

**Mississippi River Commission
High Water Inspection
Comments for Colonel Peter J. Rowan
April 11, 2003
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Final

SLIDE

PRINT

1. Corps seal

2. Photo: aerial of
New Orleans, LA
Bullet: MRC High
Water Inspection,
New Orleans, LA,
April 11, 2003

Good morning, Gen. Riley, members of the Mississippi River Commission and distinguished guests. As New Orleans district engineer, it is my pleasure to present the status of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project and associated programs in the New Orleans District.

3. Graphic: Topics:
*River Stages
*Funding Program
*MR&T Studies
*MR&T Projects
*Coastal Restoration

These are the topics I'll be covering this morning ...

4. Left of screen:
ORC
Right of screen: list
of employees

Before I begin, I'd like to briefly mention our efforts in Homeland Security. First, to the left of the screen are the names of those district employees deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and those who are reservists or in the National Guard. We're very proud of these men and wish them a safe return.

(continued...)

Closer to home, we are participating in interagency cooperation with the Coast Guard and the Port Security Commission, attending meetings and exercises. As for MVN infrastructure, we are enhancing security at field facilities such as the Old River Control Complex and at our locks. We've performed a threat assessment of our facilities as part of the enhancement, and can secure additional measures, such as guards and a picket boat at the control structure, if and when needed.

5. Revetment
(concrete mats) in
front of MVN HQ

You might have noticed the revetment material on barges in front of the building. Similar barges are also located at two other sites between New Orleans and Old River to provide an expedient response to levee damage.

6. Photo: MV Miss
Topics:
***River Stages**
*Funding Program
*MR&T Studies
*MR&T Projects
*Coastal Restoration

I'll now begin my presentation with river stages in the New Orleans District since the low water inspection trip back in August.

7. Graphic: Total
Latitude Flows

At the latitude of Old River, total flows crested just above 1.4 million cfs on March 11. Since then, the Mississippi River has been falling steadily and a continued fall is expected over the next week.

8. Graphic: Crest Stages

11 Mar 03 1935-2002
(last signi. crest) Max. Avg.

RRL	50.1	56.9	37.8
BR	33.9	42.1	24.7
NO	13.6	18.8	9.9
Sim	34.8	53.6	29.4
MC	5.9	6.2	2.7

Shown here are the corresponding March 2003 crest stages at various locations on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. Today (11 Apr 03), the total combined discharge of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers at the latitude of Old River is _____ cfs. The average discharge for this date is 1,112,000 cfs. And the stage today at New Orleans is _____ ft.

9. Photos (2): ORC, Auxiliary structure; Atch Basin back swamp, west side

In early March, Governor Foster requested an increase in flows through the Old River Complex to improve water quality and aquatic resources in the Atchafalaya Basin. In response to this request General Riley approved a deviation to the water control plan to increase the Old River Complex flow by 2 percent to a rate of 32 percent beginning on March 12th. This deviation continued until March 18th, at which time the percent flow returned to 30. This regulation change increased Atchafalaya River stages by about 1.5 feet at Simmesport and 0.5 feet at the Butte (pron. beaut) LaRose gage.

10. Graphic: 70/30

Currently, we are maintaining a 72/28-flow distribution between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers to decrease surplus flows. The cumulative percent since January 1 is a little over 30 (30.306%), a surplus of about 110,000 cfs and 0.1% of the river's annual discharge. When the surplus is eliminated, we will revert back to the 70/30 flow, as mandated by legislation.

11. Scenic, coastal
Topics:

*River Stages

***Funding Program**

*MR&T Studies

*MR&T Projects

*Coastal Restoration

And now for our FY 03 program...

12. Graphic: NOD
FY 2003 Program

Bullet:

\$344 M Program

\$50 M Coastal
Restor.

\$2 M IIS

\$14 M Other

Programs

PAS, CAP, FCCE

\$25 M Local Interests

The Fiscal Year 2003 Program includes \$344 million for the New Orleans District. We anticipate receiving \$50 million for coastal restoration efforts, \$2 million for our Interagency and Intergovernmental Service Program, formerly Support for Others, and \$14 million for the Continuing Authorities and Planning Assistance to States programs.

