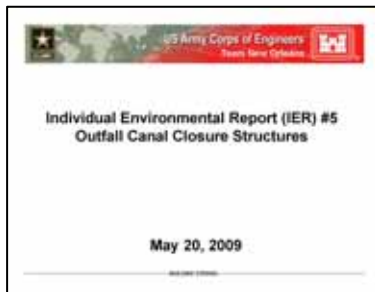


# Public Meeting Summary

## Individual Environmental Report 5 Outfall Canal Closure Structures, Orleans and Jefferson Parish Wednesday, May 20, 2009

<b>Location</b>	St. Dominic's School 6363 Memphis St. New Orleans, LA
<b>Time</b>	Open House 6 p.m. Presentation 7 p.m.
<b>Attendees</b>	Approx. 426
<b>Format</b>	Open House Presentation Discussion
<b>Handouts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation</li> <li>• Borrow Handout</li> <li>• Status Maps</li> <li>• Individual Environmental Report 5 Document</li> </ul>
<b>Facilitator</b>	Ken Holder, public affairs chief

Ken Holder, public affairs chief



Thank you for attending tonight's meeting on the Outfall Canal Closure Structures project. My name is Ken Holder and I am the public affairs chief for the New Orleans District Army Corps of Engineers. Thank you for making the time in your busy schedule to attend tonight's meeting. We have the facility until 9 p.m. but we'll be around after the meeting to answer any of your questions. Those who have filled out a comment card, if you need another one raise your hand and we'll bring it to you. Tonight during the discussion section I will read your name, you'll come to the microphone, and I will read your comment from the comment card. Then if you have any follow-up questions you can ask them at that point in time. Please limit the follow up comments to 3 minutes because we have a large group and limited time. All questions and comments tonight will become part of the official record for Individual Environmental Report 5. Each speaker will have 3 minutes and speakers may not yield unused portions of their time to another speaker. Responses to comments or questions made in the meeting will be addressed in the final version of IER 5. All comments, written or oral, will be considered equally. We want to make sure we hear from all of you. Our intent this evening is to provide an overview of the proposed action. With us tonight we have:

Col. Mike McCormick	Commander of the Hurricane Protection Office
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# Public Meeting Summary

Dan Bradley	Senior Project Manager
Gib Owen	Chief, Ecological and Restoration Section
Laura Lee Wilkinson	Environmental Manager
John Ashley	Senior Project Manager Interim Closure Structures
Chris Accardo	Chief of Operations
Dr. John Grieshaber	Chief of Execution Support

Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce Col. Mike McCormick, the commander of the Hurricane Protection Office.

Col. Mike McCormick, commander of the Hurricane Protection Office

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming this evening. My name is Col. Michael McCormick, the Hurricane Protection Office commander. Tonight's meeting is part of the public involvement process. Individual Environmental Report 5 is the permanent pumps and canal closures. IER 5 is part of the ongoing National Environmental Policy Act process requiring us to receive public input on the project. Public safety is our absolute number one priority and we are committed to providing a solution for perimeter protection at the outfall canals as authorized and funded by Congress. We work as a team with the local sponsors: the Sewage and Water Board, Jefferson Parish, and the state of Louisiana. Finally, I want to underscore that we are committed to incorporating the best science that we possibly can given the time, funding, and authorization. We are absolutely committed to public safety. Interim Closure Structures are currently providing the 100-year level of risk reduction but they have a shelf life. The objective is to replace the current Interim Closure Structure with a more permanent system.

Ken Holder, public affairs chief



The National Environmental Policy Act is required for all major federal actions. The last two bullets are critical: public involvement, hearing from you, and getting your input. Then if there are substantial comments we would investigate and possibly incorporate them into the project. All comments are considered in the decision making process.

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Dan Bradley, senior project manager



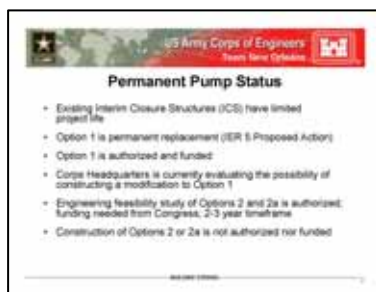
Good evening, thank you for coming tonight. We have a brief presentation before we get to the discussion section. The purpose and need of the project is to replace the three outfall canals Interim Closure Structures. We're proposing to place permanent pump stations at the mouth of these canals to replace the ICS's to reduce the risk of storm surge. We don't want the new structures to impede the Sewage and Water Board's ability to drain the city of rainwater. These are the two purposes in mind for this project but safety is the number one issue.



Authority was granted in June 2006. Congress passed a public law giving the Corps authorization and appropriation to design and construct permanent pump stations to replace the ICS's at the lakefront. In May 2007, Congress passed a public law directing the Corps to evaluate the technical advantages and disadvantages of four options for storm surge reduction at the outfall canals. The Corps completed the technical evaluation report in Aug. 2007. The report discussed option 2 as having a few technical advantages over option 1, but it did not take into consideration environmental impacts, cost or socioeconomic factors. These factors are large considerations when examining the project.



Option 1 is to operate the new pump stations at the mouth of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue canals. As directed in public law they must work concurrently with the public drainage pump stations operated by the Sewage and Water Board. At the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal it would be pump station 6, at Orleans Avenue pump station number 7, and at London Avenue pump station numbers 3 and 4. Option 2 removes the Sewage and Water Board's pump stations, deepens the canals (in a long, very large construction process), and conveys water to the alpha canals at the lakefront. The water is then pumped by the permanent pump stations into the lake. Option 2 is a very extensive project with estimated construction durations of about 10 to 12 years. Option 2a adds a specific drainage project to drain certain parts of Metairie straight to the river. In that affect option 2a is a small part of option 2. Option 1 currently is the only authorized and fully-funded option. Option 2 and 2a are not funded or authorized.



The existing ICS's have a limited project life. Option 1 the proposed action in IER 5 is to replace the interim pump stations with permanent pump stations. Option 1 is the only authorized and funded option. Corps headquarters are currently evaluating the possibility of constructing modifications to option 1. This means in the future if option 2 or 2A were authorized and funded,

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we could marry them with the option 1 pump stations without replacing major elements of the pump stations.



The proposed site locations in IER 5 are location A at 17<sup>th</sup> Street, location B at the Orleans Avenue, and location C at London Avenue.



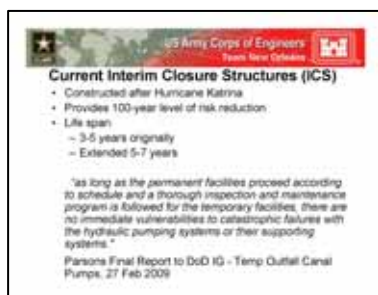
The number one feature of common interest is safety. Reducing risk of a storm surge to the city is the purpose of the pump stations. The ICS's currently perform this function but they're temporary in nature. We want to reduce risk to the city by achieving the 100-year level of risk reduction without impeding the ability of the internal drainage system to remove rainwater. We want to minimize environmental impacts and everyone's aware that we want low-profile stations. In the Request for

Proposal there are evaluation factors when examining the height of the pump station. When we look at the criteria we have to balance some of the concerns such as maintenance and overhead cranes. We will consider all comments and show how these factors came together to form a final product.



We want to minimize the environmental impacts on the neighborhoods. During construction and operations noise is a major concern. We want to maintain construction hours in accordance with local ordinances which means we may have to work only during daylight hours. There were concerns during the ICS construction of traffic, dust, and congestion and we want to minimize them. The maps show the maximum footprints that will affect public and private property. This doesn't mean we're going

to use that entire footprint. What it does mean is during the RFP, the contractors will be told to minimize the footprint in their designs. We'll evaluate the proposals and they'll be weighted towards that minimization.



The ICS's were constructed after hurricane Katrina and currently provide 100-year level of risk reduction. In the beginning, their life span was three to five years because we were hoping to get a permanent pump station within three to five years. We have done some maintenance work on the structures which would allow the ICS's life span to extend to five to seven years. An independent evaluation performed by Parson's Engineering found that as long

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as the permanent facilities proceed according to schedule and a thorough inspection and maintenance program is followed, there are no immediate vulnerabilities to catastrophic failure of the hydraulic pumping system with the supporting systems. They're saying as long as we stay on schedule with replacing these temporary structures with the permanent structures then we don't have a problem. We want to stay on schedule.



