

Public Meeting Summary

Individual Environmental Report 25 Borrow Monday, Jan. 12, 2009

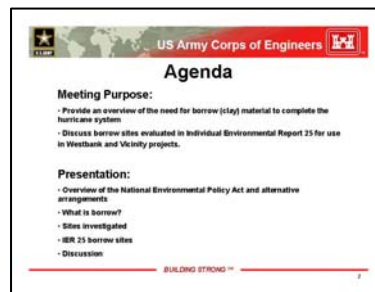
Location	Waggaman Playground 516 Dandelion Ave Waggaman, LA 70094
Time	Open House 6 p.m.-7 p.m. Presentation 7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Attendees	Approx. 67
Format	Open House Presentation Discussion
Handouts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation • Borrow Handout • HSDRRS Status Map
Facilitator	Rene Poche, public affairs

Welcome

Rene Poche, public affairs

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for coming to tonight's public meeting. Before we get into the presentation, I ask that you allow Soheila Holley to present the entire presentation before asking questions. Following the presentation we will open the floor to comments and questions. A few special guests I would like to recognize tonight are Representative Billiot and Mr. Mike Stack, Sr. from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. We've held over 100 public meetings around the area and your input is very important. I understand you have some concerns and we hope to address some of these tonight.

Soheila Holley, senior project manager borrow



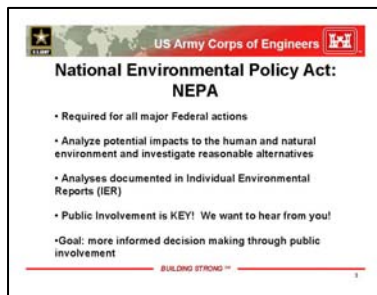
Good evening. I am Soheila Holley, the senior project manager for borrow. My team is responsible for finding suitable material for the entire system which is comprised of five parishes. We are here to answer

your questions and provide information. I would like to personally thank you for attending tonight.

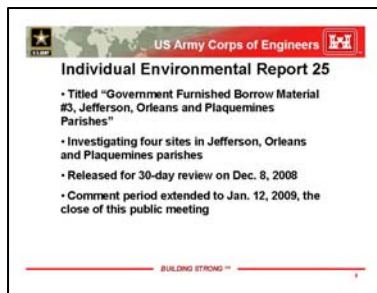
The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

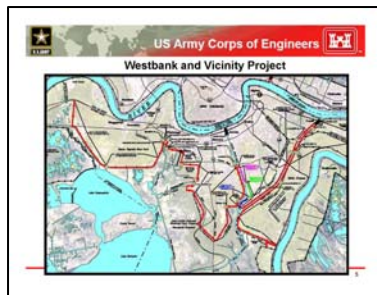
Individual Environmental Report 25 is the document being discussed tonight in detail. The IER includes borrow in your area.



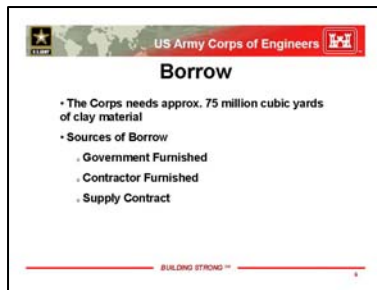
Public involvement is crucial in the National Environmental Policy Act and to obtain input we visit neighborhoods to provide information concerning the project's features. The comments provided tonight are recorded and the commander will read them before he signs the document. We want to hear from you.



IER 25 was released Dec. 8, 2008 and was supposed to end Jan. 6, 2009 but was extended until midnight tonight. We are recording your comments during the meeting to be included in the report.



The Westbank and Vicinity map depicts the project's proposed alignment for the levees and floodwalls. My team is responsible for finding suitable material for the system to minimize risk in the area. One criteria is the material considered can not violate environmental laws.



The borrow requirement is 75-million cubic yards at this time. At one time the requirement was 100-million cubic yards. Since two levee reaches in St. Bernard Parish were changed to floodwalls, we need less clay. By using floodwalls it minimizes the amount of borrow material needed. In Orleans Parish the levee reach design changed and now requires less material. The borrow number is dynamic and changes over time. The 350 miles of levees and floodwalls are divided into reaches. Each reach is in different phases and the engineering requirements can change the quantity at any time. Before Hurricane Katrina and being tasked by Congress to construct the 100-year system we dealt with a few miles of levees. Borrow was not an issue at that time. Instead

adjacent borrow was used. During that time if the material was useable we used it or we would have a construction contractor gather the material to build a levee. Today a tremendous amount of clay is needed to meet the compressed timeframe and the deadline of June 2011. The increase in the quantity and the time duration requires us to gather borrow using three methods. One is government furnished; this means the government furnishes the site to the construction contractor. In this case, right-of-entry to the site is given by the landowner, West Jefferson Levee

