA 404(c) since the Corps hasn't finished its alternative engineering designs for the floodwall and gate complex. It would be premature for any action to be taken by EPA at this time.

3) We oppose a process whereby any deficiencies in this IER will be answered sometime in the future - as part of a catchall document. The public must be engaged in one single process which comes to a single conclusion - not a decision process which is segmented and strung out for several years on a specific IER. It is supposed to be an individual environmental report.

4) It appears that this DIER was rushed through without the adequate internal review. This is precisely what we were concerned about with the Alternative Arrangements (USACE, 2007). It appears that expediency was the prime factor - not a thorough evaluation of the environmental impacts and avoidance. It would be a better process if the Corps allowed time for its engineers to carefully design and check its own proposals and then the public could review and comment on a document that was ready rather than one which is incomplete.

Sincerely,



Dr. Barry Kohl
President, LAC

cc:

Delta Chapter Sierra Club
Gulf Restoration Network
National Audubon Society
National Wildlife Federation
Tulane Environmental Law Clinic
Horst Greczmiel, CEQ
National Wildlife Federation
National Park Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
La DNR

References:

MacDonald, D.D., C.G. Ingersoll, T.A. Berger, 2000. Development and Evaluation of consensus -based sediment quality guidelines for freshwater ecosystems. Arch. Environmental Contamination and Toxicology, v. 39, p.20-21.

USACE, 1963. Review of reports: Harvey Canal-Bayou Barataria Levee, Louisiana. NO District of USACE , Sept. 20, 1963. Appendix A

USACE, 1971. Harvey Canal-Bayou Barataria Levee, New Levee Phase I. As Built Plans. Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Jefferson Parish, LA. (provided by Fred Chatry, Chief Engineering Div., to B. Kohl, 2/15/77).

USACE 1977. (Jeff Parish Wetlands) 26, Conditional permit for Lafitte-Larose Highway segment from Estelle to Wagner Ferry Bridge.

USACE 1998. Water Resources Development in Louisiana, 1998. USACE, New Orleans District. 177 pp.

USACE 2007. Adoption of Alternative arrangements under the National Environmental Policy act for New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction System. Federal Register, March 13, v. 72, p. 11337-11340.



Haywood R. Martin, Chair
Sierra Club, Delta Chapter
400 Glyndale Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70506

February 11, 2009

Gib Owen, PM-RS
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Barbara Keeler (6WQ-EC)
EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue,
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

Re: Public hearing on the Draft IER-12, on the modification of CWA Sec. 404(c) determination for Bayou aux Carpes; and on West Closure Complex.

The Sierra Club Delta Chapter supports a safe hurricane protection levee for the entire New Orleans area including the west bank of Jefferson Parish. We also strongly support the use of natural systems such as forested and non-forested wetlands to add progressive barriers to storm surges.

We thank EPA and the other resource agencies for recommending to the Corps a change in their original preferred alternative, which was the Southern Closure option. It appears that the proposed alternative would take 9.6 acres of the BAC as opposed the 600 acres of marsh that would have been impacted by the earlier proposal. While this is a large decrease in the taking of wetlands of national significance, we suggest that the Corps can do better. Additional structural changes to the eastern levee and closure complex would avoid any wetland loss to the BAC. The Corps Alternative 2, should be modified to avoid any direct or indirect impacts to the Sec 404(c) wetlands. It appears that there is adequate space to move the structure further into the waterway so as to avoid the 404(c) wetlands.

We are also concerned that any additional information gathered over the one-year baseline study will come after the project has been approved. This includes most of the impacts to the BAC area. Also, the engineering design report for the gates and floodwalls has not been completed. The DIER states that a Draft Comprehensive Environmental Document (CED) "will contain updated information for any IER that had incomplete or unavailable data at the time it was posted

for public review." It appears that potentially critical information will not be available at the time the IER is approved and construction commences. The list of inadequacies admitted by the Corps shows that this document should not have been released until the Corps had time to finish its work and a complete IER prepared for public and agency review.

We are informed that the Bayou aux Carpes 404(c) area will be included within the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve this year. Senate bill S. 22 has passed the US Senate and it is expected to pass the House soon. This provides significant additional importance to the protection of the BAC as, a 404(c) area and as part of the Barataria Preserve of the National Park.