The Orleans Avenue Interim Closure Structure, pictured, will be removed after the permanent stations have been constructed and commissioned, around 2014. Currently, the ICS's are visible to residence in the area. We're going to reduce the visual effect of the permanent pump stations to blend in with the surrounding environment.



This [pointing] is an aerial view of the ICS at 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal, Hammond Highway [pointing], the bay that leads to the Coast Guard Station [pointing], and the lake [pointing]. Coconut Beach is located in this [pointing] area to the right. The maximum footprint

I was spoke of is here [pointing]. The ICS is located about here [pointing]. The new pump station will be put north of the ICS within the canal and not exposed to excessive wave action during construction. This [pointing] is the general location where the pump station will be located. The orange areas [pointing] will be staging areas and temporary easement areas. Again, we're going to minimize the impact as much as possible.



The 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Site A was selected as the proposed site because there was no bridge modifications required. The site is north of Hammond Highway allowing fewer constructability issues, ease of access for construction vehicles, and less impact on commercial and residential properties. This allows local businesses to possibly remain in their present location. In the IER Section 5.2.1 it describes the advantages and disadvantages of all the alternatives, and the reasoning and process behind the

evaluation.



We followed the same process at the Orleans Canal. This [pointing] is the current location of the ICS, Lakeshore Drive Bridge [pointing], and this area [pointing] is the proposed location of the permanent

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pump station. The next slide shows the maximum footprint. The current ICS is located here [pointing]. Also, this area [pointing] is marked as an area that will temporarily be used during the decommissioning and demolition of the ICS's.



The reasons for choosing Site B at Orleans is similar to Site A at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal: ease of construction and minimal impact on the existing hurricane risk reduction system. When compared to the other alternatives, it requires less parallel protection for the permanent construction, less traffic impacts, does not impact the bridges, Lakeshore Drive, or Robert E. Lee Boulevard. There are no bridge modifications on either the north or south side. These descriptions are available in Section 5.2.2 of the IER.



This is the ICS at London Avenue [pointing] located south of Lakeshore Drive and north of Leon C. Simon. This is the University of New Orleans [pointing]. The proposed location will be in this [pointing] general area for the new permanent pump station. This is the widest point of

the canal making it a choice area but we will have to see what the proposals show. This [pointing] is the footprint of the proposed London Avenue site, which looks like the widest area of the canal. The ICS is here [pointing].



The reasons for the proposed London Avenue Canal C site is it has fewer constructability issues, public access from the east side, and less impact to maintaining canal operations. Due to the width of the canal, it makes an opportune place to put a bypass channel during construction. There are no bridge modifications to either the north or south tip, which is a major advantage. Also, there are less environmental and visual impacts. Section 5.2.3 of the IER describes the advantages and disadvantage of all of the

alternatives.



This [pointing] is a re-cap of the maximum footprints of the canals. We're emphasizing that these footprints be minimized during the RFP process. These images are not to scale.

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Proposed Schedule	
9 May 2009	IER IER #0 public review period (minimum 30 days)
Jun 2009	IER Decision Recommendation
Aug 2009	Project Partnership Agreement
Aug 2009	New Design-Build Phase 1 Request for Proposal
Sep 2009	Meeting # 1 Community Involvement
Oct 2009	Meeting # 2 Community Involvement
Nov 2009	Meeting # 3 Community Involvement
Dec 2009	New Design-Build Phase 2 Request for Proposal
Jan 2010	Award Design-Build Contract
Dec 2012	Ful. Construction Completion
2014	Demolition of the ICS's Cause Structures

On May 4<sup>th</sup> we made the IER available for a 30-day public review. Copies are available on the Web site and there are a limited amount of hard copies in the back of the room. In June, we are anticipating the IER decision recommendation will be presented to Col. Lee, and he'll make a decision whether or not to select the proposed location. After the Col. Lee makes his decision there will be a Project Partnership Agreement with the state and then we'll go into the Design-Build Phase 1 Request for

Proposal. Recently during an Industry Day there were over 200 companies expressing interest in the project. There were 12 one-on-one serious conversations with companies capable of maintaining a large bonding capacity. Phase 1 consist of getting the qualifications of those companies interested in the project. Once we receive their qualifications we then evaluate them and come up with a short list. Once the short list is composed we proceed with Phase 2 Request for Proposal. During this period, we'll engage in community involvement meetings and allow the public to be involved in the technical approach of the RFP. Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish, Sewage and Water Board, the state, and public will be able to examine the technical report on the pump station capacities, pump station height, types of pump engines and provide input. Then in Dec. we'll issue Phase 2 Request for Proposals of the design build process for 120-days. During that time we will hold another meeting to explain in the RFP. The proposals received will be evaluated and we'll award the design build contract. In Dec. 2013, we estimate construction to be complete. In 2014, we'll demolish the ICS's at each of the three canals.

Community Involvement for Design-Build RFP	
+	Meeting 1- Provide preliminary design parameters to the public for review and comments (September 09)
+	Meeting 2- Discuss ideas and receive written comments from the public (30 days after Meeting 1)
+	Meeting 3- Discuss which ideas and comments were and/or were not incorporated into the RFP and why (30 days after Meeting 2)

To reemphasize the community involvement during the design build RFP, the first meeting is going to provide preliminary design parameters to the public for review and comment in Dec. 2009. Thirty-days later, there will be a second meeting to discuss the public's ideas and receive written comments. During this 30-day period you can discuss the RFP with your friends, family, etc. and make comments. For example, "Why did you look at this or why didn't you look at that?" Then we'll consider the comments,

integrate into the RFP, and hold a meeting to discuss which ideas and comments were or were not incorporated into the final RFP.

Opportunities for Public Input	
+	Regular Public Meetings throughout the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Area
+	Make sure to sign in tonight to get on our meeting notification mailing list!
+	Comments can be submitted at any time at <a href="http://www.usace.army.mil">www.usace.army.mil</a>
+	Individual Environmental Reports (IER) minimum 30-day Public Review
Questions and comments regarding Hurricane Risk Reduction Projects should be addressed to:	
Gib Owen PM-405 P.O. Box 80287 New Orleans, LA 70160-0287 Telephone: 504.863.1517 E-mail: <a href="mailto:gsowen@contractor.usace.army.mil">gsowen@contractor.usace.army.mil</a>	

Resources	
<a href="http://www.usace.army.mil">www.usace.army.mil</a>	<a href="http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov">www.nolaenvironmental.gov</a>

Opportunities for input are through public meetings, contacting environmental manager Gib Owen or through

[www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov). The Corps offers a few sources where information on any project is located. One is at [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov) and at

[www.mvn.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil). Thank you very much.

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# Public Meeting Summary

Ken Holder, public affairs chief

Before we enter the discussion section of tonight's meeting there are a few comments from the elected leaders. First I would like to introduce, Deborah Langhoff representing the City of New Orleans.

Deborah Langhoff, representative for Councilman At Large Arnie Fielkow

Thank you very much. On a personal level, I've been in small and large meetings with you over the last four years to rebuild a safe community. This evening I'm here in my official capacity as the director of Community Development for Councilman at Large, Arnie Fielkow. Other council members are represented tonight as well: Councilman Midora, Council member Clarkson. I'm here to read the unanimous resolution number R09147 adopted at City Hall, Apr. 2, 2009.

[Appendix] Thank you very much.

Ken Holder, public affairs chief

Councilwoman Leigh Shang, Jefferson Parish.

Cynthia Lee-Sheng, Jefferson Parish Councilwoman District 5

I'm Councilwoman Cynthia Lee-Sheng. I would also like to say Councilman Lagasse is with us tonight. I would like to read a joint resolution adopted on Mar. 18, 2009 by the Jefferson Parish Council. A resolution requesting the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works suspend all procurement actions leading to the award of a contract for the design and construction of the permanent pump stations to be constructed at or near the lakefront on the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal. Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Jefferson Parish Council of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, and the governing authority of said Parish. [Appendix] I would also like to add that the Regional Planning Commission passed the same resolution on Apr. 14, 2009. This resolution was introduced by Councilman John Young, and seconded by Mayor Ray Nagin [Appendix].

Ken Holder, public affairs chief

Thank you. Representing Congressman Scalise, Mr. Charles Henry.

Charles Henry, representative for Congressman Steve Scalise

Good evening. I'm Charles Henry, Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Steve Scalise.

[Appendix] Thank you.

