

# Visiting NOD (retired) District Engineers

## October 28, 2002

### SLIDES

1. NOD Logo
2. Graphic:  
Topics
  - \*Funding
  - \*ConstructionProjects
  - MR&T
  - Hurricane Protection
  - IHNC
  - SELA
  - Davis Pond
  - LCA

3. Graphic: NOD FY  
2003 President's  
Budget  
Bullet:
  - \$287 M Regular  
Appropriations
  - \$62 M Coastal Restoration
  - \$2 M Support for Others
  - \$14 M Other Programs
    - PAS, CAP, FCCE
  - \$25 M Local Interests

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- \$390 M (Total)

### TEXT

Greetings. Welcoming comments.

My topics this morning will quickly cover our FY 2003 program with most of our time focusing on current projects.

The President's Fiscal Year 2003 budget includes \$287 million for the New Orleans District, down significantly from \$318 million received last year for our regular appropriations. Congress has requested approximately \$60 million in supplemental funds. In addition, we anticipate receiving \$62 million for coastal restoration efforts, \$2 million for our Support for Others program, \$14 million for programs such as Planning Assistance to States, and \$25 million contributed by local sponsors. Funds are being provided through a series of Continuing Resolution Authority bills until a final appropriations bill is passed.

4. Graphic: MR levee  
mileage chart  
Total: 512  
Ongoing: 4  
Remaining: 13

I'll begin our construction projects with the Mississippi River and Tributaries project. The levee system along the Mississippi River in the New Orleans District is about 97% complete.

5. Photos (2):  
1. Baton Rouge Front,  
Phase II  
  
2. either the AI to HS or  
the HS to Mod levees

We currently have no active contracts; however, we plan to award a 2-week, 2-block-long levee contract at the Baton Rouge Riverfront once an appropriate borrow area is identified. We also plan to address some gap closures on the east bank; and enlarge the Alhambra to Hohen Solms and Hohen-Solms to Modeste levees this fiscal year.

6. Photo: Angola  
construction

Above Baton Rouge, FY 03 funds are being used to complete construction on the last levee enlargement contract for the downstream reach from Camp C to the main gate at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Two levee enlargement contracts and one drainage structure contract were completed last fiscal year. This project will be completed in the Spring of 2003.

7. Photo: WABPL-95  
Bullet: Atch Basin  
levees (mi)  
Total: 449  
Completed: 388  
Remaining: 61

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

8. Graphic: Ongoing  
levee contracts  
**Ongoing (3):** East Bayou  
Sale-Gordy, West Bayou  
Sale- Maryland, and Todd  
Levee and Pump Station

Here are the locations of work currently underway in the basin.

9. Graphic: FY03, Atch contracts

**To be awarded (7):**

Melville Front & Ring Levee; Krotz Springs Front & Ring 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 plan to award seven contracts at these locations.

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

For quite some time now, we've had a problem with fluff in the Atchafalaya River Bar Channel. Fluff is a mixture of organic materials and salt water. It has a tendency to remain suspended and interferes with navigation propulsion systems. The district has contracted with the Corps' Waterways Experiment Station to evaluate the effects of fluff on the channel and to find ways to improve its long-term operability. In addition to other measures and in conjunction with the study, the district began placing material on the west side of the channel with the start of dredging activities back in August. This is a demonstration project that will be monitored and applied to the study.

11. Graphic, map Hwy 70, Lake Palourde, LA and Photo: completed Phase 1 work

We recently completed shoreline protection work along LA Hwy 70 at Lake Palourde. We created a 46-acre buffer zone between the lake and highway to protect the only major hurricane evacuation route from Morgan City north.

12. Super: Atch Basin

Bullet:

\*Water Mgmt Units

\*Recreation

We continue to advance in our planning and design of water management units and recreation features in the Atchafalaya.

13. Photo: Buffalo Cove

For example, our goal this year is to begin construction on the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit and initiate planning on the Flat Lake Water Management Unit.

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

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 Par.

\*Myette Point in St. Mary Parish

\*Simmesport in Avoyelles Parish

Additionally, we are in the planning and design phase for boat landings and associated improvements at the six sites shown.

15. Graphic: Pie chart 50K/338K

And 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 144,000 acres.

16. Photo: Scenic, Lake Pont levee, lakefront, hi alt

Now let's review our hurricane protection projects...I'll begin with an update on the Hurricane Protection Louisiana Study where we're looking to provide a level of protection against a Category 4 or 5 storm. The Reconnaissance Report has been approved and we are developing cost estimates for the feasibility study. We expect to begin that study this fiscal year.

17. Photo: Cross Bayou Drainage Structure

As for ongoing construction, I'll begin with the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project in St. Charles Parish. The Cross Bayou Drainage Structure is under construction and should be completed by the end of this calendar year.

