



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report

October 31, 2008

Corps identifies sites for PERMANENT PROTECTION STRUCTURES

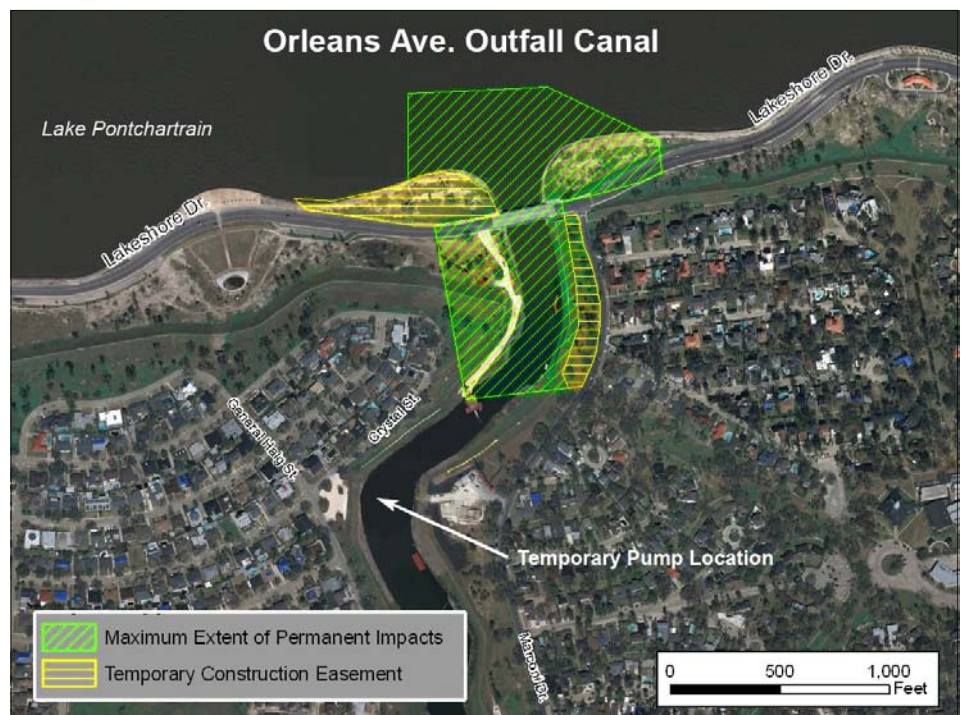
*Proposed footprints
for pump stations
at Outfall Canals
presented at
public meeting*

By Susan Spaht

On Oct. 22, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced its proposed action for the placement of permanent pump structures at the 17th St., London Ave. and Orleans Ave. outfall canals at a public meeting.

“Over the past months, our stakeholders and partners from throughout the metropolitan area have provided feedback on placement of the permanent pumps at the outfall canals. We have incorporated their comments into this proposed action and will continue to listen to them as we move forward in the process,” said Dan Bradley, Senior Project Manager.

The Corps’ proposed action will be covered in Individual Environmental



This map of the Orleans Ave. Outfall Canal shows the location of the temporary pump station, and highlights the footprint of the environmentally-approved construction impact area (in green) and the temporary construction easement areas (in yellow) for the proposed Permanent Pump Station.

Report (IER) 5, Outfall Canal Closure Structures. The draft document of IER 5 will be available for public review and comment in December and the Corps will hold a public meeting. The exact date and location of the meeting will be determined soon and publically announced.