Ken Holder, public affairs chief

Thank you, sir. Representing Congressman Coa, Mr. Murray Nelson.

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# Public Meeting Summary

Murray Nelson, representative for Congressman Joseph Coa

Good evening. My name is Murray Nelson and I represent Congressman Coa. [Appendix]

**Question 1.** Ken Holder: Thank you very much, and now we'll start with the questions.

First question is from Mr. John Davis. He says: "The rumor mill says that low-rise pump technology will not be used. What are the facts concerning the use of this technology?"

**Response 1.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. In the design build process, we will give certain parameters. Again, everyone will have an opportunity to provide input into the technical factors. We will be discussing the capacities of these pump stations and maximum height requirements. The design builders will be able to select the best solution for the permanent pump stations whether they would be low-profile pumps or concrete volute.

**Question 2.** John David: Have you done anything specific as looking into technology available to see whether it's viable, works in our environment, or anything similar?

**Response 2.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. We've talked with the Sewage and Water Board, who have some concrete volute pumps and they have shared their experiences. They have not always been positive. We've sent people to Europe to look at the Dutch and other countries in their endeavors with the use of concrete volute pumps.

**Question 3.** John David: Okay. In the IER report, you make a note that the maximum height considered for evaluating impacts of the pumps is 45 feet. Does the 45 feet mean anything or is that just a number used for the report?

**Response 3.** Dan Bradley: The number used in the report is the number we'll use in the RFP. What we're trying to do is encourage the design builders to come in less than 45 feet. We understand there is going to be maintenance requirements, overhead cranes, or other things the local stakeholders and operators will require. We're going to blend those requirements with the minimum height of the pump stations, but we have to consider everything.

**Comment 3.** John David: Okay. Thank you.

**Question 4.** Ken Holder: Sir, thank you very much.

The next comment is from Glenn Pilie, who asks: "Please explain how the design build process will accommodate public comment into the design process for the structures, for instance, esthetics?"

**Comment 4.** Glen Pilie: I think you already addressed that in the presentation. I'm satisfied with your input. What I'd like to do is comment on what's been described tonight as a conflict between going forward with Option 1 and waiting for Option 2. My perspective is no matter how you get the rainwater into the canals, permanent pumping stations are needed at the lake, and I wouldn't recommend anything that slows down getting the pumping stations completed as soon

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as possible while working on ways to get rainwater into the canals, other than the current pumping stations. The rainwater can't drain into the canals up over the levees; it's got to get in some kind of way. We're being told we have temporary pumps in place with a shelf life of three to five years, maybe extended to seven, but we're on the fringe of that already. The longer we debate how to get the water into the canals, the longer we don't have permanent pump stations at the lake. I would not endorse anything that slows down the construction of the pump stations.

**Question 5.** Ken Holder: Thank you, sir. Mr. Tom Judd asks three questions, and I'll just read them and let you address them as we go.

First question is, "How are bids going to be evaluated, and how do you compare high-rise versus low-rise?"

**Response 5.** Dan Bradley: We talk about a maximum height to invite the bidders to come with their design, which would be about a 30-percent design, to explain: how they're going to accommodate a lower than 45-foot elevation for the pump stations. We'll evaluate them on their proposals overall. There will be a group of technical evaluators from around the country including engineers from the northwest division all through the Army Corps of Engineers. Outside experts will also be involved as technical advisors to that crew.

**Question 6.** Tom Judd: If you have to rate the alternatives between major low-rise gives, scores points for esthetics, but a higher maintenance cost; or, an alternative that the Sewage and Water Board doesn't like how the pumps are changed or how to do maintenance on them, how do you weigh those differences?

**Response 6a.** Engineer: There'll be evaluation factors that are under development right now. The Sewage and Water Board of Jefferson Parish has input in what those evaluation factors are based on the overall design. We'll find out what's technically acceptable and what isn't. We'll use those factors to drive it. Again, you'll have input on the final RFP before it goes out.

**Response 6b.** Ken Holder: Dan, would you recommend that he contact his local Sewage and Water Board to make sure they understand what their interests are?

**Response 6c.** Dan Bradley: Well, they certainly can.

**Question 7.** Ken Holder: Tom Judd's second question is: "Who has the final authority for choosing the final design?"

**Response 7.** Dan Bradley: We have a review panel comprised of 35 individuals who provides information to a source selection advisor, and he will make that final design.

**Question 8.** Tom Judd: Who makes up that 35 in the panel?

**Response 8.** Dan Bradley: It's a panel of engineers from across the country, along with advisors from the industry, and it'll be group chaired by a source selection authority. Then that will be filed with our recommendations.

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**Question 9.** Tom Judd: Who is the source selection authority?

**Response 9.** Dan Bradley: I can't divulge that name at this time. It's an internal process.

**Question 10.** Tom Judd: I was under the impression that this was being built for the Coastal Protection Agency and they'd be the final accepting authority with the final say on the project.

**Response 10.** Dan Bradley: No, this is a Corps project. It'll be internal Corps people because it is in the design-build process. In evaluating the proposals, we don't want the names of the individuals that may be contacted by various vendors.

**Comment 11.** Tom Judd: Sure, of course. All right, thanks.

**Question 12.** Ken Holder: Tom Judd's final question is, "What role does the Sewage and Water Board play?"

**Response 12.** Dan Bradley: The Sewage and Water Board and Jefferson Parish play a vital role because they may be called upon to operate these pump stations. Their considerations on the operation and maintenance needs on these pump stations are important. They're going to be valuable advisors and observers to the evaluation process.

**Question 13.** Tom Judd: Will they have input into designing or giving input into the RFQ? What's important in the RFQ?

**Response 13.** Dan Bradley: They'll have the opportunity to give us comments but they will not be voting members. Only government individuals will be voting members.

**Question 14.** Tom Judd: One thing is there seems to be an issue between alternatives 1, 2, and 2a that elected officials have discussed. Alternatives 2 and 2a I did not find in IER #5 or maybe I missed it.

**Response 14.** Dan Bradley: I am not sure of where in the IER that is mentioned but it's in there.

**Question 15.** Tom Judd: Could you spend five minutes giving an overview of the other options? For instance, the pumps, what's by the lakefront, and what's replaced in the city? A general idea would be good.

**Response 15.** Dan Bradley: I can give you a general idea. In Option 1, we're replacing the temporary pumps with permanent pump stations. Most of the time the Sewage and Water Board pumps normally but there will be gates. Only when there is an extreme storm surge in the lake will the gates close. When the gates are closed, there will be pumping from the drainage pump stations to the new pump stations in tandem. Similar to what happened during Gustav and Ike, and it worked very well. The Sewage and Water Board and Jefferson Parish have already commented of how well they worked. We know the system works and that's Option 1. We're looking at ways to ensure Option 1 could be modified in the future if option 2 or 2a should be authorized and funded. The purpose is not to have something that will be torn out in the future.

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Option 2, involves deepening the canals an additional 16 feet deeper than they are now. It's a tremendous project. London's 11,000 feet, 13,000 feet at 17<sup>th</sup> and Orleans at 9,000 to 10,000 feet. By deepening the canals the soil would have to be reinforced to prevent any subsidence problems around the areas. The construction duration is estimated at 12 years. After the construction is completed the Sewage and Water Board pump stations would be removed or bypassed.

**Question 16.** Tom Judd: Then there'd still be pump stations at the lakefront to drain the canals?

**Response 16.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir, that's correct. There's no difference between the storm surge blocking capability of the pump stations in Option 1 or in Option 2. There is absolutely no difference between Option 1, Option 2 or 2a and their capacity to prevent storm surge for this city.

**Question 17.** Tom Judd: When you remove some of the Sewage and Water Board pump stations in the city, how does the water get into the canals?

**Response 17.** Dan Bradley: Currently in the 17<sup>th</sup> there is a canal coming into pump station 6 at a lower water surface elevation. When the pump is removed the canal would have to be deepened for the water to flow by gravity out to the new pump stations.

**Question 18.** Tom Judd: Will the Sewage and Water Board still have other stations?

**Response 18.** Dan Bradley: They'll still have pump station #1 and all the other pump stations that feed into that canal.

**Comment 19.** Tom Judd: Okay. I got it. Thanks.

**Comment 20.** Ken Holder: Thank you, sir.

Next question is from Joseph Becker. Mr. Becker says: "I'm here to represent the Sewage and Water Board in the city of New Orleans. We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our position that Option 1 does not adequately reduce the risk of flooding with storms and rain events. The Sewage and Water Board and the city have adopted resolutions and opposition to Option 1, and its support of Option 2 or 2a. Other state and local organizations have issued several similar resolutions."

