

NEWS RELEASE

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Mississippi Valley Division

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Corps opens way for emergency Gustav repairs

VICKSBURG, Miss., September 3, 2008 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, has published emergency regulatory permit procedures to speed up vital repairs for Louisiana and Mississippi to recover from Hurricane Gustav.

The four-page document clears the way for local, state and federal agencies to proceed with repair work in the New Orleans and Vicksburg districts of the Corps of Engineers.

It also applies to the electric, telephone and pipeline utilities, including natural gas distribution systems.

In addition, private repairs by the general public are broadly authorized by two related documents, which also relate to the Emergency Permit Procedures. All three documents are posted on the Mississippi Valley Division web site: www.mvd.usace.army.mil – click on [Post Hurricane Gustav Emergency Corps Permits](#) at the top of the page.

“There are lots of emergency repairs necessary as a result of the hurricane,” said Beth Guynes, chief of the Regulatory office for the Mississippi Valley Division.

An emergency is defined as circumstances which would result in unacceptable hazard to life, a significant loss to property or an immediate, unforeseen and significant hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken with less than the usual time to get a permit under standard procedures.

The Emergency Permit Procedures require that the repairs be done in as environmentally friendly manner as possible. “After the emergency is over, a decision will be made as to the ‘adequate mitigation’ required to offset impacts of the repairs.” Guynes said.

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