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

District, or other flood authorities. The right-of-entry is exclusively to investigate the site. Borings are done at the site with the environmental people to ensure the environment is not affected during excavation. Once the site is suitable and has passed the environmental checklist it is placed in an IER, similar to the one tonight. The IER is then released for public review and comments are gathered as a requirement of the NEPA process. The commander reviews the comments and recommendation then, if the project is feasible, he approves the document. Once approved the next phase is real estate acquisition. If the site is assigned to a 100-percent federal feature then the acquisition responsibility is the Corps'. The real estate department then would gather a fair market value of the site. Once they have the fair market value they present the proposal and negotiate with the landowner. By law the government furnished borrow site is based on acreage and they get a temporary land easement to gain access to the site for a certain amount of time. After excavation the site is inherited by the landowner or non-federal sponsor and they decide how to develop it. Contractor furnished borrow is provided by the construction contractor. To speed the contractor furnished process landowners willingly participate in the borrow effort to help the community. Landowners submit the same testing as the government furnished to the Corps. The technical board reviews the data and once approved it is placed in a contractor furnished IER. The IER is placed for public review and receives comments. Once the commander signs the document it is considered approved. The site is placed on a courtesy list available to the construction contractor and he can choose any of the sites on the list to get the borrow he needs for projects. The contractor will approach the landowner and negotiate the price for the site by cubic yard or surface area. Although we review the data, in the specs we let the construction contractor know the quantity and quality is the responsibility of the contractor. In both methods once it goes to contract the construction contractor can propose his/her own site as long as it meets the geotechnical standards, environmental requirements, approved by NEPA and is in the interest of taxpayers. Supply contracts are where we purchase borrow from a supplier. The supply contract goes through the same testing. The technical aspect of the properties of the clay remains consistent in the three methods. It is sent through review and if awarded the material is sold to the Corps. There is one supply contract solicitation and we have received the proposal geared to two sites in St. Bernard and one in Orleans Parish. They are reviewing the proposal and somebody will be awarded the contract.



This map illustrates that we are not looking in your neighborhood only but we are looking east, west, in St. Charles Parish, Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, and the Northshore. The red dots are the declined areas. It is a challenge to meet the standards we have in place. We have investigated 300-million cubic yards but have approved only 60-million. This leaves 240-million cubic yards that has been declined. The sites either

impacted the environment, the material was too organic, or the site was too close to the structure.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

We made a commitment to avoid impacts to wetlands completely making it is difficult to find preferred material sites within a close vicinity of the project. The bulk of the cost is in transportation. The less distance means the least impacts to traffic and public safety. These are the reasons we look within a close vicinity to the alignment.



This is the Westbank of Jefferson Parish and the borrow sites that are under investigation or have been approved. The two in blue are the River Birch contractor furnished sites that have been approved and available to the construction contractors. In this location the landowner approached the Corps and provided the testing. River Birch Willswood is not an active site at this time. Westbank I, Westbank F, and Churchill Farms are government

furnished sites approved but have not proceeded in the real estate phase at this time. Westbank I and F are assigned to cost shared projects where we have an agreement with the state. Part of the agreement is the state of Louisiana is responsible for providing borrow. We have identified the sites, conducted tests, and if they are approved the state would acquire the sites. Letters have been sent to the state of Louisiana requesting acquisition once the sites are approved. The state will be responsible for approaching and entering into discussion with the landowner. Churchill Farms Phase 1 is assigned to 100-year federal and our real estate department is in negotiations with the landowner. The Westbank E two phases and Westbank D is under investigation because the IER has not been signed. These sites are in IER 25. Two other sites in IER 25 are Stumpf in New Orleans east and Tac Carrere in Plaquemines Parish. These are the four sites in IER 25.



Westbank A is still under investigation. Westbank D and E are the cost share sites in the 4th supplemental.

Westbank D has 27-acres of suitable material. Remember these are the maximum boundaries that environmental has cleared and the material is suitable. At this time the pit has not been designed by the geotechnical engineers. The geotechnical engineers have to make sure there is: a slide slope; a buffer area; the site is setback



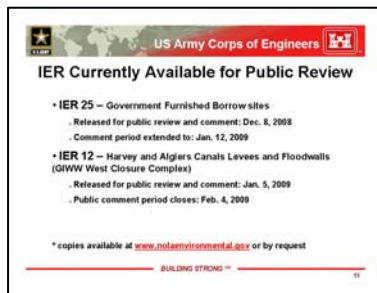
from any structures; drainage features; avoids power lines; no environmental impacts during excavating; and, a sand layer is not present. Based on historical data these sites will be reduced in size.

Westbank E phase 1 has 77-acres of suitable material but there are power-lines to avoid and the boundary size will be reduced during the engineering process. Westbank E phase 2 has 50-acres

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

of suitable material in one area and 19 in the other. There are areas not examined due to utilities in the areas or pipes are seen in the area. Again this is the maximum boundaries of suitable material.



