



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division



Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

June 26, 2009

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration

LACPR Team releases Final Technical Report

**Corps accepting
public comments
on report
through July 24**

*Information compiled
by Susan Spaht*

On June 9, the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) team released the LACPR Final Technical Report for review by other Federal agencies, the State of Louisiana, non-governmental organizations, and the public. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is accepting comments on the report until July 24, 2009.

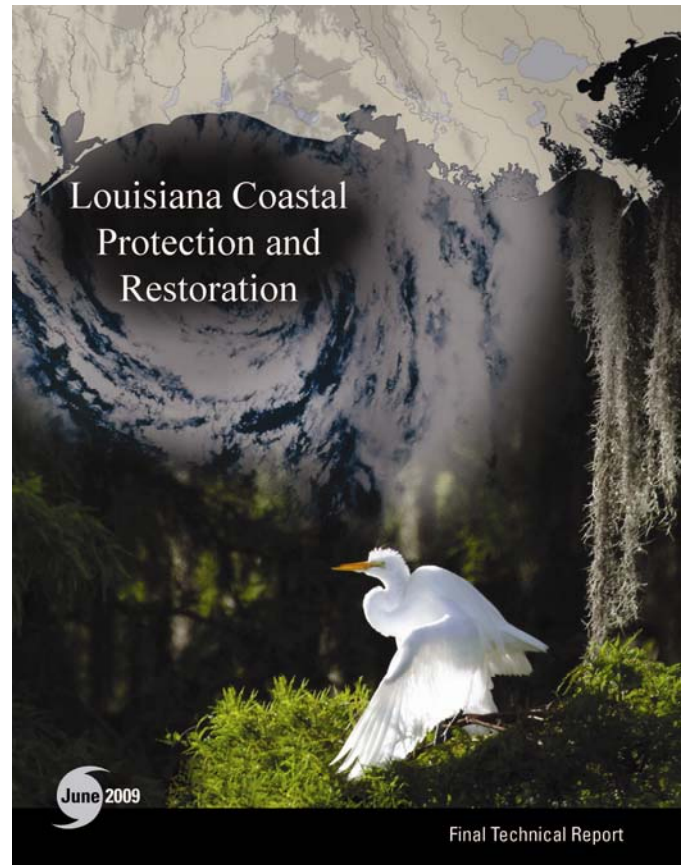
Background

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Congress directed the Corps to develop a technical report, in consultation with the State of Louisiana, for comprehensive hurricane protection and coastal restoration. The directive required the Corps to develop a full range of flood control, coastal restoration, and hurricane and storm damage risk reduction measures for south Louisiana. This was accomplished by using a comprehensive

and integrated system approach that contemplates providing risk reduction for a storm surge equivalent to a "Category 5" hurricane.

The purpose of the LACPR effort is two-fold. The first objective was to develop and assess a wide array of alternatives that could address hurricane surge risk reduction along the entire Louisiana coast.

The second objective, which is ongoing, is to effectively communicate the remaining flood risk and tradeoffs associated with each alternative to state and Federal decision makers, as well as the general public. Then, after receiving feedback on tradeoffs and self-assignments of risk, informed decisions can be made regarding appropriate measures for long-term protection and restoration in coastal Louisiana.



Options for Implementation

Each major type of measure, such as nonstructural or any combination of measures, can provide some level

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of risk reduction. Implementation time and resultant effect are also tradeoff considerations. The State of Louisiana working with the public, stakeholders, and other agencies should consider options for implementation as well as the final array of alternatives. The following implementation options should be considered in each planning unit (see map, this page):