Sir, do you want to add anything to that?

**Question 21.** Joseph Becker: Yes. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I also have a resolution that was adopted by our board. I'm not going to go through it but I'll offer it to you to read and include as part of the discussion. **[Appendix]**

**Response 22.** Ken Holder: We certainly will do that, sir. Thank you very much.

**Question 23a.** Charlene Constance Gelagam.

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Miss Gelagam writes: “On page 18 of the EIS, the language of the third and fourth paragraphs indicate the Corps has set aside a significant amount of public input on the type of pumping system that it will use. The citizens have gathered information on more efficient, lower cost, lower environmental impact, low-rise concrete volute pumps. Why does the Corps continue to set aside public input while appearing to provide lip service in the process?”

**Question 23b.** Charlene Gelagam: I’ll give it to you like I see it. I’m guessing the use of the word could is important in this language. I am concerned that we can’t mount the kind of opposition, citizen input and impact it takes to impress the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The reason is because we’ve got a regular life and it goes on every single day while the Corps keeps on coming. We’re just regular people but we come every time there is a chance to provide public input. We come here with our comments and think we’re making an impact but I am more afraid of you than any hurricane. I can watch TV and see a hurricane but when I come here to hear “I’m going to give you an opportunity for public input,” and it appears the same-old New Orleans, LA cronies get the contract. Then, I’ve got to go home. It makes me want to go live in Boise, Idaho. I said to my husband, “We’ve got to go live some place else because you cannot beat these people no matter what you do to do something right.” We have to be better than this, we have to be better. What I’m asking is what I ask every time I come to this microphone, come to us like the United States Army, come like we’re going to be grateful you’re here, and not like we’re going to be scared that you’re standing here. Give us something we can use. Give us something that’s going to protect us. Do not make us continue to come here on our knees. Do not make us afraid of you. Take our input and listen to us rather than give us lip-service. Instead of saying thank you very much, we checked that off on our to-do list, and you all can go home now. We’re not for it. I don’t know about these people but I’m not for it. I don’t want you to give me lip-service. If you don’t want to hear what we have to say, do not put this microphone here. Do something that makes sense for the environment and for us.

**Response 23.** Dan Bradley: Yes, ma’am. The Individual Environmental Report is the framework of the project purpose and provides a general idea of what the environment impact are on the economy, neighborhoods, and private and commercial properties. The RFP will be the specifications of what the design will look like. You don’t have to beat us. Before the RFP goes on the street we’re going to give it to you to provide your input. We’re going to let you look at what’s in the technical specifications and examine what pumps are in there. If you don’t like the pumps, you can tell us why and ask questions like “Why didn’t you use the concrete volute pumps? Why is your pump station 35 and not 30 feet.” You’ll have the opportunity to comment. We’ll have other meeting with you where you can provide your comments, they will be listened to, and we will answer you. If you have a comment that is not included in the RFP, you will have an answer why it isn’t. It’s not going to be lip-service and you will not have to beat us. We want to join you in this effort. Our priority is the safety of this community by building pump stations out there with permanent protection from storm surge.

**Question 24.** Charlene Gelagam: Okay. Does that mean it’s not time yet?

**Response 24.** Dan Bradley: Not time for?

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**Question 25.** Charlene Gelagam: It's not time to get worried about design specifications yet?

**Response 25.** Dan Bradley: Not yet.

**Question 26.** Charlene Gelagam: Because this is not a specification.

**Response 26.** Dan Bradley: That's not a specification.

**Question 27.** Lena Panatelli: Yes. I thought the pumping stations would take care of the rainwater. Does it or not?

**Response 27.** Dan Bradley: You're speaking of the Interim Closure Structure pump stations?

**Question 28.** Lena Panatelli: 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal, the London canal, and the Orleans Canal, takes care of the rainwater?

**Response 28.** Dan Bradley: Yes, ma'am.

**Question 29.** Lena Panatelli: Okay. Why aren't we talking about hurricane water? If we get gates at the Rigolets keeping Gulf water out when there's a hurricane, then we wouldn't have a problem dumping our water into Lake Pontchartrain. Why isn't this being done?

**Response 29.** Dan Bradley: This meeting is about the authorization of public law passed by Congress discussing the replacement of the temporary pump stations that are currently at the Outfall Canals. They have a shelf life of 5 to 7 years with something permanent in the works. Our first responsibility is to block the storm surge from getting in the canals. A storm surge caused the problems during Katrina. It wasn't the rainfall. What we need to do is block the storm surge from getting into the canal, and to preserve the ability of the Sewage and Water Board to pump rainwater out of the city.

**Question 30.** Lena Panatelli: I understand but if you would place the gates at the Rigolets to keep water out of Lake Pontchartrain, we could dump our city water in there and have plenty of room in the lake for it. Why isn't this done? The option given, why do we want the water coming all the way through the city to the river? Why should that be? I don't understand because it would be more flooding. If the Pontchartrain was empty, the water could go out of the city easily.

**Response 30a.** Dan Bradley: There are two questions, one concerning 2a, which pumps rainwater in certain parts of Metairie to the river, and that is not authorized or funded. At this point we're not looking at that option. As to the Lake Pontchartrain gates, Gib Owen might be able to address that better.

**Response 30b.** Gib Owen: Good evening. I'm Gib Owen, I'm with the environmental group. We have a report at the headquarters level right now being reviewed. It's called LACPR, some people call it the category 5 report, and in the report there's a series of alternatives. One of the alternatives, if Congress gives us authority to study would be a crossing at the Rigolets. As Dan

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explained, we did not have the authority to look at that option. We discussed it briefly in the IER but didn't feel we had the authority to look at the option. We have asked in the new report that we be given the authority to look at that alternative.

**Question 31.** Lena Panatelli: But, you want to put more money into these pumps which I don't think it's necessary. It should be enough, if these pumps are working and the water's going into the lake. The gats at the Rigolets would keep the water out of our city.

**Response 31.** Dan Bradley: The Outfalls Canals have temporary pump stations out there now. Our responsibility is to replace them with a permanent solution to block storm surge from getting into the canals. That's our primary concern.

**Question 32.** Lena Panatelli: How are you going to pump it out when the water is going to be as high as the station?

**Response 32.** Dan Bradley: Well, what happens is the barriers will be higher than the 100-year or the 1% risk level of the storm surge.

**Question 33.** Lena Panatelli: If you don't get the water coming in from the Gulf, coming into the Pontchartrain, then you have no water that can come out of our city to go up there.

**Response 33.** Dan Bradley: The way the system is designed; there are a series of levees along the lakefront out to New Orleans East raised to the 100-year level of protection. The pump stations will match the height to prevent storm surge from getting into the city. The pump stations will also be designed to pump against a storm. They will be designed to...

**Question 34.** Lena Panatelli: I think you're wasting money.

**Response 34.** Dan Bradley: We have to replace the temporary pump stations with a more permanent solution.

**Question 35.** Lena Panatelli: Why wasn't it done permanent to begin with?

**Response 35.** Dan Bradley: After Katrina, we had a disaster on our hands. Before the next storm surge, we had to have something in place by June 1. We had to get a barrier to prevent storm surge from getting into those canals and we did the quickest thing we could do thinking that a permanent solution would follow in 3 to 5 years. Now, it appears the permanent solution is pushed out to 5 to 7 years. We have to stay on schedule to get those permanent pump stations in.

**Question 36.** Lena Panatelli: I wish you would do something about the gates at the Rigolets because that's going to help us. Nothing else that you are doing is going to help this water from coming into New Orleans.