There are upcoming meetings and this slide provides the information on when they are and the project presented. The current IERs available for public review are IER 25 and IER 12. IER 25 comment period was extended to tonight at midnight. IER 12 was released for public comment on Jan.5 and ends Feb.4. These IERs are available on the www.nolaenvironmental.gov Web site.



Comments on the IERs can be received tonight during discussion, submitted to www.nolaenvironmental.gov, or by contacting the environmental manager Gib Owen. Gib's contact information is listed and you can either contact him through e-mail, phone, or mail.



The www.nolaenvironmental.gov Web site is where information on IER 25 and other IERs can be found along with other information.

The Corps released their new Web site where valuable information is also located. For example, if you are concerned about upcoming contracts and dates they can be located here or Gib can provide that information.

Rene Poche, public affairs

Thank you. Before we begin the discussion session I would like to provide a few ground rules. There will not be a decision made here tonight. The people present tonight provide input and are here to gather comments. Any comment made tonight will be recorded. I know there are strong opinions of the Corps and we acknowledge that. Let's use this time for constructive input concerning the IER and it will benefit everyone. Please state your name into the microphone for the record and limit comments to three minutes. Time can not be yielded to another speaker. We are going to allow everyone to speak and address their concerns.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Question 1. Keith Kiraly: As a resident and a civic president of Waggaman, I have some concerns on the selections of 4 out of 5 of the [proposed sites]. There is a drainage problem in this area. The area in blue abutting the site had severe flooding during tropical storm Lilly and Hurricane Katrina. We were successful in stopping and putting in a proposal for a lake around 60 homes. There is an approved borrow site in that area. The citizens have worked with the parish, drainage people and state representatives and action has been done. In the action done, we initiated and started a proposal to place drainage structure through the existing railroad track. Currently we are subject to a drainage pipe from Willswood from the river back. The project has been partially funded, in the works and is close to getting done. It was hard to get permission from the railroad company to allow us to jack and bore the track. We are worried that your project will impact our efforts. Crawfish ditch is our drainage ditch and to place this pipe in will help the drainage issue. The suitable material is needed but I read that the Corps can not circumvent drainage projects that are in the works. Phase 1 is abutting homes and schools which violate a parish ordinance. Westbank D can be expanded to 100 acres and it can be excavated to 40 feet. This should provide the clay necessary. We are trying to offer an alternative that does not affect our project and we are glad for what you are doing but we do not want you to sacrifice us in the long run.

Response 1. Soheila Holley: Thank you for coming but we are not aware of any drainage features in this area. The state is going to approach the landowner and that is when the feature of the proposed drainage project can be brought up. The Southeast Levee Authority, to my understanding, has to be notified of any drainage project ongoing in the area. These comments and concerns can be worked out if there is a proposed drainage feature that is impacted.

Question 2. Keith Kiraly: The project is not proposed but this is a working project. The director of drainage can provide the maps at this time to demonstrate the money spent and the work carried out.

Comment 2. Larry Palmisano: I am the superintendent of the drainage department. The highlighted area maintenance has been done and we are proposing to have it in the books. On Westbank E Phase 2, there is an engineering study done on the railroad track and a recommendation for a new crossing with a new canal.

Response 2. Soheila Holley: There will be a culvert directing flow into the canal crossing Westbank E? Where is the flow going to be directed?

Question 3. Larry Palmisano: It will be directed into the canal. The project is funded and there is a matter of time before it gets started.

Response 3. Soheila Holley: We will make sure to notify the state that there is a drainage feature that would be impacted and we do not want to do that.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Question 4. William Roper: The clay you are using is that going to be used in the projects to protect Waggaman? Or will it be shipped to other areas?

Response 4. Soheila Holley: We identify the sites in close vicinity of the project. All borrow gathered will be used in the Lake Cataouatche area and it is not going to move anywhere else.

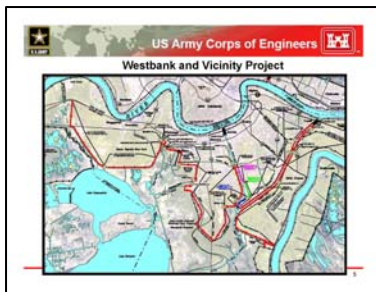
Question 5. William Roper: In Westbank E you are putting a 20-foot hole behind homes, how is that going to impact housing slabs?

Response 5. Soheila Holley: A geotechnical engineer will examine it and make sure the sites are set back from the homes. They'll check to make sure there is not damage to the land in the vicinity and the site has no failure. We will look at engineering aspects to make sure there are no impacts.

Question 6. William Roper: They have not done that yet?

Response 6. Soheila Holley: No this is the maximum boundary for suitable material. Once it is in the next phase the pit will be designed.

Question 7. William Roper: The Mississippi diversion project is north of here and the levee is ending where that is happening. During Ike or Gustav the water was pushed up on the levees for that canal. That could easily become the MRGO. Are you going to raise those levees?



