



## Mississippi River Gulf Outlet

### **Q: Why does the Corps have to do a report to close the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO)?**

A: Congress mandated, through Public Law 109-234, that the Corps of Engineers develop a comprehensive plan to de-authorize deep-draft navigation on the MRGO.

### **Q: What plan does it recommend?**

A: The Interim Report evaluates options and identifies courses of action for closing the MRGO. However, preliminary analysis of deep-draft navigation indicates that maintaining the authorized dimensions of the MRGO is not cost-effective. And, the economic information available indicates that shallow-draft traffic on the MRGO is not cost-effective in terms of national economic development (NED). Therefore, closure of the MRGO channel to both shallow and deep-draft navigation by an armored earthen dam just south of Bayou La Loutre near Hopedale, La., appears to be particularly viable.

### **Q: Was anyone else involved in the development of the Interim Report?**

A: Preparation of the Interim Report was a collaborative effort. Federal, state and local government representatives, other organizations, stakeholders and the public assisted in the preparation of the Interim Report. The district hosted six very successful stakeholder meetings and held a public open house meeting on a Saturday to ensure maximum attendance. More than 130 people attended, visiting kiosks set up by stakeholders to present their point of view. In addition, an interactive Web site was created and more than 1,000 comment cards were printed and provided to the public.

### **Q: Where do we go from here?**

A: There are two possibilities. One, the Corps intends to continue active involvement with its stakeholders and the public to develop plans for MRGO as part of the Louisiana Coastal Preservation and Restoration project. Two, Congress could decide to take action on the Interim Report.

### **Q: When do we see construction?**

A: That depends upon congressional authorization.