**Response 36a:** Yes, ma'am. Thank you very much.

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**Response 36b.** Chris Accardo: My name is Chris Accardo, I'm Chief of Operations for the New Orleans district. She's right. In the 1950's we proposed the Barrier Plan. The Barrier Plan was to put gates at the Rigolets to stop the water from coming into the lake. If you had the Barrier Plan in place, then the levees around the lake would become a secondary form of protection which is very attractive. We should always go forward and try to get more than one level of protection. We do have that project up in headquarters but we don't have the authority to build it. The project was stopped in the '50s when we wanted to build it but we couldn't. The Corps doesn't get everything we want. I know that's hard to believe but we didn't get our wish in the 1950s, and that's why you don't have it in place today. If it was in place for Katrina, then you wouldn't have the mess that we had. Again, I'm Chief of Operations and what that means is, I handle all the locks in south Louisiana, all the control structures, and the structures out at the Outfall Canals. When we have a hurricane or tropical event, my crew and I, actually go to the London Avenue, 17<sup>th</sup> Street, and Orleans Avenue structures. We sleep there during the night. We make sure the safe water elevations aren't exceeded. I personally have a stake in this, and as Chief of Operations. I want Option 2 or 2a but the problem is we don't have the funding. When you compare Option 1 to Option 2, this is a no brainer, folks. I heard one politician after another come up and say they want Option 2 over Option 1. We all want Option 2 over Option 1. We're here arguing over something we all agree on. The problem is I didn't hear one person saying, "What's the plan if we don't get the money?" How long is it going to take to get the funding? I'm out there pushing buttons, making the pumps run, and making the gates go down. Those structures aren't going to last forever. Although Option 1 is inferior to Option 2, Option 1 is light years better than what you got there right now. Think about it, if we do nothing; is that the plan if we don't get the funds? My suggestion is to go forward start building something because if we don't build something, then we're all at risk. Let's build Option 1, and let the politicians fight for Option 2. When they get it, we'll wrap our hands around each other and say, "Let's build Option 2." Until then, let's build something.

**Comment 37.** Edward Fyman: I live against the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal and I've been living there for 45 years. I've lived through every hurricane starting with unnamed storms in 1947. I'm in favor of an alternative called 1a which is not on the books. Option is to keep pumping station #6, take the canal walls and drive 85-foot piling which will never give. That's what the state highway department has done. The reason I say 1a is that I'm in favor of pump to the river. Pump to the river does two things: it decreases the capacity going into the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal and it will add the flow from uptown which I think it at a critical stage. I have pictures that I didn't bring tonight, showing the water lapping at the bottom of the Washington Avenue and Palmetto Avenue Bridge, pumping out of station #1. I don't think the Sewage and Water Board pumps are pumping at capacity. The Corps of Engineers put two new pumps in there. Driving along Palmetto, they have big brown closures that when the canal reaches a certain height it drops down to block the water. Not so much to block the water coming in, but to keep the water from going back into the neighborhood. However, when they block the water coming out, the water has to go somewhere. As far as the canal there's a couple of articles I think they're very relevant to the whole Lakeview area. One of them is when they concrete it, there are sand strata underneath. The water in those sand strata will disappear because you don't have the flow from the canal anymore. It'll be blocked because it'll go so deep. I know people who have seen their streets deteriorating because the lack of water or water table that keeps dropping and it will drop

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even more if you concrete line the canal. The other thing is the safe water elevation in the canal. We can't get above a certain height. Well, I wish somebody would answer me, in this regard. The way you build a concrete line in the canal is by putting a sheet piling line down the center of the canal and you work on one half, placing all the water on the other half. If you have 10,000 square feet on the width of the depth of the canal and take the 10,000 feet and put it on one half, what are the answers? In this report it says, "Temporary impact during construction would affect water well within the canal because of temporary construction features." Recharging ground water could be impacted because of the absence of the seepage path which would prevent flow into the water tanks. If the concrete lining is approved, will it be left up to the contractor? Under the law, they can not affect the levee. They cannot touch the levees during construction which means, they would have to acquire enough property least 100 feet from the railroad tracks to the lake on Orleans side. Thank you for your time. Remember 1a.

**Question 38a.** Ken Holder: Well, thank you, sir.

Mr. Richardson King asks, "When do you plan on starting the pump to the river project?"

**Question 38b.** Richardson King: I think, I will speak, because you've answered what I had in mind. The only question I have is did you mention it takes about 8 to 10 years to reach the project up the river?

**Response 38.** Dan Bradley: No, sir. I was talking about Option 2 and 2a. We were estimating Option 2 or 2a, and 2a is just a minor part of 2 but the process will consist of impacting houses. It's going to be a major engineering feat to isolate half of the canal while dredging the other half, getting it down another 12 to 16 feet. That is a major undertaking is that it will take 10 to 12 years to complete.

**Question 39.** Richardson King: It takes that long to have that. So, the sooner we can get started, the sooner we...

**Response 39.** Dan Bradley: Well, the sooner we get authorization and funding for that option.

**Question 40.** Richardson King: I did understand that the appropriations for 2 and 2a, would be more expensive than 1?

**Response 40.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. The current budget estimates are 3.4 and 3.5 billion dollars for 2 and 2a.

**Question 41.** Richardson King: Well, I think we all are pretty satisfied because it looks like we could go on forward once we get the appropriations.

**Response 41.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir.

**Comment 42.** Ken Holder: Thank you very much, sir. We had about 15 comments with no questions from the folks here in support of Coconut Beach. Since none of them are questions, what we'll do is make sure they get them incorporated into the record. They all, basically, said

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the same things. Due to the limited time we want to get to everybody who had a question. Please be assured that we will get those into the record. I just want to make sure you know that those are heard and I have them laying right here.

The next question is, “Will the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers stand up for New Orleans by advocating to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works that Option 2a is the plan that should be built, subject to the approval of Congress?”

**Comment 43.** Unidentified man: I asked that question because a moment ago, as I anticipated you would say you stand with us. I hope that’s the case, and let me tell you why I’m concerned. After Hurricane Betsy in 1966, the New Orleans District of the Corps chose a wrong standard for the hurricane project and used designs and margins of safety that were eventually proven disastrously inadequate. We have all lived with the consequences of that, and all of New Orleans has seen the consequences. Disclosures of internal Corps of Engineers correspondence have demonstrated that at the time those decisions were made by our district Corps of Engineers. The regional headquarters in Pittsburg cautioned that the districts reassessment of the engineering standards to meet the threat of a hurricane were inadequate. Our Corps proceeded anyway and that’s in public record. We have sincerely appreciated the Corps acceptance of responsibility for those decisions. We saw how difficult it was for the Corps to come to the moment where it publically acknowledged that responsibility. Now, 40 years later, the New Orleans District has provided a report to Congress stating that Option 2a is the best technical solution, and we applaud that professional conclusion. Yet, once again, the community is being asked to accept a lesser project because the lower standards of Option 1 are all that Congress provided money for and that it is all the Corps is authorized to build. I would like to remind you, in reality, our Corps, were the total source of information available to Congress in 2006 that served as the basis for the authorization of Option 1. Don’t tell me you can’t find a better way, and stand up for us, with us, and advocate for that better way. Based on what I believe are inadequate studies of costs, I believe that the disparity between the cost of doing it right, even though it may take longer and be more difficult, all of which are worthy challenges for the Corps of Engineers. I know disparity is not credibly established, and merits further study including full and open collaboration with the stakeholders in Jefferson and Orleans. Furthermore, I believe the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers needs to stand up for us, stand with us, as you have said you would. Join us in advocating to Congress that this time the Corps should not provide any less than what is in its own professed public judgment as the best solution for all New Orleans.

**Comment 44.** Ken Holder: Thank you, sir. The next question comes from Brenda Napolithio.

Brenda asks, “Is it necessary to close the NORD facility that is back in operation since the storm but also generates income for the city?”

**Question 45.** Brenda Napolithio: There is so much violent crimes being perpetrated both by and against our youth in New Orleans. Due to that, it seems that closing the only NORD facility, that weathered, survived and is back running since the storm would be a mistake. The facility generates money, approximately \$60,000 a year for the city and NORD. I understand that we don’t know that it’s going to be shut down. When soliciting for bids for the design of the 17<sup>th</sup>

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Street. Canal and for all of the pumping stations, is there an incentive for the designers and contractors that are coming up with that design, to minimize the footprint. Is there any mechanism in place or incentives for a minimal footprint?

**Response 45.** Dan Bradley: Yes, ma'am, there is. The same as there is incentives for minimizing the height of the pump stations.

**Question 46.** Brenda Napolithio: They have something built into the...

**Response 46.** Dan Bradley: At all sites, not just 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Question 47.** Brenda Napolithio: In trying to do some research to understand what you guys want to do, I went to the Web site that I think is...

**Response 47.** Ken Holder: We're down. Did you go to the Web site today or the last week?

**Question 48.** Brenda Napolithio: When I went to the Web site, it wasn't down but it was difficult to navigate and understand. I think it makes it very difficult for the public. There are IER's and designs but to navigate through the information and understand makes it difficult for us to develop useful comments.