Response 7. Mike Stack: The work in the vicinity of Davis Pond is being studied in IER 16. The red line [pointing] is the original system approved in the '80s and '90s. This line [pointing] is not constructed and IER 16 proposes to continue the levee from Lake Cataouatche to tie into the diversion system. Yes, the levees for that area are being improved.

Question 8. William Roper: When will the project be complete?

Response 8. Mike Stack: June 2011 is the deadline.

Question 9. William Roper: The 15-million cubic yards of dirt is excavated with dump trucks that will produce a million trucks through the area. This is a lot of wear and tear on River Road. How will this be addressed?

Response 9. Soheila Holley: In any construction site area there are impacts and we do our best to minimize them. We are trying to locate sites in close vicinity to the project to have fewer impacts. We are going to use trucks on the roads but they have to comply with local speed limits and there will be meetings in the area discussing the impacts. The process will be coordinated

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

and neighborhoods will be informed of traffic flow. Yes, there are impacts but we are trying to minimize them, it is a construction site.

Question 10. William Roper: How high will the levees be in the Lake Cataouatche area?

Response 10. Mike Stack: 15.5 ft at Lake Cataouatche.

Question 11. William Roper: Why is there not going to be a floodwall where concrete can be used instead of clay?

Response 11a. Soheila Holley: Cost and right-of-way are considered when we decide.

Response 11b. Mike Stack: There is a current levee system on Lake Cataouatche and the project raises it as opposed to constructing a floodwall. The Harvey Canal has a floodwall because there was nothing in the beginning and it is more feasible to construct one there. By raising the Lake Cataouatche levees it makes a better project.

Question 12. Jeanie Rentz: I worry about the borrow sites being close to schools. In the report it mentions air quality which is a concern of parents and I want to know if you have had an upper respiratory pediatrician examine how many students have upper respiratory problems? How does this affect our children?

Response 12a. Soheila Holley: In any construction area the contractor has to comply with the clean air act.

Response 12b. Gib Owen: As far as dust the construction contractor will take extra measures to keep it to a minimum like watering the sites.

Question 13. Jeanie Holley: What if it blows toward the schools?

Response 13. Gib Owen: Standard regulations are to water the site and reduce particles in the air. We do not believe it will be an issue at the schools.

Question 14. Jeanie Rentz: The Westbank site is near a school and in the study it said there will be moderate noise. One concern I have is during LEAP time and how it is going to affect the schools. The schools depend on the scores from these test and these children need it to be quiet. Did you think about arranging with the school board on this issue or halting construction during this time?

Response 14. Soheila Holley: There will be local meetings and coordination prior to construction.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Question 15. Jeanie Rentz: In the IER it mentioned a biologist completed an in-office evaluation of aerial views to propose issues raised by Coastal Zone Management. And as far as endangered species in the area, there are eagles in the area that are on the US Threatened and Endangered Species wildlife list.

Response 15. Gib Owen: The eagle has been de-listed as an endangered species but it is still protected. Protection measures are still in place.

Question 16. Jeanie Rentz: How can you conduct an in-house survey of an aerial view to see if eagles are on the property without going to the site?

Response 16. Gib Owen: We have spent time on the sites. In-house means Corps people conducted the survey of the area and they were on the site looking for hazardous waste, cultural, endangered animals, etc.

Comment 17. Jeanie Rentz: There are eagles there.

Question 18. Richard Robichaux: I own the Westbank E sites. Did you say the state or the landowner would inherit the property? If so, does the owner of the property have a say? As the owner of the property I am concerned that the parish will make me fill the pit in. I would prefer not to be the landowner of the property after excavation. Do I have a say in who gets the site afterwards?

Response 18a. Soheila Holley: It depends on the method. This is a government furnished site the Corps is not authorized to backfill. If it's government furnished, the state and the landowner will decide if it will be an easement or acquired site.

Response 18b. Todd Klock: The Corps will request the state acquire an easement but you can request that they acquire it in fee. That is something to be discussed with the state.

Question 19. Richard Robichaux: It was mentioned right-of-entry was for investigation only but that is not true because we had 24-acres dug and taken before we even knew it.

Response 19a. Soheila Holley: Was that during Task Force Guardian?

Response 19b. Todd Klock: Immediately after the storm the governor commandeered the property to bring the levee back when they made it larger. They dug a canal and used the material as part of the levee and we have been negotiating that now.

Response 19c. Soheila Holley: I am referring to the existing process to build the 100-year system, not Task Force Guardian.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Question 20. John Schlombrocht: The 88-acre borrow put on slide 8. I am confused why Waggaman has given more than our share. The developer said we want homes and I am opposed to Westbank E Phase 1. If we have two sites then why do we need three or more?

Response 20. Soheila Holley: Westwego to Harvey needs 15 million cubic yards of clay and even if we acquired all of that, it is still not enough material.

