



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report

October 2, 2008

Army & State sign partnership agreement

LPV-PPA covers \$3.85 billion in new construction work



Hon. John Paul Woodley, Jr. (left), the ASA-CW, signs the PPA.



Then Garret Graves (right), Director of the LA-CPR, signs the PPA.



It's official.

U.S. Army Photos by Gregory Jones

Project Partnership Agreement
important step in maintaining Corps' aggressive construction schedule for HSDRRS

On September 22, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., and the Director of Coastal Protection and Restoration for the Governor of Louisiana, Garret Graves, signed the first Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) related to cost-shared work on

the new 100-year Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for the New Orleans metropolitan area.

The PPA, which covers the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) portion of the new system (see map on page 2), enables the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with preparing and issuing contracts for work that is being cost-shared by the federal government and the State of Louisiana.

"Today's agreement highlights the teamwork and collaboration of the State of Louisiana, the federal government and all the local stakeholders and partners," said Woodley. "This is an important step toward

completing a new HSDRRS that is truly designed, built and operated as a single system. It was important to get this agreement signed so that the Corps' very aggressive construction schedule can be maintained."

The current estimated total cost of new work covered by this PPA is \$3.9 billion. Of that total, an estimated \$1.6 billion is work to be fully funded at federal expense, and \$2.3 billion is to be cost-shared by the federal government and State of

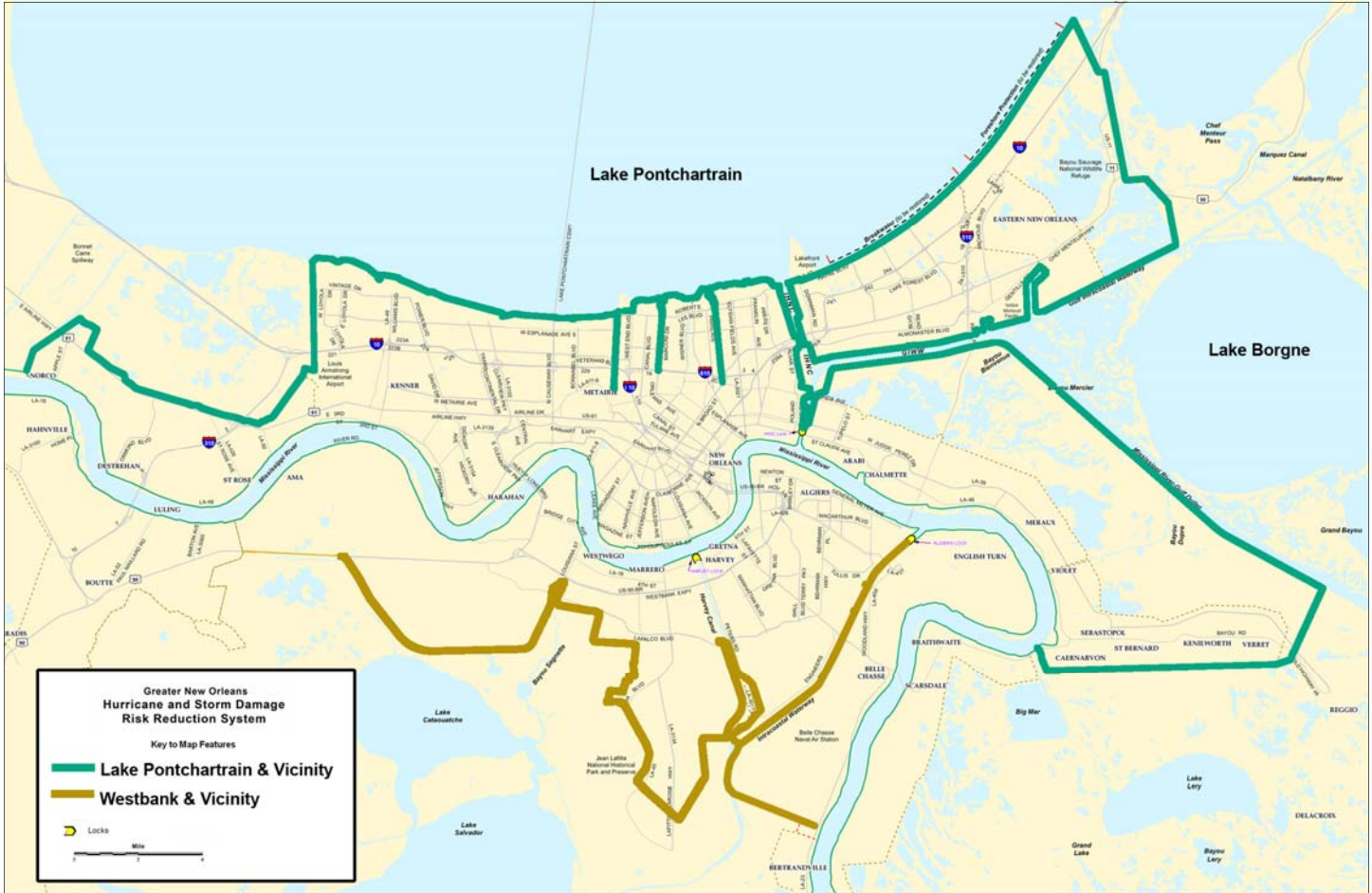
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“The new HSDRRS is truly designed, built and operated as a single system.”

- Hon. John Paul Woodley, Jr., ASA-CW



The map above shows, in green, the area covered by the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity Project Partnership Agreement which was recently signed by the Assistant Secretary for the Army and the State of Louisiana. This PPA will become the model and smooth the way for the Westbank & Vicinity PPA and the outfall canal permanent pumps PPA. (Map illustration by Tom Durel)

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Louisiana. The State will be allowed to pay back their share over a 30-year duration.