**Response 48.** Ken Holder: I'm responsible for the Web site. I'll give you my card at the end, and you could call me to tell me the problem.

**Question 49.** Ken Holder: Janice Boyd asks, "How prepared are we for the next hurricane season?"

**Response 49.** Dan Bradley: We're fine. All the Outfall Canal structures work fine. We have guys that test the pumps and the gates all year round. In fact, there is an exercise to be performed next week where we go through a what if scenario. If a storm is coming a few days in advance then we actually have people onsite that will run the pumps. We'll practice and go through a simulation. We have supplies on hand like sand bags, contracts with helicopters, and all kinds of supplies. We're much better prepared today than we were for Katrina. Now that is not to say we're not going to have any problems? I can't guarantee that but I can tell you we're much better prepared today than we've ever been.

**Question 50.** Ken Holder: The next set of three questions comes from Darin Acosta.

Darin Acosta asks: "Why is the modification/retro-fit of the existing facility not a viable option?"

**Response 50.** Dan Bradley: We looked at that in the evaluation process, and in the IER 5 we determined the option with the gated structure with permanent pumps at the Outfall Canal was a better option for a long-term permanent solution rather than trying to retro-fit an existing system. What is out there now wasn't designed to an optimum standard. We would be spending nearly the same amount of money for a retro-fitting than a permanent solution in replacing that temporary pump station.

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**Question 51.** Ken Holder: The second question is, “If it’s not a viable option, why not?” I think you followed-up on that. But, the third question is, “Why can’t the pump discharge be diverted to west of the canal to the cove where the existing Coast Guard Station is located?”

**Response 51.** Dan Bradley: Option 1 or Option 2 when we build the permanent pump station out there with the same storm surge elevation at the 100-year level of protection, there will be a bypass channel towards the Coast Guard. We have to manage that velocity over towards the Coast Guard so not to affect their operations. Also, there’s local fisherman situated there. We’re going to minimize the bypass and diversion during construction to decrease the velocity and reduce the danger to their Coast Guard operations.

**Question 52.** Ken Holder: Anna Hugel’s question has to do with the layout of the general function. We went through that and you can see where it is.

We have a question from Frank Johnson, who would like to know, “How do you measure the quality of the water surrounding work areas?”

**Response 53.** Dan Bradley: We’ll have experts in water quality management there during construction. The same as we’ll have people monitoring vibrations, dust, and noise all during construction.

**Comment 54.** Ken Holder: The next question is from Vince Bowers. Vince asks why there was no public comment and that is the reason we are here tonight. The second question was, to request an extension on the time to comment on IER 5. He feels there was insufficient time. The third question is, “What are the objective criteria, words, etc., to distinguish between the placements?”

By placements, you mean the placements of?

**Question 55.** Vince Bowers: The placement of the footprints, Orleans versus London Canal. I lost everything in Lakeview, and I am not interested in any company that may profit from any of the bid contracts from the Corps. My question is about the footprint that’s proposed for London and Orleans. By way of illustration the scaling in your report and these pictures aren’t the same scale. My concern is you virtually have the same canal with two completely different footprints. At the lakefront on Orleans Canal there’s a proposed 700-foot, 15-foot high, and 120-foot wide stone breakwater in Lake Pontchartrain. That is 43,000 cubic yards of stone going to be in that area and it is going to destroy that part of the lakefront. I don’t think it’s an issue of Lakeview versus Lake Vista or Lakeshore versus any other part of the city. The environmental and esthetic impacts to the lake are an issue for the city. I lost everything and I am sensitive to the safety factor, but I cannot look at these two pictures and see there has been an objective criteria applied to end up with two completely different footprints. I would like you to please explain how you came up with it because you proposed an alternative for Orleans Canal similar to the proposal for London and then changed your mind without explanation.

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**Response 55.** Dan Bradley: The IER should have a complete explanation of that process. The breakwater was included in the IER in the event a breakwater would be needed. We wanted to cover all potential environmental impacts.

**Question 56.** Vince Bowers: Why wasn't that proposed at London?

**Response 56.** Dan Bradley: London is a different situation because it was set back further where a breakwater would not be needed. However, with Orleans Avenue our Engineering Research Developing and Design Center looked at the need for a breakwater and it looks promising that we won't need a breakwater at any of the canals.

**Question 57.** Vince Bowers: Great. That is very promising. I would ask for an extension. I work all day and to try to read 300 pages are extensive that references about 20,000 federal regulations. I don't feel comfortable providing any intelligent feedback to the Corps of Engineers or anyone else with a short timeframe for public input. Especially, when I find out tonight there is a huge congressional push in Washington for a significant amount of money that could change the whole proposal. I am tired of hearing people complain that there ain't enough money to pay for what we want? I mean \$85 billion was just ear-marked last week for some wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I have a problem with that, and I feel uncomfortable that we're not given enough time. What process and procedure are you receptive to extending the time to consider the new things we were told about tonight?

**Response 57.** Dan Bradley: We're taking consideration for all requests for extensions. I can tell you that very seriously, we'll...

**Question 58.** Vince Bowers: Can you commit to an extension tonight?

**Response 58.** Dan Bradley: I cannot, myself, commit to that.

**Question 59.** Vince Bowers: And, who does that?

**Response 59.** Col. McCormick: Col. Lee the New Orleans district commander.

**Question 60.** Vince Bowers: Then why isn't Col. Lee here tonight?

**Response 60.** Col. McCormick: Col. Lee is in Washington addressing LACPR issues. Col. Lee is the NEPA signing official as designated by our federal regulations. He is empowered and is the person who will decide whether an extension of the public review is granted.

**Question 61.** Vince Bowers: Is that done by a phone call, email, or a number of petitions I have signed here?

**Request 61.** Col. McCormick: Sir, all of your requests received tonight through emails and other communications are compiled and presented to Col. Lee. Then he makes a decision.

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**Question 62.** Vince Bowers: So, there is not a congressional prohibition preventing the Corps from extending this period so we can consider more information and give better public input. Is that what you're saying?

**Response 62.** Col. McCormick: There is no prohibition. He has to weigh all factors as part of this public process.

**Question 63.** Ken Holder: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Hugh Bavy asks, "Does the proposed system have the same discharge rates, GPM, GPS, as the feeder pumps?"

**Response 63.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. In Option 1 and Option 2 we deliver the same pump rate. What we've done at 17<sup>th</sup> Street is exceeded the capacity of pump station 6 which is 10,500 cfs, under optimal conditions and they could maximize the pump. We're taking into account capital budget which includes a potential of an additional 2,000 cfs. We're going to match what is there currently, but also the future projected rate at 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue.

**Question 64.** Hugh Bavy: What about the flow rates that are coming from the Mounds pumping station?

**Response 64.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. That's handled by pump station 6, a Sewage and Water Board station.

**Question 65.** Hugh Bavy: No, that goes directly into the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal, I am talking about the one at I-10 which is the Mounds underpass, and that goes directly into the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal.

**Response 65.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. That's at 860 cfs.

**Question 66.** Hugh Bavy: What about the one that comes from Jefferson Parish?

**Response 66.** Dan Bradley: That one comes in on the suction side, unless you're talking about the Canal Street. pump station.

**Question 67.** Hugh Bavy: No, I'm talking about the one that comes directly from Jefferson at Lake Avenue and Carrollton.

**Response 67.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. That's 160 cfs and we accommodate to that.

**Question 68.** Hugh Bavy: Can the square footage under the Hammond Highway Bridge support the proposed flow rate, the bridge blocks the flow from the Sewage and Water Board pumps in Katrina?

**Response 68.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. We've done modeling on that and have the flow curves on what that bridge would introduce in terms of restriction, and we have that capability.

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**Question 69.** Hugh Bavy: You significantly reduce the square footage in the canal.

**Response 69.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir.

**Question 70.** Hugh Bavy: What about when you put the bridge there?

**Response 70.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. Our models have included the bridges.

**Question 71.** Hugh Bavy: Will the pumps that you propose using be similar to the Sewage and Water Board pumps? I guess it's a high-flow, low-head pumps.

**Response 71.** Dan Bradley: I can't tell you what type of pump will be there nor can I tell you whether it's concrete volute. The designer will pick the design based on their capacities to pump at different heads. We'll give them extremes and tell them they have to pump to design efficiencies in those cases. They will submit their proposal and types of pumps that will be technically evaluated to make sure they're technically efficient to handle those conditions.