Question 21. John Schlombrocht: The sites are only dug to 20 feet.

Response 21. Soheila Holley: The proposed depth for constructability is 20-feet but the engineering department can decide if the pit can go deeper.

Question 22. John Schlombrocht: At River Birch the depth the contractor is digging to is 40-feet.

Response 22. Soheila Holley: The contractor can go as deep as he wants because it is contractor furnished.

Question 23. John Schlombrocht: Why are you taking all the land in Waggaman? There are three sites now and you want five or more. Clay can be retrieved from more than Waggaman.

Response 23. Soheila Holley: The material has to be found. We identified sites in Orleans and they need that borrow. Currently we are short of material in Plaquemines Parish. As I mentioned, all these sites need borrow material.

Question 24. John Schlombrocht: Are you aware of the proposed subdivision in Westbank E Phase 1 where we would have a lake around it? Who would maintain the property? Who maintains Phase 1 across from the school? What measures will be in place to stop kids from accessing the pond? Why won't you let the developer maintain the site?

Response 24. Gib Owen: The Corps will not be taking the land. The state of Louisiana will approach the landowners as part of the cost share agreement. Everything will take place with the state because the state has to get the material.

Question 25. John Schlombrocht: To my knowledge there is no other place where there are 5 proposed borrow sites plus the ones on River Road. Why is it being targeted to be dug up?

Response 25. Gib Owen: It is undeveloped.

Question 26. John Schlombrocht: But it will be developed in the future. We want development.

Response 26. Gib Owen: The material has to come from somewhere in order to get the project done.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Comment 27. John Schlombrocht: The parish and I have been involved in trying to establish a drainage system. We would like to see Phase 1 with houses and not an open pit.

Comment 28. Jim Barse: We have been trying to develop Westbank E for a while but we could not get Jefferson Parish to support us. In this site we wanted to put a stocked pond and build a community. We are still interested in developing the land.

Question 29. Vincent Vastola: Is it true the Corps of Engineers has had discussions with getting the clay needed from Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and was turned down. Soil test was done and that there was clay in the lake.

Response 29. Gib Owen: We are aware that there has been talk between the levee board and state but there has not been a formal proposal submitted. There has been some opposition from environmental groups.

Question 30. Vincent Vastola: Soil test were not done around on in the lake for the material.

Response 30. Gib Owen: There has not been a formal submittal.

Question 31. Vincent Vastola: The Lake has not been considered for material?

Response 31. Gib Owen: We did consider the lake in the beginning but the Lake Pontchartrain is a special habitat for the Gulf Sturgeon. It would be impossible to mine the lake because the bottom of the lake is a protected habitat.

Question 32. Vincent Vastola: The Corps has not tested the material?

Response 32a. Gib Owen: We have not been submitted with a formal proposal.

Response 32b. Soheila Holley: Currently the construction contractors have complained the material is wet and takes a long time to dry. Imagine how long the duration would be if we took the material from the lake. There is a compressed timeframe and time is a factor when dealing with soupy material that is difficult to construct. Not to mention the cost.

Comment 33. Vincent Vastola: Is the Corps aware borrow pits are prohibited from being in or around residential areas. Some of the sites suggested are in residential neighborhoods with abutting churches, playgrounds, and homes. I guess we would have to deal with the state on this issue.

Question 34. Marion Phillips: When is there going to be a public meeting for the surrounding neighborhoods concerning the control, hauling, drainage, or the results of the pits?

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Response 34. Soheila Holley: This is an opportunity for you to address your opposition and concerns with noise and dust in this area. We are more than happy to accept your comments.

Question 35. Marion Phillips: Borrow pits should have a drainage exit rather than just a hole. Perhaps it can be a retention pond for when there is an abundance of rain. In Plaquemines Parish when a borrow pit is dug by the contractor is there a price to pump sand back in? Is this going to be implemented for Jefferson Parish?

Response 35a. Gib Owen: I am not aware. Plaquemines Parish has a backfill regulation if the site is contractor furnished. The only way a government furnished site would be backfilled is if Congress authorized it.

Response 35b. Soheila Holley: The Corps would not know if there is a regulation or not.

Comment 36. Marion Phillips: Jefferson Parish has an ordinance on building a borrow pit that it has to be developed. Do we have to talk to the state after the hole is dug? The citizens would like to be involved in that because we want to know the intentions of the borrow pit after it is dug. The citizens are concerned with the borrow sites impact on the schools, traffic, and communities. We want to know the outcome.

Comment 37. George Peterson, vice president S1 Civic Group: We do not oppose the Corps efforts to establish the 100-year levee protection and need for borrow pits. My main purpose tonight is to present facts and information about our community that may not be known and to propose viable alternatives to the proposed borrow pits that have the potential for negative long-term impacts to residents and community.