18. Photo: St. Charles Parish back levee

Contracts will be awarded this fiscal year for drainage structures at St. Rose, Almedia (AL media) and Walker Canal, all in St. Charles Parish. In addition, contracts for a floodgate at the Illinois Central Railroad and a levee enlargement that includes a closure at the Gulf South Pipeline crossing will be awarded.

19. Construction photo or aerial of site

In Orleans Parish, construction is underway to floodproof bridges at Filmore and Mirabeau avenues over the London Outfall Canal.

20. Photo: N.O. East back levee, ground shot, construction

The Hammond Hwy Bridge, which connects Orleans and Jefferson parishes at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal, is under construction. This contract will expand the current roadway to four lanes under a multi-agency agreement.

21. Photo: Orleans Parish, P.S. #6

This fiscal year, we are scheduled to award a contract for fronting protection at Pump Station #3, similar to work shown here at P.S. #6.

22. Photo: N.O. East back levee, aerial

And we'll award contracts to enlarge the New Orleans East Back Levee along the GIWW near Michoud and between Paris Road and the IHNC.

23. Photo: aerial, Algiers Canal around the Belle Chasse Hwy, OR one of the pump stations mentioned

Work currently underway on the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project includes a levee reach along the Algiers Canal from the Hero Levee to Belle Chasse Hwy. And a contract on the Reach 3 floodwall for the pump stations at Ames, Mt. Kennedy and Oak Cove.

24. Photo: Harvey Canal

We recently awarded a contract for pump expansion and fronting protection at Cousins Pump Station. In the Harvey Canal, we have an ongoing contract for a discharge channel, floodwall and culvert, and will shortly award a contract for a sector gate complex.

25. Photo: Lake Cata. at Bayou Segnette

And in the Lake Cataouatche area, we have a contract scheduled for award from the Lake Cataouatche Pump Station to Segnette State Park.

26. Graphic: N.O. to Venice project

As for work on the New Orleans to Venice Hurricane Protection Project, we awarded a contract this summer for a second enlargement of the Ft. Jackson to Venice reach on the west bank. Pending additional funding, two more contracts are scheduled for award the fiscal year on the west bank reach.

27. Map: LaRose-GM, Pointe Au Chien

In Lafourche Parish, on the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Project, we recently completed construction of the second lift on the Pointe Au Chien mitigation levee. The South Lafourche Levee District is constructing a third lift on Section F as part of their 30 percent non-federal share. This levee system is about 95% complete.

28. Photo: Grand Isle

Grand Isle's hurricane protection, a dune completed in 1993, was damaged by Tropical Storm Isadore and Hurricane Lili last month. The mayor is requesting that the Corps perform emergency repairs to the existing project. We will forward this request to HQ for a decision.

29. Photo: New Orleans, '95 flood

New Orleans District is also working with local officials to combat urban flooding from rainfall events.

30. Graphic: SELA map  
Bullet: Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project

Between 1978 and 1994, Orleans, Jefferson and St. Tammany parishes experienced flooding from numerous rainfall events. But it took the 20 inches of rainfall in May 1995 for Congress to authorize the Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control Project.

31. Photo: Keyhole Canal  
Bullet: SELA Project expected to total almost \$650 million  
Completion scheduled FY 2007

This enormous undertaking, expected to total almost \$650 million dollars, focuses on the design and construction of canals and pump stations to reduce urban flooding caused by excessive rainfall. Given funding, construction should be completed in FY 2007.

32. Aerial of IHNC

I'll now talk about the Industrial Canal Lock, one of the district's most heavily used, high profile projects. The lock, state-of-the-art when constructed in the 1920s, is substandard for today's use.

33. IHNC demolition shot  
After working many years with the Port of New Orleans and the community, we awarded our first contract back in 1999 to demolish the existing marine facilities on the east side of the canal and in 2000 awarded another contract to demolish the Galvez St. Wharf. Limited funding has prevented us from awarding additional contracts.
34. Another demolition shot  
We have made progress with the Mitigation Plan, working with the local affected communities, for example job training for construction jobs.
35. Graphic: Artist's concept  
And this is an artist's concept of the new lock, which will be constructed off site and floated into place.
36. Photo: scenic/generic of coastal land loss  
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.
37. Graphic: 40%/80%  
South Louisiana contains about 40% of the lower 48 states' coastal marshes. What has us concerned is that 80% of those marshes occur here on an annual basis.
38. Photo: Shrimp boat in Barataria  
Bullet:  
Louisiana contributes:  
28% total volume of U.S. fisheries  
35%-40% of nation's shrimp & oyster needs  
This is significant because more than 90% of the commercial and sport fish caught on the Gulf Coast spend part of their life cycle in these marshes. During the last decade, largely because of these marshes and wetlands, La. has contributed about 28% of the total volume of the U.S. fisheries with a value of about \$1 billion dollars annually. The annual shrimp and oyster harvest supplies 35-40% of the nation's needs.