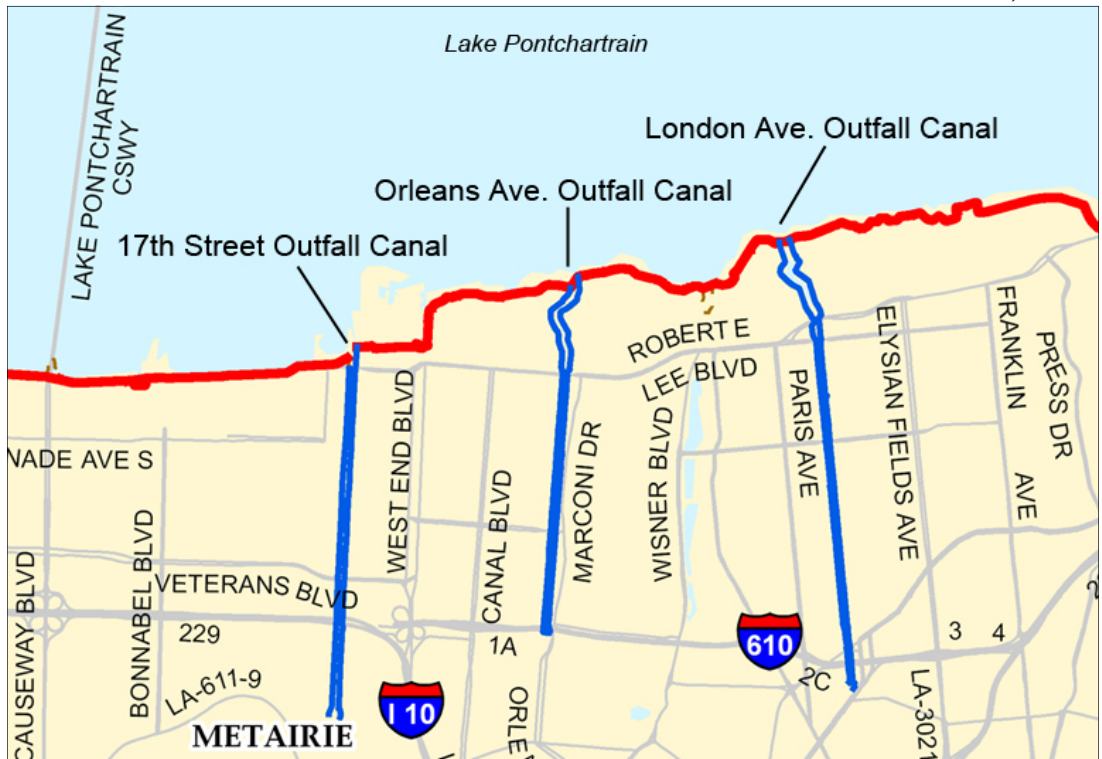
The proposed permanent pump

structures will provide 100-year level protection and reduce the risk of storm surge in Orleans and Jefferson

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This area map shows the locations of all three outfall canals that will receive the Permanent Protection Structures planned for completion in 2013.

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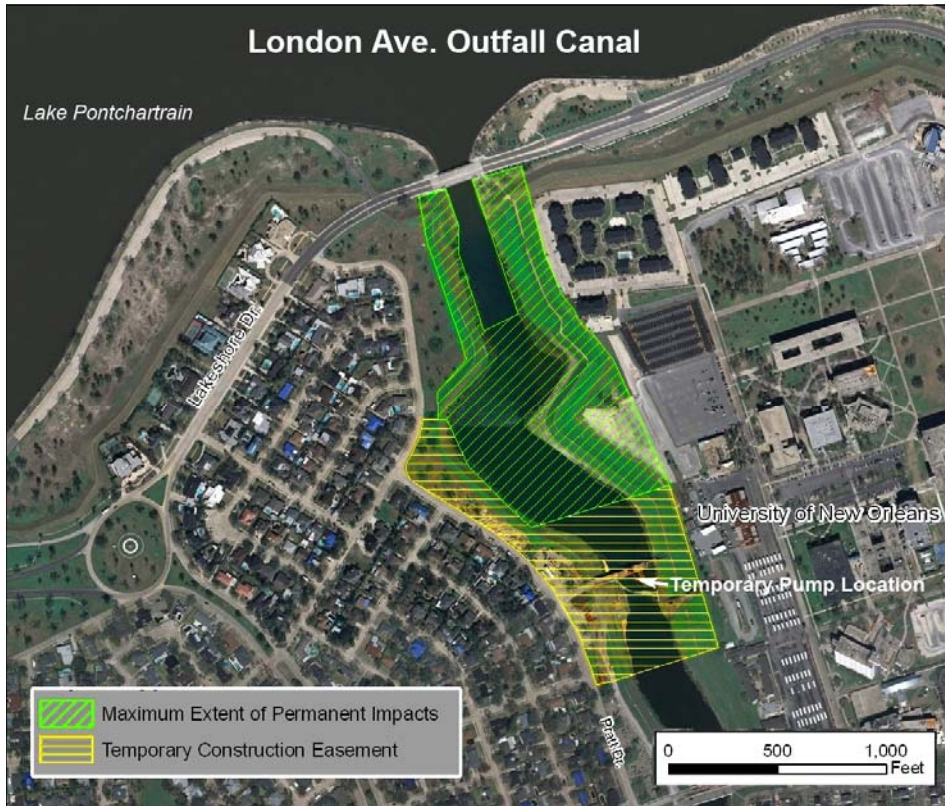
Parishes. The proposed structures will not impede the ability of the area's internal drainage system to remove storm water. "These structures will be a vital and integral part of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System," said Bradley.

The footprint configurations presented at the Oct. 22 public meeting (see maps on pages 1-3) include the Maximum Extent of Permanent Impacts to each outfall canal, as well as areas marked as Temporary Construction Easements, areas that will be needed temporarily during the construction process.

