Colonel Thomas Julich Mississippi River Commission Low Water Inspection August 25, 2000 Morgan City, Louisiana

Final

SLIDE

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1. Corps seal

| 2. Super: MRC Low Water Inspection, Morgan City, LA, August 23-25, 2000 | Major General Anderson, members of the Mississippi River Commission and distinguished guests, I am Col. Tom Julich, New Orleans district engineer. I'd also like to introduce my new Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, Mr. John Saia. (<i>Ask John to stand</i>). John comes to us from the Savannah District where he held the same position. He will also serve as the district's chief of Planning, Programs and Project Management Division. We are fortunate to have such a seasoned veteran on board. I will now present the status of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project and associated programs in the New Orleans District |
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| 3. MVD Map | Let me quickly mention that the N.O. District is the southernmost district in the Mississippi Valley Division and makes up 30,000 square miles of south Louisiana. |
| 4. Graphic: Topics: *River Stages *Flood Control *Navigation *Environment *Mitigation efforts | These are the topics I'll be covering this morning |

| 5. Graphic: Total Latitude Flows | and I'll begin with a look at river conditions in the N.O. District since the high water inspection trip back in April. At the latitude of Old River, the total flows crested just below 925,000 cfs on July 7th. During this July rise, stages and flows exceeded average for the first time since late August 1999. Since the July crest, stages and flows have fallen steadily with the exception of a minor rise in mid-August. Stages and flows are again falling and are expected to continue to fall over the next week. |
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| 6. Graphic: July 2000 Crest Stages RRL 38.1 BR 23.0 NO 7.2 Sim 23.6 MC 3.5 | Shown here are the corresponding July 2000 crest stages at various locations on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya. Today (24/25 August 2000), the total combined discharge of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers at the latitude of Old River is (24^{th}) <i>cfs.</i> (25^{th}) <i>cfs.</i> The average discharge for this date is 365,000 cfs. |
| 7. Graphic: 70/30 | We continue to maintain the 70/30 flow distribution between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers as mandated by 1954 federal legislation that authorized the Old River Control Project. |
| 8. Photo: (aerial) Garyville to Laplace | In order for this district to perform our mission to the greatest benefit for all, we have been forging partnerships with local agencies for more than 70 years, beginning with levee districts back in 1928. We've been listening to our partners and customers ever since, building flood control, navigation and environmental projects that allow the citizens of this state to live and prosper in the lower Mississippi Valley. |

| 9. A. Baldwin Wood (Broad St.) pump station | The need for our presence cannot be underestimated. Current projects that can be addressed by the Corps in the next few years include improvements to the sewerage and water infrastructure, a comprehensive hurricane protection system, urban flood control, coastal restoration, environmental enhancement, port beautification and lock replacements. |
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| 10. Baton Rouge Riverfront, step/slope paving | For example, the ports of West Baton Rouge and Donaldsonville have requested port beautification projects similar to our work on the riverfront of East Baton Rouge. |
| Photo: (aerial) Philadelphia to Donaldsonville | And parishes along the Mississippi with non- compliant sewer and water infrastructure have already approached the Corps looking for remedies. Congress has authorized us to provide assistance in the form of planning, design and construction of environmental infrastructure projects for water supply, and wastewater treatment and related facilities for East Baton Rouge, Ascension and Livingston parishes. |
| 12. Graphic: MR levee mileage chart Total: 512 Comp FY00: 491 Ongoing: 4 Remaining: 17 | In the area of flood control, specifically the MR&T, I am happy to report that the Mississippi River levee system in New Orleans District is about 97% complete. |
| 13. Photo: (aerial) Revielle to Point Pleasant | We have two ongoing contracts – Carville to Marchand and Reveille to Point Pleasant. They will be completed in the coming fiscal year. |

| 14. Photo: Angola construction | Our work at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, ongoing since the '97 high water season when we provided technical expertise to the penitentiary and the La. National Guard, culminated with the award of two levee contracts and one drainage structure contract in September 99. All three contracts will be completed next fiscal year at about the same time we plan to award a final levee contract. This project should be completed late in FY 02 or early FY 03. |
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| 15. Photo: WABPL- 95 Bullet: Atch Basin levees (mi) Completed: 387 Ongoing: 1 Remaining: 61 Total: 449 | These numbers show our levee progress in the Atchafalaya Basin, where we're about 93% physically complete. |
| 16. Graphic: FY00 Atch contracts | Here are the locations of our work in the basin in FY 2000. Five contracts were completed earlier this figure (shown in numbe). Contracts are |

Teche Kluge Franklin, W-95, E-84B, Wax Lake West-A & B **Ongoing (3)**: W-123, E96/99Ph2 and MC/B#1

this fiscal year (shown in purple). Contracts are ongoing at the three sites shown in red.