**Question 72.** Hugh Bavy: Describe how the gates would close when there's a high rainfall.

**Response 72.** Dan Bradley: In high rainfall the gates would remain open and the Sewage and Water Board would pump unrestricted.

**Question 73.** Hugh Bavy: You talked about safe water elevation in London Canal which is contradictory to Option 1. You don't seem to be handling the Sewage and Water Board pump, that's pumping into the London Avenue Canal with the temporary pumps that you have at the lakefront. Is that true?

**Response 73.** Dan Bradley: Sir, during Hurricane Gustav and Ike, we handled all the water that the Sewage and Water Board could deliver into London Avenue Canal.

**Question 74.** Hugh Bavy: The 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Canal failed because of storm surge. Storm surge did not overlap Canal Blvd at the lakefront levee. Did you know that? Why did this alleged storm surge cause the canal to fail?

**Response 74.** Dan Bradley: The storm surge came into the canals. An excessively high storm surge within the canal caused the failure of the canal walls. When those canal walls failed there was subsequent flooding.

**Comment 75.** Ken Holder: Randy Peters asks the question, "What would happen to the canal, levees and floodwalls if the permanent pump station, Option 2, was built?" It's a three-part question, he also asked, "What would happen if it was removed?" And, "What would happen if it was not maintained."

**Question 76.** Randy Peters: I'm concerned about what the plan would be because I didn't see all of the details. I heard some people say they'd move on. It would be nice and flat like Jefferson Parish or they would be abandoned in place?

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**Response 76.** Dan Bradley: You're speaking of the Option 2?

**Question 77.** Randy Peters: Yes, the Option 2.

**Response 77.** Dan Bradley: In Option 2 which is not funded or authorized, by deepening the canals to 16-feet and removing the existing pump stations would allow gravity flow to the lakefront. That would place the water surface elevation at approximately 11 to 12 feet lower in the canal than what is there now. The water flowing into pump station 6 is at a lower water surface elevation and they have trash screens that filter out all the trash that comes in there. By removing the water it will run to the new pump stations at the lakefront. Then you won't have a need for a high-level protection of floodwalls or levees. It may be that Jefferson Parish would like to preserve those levees and Orleans would like to have them degraded but in Option 2 they have the choice of going either way.

**Question 78.** Randy Peters: I guess that's my main point. It is a good thing we kept the levees south of pump station 6 on the Jefferson Parish side, otherwise east Jefferson would've been lost in Katrina. I live in East Jefferson, close to Causeway, and I'm concerned about the west return wall. It'd be nice to have a couple extra levees and take the approach of the Dutch. Why isn't that considered? We have a new system that's put in place and we're going from a Hurricane Protection System to a Hurricane Risk Reduction System. We're spending a lot of money and we could be hit again and it could overtop. What if we have one failure between London and Orleans? Maybe we could bottle that up instead of losing the whole city, again. I don't see any of these discussions are being brought forward. I think we ought to figure out how to seal off the old things they had that couldn't fill up during Katrina.

**Response 78.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir.

**Question 79.** Randy Peters: If you went 2a, would you reduce the flow of water from the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal pumping system?

**Response 79.** Dan Bradley: Yes and no. You would take out water that's coming in from Jefferson Parish and pump it to the river. However, the gentleman explained earlier, that the interior drainage system sometimes is overloaded with rainfall. By taking it out, you would allow more water to flow through the canals. In essence, you're still seeing water flowing into the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal.

**Question 80.** Randy Peters: So, you'd still go to 12,000?

**Response 80.** Dan Bradley: Yes, sir. We're committed to match whatever the Sewage and Water Board has planned to pump into 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal.

**Question 81.** Randy Peters: So, there wouldn't be a reduction.

**Response 81.** Col. McCormick: One of the reasons the IER section about 2 and 2a, is thin because we haven't studied it a lot. If funded we would study it beyond a 10 percent feasibility level. We included them in the cost report and the technical report we did earlier. If we did go

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with 2 or 2a, we'd restart the NEPA process and there would be a new EIS. In that EIS we would have those details because we would have to lay it out and be very open to the public.

**Question 82.** Randy Peters: Right. It seems there are many people pushing for Option 2 and there are big faults that aren't being aired.

**Response 82.** Col. McCormick: Well, yes, sir. Before we would ever go with Option 2, we'd start a construction contract for Option 2 or 2a. We'd have to go through the NEPA process and an EIS.

**Question 83.** Lisa Ludwick: I represent Pump to the River; it's a citizen's lead group of 26 neighborhoods in Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. We started right after the storm, and it's interesting to hear you all are being very disingenuous tonight. We've sat in partnering sessions three years ago. Jefferson Parish has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars looking into the advantages of Pump to the River. You act like its some new things that popped up on the radar. In the Corps' own documents, the Corps hired the DMJM Harris Group. They spend millions of dollars on this document that was distributed one year after Katrina. The solution this document produced by the Corps recommended for the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal included Pump to the River. This is not something new. Pump to the River is a project that works with the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal; it addresses all of the uptown new drainage projects that are on the books. This water is going to be coming into the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal. This project benefits 100,000 people in Metairie and New Orleans. UNO helped the Jefferson and Orleans Parishes, Broadmore, and the different neighborhoods to come up with the exact number of people. The project was originally considered in the NEPA process, and over our rejections you removed it. I'm not sure exactly when you took it out. I think when you describe and have a joyous sound that our congressional delegation needs to find the money, Chris Accardo, you are ignoring the fact that you've had these partnering sessions where New Orleans, Jefferson Parish, everyone present said 2 and 2a was the preferred option. You put it in your report and then you will not support our congressional delegation and our politicians who are going to Washington to get the money by saying this is the best option.

**Response 83.** Col. McCormick: Ma'am, I understand your point, and the one comment that I can make is we're actually prohibited from lobbying Congress.

**Question 84.** Lisa Ludwick: I'm not asking you to lobby Congress, I'm asking you to take your own report that said the best technical solution is 2a, and say, "That's what needs to be done here." That's all we want you to do, just say, "New Orleans, this is what needs to be done." We're not farm land; we're a heavily populated urban area that needs protection from storm surge and rainwater.

**Response 84.** Col. McCormick: Yes, ma'am.

**Question 85.** Lisa Ludwick: That's what we want you to do, just say what your report says.

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**Response 85.** Col. McCormick: We have submitted the reports to Congress accordingly. We have limits to the ability. We are applying the best science that we can, put together the report, and we submitted it. As far as going and yanking on people's shirts, and saying please, we are prohibited from doing that. Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, we are prohibited from lobbying Congress. We advise the Assistant Secretary and he gives us direction.

**Question 86.** Unidentified man: What advice did you give him, specifically, on this issue?

**Response 86.** Col. McCormick: I believe the technical report actually said Option 2 and 2a, because there are less moving parts.

**Question 87.** Unidentified man. [Inaudible]

**Response 87a.** Col. McCormick: In the cost report, 2a is estimated at \$3.5 billion and 2 is \$3.4 billion.

**Response 87b.** Col. Gunter: I can address this because there is some confusion, and let me explain 2 and 2A, and then the diversion portion of Pump to the River. According to the initial 10% design it is \$205 million for this portion and that is our estimate. It does not include lowering the canals, just the diversion to the river. And, sir, I was looking at 2a, the total cost versus 2.

**Question 88.** Lisa Ludwick: I don't know why you don't have my card but my other question was, Gustav is used as the gold standard for how well the two pump station system worked in tandem but Gustav hit Houma. It wasn't a direct hit to New Orleans.

**Response 88.** Dan Bradley: Yes, ma'am. But, those are the two hurricanes have impacted us most since Katrina, and we didn't have storm surge in the lake so we had to close the gates. So, it did simulate a hurricane event, and true, it was not a Katrina event but it was hurricanes, and the activities of both pump stations in coordination would be the same in a major hurricane had it hit.

**Question 89.** Lisa Ludwick: Well, you don't have the situation of power failures, loss of communication between the two pump stations when you're trying to coordinate. I think it's misleading the public to continually refer to Gustav.

**Response 89.** Chris Accardo: You're right. Gustav and Ike were relatively dry events. I mean, they were relatively dry but it was the first time we had the chance to lower the gates and run the pumps. Now, the procedure is, when we lower the gates at any of the structures one of our canal captains at the Outfall Canals will report to the Sewage and Water Board. I could lose all communication and I'll still run those pumps fine because I'll have my man sitting hand-in-hand with the Sewage and Water Board. We'll have people onsite. Let's assume we lose all communication out there, we'll be just fine.