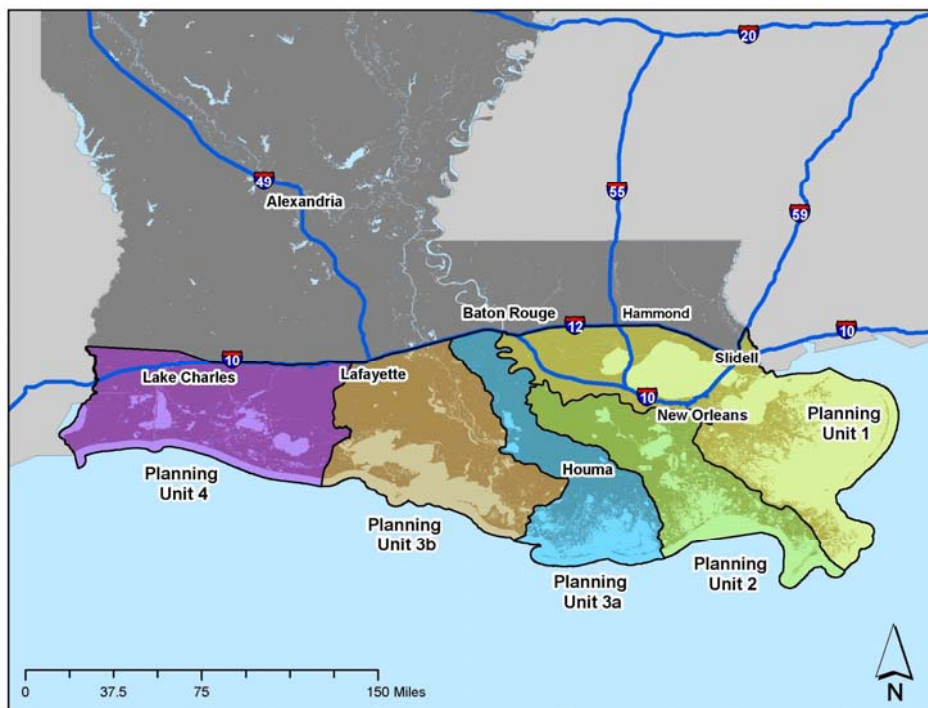
1. Execute through a comprehensive basin plan
2. Focus on structural features
3. Focus on coastal features
4. Focus on nonstructural actions
5. Develop hazard mitigation efforts

Going Forward

The information contained within the LACPR Final Technical Report dated June 2009 has been reviewed by technical experts both within the Corps and independent of the Corps. On March 3, the LACPR team submitted a draft report to the National Academies, an independent group of highly respected professionals, for a second round of independent, external peer review. The review panel will issue its final report on July 17, 2009.

After completion of reviews by the National Academies, the public, the State and other Federal agencies, a

Five Planning Units in LACPR Report



supplement to the report documenting needed future action may be produced and provided to Congress as a supplement to the technical report.

Comments and responses will be documented in a separate report that will be posted to the LACPR website.

In August, the Final Technical Report will be available for review by higher authorities. The current schedule for transmission of the report to Congress is December 2009.

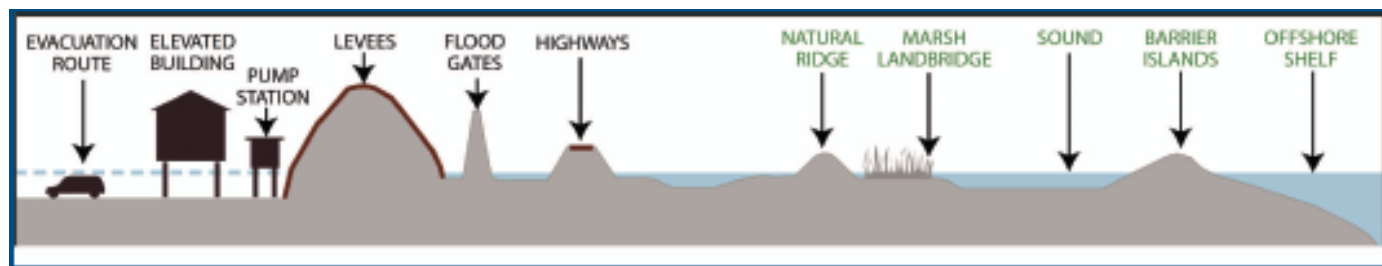
Subject to further Congressional direction regarding LACPR, the Corps of Engineers may continue to coordinate with the State of Louisiana and

further develop options and priorities in each planning unit. The Corps and the State will then jointly coordinate those options and priorities with other Federal agencies, local entities, non-governmental organizations, and the public.

The Corps would implement potential recommended projects in accordance with current policy, and in the most expeditious manner available, by maximizing the use of available construction and study authorities.