The footprints outlined for each outfall canal are the **environmentally-approved areas** within which the design/build contractor will have to

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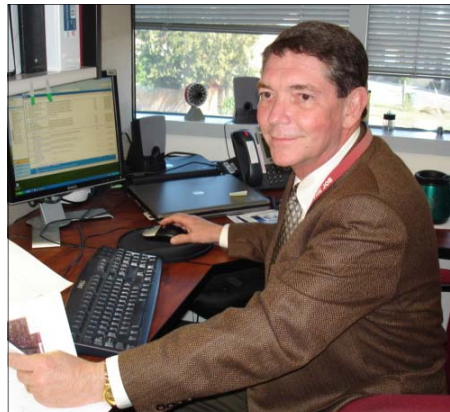


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construct the permanent pump stations. The finished structures are expected to take only a small portion of the areas outlined. “We are making every effort to minimize impacts to private property on this project,” noted Bradley.

“Getting these footprints defined and listening to public comments are important to the permanent pump station design/build process,” said Bradley. “Neighboring residents and business owners are telling us their concerns – such as pump station heights and noise mitigation – and we are earnestly considering those concerns as we move forward.”

The outfall canals are currently protected from 100-year storm surges by temporary pumps and gates that were constructed after Hurricane Katrina and in operation by Hurri-



Dan Bradley

cane Season 2006. The steel pipes used in the temporary structures will soon be coated for corrosion resistance to ensure their reliability until the permanent structures are in place sometime in 2013.



For more information on IER 5, please visit the following web site:

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

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

It also serves as the primary tool for accurately transmitting the Corps' hurricane recovery work to stakeholders.

This is an online publication that is open to public distribution.

This issue and past issues can be found at:

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

Comments and questions may be sent to the

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The Status Report Newsletter is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.



Status Report Newsletter

Task Force Hope

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PEER REVIEW PLAN

Providing a format for External Peer Reviewers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently completed a Peer Review Plan (PRP) that provides a technical peer review mechanism for design and construction efforts of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS).

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, Public Law 110-114, contains three specific requirements for independent external peer review (IEPR) for the 100-year level of protection for the HSDRRS.

a. Section 2034 addresses Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) requirements for project studies (e.g. feasibility studies, re-evaluation studies, and other decision documents).

b. Section 2035 of WRDA 2007 contains explicit requirements for the *Safety Assurance Review* of the design and construction activities for hurricane and storm damage reduction and flood damage reduction projects.

c. Section 7009 outlines IEPR requirements specific to the areas in Louisiana declared a disaster following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita 2005. In particular, it establishes a council known as the "Louisiana Water Resources Council," which will serve as the exclusive peer review

panel for the disaster recovery activities for project studies.

An earlier external peer review panel completed an examination of the overall Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) in May 2007. That review was a high-level, independent external peer review of ongoing HSDRRS projects and plans for future HSDRRS projects with the objective "to determine if the authorized



A Peer Review Panel holds a discussion in the field on a recent overview tour.

approach will achieve the desired level of protection and will effectively and efficiently operate as a *system*."

The current Peer Review Plan (PRP) focuses on individual features of the overall HSDRRS. The Corps' National Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) for Coastal Storm Damage Reduction, located in Baltimore, Md. as part of the Corps/North Atlantic Division (NAD), is responsible for managing the review.

The PRP will review 24 representative and unique projects and activities across the HSDRRS using the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) protocol for the selection of external reviewers and the review itself. The PCX will use NAS protocols for the review to ensure 3rd party independence throughout the review process. The U.S. Army Research Office independently contracts to perform the reviews.

The State of Louisiana, through the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East (SLFPA-E) and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West (SLFPA-W) and the levee districts under their supervision, worked with the Corps to develop the PRP. This serves to build on the existing State and

Federal partnership as the Corps undertakes the design and construction of the HSDRRS.



To review the entire Peer Review Plan document, read the FAQs, and to see a map and photos of the projects to be peer reviewed, go to this Web site:

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/peer_review.asp

Letter to Stakeholders

from Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of Task Force Hope

Teammates:

Just wanted you to know some good news on our progress!

On October 23, the Corps of Engineers, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, stakeholders and team members took a huge step together to reduce storm surge risk and improve public safety for the Greater New Orleans area.

The Corps issued the contractor a Notice to Proceed to mobilize equipment and materials for construction of the Inner Harbor Navigation Surge Protection Barrier, the linchpin of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS).

The next steps include real estate acquisition and then actual construction. The Corps could issue a Notice to Proceed with construction as early as the first part of November.

The IHNC Lake Borgne project is scheduled for completion in 2011 with the goal of completing advance measures by the peak of hurricane season 2009.

This marks a giant step forward for the people of this area. What has been accomplished so far - and what lies ahead - will continue to rely on the power of team cooperation, communication and collaboration.

Together the team is *BUILDING STRONG!*

Karen Durham-Aguilera
Director, Task Force Hope



This aerial photo, looking east, shows the confluence of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, the future location of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Protection Barrier. (USACE Photo)