



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



# Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report

November 14, 2008

## Army and State sign WBV - PPA Agreement covers \$2.16B in new construction

*Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) clears path for West Bank & Vicinity projects*



**When complete, the WBV project will consist of approximately 70 miles of levees, floodwalls, floodgates and other water control structures for the West Bank area.**

**O**n November 7, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the Honorable John Paul Woodley, Jr., and the Director of the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), Garret Graves, announced the signing of the West Bank and Vicinity Project Partnership Agreement.

This agreement enables the Corps of Engineers to continue to move forward with construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) on the West Bank.

The West Bank and Vicinity project is a very significant milestone in advancing to 100-year hurricane protection for the West Bank of the Mississippi River. Located in the vicinity of New Orleans and in Jefferson,

Orleans and Plaquemines Parishes, the project will reduce storm surge from Lake Cataouatche, Lake Salvador and other waterways leading to the Gulf of Mexico. (see map on page 2)

Projects in the Project Partnership Agreement include Individual Environmental Reports (IER) 12 - 17:

- **IER 12: Belle Chasse, Gretna- Algiers, Harvey-Westwego;** includes 31

miles of levees, construction of 18,800 linear feet of floodwalls, modifications to 18 existing gates, and fronting protection modifications to nine pump stations.

*Continued on page 2*

**Also in this issue:**

Director's Letter on IHNC.....	Page 5
MRGO moving forward.....	Page 6
LCA agreement.....	Page 7

# Greater New Orleans Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System



Continued from page 1

- **IER 13: Belle Chasse;** includes 22,000 linear feet of levees and the construction of 1,500 linear feet of floodwalls.
- **IER 14: Harvey-Westwego;** includes 12 miles of levees, construction of 7,013 linear feet of floodwalls, and modifications to three pump stations.
- **IER 15: Lake Cataoutache;** includes eight miles of levees, and fronting protection modifications for one pump station.
- **IER 16: Lake Cataoutache;** includes construction of a new levee section to complete the western terminus of the West Bank Hurricane Protection Project.
- **IER 17: Lake Cataoutache;** includes 13,442 linear feet of floodwalls, and fronting protection modifications to two pump stations.


When complete, the West Bank and Vicinity Project will consist of approximately 70 miles of levees, floodwalls, floodgates, and other water control structures to protect residents and businesses in the area.

"The State of Louisiana and the Corps of Engineers are moving forward with more than \$2 billion in projects on

the West Bank and Vicinity and more than \$4 billion on the East Bank on the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity project," said Garret Graves, chairman of the CPRA. "The signing of these agreements is essential to pro-



viding the 100-year level of protection the Corps of Engineers has assured will be provided the citizens of the New Orleans area in 2011."

Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of Task Force Hope in New Orleans, said, "Today's agreement highlights the results of continued teamwork and collaboration with the state of Louisiana, the federal government and all the stakeholders and partners. This agreement brings the area one step closer to completion of the entire HSDRRS." 

*To learn more about the West Bank & Vicinity projects go to this web site:*  
<http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov/>

# Letter to Stakeholders

from Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of Task Force Hope

Teammates:

**J**ust wanted you to know the progress continues!

On November 4, the Corps of Engineers issued a Notice to Proceed for construction of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lake Borgne Surge Protection Barrier.

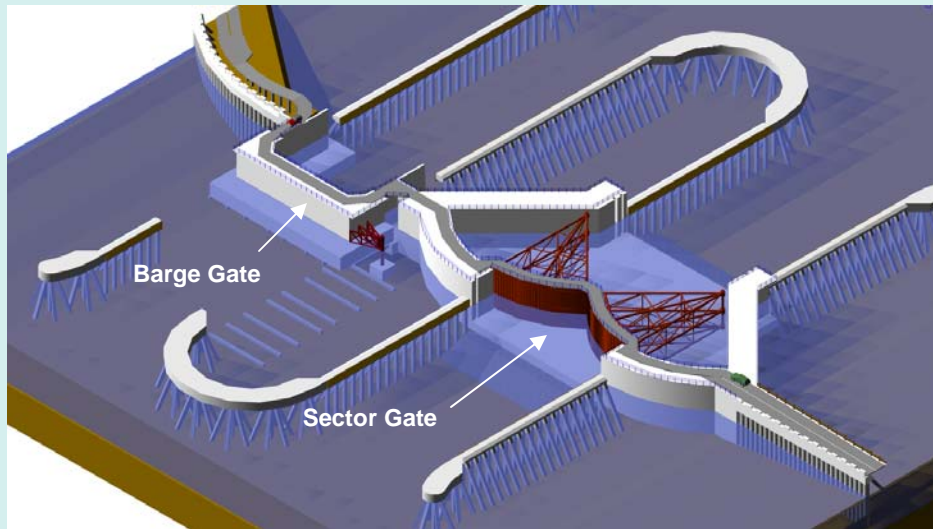
The signs of construction will be visible in the next few weeks.