The first flood proofing contract for the businesses along the Morgan City/Berwick riverfront will be completed later this calendar year. The designs are more complex than first envisioned and we are reformulating our recommendations for the remaining work. We expect to complete this process in January 2001.

| 17. Graphic: FY01 Atch contracts To be awarded (5): W46/64, EBS Gordy, West Bayou Sale Maryland, Todd, & Wax Lake East Drain Struc. To be completed/carried over from 00 (3): W-123, E-96/99 Erosion & M.C. Flood proofing | Also in FY 2001, we plan to award four levee contracts and a drainage structure contract, shown in green. One contract is for a second lift on the West Atchafalaya Levee where we have experienced numerous slides in the last few years. Congress added funds to our budget to accomplish this work. We are scheduled to complete three of the contracts carried over from this year. |
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| 18. Super: Channel Improvement | Under our channel improvement program, we've constructed just over 361 miles, making our revetment work about 95% complete. |
| 19. Photo: Generic mat unit/levee | This year we will install a total of one mile of articulated concrete mattress revetment on the Mississippi River at Allendale, Waterford and Bohemia. |
| 20. Photo: Revetment plant at work | Also included in this year's program is one mile of stone dike paving on the left descending bank at Olga (mile 14) in addition to 0.3 miles of stone foreshore work on the left descending bank at Springfield Bend, Mile 241. |
| 21. Photo: Stone foreshore protection | We have completed 142 of the presently authorized 160 miles of required foreshore work. |
| 22. Photo: generic revetment work on Atch R. | On the Atch. River, we will construct one mile of revetment on the right descending bank of Bayou Big Graw. |
| 23. Graphic: Atch Basin Bank Stabilization (Miles) Completed: 51.5 Schl'd this Year: 1 Remaining: 5.5 Total: 58 | Completion of this work will leave a little more than 5.5 miles of the presently authorized 58 miles of required Atchafalaya revetment to be constructed. |

| 24. Photo: Mat plant Super: Existing Revetment Maintenance M.R. approx. 2 mi. Atch - approx. 1 mi. | Finally, we are scheduled to maintain existing revetments on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. While on the topic of maintenance, let me reassure our customers that we will continue to maintain and operate our structures at the high level of performance you have come to expect. |
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| 25. Graphic: Morganza to the Gulf Study map | The district is currently managing four MR&T studies that address both flood control and hurricane protection. This slide shows the project area of the Morganza to the Gulf Study. |
| 26. Graphic: Morganza to Gulf, Hwy. 57 Alignment | The primary purpose of the Morganza study is to provide hurricane protection to Terrebonne Parish from Bayou DuLarge to the Larose to Golden Meadow levee. A draft feasibility report is scheduled for completion this month. |
| 27. Map: Houma Canal (200'w, 1,200'l, 15'd) | A prominent feature of the Morganza to the Gulf study is the Houma Navigation Canal Lock. We initiated preconstruction engineering design this past January. Construction should be initiated on this project within the next 5 years. |
| 28. Graphic: Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico map | In a second study, we completed reconnaissance of flooding and other problems in a 1,700-square mile area extending through nine parishes from Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico. A plan for diversion of flood flows from the Chatlin (pron. CHAT lin) Lake Canal to the Red River was found to be feasible. Initiation of a feasibility study is dependent upon receipt of the La. DOTD's share of study costs. DOTD did not receive funds for the study in the state's fiscal year beginning in July 2000; therefore, evaluation of the study is postponed to October 2001, at the earliest, unless another sponsor provides funding. |