39. 1<sup>st</sup> Photo: Dredge creating marsh  
2<sup>nd</sup> Photo: Aerial, wetlands w/Bullet:  
13,000 acres of wetlands  
7,000 acres of coastal habitat

Since the late 1970s, the district has been using 25 to 35% of the material dredged from our navigation channels to create and restore, nourish and protect Louisiana's coastal wetlands habitats. We have created more than 13,000 acres of wetlands and 7,000 acres of coastal habitat through the beneficial use of this material.

40. Photo: Caernarvon,

We took a major step forward in combating coastal land loss back in 1991 with the construction and operation of the Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion Structure. The project was designed to increase fish and wildlife productivity by re-establishing favorable salinity conditions in the Breton Sound Basin. It is estimated that more than 126,000 acres of coastal wetlands will be preserved over a 50-year period.

41. Photo: Davis Pond

Likewise, the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure, dedicated in March of 2002, will divert up to 10,650 cfs of fresh water, twice the amount of Caernarvon, into the Barataria Basin, preserving about 33,000 acres of marsh and benefiting some 777,000 acres over the next 50 years. Freshwater diversions are considered one of the most important tools in restoring the coast.

42. CWPPRA graphic

Freshwater diversion is just one method we are implementing to nourish and rebuild our wetlands. Since the enactment in 1990 of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Breaux Act, Louisiana has received between \$35 and \$45 million dollars each year for wetland enhancement and coastal restoration projects.

### 43. Photo: Channel Armor Gap Crevasse

#### Bullet:

- 119 active projects on 11 PPLs
- 50 proj completed
- 13 proj under const
- 19 projects scheduled for construction in FY03
- 13 proj schld FY 04
- 3 proj schld FY 05
- 21 unscheduled
- Projects to restore, create or protect 125,000 acres of coastal wetlands
- 101 cost sharing agreements executed

The district is working closely with the state and other federal agencies on coastal restoration efforts. This slide gives you the current status of projects. When all of these Breaux Act projects are built, they will restore, create or protect more than 125,000 acres of coastal wetlands.

### 44. Program “pie chart” that addresses coastal wetlands loss

Unfortunately, there is still a large disparity between the acres gained under present efforts and the trends of loss. As this pie chart shows, along with the projects just mentioned and some other minor programs, corrective actions address only 28% of restoration needs.

### 45. Map: LCA Comprehensive Study area

Therefore, the Corps and the state are engaged in a significant ecosystem restoration effort entitled the Louisiana Coastal Area, or LCA, study. The study will identify long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration strategies that address the remaining 72% of the pie chart just shown. This comprehensive coastal effort is estimated at \$14 billion dollars over the next 30 years.

### 46. Barrier Island restoration

There are many restoration methods we could apply but river diversions, marsh creation, barrier and shoreline protection and hydrologic techniques are the big ticket items we will be implementing.

47. Graphic: collocation slide

Studies are being accomplished at an accelerated rate by a multi-agency collocated team. We have taken an unprecedented and ambitious step to collocate under one roof planner, engineers, scientists and biologists from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, USGS, EPA, Commerce, the state's Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources with one common goal...restoring coastal Louisiana.

48. Slide: LCA Programmatic Authorization

In addition, a Framework Development Team comprised of resource agencies has been tasked to formulate a final plan. A programmatic project recommendation will be presented to Congress for authorization under WRDA 04.

49. West Vermilion Bay  
Bullet: LCA Advisory Task Force & Gov's Commission on Coastal Restoration

Because of the magnitude of Louisiana's coastal restoration efforts and its national significance, action is being taken to form a Federal Advisory Task Force. This Task Force would include representatives of federal agencies at the Washington level as well as state representatives. The Governor recently announced the new members of his Commission on the Future of Coastal Louisiana. The commission will work closely with the Corps and Task Force.

50. "One Voice", 4-  
photo slide

It is critical that the nation understands the significances of Louisiana's threatened coast and its linkage to oil and gas, navigation and commerce and commercial fisheries as well as one of America's most unique cultures. The state, together with the federal and regional bodies, must develop consensus on the structure and strategy of this plan. It is imperative that we speak with one voice...the future of the state depends on it.

51. Photo: aerial, New Orleans CBD

That about wraps up the current status of the district. Are there any questions/comments. Thank you.

52. Seal Obverse

Closing comments.