This PPA will become the model and smooth the way for future PPAs, including the West Bank and Vicinity project, the permanent pumps at the Lake Pontchartrain outfall canals, and for other HSDRRS features.

The administration, the State of Louisiana and the Corps of Engineers remain committed to the safety of citizens in the greater New Orleans area. The new 100-year system, scheduled to be completed in 2011, will provide far greater hurricane and storm damage risk reduction than New Orleans has ever had.



To learn more about projects, contracts and progress of the HSDRRS, go to the Corps' new and improved Web site at:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/>

HPO CHANGE OF COMMAND



Brig. Gen. Michael Walsh (right), Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division, presents the flag of command to Col. Michael McCormick during the official change of command ceremonies. (USACE Photo, Anne Marino; Illustration, Tom Durel)

Col. Michael McCormick is the new commander of the Hurricane Protection Office. McCormick officially took the reins on September 26 at Noon, in a formal change of command ceremony at the New Orleans District Headquarters.

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division, and President of the Mississippi River Commission, transferred the colors from outgoing commander Col. Jeffrey A. Bedey to McCormick at the ceremony. A long-time military tradition, “passing the colors” (the flag), symbolizes the transfer of authority from one commander to the next.

McCormick joins a senior leadership team overseeing one of the largest civil works projects in Corps history - construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System for the greater New Orleans area. Scheduled to be complete in 2011, the \$14.6 billion system includes levees, floodwalls, floodgates and closure structures.

Previously, McCormick served as the Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, Northwestern Division. As the Commander, McCormick was charged with oversight of a \$500 million military construction effort in Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon.

McCormick also managed an extensive civil works engineering and construction mission in Washington, Idaho and Montana. His programs included operation of multi-purpose dams; navigation channel maintenance; hazardous, toxic and radioactive waste cleanup; and levee rehabilitation efforts following the winter '06/'07 flooding in western Washington. McCormick held this position since July 27, 2006.



Col. McCormick





Corps working with Southern University

The Corps of Engineers works closely with multiple partners, including universities, colleges and academia, in building storm damage risk reduction systems across Louisiana. One of the many partnerships that is crafting a better future for this area is with Southern University.

As the winner of a national contract solicitation of Historically Black Colleges and Universities to provide planning and engineering services to Corps projects, Southern University began partnering with the Corps of Engineers two years ago.

Southern has been providing geotechnical analysis and conceptual design for Corps projects under a three-year \$4.5 million dollar contract. The Southern University Geotechnical Lab is certified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Engineer Research and Development Center

to provide geotechnical analysis. The university's rigorous quality assurance and quality control plan meets all Corps requirements.

Southern University has provided excellent support to numerous Corps projects under this contract and, to date, has been awarded \$1.5 million on four separate projects. Southern has provided geotechnical analysis and conceptual design for non-federal levees in Plaquemines Parish, Grand Isle, and Terrebonne Parish. Additionally, Southern University has completed work for the Corps in the Atchafalaya Basin.

For the Terrebonne Parish non-federal levee, Southern University was awarded \$955,000 to provide the necessary geotechnical analysis prior to design and construction. Southern University subcontracted a portion of the work to Shaw Environmental, a Louisiana-based company

with a detailed understanding of the local system, to provide engineering and environmental support. This analysis is required to develop the project description document which lays out the proposed work, the cost, real estate requirements, and environmental compliance. This action is required to move the project forward.

The Corps' partnership with Southern University and other stakeholders and team members is a vital key to successful risk reduction for the citizens of Louisiana.



Cycle Construction of Kenner awarded \$9.7 million contract

On September 22, 2008, the Corps of Engineers awarded a \$9.7 million storm proofing contract to Cycle Construction Company, LLC of Kenner. This contract will add additional automation at five existing safe rooms/pump stations and remote operation at two pump stations in Jefferson Parish. Cycle Construction is the same contractor that recently completed construction and automation of five safe rooms at West Bank pump stations.

"This is one step closer to improving the safety to the people of the greater New Orleans area," said John Ashley, the Corps' Existing Pump Station Branch Chief. "We are working closely with our partners to better reduce risk throughout Jefferson Parish with the addition of these features."

The additional automation at the four East Bank and one West Bank Jefferson Parish safe rooms/pump stations will add remote control capability to the existing vertical pumps and ancillary equipment and new control devices and panels to the pre-existing control systems. Currently the vertical pumps and ancillary equipment cannot be operated from the existing safe rooms and must be operated from within the pump station.

This contract also includes the installation of fiber optic cables so that Parish Line Pump Station can be controlled remotely from Duncan Pump Station, and Westminster Pump Station from Ames Pump Station.

Additional work under this contract includes back flow prevention. This work increases the pump station operators ability to prevent water to backflow thru the station during high water events by adding discharge valves, actuators and vacuum blower motor replacements to enhance the air suppression system.



To learn more about doing business with the Corps of Engineers, and to review upcoming contracts, go to this link:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/eb/index.asp>



Contact Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

New Orleans District
(504) 862-2201

Task Force Hope
(504) 862-1836

Hurricane Protection Office
(504) 862-1708

The *Status Report Newsletter* supports the information program for Task Force Hope and its stakeholders.

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This issue and past issues can be found at:
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps>

Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at:
b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil

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Task Force Hope
Strategic Communications
7400 Leake Ave., Room #388
New Orleans, LA 70118