**Question 90.** Lisa Ludwick: Yeah, but you have one down at the lake and pump station 6.

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**Response 90.** Chris Accardo: What you don't understand is, we're at the Sewage and Water Board and at the Outfall Canals. We're looking at a monitor that registers and I can see the canal elevation from the pump station to the Outfall Canal structures.

**Question 91.** Lisa Ludwick: What does your monitor run on? I mean, if it's on electricity and the winds get up to be 35 miles per hour.

**Response 91.** Chris Accardo: Let's assume we lose electricity and all communication, I am onsite, I can look out the window at a gage and run the pumps. There's a generator if the power is out there. We know we might lose electricity. I'm telling you, I can lose all communication and still run those structures properly.

**Question 92.** Lisa Ludwick: You're telling me that it is not a fragile system to have the old pump station #6 several miles away from a pump station at the lake when you're trying to run in tandem with 100 mile per hour winds, rain, and stuff flying around? There is a possibility of canal walls caving in if you make a mistake.

**Response 92.** Chris Accardo: We're not going to make a mistake; we have too many eyes on this thing. It's the best system we have in place right now. Now, is Option 2 better than this? I already said it is. What I'm trying to tell you is, it has worked fine for the two hurricanes. I'm convinced it's going to work fine. What you may not know is when we were running the pumps for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike we were actually holding water in the canals at the request of the Sewage and Water Board to increase their efficiency. There is actually an advantage in a sense because you're running in tandem. We were holding water for them. Okay. We work hand-in-hand, and I don't believe it's a problem.

**Question 93.** Lisa Ludwick: With Option 1, you will saddle us forever with a safe water level. We have 17-, 18-foot tall canal walls and as soon as the water gets up to six feet, it's no longer safe. I don't know how you can make this your recommended solution to Washington and your superiors. Is that true? We'll have a safe water level of six feet and whatever is in the London and Orleans Canal forever with Option 1.

**Response 93.** Chris Accardo: Yeah, with Option 1 you'll still have a safe water elevation.

**Question 94.** Lisa Ludwick: Which is really an unsafe water level when you get past six feet, right?

**Response 94.** Chris Accardo: Yeah, but what you've got to realize is that Option 1 is not as good as Option 2 but it's better than what you got. And, that's what I keep trying to emphasize. So, you would have safe water level.

**Comment 95.** Ken Holder: The next question is from Pat Jackson. Pat asks, "What is the height of the water in the Outfall Canals?"

**Question 96.** Pat Jackson: My question is what was the original design standard for the water in the Outfall Canals? What was the water height?

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**Response 96.** Dan Bradley: When you say original, going back, pre-Katrina?

**Question 97.** Pat Jackson: Original, when the I-walls were put in.

**Response 97.** Dan Bradley: Within a foot of the top of the wall. I don't have the exact elevation for it.

**Question 98.** Pat Jackson: More or less than 12 feet? You have to know this because you authorized the designs. My understanding is it was 12, 12 ½ feet.

**Response 98.** Dan Bradley: It's approximately that.

**Question 99.** Pat Jackson: Yeah, and what is it now?

**Response 99.** Dan Bradley: And, they vary by canal because at London its 5, at 17<sup>th</sup> it's 6 and Orleans it's 8.

**Question 100.** Pat Jackson: Suppose we had a wet Gustav instead of a dry one, and the gate was closed.

**Response 100.** Engineer: Yes, ma'am.

**Question 101.** Pat Jackson: What would flood? Would you pump up to 5 or 6 and test the walls that broke. It was weak here because it didn't get there. That's why it went out there and that wall's still weak. Remember Colin Powell, you break it you buy it? You guys broke it. You need to buy those levee walls. You need to either do Option 2 with low-level canals and 16-foot or more of depth, or you need to completely reconstruct the levee walls, which is not a good solution. If you do Option 1, you leave us with your mess. I wasn't flooded out but I know people that were. If you guys do that and walk away from this, you broke it; you should buy it. Now, we can't do public documents requests because you're military. We can't find out how much you spent when you were throwing money anyway after 2005. There is a way to find the money. The congressmen themselves and the senators have said that you're authorized. I'm an attorney, I think you have more attorneys on your staff than you have engineers.

**Response 101.** Col. McCormick: Ma'am, you can submit a Freedom of Information Act Request, known as FOIA. It's not classified and it is certainly viable.

**Question 102.** Pat Jackson: That's interesting because that's not how I heard it but you guys just have to really...

**Response 102.** Col. McCormick: I believe that I have many engineers on staff within the Corps of Engineers would probably agree with you on the assessment.

**Question 103.** Pat Jackson: My point is that you're going to leave us with the problems that you created. There were engineers that told you not to put I-walls in, and you went ahead because it was a cutting cost. The word authorization is so overused by your group, it's incredible. The

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people and the senators who wrote these authorizations can tell you to build playgrounds with the money. Then the attorneys finesse things, I understand that. This is ridiculous.

**Response 103.** Col. McCormick: Thank you. The basis for the 100-year system that we are trying to get in is based on parameter protection. And, because when we install that parameter, what it does is it makes secondary protection of the things like the IHNC surge barrier, there's a wall at the Harvey, and all the Outfall Canals. The idea is instead of going back; we're going to make sure they can take the safe water elevation. I understand your concerns. What you're asking for given the construct of the parameter construction is to discard the parameter protection and go with parallel protection. Certainly more robust but the reason why we're doing parameter protection is to try to build depth which we want to do in any defense. The parameter is a secondary protection. Even with the safe water elevations indicated, that is secondary protection. The primary protection is the gates at the Outfall Canals that we plan on building.

**Question 104.** Pat Jackson: I understand. My point is that this community paid to have 12 ½ feet of water elevation to get their rainwater out year ago. We paid our shares. Now you're going to fix the parameter and leave us with a wet hurricane or wet tropical storm with a gate closed. Where does the water go if it can't go over 6 feet then it goes into the houses and streets. That's what I was telling you.

**Response 104.** Col. McCormick: Ma'am, to back up what Chris is saying, we are very confident that we can pump the water out and that it will not exceed the safe water elevation.

**Question 105.** Pat Jackson: What do you do when it does? What do you do when there's a wet storm and the water is trapped in the city trying to get out?

**Response 105.** Col. McCormick: I understand it's an issue of interior drainage. The requirements with interior drainage are kind of colliding with the requirements of hurricane risk reduction. That's kind of what you see there. I know you don't want a theoretical answer but I do understand your concern.

**Comment 106.** Pat Jackson: I want the answer. I want the right solution to this problem. You left us after Betsy. The poorest people in the city are the ones that suffer the most, and they're going to suffer the first in the storm if we do break any of those things. You guys know what to do, and you just have to find a way to do it.

Ken Holder: Thank you, ma'am. We're not going to get to everybody's question tonight. What we'll do is answer all of your questions and send everybody on the register tonight an email with the answers. It will take us probably about a week or so to get that together but we will send an answer and a link to a Web site. Mr. Rolt wanted to read something from Mary Landrieu. We will stick around for about a few minutes, if you have any other questions.

Joseph Rolt: Thank you very much. Maybe the best comes at the end. I am a member of the Jefferson Parish, Orleans Parish Joint Task Force on Pump to the River. In that capacity I've made 15 trips to Washington, at my expense, representing most of you, and with some of you. I

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am happy to tell you tonight that we now have an answer in Washington. What does it take, a question that's asked of me many times. It takes an act of Congress to make the Corps of Engineers take heed of Options 2 and 2a. The answer is no. It takes three acts of Congress. We have already passed by our congressional delegation and by the United States Congress by a huge majority with two of those requiring studies that the Col. referred to about the evaluation of Options 1, 2, and 2a. At 5:00 this evening, we received a report from Congress from Senators Vitter, and Senator Landrieu stating that they have introduced legislation today requiring Congress to approve and evaluate Options 2 and 2a. Now, with your permission, my eyes aren't good enough so I'd like to call on my colleague, John Boss to read you the press release.  
[Appendix]

Ken Holder, public affairs

Thank you for your comments. Thanks everyone for the comments. Again, we will send out an email with the follow-up questions. Please, if you have any additional questions at that point feel free to ask. Thank you very much.

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