| 29. Graphic: Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico map | Our third study area, Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico, extends between Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River. Initiation of a 3-year feasibility study is scheduled for January 2001. The main feature to be recommended is a hurricane protection levee extending from Larose in Lafourche Parish to the vicinity of Luling in St. Charles Parish. |
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| 30. Graphic: Lower Atchafalaya Basin Study map | In our fourth study area we are conducting feasibility level design of alternatives on the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Reevaluation Study. The draft feasibility report is scheduled for completion in January 2001. |
| 31. Jeff Parishlakefront levee,Reach 4 & Pump Sta.#3, Breakwaters | A comprehensive hurricane protection plan has been under construction for the past 40 years. Hurricane protection is a long-term item, involving hundreds of miles of levees and floodwalls in several parishes of south Louisiana. Work will be ongoing for the next 20 years. |
| 32. Graphic: SELA map | The Southeast Louisiana Urban Drainage project, a massive \$537-million undertaking to control urban flooding in a tri-parish area of metropolitan New Orleans, has experienced remarkable progress since its inception in 1995. We will award a total of 17 contracts this year with 15 additional contracts scheduled for next year. Construction should be completed by 2002, provided funding continues. With additional work currently under investigation and expected to be approved, the total project could exceed \$900 million. |

| 33. Aerial: City of Baton Rouge | We expect to initiate construction for flood control improvements for East Baton Rouge Parish, including the city of Baton Rouge, by FY02. Improvements include enlargement and concrete lining of channels, and the clearing and snagging of waterways to alleviate headwater and backwater overflow of the Amite River and tributary streams. Construction will run thru FY 2006. |
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| 34. Comite River Diversion project | The Corps has been waiting for more than a year for the local sponsor to secure its share of costs for the Comite River Diversion Project. The diversion will provide flood protection for residents in the lower part of the Comite River Basin. A millage tax was passed on July 15, 2000. We are now in the process of negotiating the Project Cooperation Agreement to proceed with construction, scheduled to begin in about six months. |
| 35. Graphic: Major waterways | The district continues to maintain its navigation channels, both deep and shallow draft. |
| 36. Photo: Beneficial use/pelicans | Material dredged to maintain channel depth has become a valuable resource to create and restore Louisiana's coastal landscape. In cooperation with the state, we have created more than 10,000 acres of wetlands since 1976. All partners agree this is a great project, and with available funding, we can continue to do more. |
| 37. Photo: Calcasieu Lock | Navigation is aided in the New Orleans District by the operation of our 12 locks. The locks are maintained but as the infrastructure gets older, we will have to make serious attempts at upgrading or replacing them. |

| 38. IHNC Lock | For example, the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock, built in 1920's, has become obsolete. After working for many years with the Port of New Orleans and the community adjacent to the lock, we were able to award our first contract last year to replace the lock. The district will award 19 more contracts during the 10- to 12-year construction phase. |
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| 39. Photo: Bayou Sorrel Backlog list: 1) Old River Lock spare miter gates; 2) Old River Lock electrical re- wiring; and 3) IHNC miter gates | A study is currently underway to replace the Bayou Sorrel Lock with a larger lock and we are just beginning a feasibility study to replace the Calcasieu Lock. The district is currently working on plans and specifications for three items on our critical maintenance backlog. |
| 40. Calcasieu Ship Channel, emergency work | I'd like to take a moment here to brag on the district's exceptional response to our navigation customers in the Calcasieu Ship Channel. Halter Marine's dry dock sunk in the middle of the channel on June 13. It blocked traffic to two major refineries. We quickly mobilized 4 hopper dredges to the site. Within 17 days, we had created a bypass channel allowing passage of ships with a maximum draft of 34 feet. |
| 41. Graphic: Davis Pond map | Switching gears now to the environmental arena, I'd like to highlight our work on the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure. We anticipate it being as successful as Caernarvon, which has exceeded our expectations for the last eight years. At Davis Pond, we will be capable of diverting larger volumes of water into a much larger basin. Davis Pond will improve the fish and wildlife habitat and reduce the rate of land loss in the Barataria Basin. |