The three main pits identified are Westbank D, Westbank E Phase 1, and Westbank E Phase 2 that is close to a school. One point to bring to your attention is the Huey P. Long Bridge expansion project. It is a state project that will be completed in a couple of years and will bring more people into the Waggaman-Avondale area. These communities are in Jefferson Parish's plans to be developed. There are plans for an industrial park and more residential neighborhoods. The land in this area needs to be obtained for future development and not be trampled on by borrow pits left unattended by the Corps. Taking away the green space will stifle the plans for growth and development.

Another issue is traffic that may be considered as a short term impact but we know that it is not the case. After Hurricane Katrina there was a lot of traffic through the area causing road damage and debris. The parish then spent tax dollars fixing the roads. These tax dollars could have been used in other areas like police or fire protection, schools, etc.

Westbank E phase 1 is close to an elementary school. If that borrow pit is left unattended it will fill with water and there will be a potential hazard for children. Who will be liable for the lives lost? A 16-year old drowned in an unattended borrow pit in 1995. We have several of these pits

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

in the area and they do not benefit the community. A fire department representative mentioned to me that once a year they rescue a drowning child from a borrow pit.

More borrow pits mean more mosquitoes that are a problem even now. Even if the borrow pit's water is treated, how long will that last?

Westbank E Phase 1 is close to the railroad tracks and we have seen what having the borrow pits close to the tracks does to a home's foundation. Placing a borrow pit close to the railroad track will weaken the stability of the ground under the tracks and potentially cause a derailment.

To allow Mr. Robichaux to retain the borrow pit property he would be responsible for its upkeep and allow him to develop the area creating a residential area with a stocked lake. This would address the concern for mosquitoes and the railroad track.

Westbank E Phase 2 would impact the drainage project happening in the area. We do not need a retention pond that would block the flow of water and cause back flow into our community. The viable alternatives are River Birch C and D sites. I understand the government provided borrow sites can not involve wetlands but a contractor furnished can. Churchill Farms could provide enough borrow for the area with no impacts. I have heard a mantra for the Corps "Sacrifice the few for the many." I have heard this before and finally placed it in the Sci-fi world. This is not sci-fi but reality. What sacrifices is the Corps asking of our community? Neither people nor property should be a casualty.

Response 37. Rene Poche: I would like to comment on two errors: The Corps' mantra or mission is not to sacrifice the few for the benefits of the many. That is not our mission. The Corps has never mentioned collateral. Safety is the top priority of the Corps when projects are considered.

Question 38. Vic Culpepper: We would like to give you soil but we want to propose another alternative and provide more borrow than all of these together. The proposal would be more economical. The zoning and cost issues of our site characterizes this land as farm land and in other as a landfill. This property is for land use and will be utilized. The land has to be valued as landfill space. The state might think the land is too expensive to consider. As a landfill we have to comply with slope and depth requirements but with the Corps, DEQ, etc. The concern is that sticking the project in the middle of our expansion area will impact our sales and production. Another concern is the wetlands. We would like to be able to expand the landfill and get the entire site approved as a contractor furnished site. Our estimates are we will provide 6.7 million cubic yards which is more than the others. Traffic would be consolidated towards Live Oak as opposed to Willowood.

Response 38. Soheila Holley: As long as the site is not acquired the Corps and state has no right to it. In Westbank A there was information but if the package is not complete we can pursue as government furnished. The landowner can participate as a contractor furnished at any time but

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

we can not wait. The package can be submitted as long as you beat us to it. No one has the right to access the property until it goes through real estate.

Question 39. Vic Culpepper: We had submitted preliminary information but it was removed.

Response 39. Soheila Holley: It has not been removed. There are a lot of sites we are investigating. The priority is based on what site is assigned to the project. If you do not submit the complete package then we will pursue it as government furnished.

Question 40. Vic Culpepper: In the meetings I understood that the site was not investigated because we had started soil borings before being listed.

Response 40. Soheila Holley: This is how we prioritize because we are on a compressed deadline for 2011. If a site has gone through 50 percent of the checklist and the package is not completed then we will pursue it as government furnished. In general, it gives right-of-entry for investigation. The landowner can submit the information for approval and we are not going to decline it.

Question 41. Vic Culpepper: It was my impression if the site is listed as a potential government furnished site then the site would be investigated no matter what. Then you would go in and I would loose all of my time and expense.

Response 41. Soheila Holley: That is true but it does not prohibit you from participating.

Question 42. Unidentified person: How would people find the information about clay?

Response 42a. Soheila Holley: It is located on the Web site.

Response 42b. Tutashinda Salaam: On the Corps Web site if you click on services the third option says hurricane storm damage and it will bring you to an area that says "Corps needs levee clay." There it explains the borrow process and how to have a site considered for borrow.

Question 43. Bernard Menge: I am confused on where the levees end on the Westbank project map. On this map it looks like it ends on Hwy 90 and the other looks like it ends at the railroad tracks.