First we will dredge the access channel and the structure's footprint and then use several barges, tow vessels, crew boats, marsh buggies, air boats and other equipment to dredge 1.4 million cubic yards of soil from the project area. We will use that soil to enrich and nourish the marsh to the east of the project site.

By the end of November, cranes and pile driving equipment are expected to be working in the three channels that go through the project: Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW), Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO), and Bayou Bienvenue. We will be driving piles for a pile load test to finalize design of the floodwall and gate founda-

tions. In preparation for actual dredging by the first week of December, our contractor will remove shoreline protection and clean the channel bottom along the MRGO.

At the same time, one contractor will start filling the MRGO with sand to an elevation of -15 feet. Dredging will take about six weeks. In January we will start driving production piles and start the gate foundations.



**This is a conceptual illustration of what the IHNC Surge Protection Barrier gate complex on the GIWW will look like when completed in 2011. This illustration shows the barge gate and sector gate in the closed positions.**

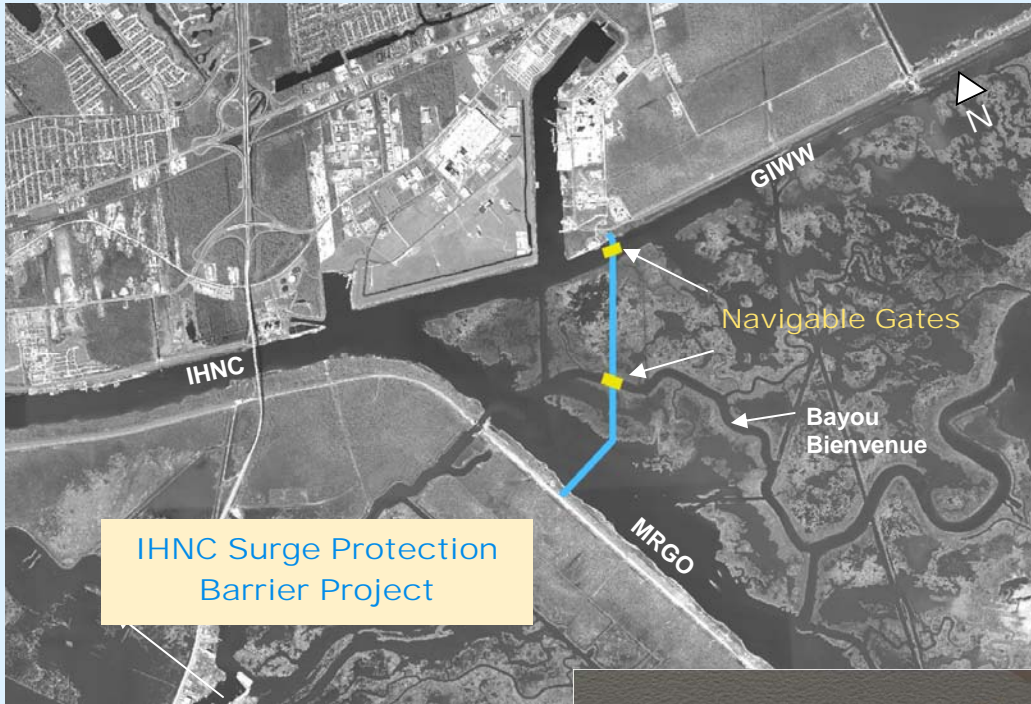
2011, with the goal of having advance measures in place by the peak of the 2009 hurricane season.

The Corps, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Southeastern Flood Protection Authority East, stakeholders and team members continue to work together to reduce storm surge risk and improve public safety for the Greater New Orleans area. Success is our only option!