| 42. Photo: (aerial) latest construction work at Davis Pond | We have awarded one of the last two contracts that must be completed before we can begin to divert water—the last one for the outflow canal is scheduled for award next month. If scheduling goes as planned, we can begin diversion in May 2001, if environmental conditions warrant. We'll have some levee lift contracts in 2002 before the project is considered physically complete. |
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| 43. Super: Atch Basin | I'd now like to turn your attention to one of the Corps' biggest environmental effortsour work in the vast Atchafalaya Basin. |
| 44 Photo: ABFS public meeting, Morgan City | In June, we conducted public information meetings in Morgan City, Baton Rouge and Lafayette. The meetings were well attended and we experienced active citizen participation. I approved the Master Plan earlier this week. |
| 45. Graphic: Pie chart 50K/338K *Own 34,100 acres in fee north of I-10; 17,500 acres of these are cypress. *Own 2,200 acres of cypress tupelo south of I-10. *Have negotiated 137,209 acres of easements | The district is currently authorized to purchase 50,000 acres in fee for public access, as well as 338,000 acres of flowage, developmental control and environmental protection easements. This is the largest land acquisition project in the Corps of Engineers. The purpose of fee acquisition is to maximize the public's access to floodway resources, manage land use and to protect the environment. |
| 46. Photo: Atch, scenic bald cypress Super: Land Acquisition - FY 2000 negotiations * 13,700 acres fee * 40,000 acres easements | This fiscal year we are negotiating the acquisition of fee lands, which include 6,500 acres of cypress, from three willing sellers and the acquisition of easement lands from about 100 ownerships. |

| 47. Photo: Atch, scenic * 2005- Negotiations complete * 2010 - Real Estate transactions complete | Current funding levels are adequate to complete all real estate negotiations by 2005 and all real estate transactions by 2010. |
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| 48. Amite River Basin, vic. Lake Maurepas | We recently completed a reconnaissance level study on the Amite River and its tributaries. The study focused on ecosystem, upland, and fish and wildlife habitat restoration, as well as wetland conservation and restoration. Historical aerial photos show that the Amite River is six miles shorter in length in 1994 than it was in 1941. The reconnaissance study is currently in review at division headquarters. We are in the pre- negotiation phase with La. DEQ, our cost share partner, for an estimated four-year feasibility study. |
| 49. Photo: Angola State Penitentiary | Briefly addressing our mitigation issues, the New Orleans District has been fortunate to mitigate on government lands instead of having to acquire separate lands. For example, at the state penitentiary at Angola we are mitigating on penitentiary lands. We will be reforesting 166 acres this winter provided the river cooperates. |
| 50. Photo: West Bank HPL | For the West Bank Hurricane Protection project, we are actively involved with the local sponsor, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries on implementing mitigation. |

| 51. Photo: (aerial) Bonnet Carr ■ Spillway, near Lake Pontchartrain | The district's portion of Miss. River levee mitigation will be on government-owned lands except for one small portion. We have a contract for planting 16 acres but because of excessive dryness, the contractor has to wait until this winter. The remaining 24 acres could also be planted in the upcoming season. At this time, we are working with Vicksburg District's forester arranging planting at Angola as well as Miss. River levee mitigation. We've accomplished all other mitigation efforts except in cases like our Comite River project, where construction has not begun. |
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| 52. Photo: Channel Armor Gap Crevasse Bullet: 72 cost share agmts 35 proj compl 13 proj under const 2 proj schd FY00 19 proj schd FY01 | We also work closely with the state's Department of Natural Resources and other federal agencies on restoring Louisiana's coast through the Breaux Act. This slide gives you the current status of projects. When all of these Breaux Act projects are built, they will create or preserve almost 75,000 acres of wetlands. |
| 53. Photo: Barataria Bay Waterway | Unfortunately, there is still a large disparity between the acres gained under present restoration efforts and the trends of loss. Therefore, we are very excited about a new statewide coastal restoration initiative called Coast 2050. |
| 54. Graphic: Coast 2050 | Coast 2050's overall goal is to restore and protect the coastal ecosystem by forming partnerships across the region. Early estimates indicate that there are about \$14 billion in coastal restoration and protection projects across Louisiana over the next 30 years. The importance of Coast 2050 to the future of coastal Louisiana can not be overstated. |

| 55. Photo: (aerial) N.O. CBD | That about wraps up the current status of projects in the New Orleans District. |
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| 56. Photo: aerial, Bayou Yokely Pump Station (Atch Basin) | Let me close by saying that we could not have initiated or accomplished any of our projects without the support of the levee districts and state and local governments. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our partners. Together, we can be proud of the efforts undertaken to ensure continued prosperity for all of Louisiana's citizens. |

57. Seal Obverse