Response 43. Mike Stack: This is under consideration in IER 16. The existing levee ends at Hwy 90. The original authorized project ended at the railroad embankment and the proposed project ends at the Davis Pond diversion structure. The Davis Pond diversion structure is the tie off and will be complete by 2011.

Question 44. Bernard Menge: It will go along Hwy 90 to the south side of Hwy 90.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Response 44. Mike Stack: We are considering three alignments for the system in IER 16. The improvement of the Davis Pond levee is the preferred alternative. It will be placed in an IER similar to the one tonight.

Question 45. Bernard Menge: All this work will be done by 2011.

Response 45. Mike Stack: The red line [pointing] represents the project as authorized in 1996 and 1992. The Westbank project has been authorized since 1986. With all projects the work is subject to funding. There is funding for the project and it will be done by 2011.

Question 46. Bernard Menge: If you cross Hwy 90 and put a floodgate then head to Davis Pond, how are you going to go?

Response 46. Mike Stack: Those details will be laid out in IER 16. The proposal for Hwy 90 is an elevated bridge span or a T-wall because traffic patterns and conditions. At Hwy 18 we are examining ramping over an embankment instead of a floodgate.

Question 47. Bernard Menge: My concern is if the water did get up and cross Hwy 90. Another concern is with the levee with the pump how are we going to get the water out?

Response 47. Mike Stack: There is a pump station at Lake Cataouatche and south of Hwy 90. Part of the project we are looking at draining the alignment to intercept drainage. A pumping station would be added.

Question 48. Bernard Menge: So there will be a pumping station?

Response 48. Mike Stack: No we are going to do a study to determine if we need a pumping station.

Question 49. Bernard Menge: I have a drainage problem now and I am a couple of blocks off the river. Eventually if there is enough rain it is going to back up and the water has to get out.

Response 49. Rene Poche: A lot of the information is on the Corps Web site along with videos. At any time you can watch the Western Tie-In video and see the proposed alignment. Everyone laughed at 1986 but it is anything but funny because we can only do what Congress authorizes us to do.

Comment 50. Landry Camendelle Jr.: The mayor, president, and parish president expound on the American citizens quality of life. The quality of life is deteriorating with landfills and borrows pits. I think this is a big issue. We are more or less in favor that the Corps needing clay and we want the Bayou Segnette levee but we believe the site at River Birch should be adequate. One borrow pit is enough and five are too many. The Waggaman Civic Association is in opposition.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Question 51. Kathy Haggar: I am addressing the Stumpf area. I am a wetland consultant and found some amazing things in the IER. I know you are avoiding wetlands and it should be whenever possible. The Water Resources Development Act is going to allow you to mitigate for bottomland hardwoods. These are found in fresh water systems. The site addressed in the IER has 800-acres of Chinese tallow trees. The tallow trees are invasive and salt tolerant. Why is a salt water tree lumped in with bottomland hardwood? Now you are going to mitigate for this invasive weed, please explain.

Response 51. Gib Owen: The project life is 50 years and our model takes what is there today that has no value and illustrates that in time the area will colonize into a viable bottomland hardwood. In 50 years the area will be a bottomland hardwood habitat.

Question 53. Kathy Haggar: New Orleans will not last 50 years.

Response 53. Gib Owen: Our impacts of the borrow sites, mitigation, etc. are at a 50-year life span.

Question 54. Kathy Haggar: The trees will not get bigger than 4 inches. They will be hitting the salt water and are going to die. In the future there will be nothing here but a marsh.

Response 54. Gib Owen: That is your opinion but our modeling shows over time a bottomland hardwood area will develop.

Question 55. Kathy Haggar: I am asking you to consider subsidence.

Response 55. Gib Owen: We are being consistent and applying the same models for impacts, etc. Everything has the same model and we are looking at where there are similar models and mitigating.

Question 56. Kathy Haggar: You are over mitigating for an invasive species that your model will not generate because of the salt in the system.

Response 56. Gib Owen: That is your opinion and not ours.

Question 57. Kathy Haggar: The model produces absurd results. Perhaps a bottomland hardwood area would be wonderful but you are valuing what you think will happen in 50-years than what is there now.

Response 57. Gib Owen: We are generating the impacts of digging a hole compared to the value of leaving the environment as it is.

Question 58. Kathy Haggar: You are not valuing tallow trees but for mud.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Response 58. Gib Owen: We are taking what is there now with no value verses what will be there in 50 years.

Question 59. Kathy Haggar: You are going to the mitigation bank to mitigate.

Response 59. Gib Owen: WRDA 07 asks us to go to mitigation banks but in this case we are not going to a mitigation bank.

Comment 60. Kathy Haggar: It would increase the price of the project if you did go to the mitigation bank.

Question 62. William Roper: How much clay material would come out of Stumpf?

Response 62. Soheila Holley: The geotechnical analysis is not completed and we do not know what is coming yet. We rejected sites for environmental impacts and the quality of clay if it is too organic.

