



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

STATEMENT

Contact: Gene Pawlik

202.761.7690

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Army Corps Issues Statement on Berkeley-Led Levee Report

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is examining the levee analysis report by the University of California at Berkeley-led investigation team. While the report is solid, it contains several conclusions we're concerned about, including references to our work to rebuild the levees and to our organizational processes.

OUR VIEW: Human error claimed heavy toll

The Berkeley team drew conclusions about the decision-making processes of the Corps and other involved agencies and organizations by relying on a field review only. The team did not engage leadership at all levels of those organizations to seek insight into those processes.

The Corps-commissioned Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET) — 150 experts from government, academia and industry — has studied the hurricane protection system's performance since shortly after Hurricane Katrina's landfall. This team, the most extensive assemblage of expertise ever for an effort like this, will release its comprehensive 7,000-plus page final draft report on June 1.

The findings, reviewed by the American Society of Civil Engineers and further reviewed by the National Academy of Sciences, have been incorporated into the rebuilding mission.

Additionally, the Corps has commissioned a study of the organizational aspects in the history of the hurricane protection system's development. This study will be released this summer after external review.

Where the UC-Berkeley engineering analysis differs from IPET's, we invite experts from both teams to meet and discuss their findings and determine what must be done to ensure the safety of our fellow citizens in New Orleans.

Before Katrina, the Corps had initiated action on all recommendations in the report that are within our purview to strengthen processes of collaboration, external review, project planning and technical expertise.

We are receptive to any information that contributes to the understanding of what happened, and we look forward to working with the professionals on the UC-Berkeley and other investigative bodies to ensure the future effectiveness of the New Orleans-area hurricane protection system.

Finally, we remain committed to open, public dialogue about our findings and conclusions, and the steps we will take to ensure protection of the public.