



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

April 22, 2011

Contract awarded for *Permanent Pumps at Outfall Canals*

"This is a huge milestone in reducing risk for the people of Greater New Orleans...."

- MG Michael Walsh

by Susan Spaht

On April 13, the Corps of Engineers awarded a \$675 million contract for design and construction of the Permanent Canal Closures and Pump Stations (PCCP) for the three outfall canals at 17th Street, London Avenue and Orleans Avenue. The approximately 44-month contract calls for the three pump stations to be constructed simultaneously within the project footprint that was determined during the environmental clearance process. Site work could begin as early as June 2011. When construction is complete, the new structures will work in concert with the existing New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board pumping stations along each canal.

During a tropical event the gates will close, if necessary, to prevent storm surge from entering the canals from Lake Pontchartrain, and the pumps



will evacuate rainwater from the canals into Lake Pontchartrain.

The PCCP design/build contract was awarded to CBY Design Builders, a joint venture of CDM, Brasfield & Gorrie, and Yates Construction.

This contract is the last of the big four projects to isolate drainage and navigation canals from primary exposure to storm surge in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). The other three big construction projects are: the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier, the Seabrook Floodgate Complex, and the West Closure Complex (see map, page 2).

"This is a huge milestone in reducing the risk of storm surge for the people of Greater New Orleans," said Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, Commander of the Mississippi Valley Division in Vicksburg, Miss. "Awarding this contract enables us to start work to replace the temporary structures at the three outfall canals with permanent closures and pump stations."

The PCCP will replace the Interim Closure Structures (ICS) that were built at the mouths of the three outfall canals following Hurricane Katrina in the 2005 hurricane season. The ICS,

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which have a limited project life, provide risk reduction from a 100-year storm surge event. These interim structures, which successfully defended against Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008, will remain in place and continue to provide storm surge defense during construction of the PCCP, and will be removed after completion of the permanent features. The Corps