Question 63. William Roper: Can you process that information before you take our pit?

Response 63. Soheila Holley: You want us to bring material from 60 miles away when you are already concerned about traffic impacts and public safety? If you look at the proposed site for borrow and the area for minimizing risk and I do not think it is a good idea. We are not protecting holes but homes.

Question 64. Paul Salassi: Have you looked at the cost for the tallow on the property and excavating. Transportation was mentioned as a concern but the Corps could think about farming the property to get it dry enough to use for the levee is a large cost.

Response 64. Soheila Holley: We do not have the geotechnical analysis and we do not know what size it will be yet. We are not sure of the stability of Phase 1 or 2.

Question 65. Paul Salassi: That is the next thing, it makes a good stockpile.

Response 65. Soheila Holley: We try to use environmentally cleared sites but if geotech says it is not strong enough we will use that for the stockpile processing.

Question 66. Paul Salassi: If it is contractor furnished does that mean the contractor will use the site?

Response 66. Soheila Holley: This is a government furnished site. The construction contractor can choose his or her own site to obtain the material as long as it is suitable.

Question 67. Paul Salassi: June 2011 is the deadline. You have not got to the point of getting clay together yet you have selected people to build the levees/

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Response 67. Soheila Holley: We have not delayed an award of contract for clay but if it looks like it might be delayed we have sites in Mississippi. We do not want to get it from MS but we would if we have to. The remaining need is 75-million. We have 5-million in this IER and the other in another IER. Once my team does their job, Gib does his part, and then it has to be acquired. My team will recommend to the state Westbank d, E, and F if approved.

Comment 68. Paul Salassi: I think you guys are doing a good job.

Question 69. Keith Kiraly: What happens in 2011?

Response 69a. Soheila Holley: That is the deadline to have the levees and system complete.

Response 69b. Rene Poche: The Corps will award \$4 billion in contracts this year and we have seen the construction schedule. Most of the work will be on the Westbank.

Question 70. Jeanne Rentz: The Corps can not acquire people's property until they go through the state.

Response 70. Soheila Holley: All of the sites except Churchill are assigned to projects that are cost shared with the state in the 4th supplemental. There is an agreement that a portion of the cost will be incurred by the state. Their responsibility is to provide borrow to speed the process and we are here to help our partner. Once the commander signs the document, it is approved and the state will acquire the real estate.

Question 71. Jeanne Rentz: Does the Corps have to go through the West Jefferson Levee Board at the end to get permission to do this?

Response 71. Mike Stack: The 100-year project is cost shared but it has a local sponsor. Originally it was the West Jefferson Levee Board but the project is so large that we entered into a partner agreement. The West Jefferson Levee District, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority, and state act as one entity as our sponsor. They own some properties.

Question 72. Jeanne Rentz: I heard there would be a meeting on this issue where people can voice their concerns and objections, when are they going to have this meeting?

Response 72a. Soheila Holley: I am not aware of that meeting but they are aware of this one.

Response 72b. Mike Stack: This is the public meetings as part of the National Environmental Protection Act and it is required. The West Jefferson Levee District is governed by SLFPA and they have public board meetings once a month. Anything is fair game just like a parish council meeting. This is the Corps' public meeting. Those people are not here tonight but they review our design because it is one big partnership. You can attend those meetings and bring up your concerns.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.

Public Meeting Summary

Rene Poche, public affairs

I'd like to thank you for coming tonight but before we dismiss Representative Billiot would like to say a few words.

Robert E. Billiot, Louisiana State Representative District 83

I was glad the last question came about because there is the local sponsor. Let me mention the Corps mission is to identify sites for the clay. This area happens to have the most clay. Whose decision is it going to be to gather and apply the clay is the state of Louisiana. Somewhere along the line there will be a public meeting prior to the authorization of the money being spent. Someone is going to have to approve the money to move forward but for that to happen. Keep informed and watch for the next levee board meetings and make your point to them. Who serves on the board? The governor approves the people on the board. This means the governor is involved as well as Congress. Congress approves the money and then the governor will be spending the money. I am going to contact the levee board concerning its next meeting. Ask them if you take the clay is there money to take the clay and if not then we can ask Congress for more money to backfill. Jefferson Parish council is not going to allow a bunch of holes to populate the last frontier of Jefferson Parish. Thank you to the Corps for calling this meeting and taking the time to extend the comment period.

Rene Poche, public affairs

This concludes tonight's meeting. You can go to www.nolaenvironmental.gov to post comments. I encourage you to check the Web site often. Everything is posted on the web. Be checking for press releases we send out and the big ads in the Times-Picayune. Another way of getting information is calling the Corps and someone can get an answer for you. Thank you for coming.

The following notes were recorded by USACE contractors. These notes are intended to provide an overview of the presentations and public questions and comments, and are not intended to provide a complete or verbatim account of the meeting. This account is not intended to be a legal document.