\$435 M (Total)

13. Aerial of Houma
Topics:

*River Stages

*Funding Program

***MR&T Studies**

*MR&T Projects

*Coastal Restoration

Moving on to our MR&T study efforts.

14. Graphic: Three
study areas.

We are currently managing four studies. The three studies shown here are for hurricane protection and flood control projects ... Morganza to the Gulf, Alexandria to the Gulf, and Donaldsonville to the Gulf. Their commonality? All are sub-watershed studies focusing on water resource problems with significant ecosystem restoration objectives.

15. Map: Houma Canal
(110'w, 800'l;
200'-w floodgate)

The Chief of Engineers signed the Morganza to the Gulf Report last August. It has been forwarded to Congress for authorization with construction to begin in FY 2005. A prominent feature of the \$680 million dollar study is the multi-purpose Houma Navigation Canal Lock. It is currently in the design phase.

16. Graphic:
Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico map
(19 miles of channel;
2 control structures)

We're scheduled to execute a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement this month with Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for the first phase of the Alexandria to the Gulf study.

17. Graphic:
Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico map
Photo: aerial, Luling

And our third study, Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico, is underway. We are currently collecting field data for the engineering and economic analysis.

18. Graphic: Lower Atchafalaya Basin Study map
Photo: aerial, Atch levee system

On our fourth study, we're addressing division's comments on the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Reevaluation preliminary draft report and will resubmit the report this June.

19. MRL
Topics:
*River Stages
*Funding Program
*MR&T Studies
***MR&T Projects**
*Coastal Restoration

And now for construction progress on the Mississippi River levee system in the New Orleans District.

20. Graphic: MR levee mileage chart
Total: 512
Comp FY00: 495
Ongoing: 0
Remaining: 17

We are 97% complete and have 17 miles of work remaining. Currently, we have no ongoing construction projects.

21. Alhambra to
Hohen Solms Levee

We'll award two contracts later this fiscal year to address gap closures along the east bank, and to enlarge the Alhambra (all HAHM bra) to Hohen Solms (HOE-en SEWMS) levee.

22. Photo: Angola
construction

Above Baton Rouge, FY 03 funds will be used to complete the final levee enlargement at the Louisiana State Penitentiary.

23. Photo: WABPL-
95
Bullet: Atch Basin
levees (mi)
Completed: 386
Remaining: 63
Total: 449

These numbers show our levee progress in the Atchafalaya Basin, where we're about 93% physically complete.

24. Graphic: FY03,
Atch contracts
To be awarded (7):
Melville Front &
Ring Levee; Krotz
Springs Front &
Levee; W-52 Levee;
E-69/73 Levee; Wax
Lake Outlet West
Levee; Wax Lake
West Drainage
Structure; and West
Bayou Sale North
Bend Levee

This fiscal year, we'll let seven contracts in the basin, if funds are available. *(Pause....)*
No new contracts are scheduled for award in the coming fiscal year.

25. Photo (2):
Dredging in the Atch
River; tug
transporting an oil
industry related
structure

As many of you are aware, we have a problem with fluff in the Atchafalaya River Bar Channel. The district has contracted with the Corps' Engineering Research and Development Center to evaluate the effects of fluff and to find ways to improve its long-term operability. The completion of the study was delayed when Lili and Isidore damaged the monitoring equipment. However, we have continued to use the disposal area located west of the navigation channel and implemented the construction of advanced maintenance test sections in the bar channel to demonstrate the effects of channel deepening on channel operability. ERDC continues to gather and analyze the collected data and our inhouse survey crews continue to monitor channel conditions and the depth of test sections. We will meet with our partners shortly after study completion, scheduled at the end of this month.

26. Super: Atch Basin
Bullet:
*Water Mgmt Units
*Recreation

We are advancing in our planning and design of water management units and recreation features in the Atchafalaya.

27. Photo: Buffalo
Cove

We could begin construction on the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit as early as this fall. We will initiate planning on other unit activities as authorized during the remainder of FY 03.