Because there are still important data omitted from the draft document, we request that a revised/amended IER be prepared and circulated to the public and resource agencies for review. We are formally requesting that IER-12 be amended to include omitted information, and full responses to the public/agency comments on the DIER-12

In conclusion, we oppose Alternative 2, the preferred alignment, as presented in the DIER-12. We request the Corps do an amended IER containing new designs and supportive data, and we strongly recommend that EPA deny the request by the Corps to modify its final determination on the Bayou aux Carpes CWA 404(c). Furthermore we request that the comment period be extended so that all interested parties have adequate time to prepare substantive comments.

Thank you,

Haywood Martin, Chair
Sierra Club Delta Chapter

cc: Louisiana Audubon Council

IER # 12 - Appendix B

From: Owen, Gib A MVN on behalf of MVN Environmental
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2009 8:07 AM
To: Coulson, Getrisc MVN
Cc: Lyncker, Lissa A MVN-Contractor
Subject: FW: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

Gigi,
Comment for IER 12. Came in on 11 February 09.
Gib

Gib Owen
US Army Corps of Engineers
Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/ HSDRRS Environmental Team
Leader New Orleans District
504 862-1337

-----Original Message-----

From: lombas@cox.net [mailto:lombas@cox.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 8:46 AM
To: lombas@cox.net; MVN Environmental
Cc: Powell, Nancy J MVN
Subject: RE: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment

Finished glancing thru the 175 page IER-12 report. Just as I suspected, the areas south of the proposed project was not included.

---- lombas@cox.net wrote:

> I have just read portions of the "IER 12" report, specifically page 15 regarding concerns. I doesn't mention anything about the populated areas south of the proposal. Maybe we need to move Lafitte, Baratavia and Crown Point to the Bayou Aux Carpes Swamp, then maybe someone would address our concerns. I still haven't received a report that shows the "INSIGNIFICANT" tidal rise on the flood side of the structure during a storm surge. Why doesn't the Corps of Engineers hold a public meeting in the Lafitte area to explain your position. I doubt that anyone from this area will attend the public meeting tonight in New Orleans. I am not opposed to this project. If my home and community has to be sacrificed to protect the west bank . so be it. I just don't understand why these communities are not considered when hurricane protection projects are proposed. I have heard that we may be included in the Morganza to the Gulf, but only as an afterthought. I seriously do not believe this will happen (not in my lifetime anyway!) I am starting to realize the meaning of the word "insignificant". I live in an "insignificant" community, with "insignificant" representation. Any damage that may occur to my community by this proposed project will be called "insignificant. I have been fortunate in the past that my home has not flooded . I do not qualify for any assistance to elevate my home and I cannot afford to elevate on my own. I appears that elevating our homes is our only option at this time. In the future, please remember, that north of Grand Isle and south of the West bank hurricane protection levee are three communities. Please don't think of us as only the drainage for the West bank. We don't even appear on your maps most of the time!

> ---- MVN Environmental <MVNEnvironmental@usace.army.mil> wrote:

> >

> > Sir,

> > I have contacted a number of my USACE colleagues in the Engineering
> > Division concerning your request for information. The Hydrologist
> > working on the West Bank and Vicinity project have looked into the

IER # 12 - Appendix B

> > matter in the past as a part of the ongoing study efforts to
> > determine water stages of the flood side of the proposed GIWW
> > structure during an event. The results of their efforts was a
> > determination that water stages on the flood side of the proposed
> > structure would change by an insignificant elevation during a hurricane
event where the proposed gate is closed.
> >
> > Basically, when a major storm enters the area there is literally
> > billions of gallons of water being moved around the Barateria Basin
> > by the surge and wave action. The number of gallons of water that
> > would enter the Harvey/Algiers Canal area is very small in
> > comparison to the total volume of the surge in the basin.
> >
> > If you would like to further discuss this matter I suggest that you
> > contact Nancy Powell, Chief of CEMVN Hydrology Section at
> > nancy.j.powell@usace.army.mil.
> >
> > Gib Owen
> > US Army Corps of Engineers
> > Chief, Ecological Planning and Restoration Section/ HSDRRS
> > Environmental Team Leader New Orleans District
> > 504 862-1337
> >
> >
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: lombas@cox.net [mailto:lombas@cox.net]
> > Sent: Monday, January 19, 2009 2:42 PM
> > To: MVN Environmental
> > Subject: NOLA Environmental Comment - General Comment
> >
> > Has the Corps of Engineers or any agency done any studies as to what
> > will happen to the areas south of the proposed floodgates on the
> > GIWW ?? If anyone has bothered, where can a copy of the study be found?