

**Colonel Thomas Julich  
Mississippi River Commission  
Low Water Inspection  
August 23, 2001  
Morgan City, Louisiana**

*Final*

**SLIDE**

**PRINT**

1. Corps seal

2. Super: MRC Low  
Water Inspection,  
Morgan City, LA,  
August 23, 2001

Good morning, Gen. Arnold, 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 &  
Projects

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

4. 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, total flows crested just above 1.1 million cfs on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Since that crest, stages and flows have been falling with the exception of a minor rise in mid-June and early August. Stages and flows are continuing to fall. This low volume of flow has allowed saltwater intrusion upstream to about 15 miles above Head of Passes. It currently poses no threat to municipal water supplies. This is a naturally occurring periodic condition...one that we are monitoring.

5. Graphic: Jun 2001  
Crest Stages  
RRL 43.3  
BR 28.6  
NO 11.1  
Sim 26.6  
MC 4.6

Shown here are the corresponding June 2001 crest stages at various locations on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. Today (23 Aug), 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 366,000 cfs.

6. 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.

7. Graphic: NOD FY  
2001 Program

Bullet:

Federal Program
\$359 M (MR&T = \$97M)
Local Interest (non-fed)
\$23 M
Funds Managed w/Others
\$13 M (CWPPRA)
\$8 M (Superfund)
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\$403 M (Total)

Turning now to the New Orleans District's program. In FY 2001, our program totaled \$359 million dollars in federal funds, of which \$97 million was targeted for MR&T. We'll spend \$23 million in funds provided by our local sponsors, another \$13 million of Coastal Wetlands funds and \$8 million of Superfund monies. This brings our anticipated total program to \$403 million dollars.

8. Graphic: NOD FY  
2002 Program

Bullet:

\$318 M Regular
Appropriations
\$15 M Other Programs
CAP, PAS, FCCE
\$25 M Local Interests
\$25 M Coastal Restoration
\$2 M Support for Others
\$37 M Proposed Congr. Adds
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\$422 M (Total)

The President's Budget for FY 2002 includes \$318 million dollars for regular appropriations and \$15 million on other programs. We expect another \$25 million dollars in local interests' non-federal funds, \$25 million in coastal restoration funds and \$2 million on projects we manage in cooperation with other agencies. The Energy & Water Appropriations bill includes \$37 million in proposed Congressional adds. This brings our anticipated total FY 2002 program to \$422 million dollars.

9. Graphic: Morganza to the Gulf Study map  
And now for our MR&T efforts. We are currently managing four studies. The boundaries of the first one, Morganza to the Gulf, are shown on this slide.

10. 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. We are scheduled to release the report for public review in September.

11. 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 in FY 2000. This project will be available for construction in FY 2004.

12. Graphic: Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico map  
In June 1999, we completed the reconnaissance phase of our second study. We addressed flooding and other problems in a 1,700-square-mile area extending through nine parishes from Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico. We are currently negotiating a feasibility cost-sharing agreement with DOTD and Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of Rapides (pron. rah PEEDS) Parish. We expect to execute the agreement next month.

13. 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. We anticipate initiation of a 3-year feasibility study in October. The main feature is a hurricane protection levee extending from Larose in Lafourche Parish to the vicinity of Luling in St. Charles Parish.

14. Graphic: Lower Atchafalaya Basin Study map  
The Leadership Group has completed a review of the preliminary draft report on our fourth study, the Reevaluation of the Lower Atchafalaya. The district is incorporating their comments and will submit the draft report to MVD for further review by the end of September.
15. Graphic: MR levee mileage chart  
Total: 512  
Comp FY00: 495  
Ongoing: 0  
Remaining: 17  
As for construction work on the MR&T levee system in New Orleans District -- it is about 97% complete. Here are the figures for Mississippi River levees completed, under construction and remaining.
16. Photo: (aerial) Carville to Marchand  
Below Baton Rouge, we completed contracts at Carville to Marchand and Reveille to Point Pleasant earlier this fiscal year.
17. Photo: Angola construction  
Above Baton Rouge, our work at the Louisiana State Penitentiary has been fast-paced since we received the go-ahead to initiate construction in July 1999. We will complete two levee enlargement contracts and a drainage structure contract this fiscal year. We awarded a final levee contract in April 2001. The entire project should be completed in early FY 03.
18. Photo: WABPL-95  
Bullet: Atch Basin levees (mi)  
Completed: 388  
Remaining: 61  
Total: 449  
These numbers show our levee progress in the Atchafalaya Basin, where we're about 93% physically complete.

19. Graphic: FY01  
Atch contracts  
**Completed (1):** W-123  
**Ongoing (3):** W46/64-2ndLift,  
E96/99Ph2 and MC/B#1

Here are the locations of our work in the basin in FY 2001. One contract was completed earlier this fiscal year, shown in purple. Contracts are ongoing at the three sites shown in red. We are scheduled to complete the E-96/99 Erosion contract and the Morgan City flood proofing contract later this year.