**BUILDING STRONG!**  
*Karen Durham-Aguilera*

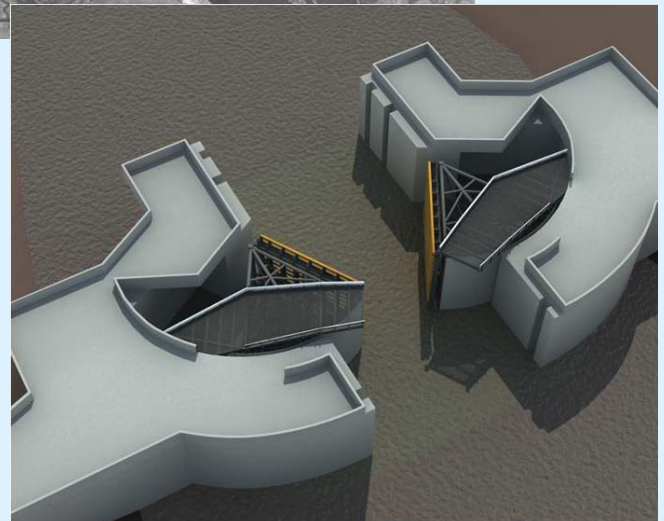
Director, Task Force Hope





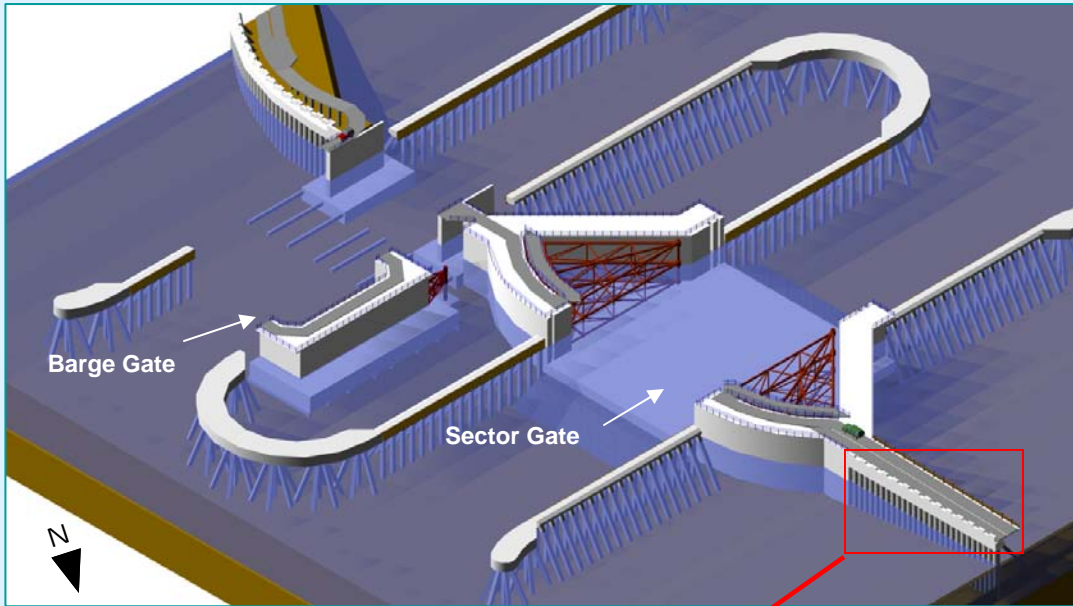
IHNC Surge Protection Barrier Project

The conceptual illustration at right shows what the Bayou Bienvenue navigable sector gate will look like when completed in 2011. The gate opening will be 56 feet wide.

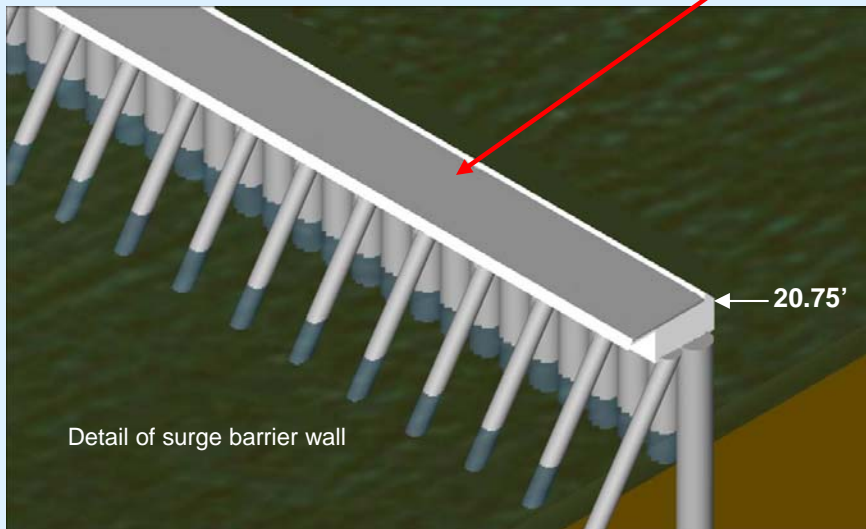


These are samples of the spun cast concrete piles that will be used in the IHNC Surge Barrier Protection project. The piles will be driven segmentally to meet the desired design depth.

*Construction proceeding on*  
Inner Harbor Navigation Canal  
Surge Protection  
Barrier Project



This illustration shows what the completed GIWW surge barrier gate complex will look like (gates in open position). The openings for each gate will be 150 feet wide.



At left is an illustration of what the typical surge barrier wall will look like when advance measures are completed in August 2009. The wall structure elevation will be 20.75 feet high and approximately 8,000 feet long. The barrier wall piles will consist of spun cast concrete (see photo on page 4).

