



Pumping Capacity

Question: What is status of temporary pumping capacity at outfall canals?

Answer:

- Current pumping capacities (as of February 27, 2007):
 - 17th Street Canal: 4,060 cfs
 - Orleans Avenue Canal: 2,200 cfs
 - London Avenue Canal: 2,800 cfs

The Corps recently awarded new contracts to furnish 11 additional pumps at the 17th Street Canal and eight additional pumps at London Avenue and to construct the pump platforms and install the pumps. The addition of these pumps will increase capacity at 17th Street to approximately 7,600 cfs and increase capacity at London Avenue to approximately 5,000 cfs. Additionally, the Corps will complete upgrading the manually operated gates to mechanically-operated by next month.

Question: How did you arrive at these capacities?

Answer: These reflect increased outfall canal pumping capacities based upon the Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce (IPET) modeling for the city's 10-year design storm event. This pumping capacity will be in place this hurricane season after the new pumps are installed and tested by August.

Question: Why is it taking so long to provide pumping capacity?

Answer: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to work with the same sense of urgency demonstrated by the work accomplished in the six months following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. We are preparing for the start of the 2007 hurricane season by focusing on improvements that will significantly reduce risks in critical areas. The first priority of the Corps is public safety. We are doing all we can – as quickly as we effectively can – to reduce public risk from future flood and storm damage around the New Orleans metropolitan area.