20. Graphic: FY01,  
Atch contracts  
**To be awarded (4):**  
EBS Gordy, West Bayou Sale  
Maryland, Todd & Wax Lake  
East Drain Structure

Also in FY 2001, we plan to award two additional levee contracts and a drainage structure contract as well as advertise another levee contract. These contracts are shown in green and represent 8.5 miles of levee.

21. Graphic, map  
Hwy 70, Lake  
Palourde, LA

I am happy to report that we now have underway a project that this area has anticipated for some time. This is the work on shoreline erosion protection for LA Hwy 70 at Lake Palourde in St. Mary and St. Martin parishes. Last month, a Corps-hired labor crew began work on a 6,000-foot-long dike parallel to the shoreline. Immediately after Labor Day, we will start pumping material between Hwy 70 and the rock dike, thus extending the existing shoreline 400 feet into Lake Palourde. This will protect the only major route from Morgan City proceeding north. The entire work will be completed in early October.

22. Super: Atch  
Basin  
\*Water Mgmt Units  
\*Recreation  
\*Interpretive Center

This year, we have really picked up the pace in our work on water management units and recreation features. The purpose of water management units is to restore somewhat the historical water flow patterns (typically north-to-south) in the basin. Our challenge is to do it in a manner that minimizes sedimentation in these areas. In 1995, we made three cuts in the east bank of Bayou Eugene to improve water circulation. Follow-up modifications are slated to begin this November.

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Also in November, we plan to have a conceptual layout for the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit. Our focus is on initiating Phase I construction in the latter part of FY 2002.

On the recreation side, we will advertise this fall for the construction of a boat ramp at Simmesport. Closer to Morgan City, we are now finalizing the detailed design report for the Myette Point Boat Ramp. If funds are available, we could initiate construction next spring.

Another effort at Morgan city is Lake End Park. Working with some concepts already developed by Morgan City, we could be in a position to initiate construction in FY 2003.

Preliminary planning is also underway for an interpretive center across from Lake End Park. Our initial efforts will concentrate on developing visitation, size, and exhibit data. We are collaborating in all of the efforts with DNR, St. Mary Parish, Morgan City and other stakeholders.

23. Graphic: Pie chart  
50K/338K

I'd like to call your attention to our real estate acquisition work currently underway in the vast Atchafalaya Basin. It is the largest land acquisition project in the Corps of Engineers. Congress authorized the purchase of 50,000 acres in fee for public access, as well as 338,000 acres in easements, in 1986. To date, the Corps has purchased 47,342 acres and bought perpetual rights on 144,000 acres.

24. Photo: Atch dedication ceremony
- Fiscal Year 2001 funds are being used to acquire additional lands in easements and to complete acquisition of lands in fee. I'm proud to add that our work in the basin was recognized recently by the Sierra Club and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. Senator Landrieu, DNR Secretary Jack Caldwell and Charles Fryling, chairman of the Sierra Club Atchafalaya Committee, were present to congratulate the Corps on our efforts in preserving the basin.
25. Super: Channel Improvement  
Bullet:  
381 authorized  
361 completed  
20 remaining
- My final topic is the district's channel improvement program. We've constructed just over 361 miles, making revetment work about 95% complete.
26. Photo: Generic mat unit/levee
- This year we will install a quarter of a mile of articulated concrete mattress revetment on the Mississippi River at Nestor (mile 40).
27. Photo: Revetment plant at work
- Also included in this year's program is .8 miles of foreshore work on the left descending bank at Lower Plaquemine (mile 206).
28. Photo: Stone foreshore protection
- And we have completed 142 of the presently authorized 160 miles of required foreshore work.
29. Photo: generic revetment work on Atch R.
- On the Atch. River, we will construct .9 miles of revetment on the right descending bank of Crooked Bayou (mile 21.2), and on the left descending bank at Toles (mile 35.6) and Red Cross (mile 28.4).

30. Graphic: Atch Basin Bank Stabilization (Miles)  
Completed: 53.8  
Schl'd this Year: .9  
Remaining: 3.3  
Total: 58
31. Photo: Mat plant Super: Existing Revetment Maintenance  
- M.R. approx. 2 mi.  
- Atch - approx. 1 mi.
32. Photo: (aerial) N.O. CBD
33. Photo: Fr. Quarter floodwall
34. Seal Obverse
35. NOD mission map
- Completion of this work will leave a little more than 3.3 miles of the presently authorized 58 miles of required Atchafalaya revetment to be constructed.
- Finally, we are scheduled to maintain existing revetments on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.
- That about wraps up the current status of projects in the New Orleans District.
- 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 all stakeholders. Together, we can be proud of the efforts undertaken to protect Louisiana's citizens from flood events on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.
- Thank you.
- Used for reference by the public in the follow-up statements.*