This is an illustration of the typical surge barrier wall when completed in 2011. To meet 100-year level of protection, the wall elevation will be 24'/26' feet high.



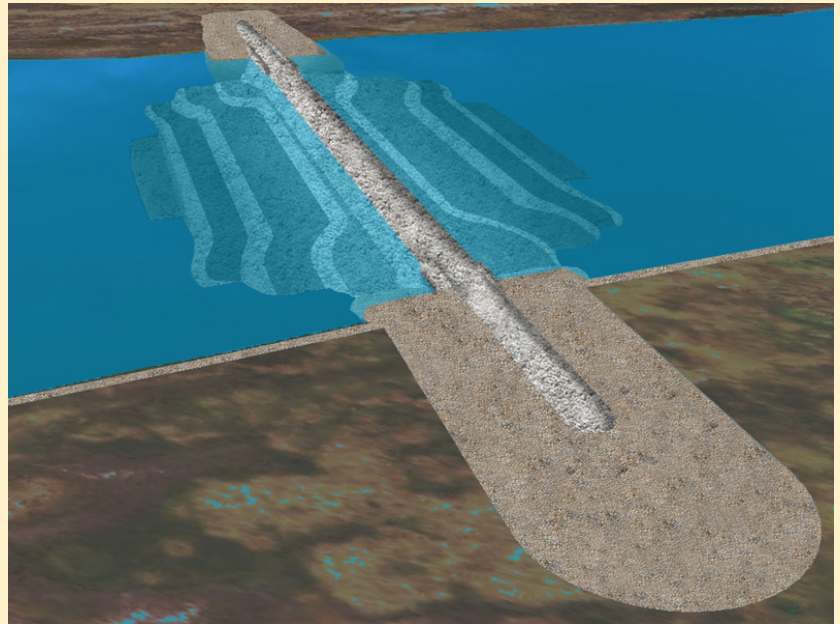
## Closure of MRGO moving forward



The illustration above shows the planned location of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet closure structure.

The illustration at right demonstrates how the rock structure will appear when it is in place.

(USACE Illustrations)



On October 31, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement on the construction of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) closure structure ending more than 45 years of navigation on the now de-authorized federal shipping channel.



Col. Lee

On November 5, a contract for construction on the closure structure was awarded. The engineering plans for the closure structure are complete and the Federal government will fund 100 percent of the construction costs.

"In partnership with the State of Louisiana, the Corps is pleased to be moving forward on the MRGO closure," said Col. Alvin Lee, Commander of the New Orleans District. "We will start construction as soon as possible."

The State of Louisiana's responsibilities include acquisition of the necessary property to build the closure structure, and the maintenance of the structure upon completion of construction. The State will also assume responsibility for the operation, repair, replacement and rehabilitation of the structure.

The 950-foot-long closure structure will require placement of more than 433,500 tons of rock on the Gulf side of Bayou La Loutre near Hopedale, La. The closure is designed to be 12

feet wide at the top and 450 feet wide at the bottom, at an elevation of + seven feet, covering nearly 10 acres of water bottom. The structure will stretch across the channel from bank to bank, completely blocking ship traffic. (see illustration above)

The Corps is working closely with federal and state partners to produce a supplement to the MRGO closure plan that will address ecosystem restoration in areas affected by the MRGO channel. Potential plan features may include marsh creation, shoreline protection, barrier island rebuilding and freshwater diversions from the Mississippi River.



For additional information on the MRGO, visit <http://mrgo.usace.army.mil>.

## Corps of Engineers and State of Louisiana Cost Share Agreement on Coastal Restoration Projects



**T**he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) have signed a cost share agreement that will initiate several studies that are part of the recent Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) authorization.

"Louisiana has lost more than 2,300 square miles of vital coastal wetlands over the last century and this loss continues to threaten the safety of our communities, the energy security of this country and the essential fisheries and wildlife habitat along our coast," said CPRA Chairman Garret Graves.

"The LCA projects we are moving forward with mark the first truly comprehensive efforts to reverse the loss of Louisiana's wetlands."

Included in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, the stud-

ies under this agreement will evaluate numerous options for introducing freshwater and sediment into the marshes and restrict saltwater intrusion throughout southern Louisiana.

The studies will evaluate how to increase organic deposits and improve the productivity of the marsh while working to prevent further deterioration.

"We are very pleased to be working with our state partner, the CPRA, on these important studies," said New Orleans District Commander Col. Alvin Lee. "These restoration studies will eventually lead to the protection and restoration of Louisiana's valuable wetlands."

The total cost for the studies is approximately \$27 million. The studies will culminate in a report the State and Corps will release in December 2010.



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

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

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

This issue and past issues can be found at:  
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps>

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#### **Status Report Newsletter**

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