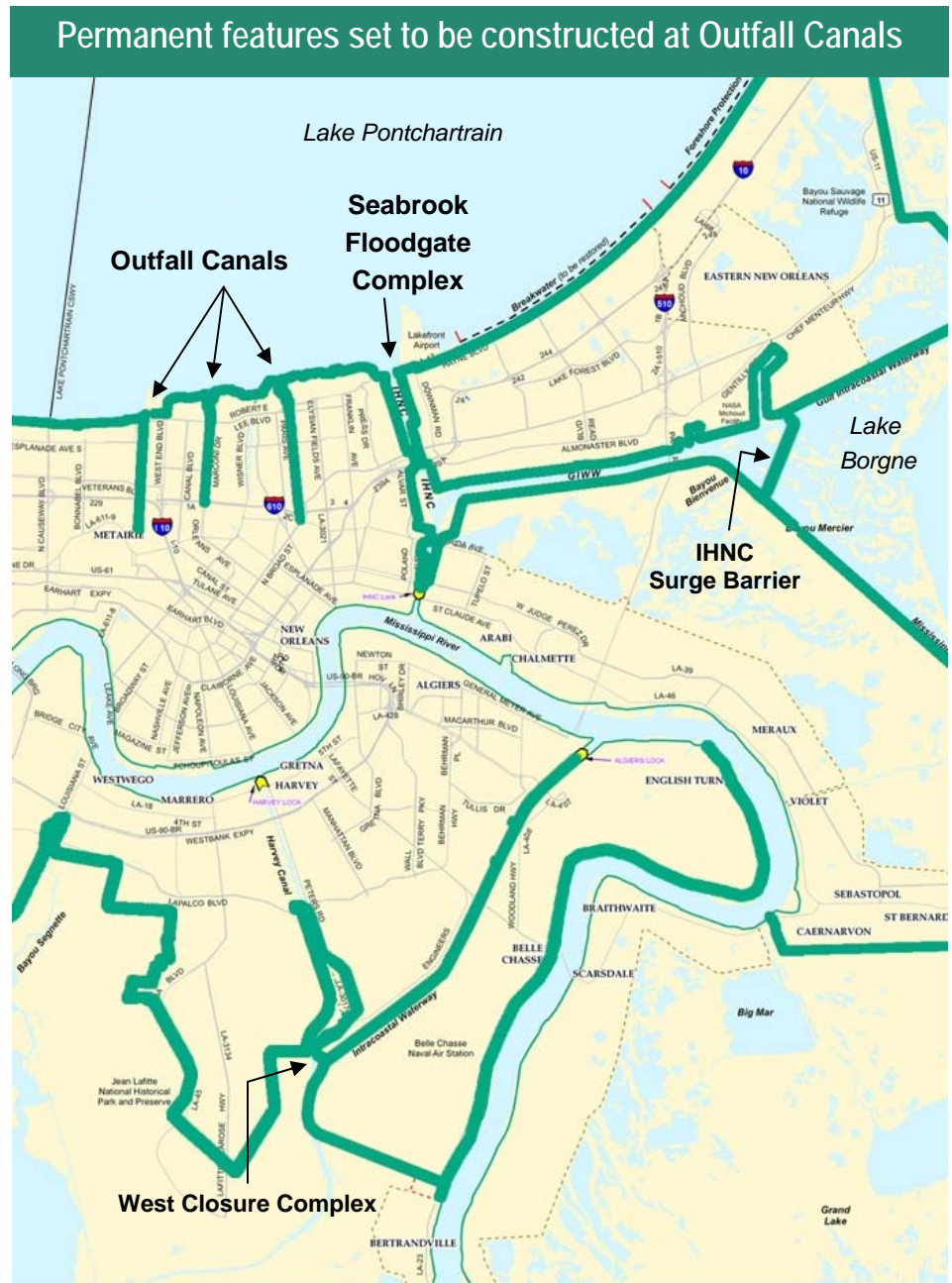


MG Walsh

conducts regular maintenance checks and tests on the interim gates and pumps to keep them in proper working order.

“The Corps of Engineers listened to the public on this important project,” said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope. “We committed to engineer and build the permanent structures in a way that would facilitate future modifications in the event that modifications for grading the canals for gravity drainage to the lake are authorized and funded. These adaptable features, built from the start, will avoid a tear out of the permanent structures we are building should authorization and funding become available some time in the future.”

As outlined in a March 2010 Project Partnership Agreement, the Corps of Engineers is responsible for design and construction of the three permanent outfall canal structures at 100% Federal expense. The State of Louisiana, through its Coastal Protection



and Restoration Authority, has the responsibility to obtain all real estate interests needed, and will assume operations and maintenance of the structures upon completion of construction.



Mike Park

"I want to thank our partners --- the State of Louisiana, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, Jefferson Parish and the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, as well as members of industry and our stakeholders," said Maj. Gen. Walsh, "for their ideas and hard work as we stand side-by-side to achieve our mutual goal: a permanent and sustainable Hurricane and Storm Surge Risk Reduction System for the people of Greater New Orleans."





17th Street Outfall Canal



Orleans Ave. Outfall Canal

USACE Photos



London Ave. Outfall Canal

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The *Status Report Newsletter* supports the information program for Task Force Hope and its stakeholders.

It also serves as the primary tool for accurately transmitting the Corps' hurricane risk reduction efforts to stakeholders.

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Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at: b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil

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Status Report Newsletter

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A word from our Commanding General



Congratulations once again to Team New Orleans for meeting another huge milestone with the award of a contract for the three permanent lakefront closure structures and pumping stations. Thanks to all for the excellent regional coordination within the Mississippi Valley Division, as well as the great support from the Northwestern Division and the Portland District.

By working together as a cohesive team of teams, we were able to get the last East Bank contract awarded. This is a huge milestone in reducing risk of storm surge for the people of Greater New Orleans.

The award of this contract enables replacement of the Interim Closure Structures and Temporary

Pumping Stations at the three outfall canals, allowing us to permanently close off the three outfall canals from a 100-year storm surge event. Team New Orleans and all of the Mississippi Valley Division continues the full-court press to deliver our mission to have a perimeter system capable of defending against a 100-year storm on 1 June 2011.

We are Building Strong and, with the support of all our partners, we will make our goal!

Michael Walsh

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, Commander
Mississippi Valley Division