28. Photo of Lake
End Park

We're also coordinating activities with our local sponsor on the Lake End Park project in Morgan City. The engineering and design phase is underway.

29. Photo of master plan

And preliminary planning is underway for an interpretive center across from the park. We are collaborating with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, St. Mary Parish, Morgan City and other stakeholders.

30. Photo: generic boating activity in Atch...

Additionally, we are in the planning and design phase for boat landings and associated improvements at the six sites shown, with construction scheduled for Simmesport and Millet (pron. mee yet) Point in the fall.

Bullet: Future boat landings and improvements

*Bayou Pigeon in Iberville Parish

*Bayou Sorrell in Iberville Parish

*Krotz Springs in St. Landry

*Butte LaRose in St. Martin Parish

*Simmesport in Avoyelles Parish

*Millet Point in St. Mary Parish

31. Graphic: Pie chart 50K/338K

Progress on our acquisition work in the basin is ongoing. To date, the Corps has purchased more than 47,000 acres and negotiated perpetual rights on about 150,000 acres.

32. Super: Channel Improvement

Bullet:

381 authorized

362 completed

19 remaining

As for the district's channel improvement program, we've constructed just over 362 miles, making revetment work about 95% complete on the Mississippi River. No new revetment work is planned this year; however, we are scheduled to maintain existing revetments.

33. MRGO
revetment test section

This past year, we placed revetment along test sections of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and the Calcasieu River to determine if the concrete mats would work in shallow areas and in areas other than the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. We will monitor the test sections for the next six months.

34. Photo: Stone
foreshore protection
Miles Auth 160
Miles Compl: 142
Total Remaining: 18

Foreshore protection, part of the channel improvement program, continues with one mile scheduled for construction on the left descending bank at 81-Mile Point (Mile 176).

35. Photo: generic
revetment work on
Atch R.

On the Atchafalaya, we'll construct a total of .6 miles of revetment on the right descending bank of Crooked Bayou (Mile 18.4).

36. Graphic: Atch
Basin Bank
Stabilization (Miles)
Completed: 56.8
Schl'd this Year: .6
Remaining: 4.6
Total: 62

Completion of this work will leave a little more than 4.6 miles of the presently authorized 62 miles of required Atchafalaya revetment to be constructed.

37. Generic coastal
land loss
Topics:
*River Stages
*Funding Program
*MR&T Studies
*MR&T
Projects
*Coastal
Restoration

My final topic this morning addresses the district's current efforts, together with the state and other federal agencies, in combating Louisiana's coastal land loss.

38. LCA: 30/90% graphic

Based on the latest USGS data, the state lays claim to 30 percent of the total coastal marshes in the United States; however, we're suffering 90 percent of the coastal marsh loss in the lower 48 states. Louisiana lost 1,875 square miles in the 20th century and, if nothing is done, is expected to lose another 672 square miles in the next 50 years, an area equal to the state of Delaware and the Greater Washington D.C. area.

39. LCA: Impacts

This is having catastrophic impacts on the state's fisheries, oil and gas infrastructure, hurricane protection and port facilities.

40. Map: LCA Comprehensive Study area

Even with Breaux Act projects, beneficial use of dredged material and freshwater diversions, there is still a large disparity between the acres gained under present efforts and the trends of loss. Therefore, the Corps and the state are engaged in a comprehensive ecosystem restoration effort entitled the Louisiana Coastal Area, or LCA, study.

41. LCA Timeline

We have undertaken an unprecedented partnering commitment to complete a programmatic project recommendation to Congress for authorization under WRDA 04.

42. Graphic: LCA Key dates

This slide shows the strategic actions and meetings scheduled between now and the Low Water Trip in August relative to LCA.

43. Photo: (aerial) N.O. CBD

That wraps up the current status of projects in the New Orleans District.

44. Photo: aerial,
Houma

As always, I'd like to recognize and thank the levee districts and state and local representatives who work closely with us to ensure the continued safety and prosperity for the citizens of south Louisiana.

45. Seal Obverse

Thank you.

46. NOD mission
map

Used for reference by the public in the follow-up statements.