



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



# Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

February 9, 2011

## Driving hard, building strong



USACE Photo

West Closure Complex - Jan. 17, 2011

by Susan Spaht

**The** Corps of Engineers is driving hard to build the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), the perimeter system that will defend against 100-year storm surge, by June 1, 2011. Looking around the five-parish area,

you will see an incredible amount of Corps construction work.

If you live in Orleans, Jefferson, St. Charles, St. Bernard or Plaquemines Parish, there is a good chance that a Corps construction project is close to you. To review the projects in your area, and throughout the entire system, go to this Web site: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/#>

Project photos are also available at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/37671998@N05>

“In the past five years since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we have completed 191 construction projects - a remarkable achievement,” said

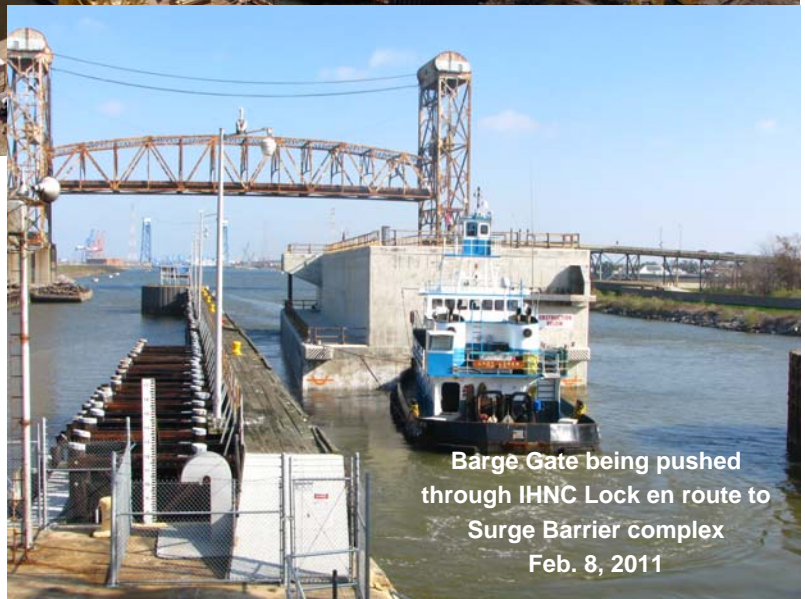
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**Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier - Jan. 2011**



**IHNC Barge Gate in construction - Jan. 2011**



**Barge Gate being pushed through IHNC Lock en route to Surge Barrier complex Feb. 8, 2011**

*Continued from page 1*

Mike Park, the new Chief of Task Force Hope, “and we have 111 projects underway. We are building 133 miles of levees, floodwalls, gates and pumps using state-of-the-practice engineering methods, new and more stringent construction criteria, and high quality building standards. This mission is establishing new engineering and construction benchmarks for the industry in many ways.”

**Driving Hard**

June 1 is less than four months away, and the HSDRRS already looks formidable:

- Floodwalls, being built at two miles per month, are taking shape in St. Bernard Parish;
- a cofferdam is nearing completion at the Industrial Canal for the Seabrook Floodgate Complex;
- the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier wall is standing at the confluence of the GIWW and the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, and the three gated structures are now being built;
- the pump station at the colossal West Closure Complex, across the GIWW on the West Bank, is now enclosed and the site has

*Continued on page 3*





USACE Illustrations

West Return Floodwall construction - Jan. 2011



USACE Photo

Continued from page 2

been re-watered to prepare for the sector gate installations (see page 1);

- construction crews at the West Return Floodwall are working around the clock;
- the Western Tie-In Sellars Canal control structure at Bayou Verret is well underway;
- construction of the 100-year risk reduction features at Causeway Bridge are going very smoothly; and

- the work continues at a fast pace throughout the entire system.

**Building Strong**

“Public safety is the Corps’ number priority,” said Park. “We are working very hard to meet our June 1 goal – the start of hurricane season - on every project, and we are simultaneously maintaining the highest quality construction standards in the industry.”

“This mission has been, and continues to be, a collaborative team effort with our partners and stakeholders,

with academia and business, and with input from the general public.

We set ourselves a goal and very high standards on this mission.

“We are building fast, and we are building strong for the people of the Greater New Orleans area.”



Mike Park





Causeway Bridge construction - Jan. 2011



USACE Photo by Tom Durel

St. Bernard Floodwall - Jan. 2011











An open letter to  
Team New Orleans  
from our  
*Commanding General*

**W**hat a five-year period it has been for the Mississippi Valley Division and for the Greater New Orleans area! What a magnificent historic period!

Rebuilding after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita has been a total team effort and one of national significance. It became the Corps' number one domestic priority and the priority for two Presidents. The rebuilding effort used the resources of the entire Mississippi Valley Division and other Corps expertise from across the nation.

The work we are doing on the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System is based on scientific rigor, robust independent external peer review, and close partnerships with our stakeholders, academia and the general public.

We have a never-say-quit attitude, and we are determined to meet our goal of providing the citizens of the Greater New Orleans area with a system that will defend against a 100-year storm by next hurricane season.

I congratulate Team New Orleans on your continued diligence, dedication and commitment to our work. I am truly honored and humbled to be on the same united team with you.

*Michael Walsh*

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



August 2009 - Site clearance



# West Closure Complex

November 2009



USACE Photos

January 2010



November 2010 - 46% complete



## Driving Hard, Building Strong

January 2011 - 61% complete



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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.

*This is an online publication that is open to public distribution.*

This issue and past issues can be found at:

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps>

Comments and questions may be sent to the

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Task Force Hope

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