To learn more about LACPR, go to: www.lacpr.usace.army.mil



Multiple lines of defense as depicted by the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (from the LACPR Report)

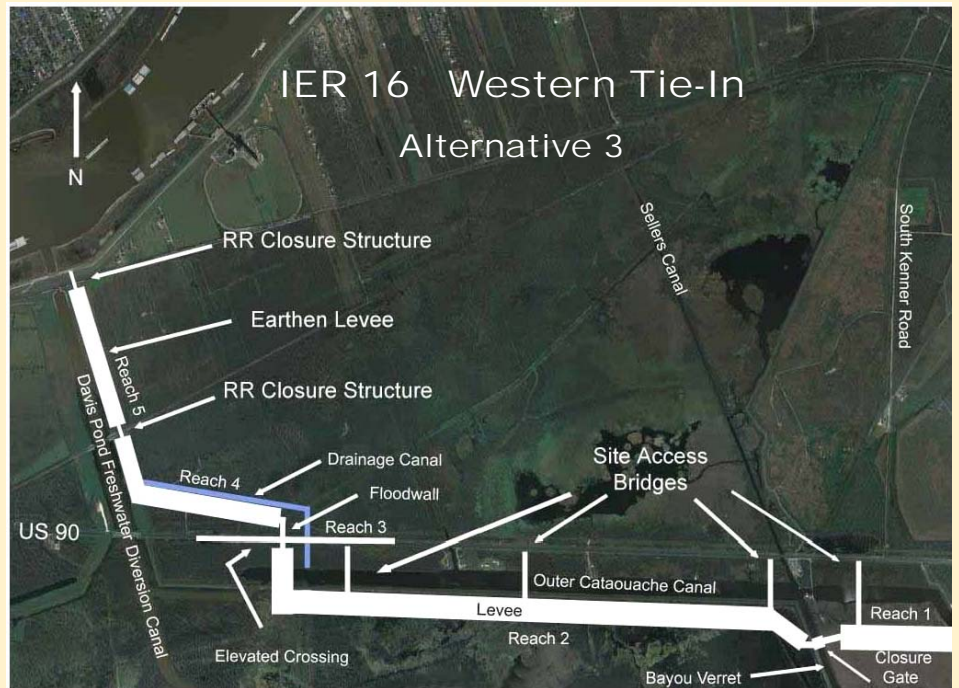
Decision Record signed on *Western Tie-In* Project

On June 12, Col. Alvin Lee, New Orleans District Commander, signed the Decision Record for the Western Tie-In project. The Western Tie-In project will connect the West Bank and Vicinity levee system to the Mississippi River Levee system in St. Charles Parish. Once constructed, it will effectively close the West Bank and Vicinity project area from surges that come from the western side of Barataria Bay.

Individual Environmental Report 16 (IER) entitled, "Western Terminus Levee, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana," will reduce risk for residences and businesses in Jefferson and St. Charles Parish from a storm event that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year.

"Each Decision Record signed by Col. Lee brings the Corps closer to completing the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System while meeting all environmental requirements necessary for a Federal project," said Jeff Williams, Project Manager.

The Western Tie-In project will consist of a series of levees and floodwalls along the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion eastern guide levee



The map at top outlines the location and project area of IER 16. The map above indicates the particular features and structures of Alternative 3 that are planned for the Western Tie-In. (USACE Illustrations)

and the Outer Cataouache Canal, with a navigable closure structure across Bayou Verret for maritime access. These features will link to a levee, an elevated crossing at Hwy. 90, two railroad gates, and end with a tie-in structure at the Mississippi

River Levee.

A video describing the project is available at:

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/videos/tiein/tiein_video.asp



Corps using innovative techniques

Example: Grand Isle sand dune project



(USACE Photo)

It looks like a giant boudin sausage lying on the beach at Grand Isle. But when it is covered with sand and the appropriate dune vegetation, it will look like a natural part of the barrier island landscape.

The Corps is building a 31,000-foot (5.7-mile) artificial dune on Grand Isle to reduce the impact of storm surges to the island residents and structures. The dune and beach rehabilitation project is being constructed with a geotextile tube core

and sand cap. The geotextile tube is being filled with sand excavated from the area, approximately 1 million cubic yards, then covered with sand and indigenous grasses (see artist's illustration below).

The geotextile material is more durable than a natural sand dune since it has a more stable core.

Construction on the project was started on May 15 and is expected to be completed in late summer.



(USACE Illustration)

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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 recovery work 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

Status Report Newsletter editor at: b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil

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