



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



# Corps Hurricane Response

*Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter*

*May 12, 2011*

## Massive IHNC Surge Barrier Sector Gates now on site

**Largest of three gated structures for IHNC Surge Barrier project on site and ready for installation**

*By Susan Spaht*

**The** 42-foot high, 150-foot wide sector gates for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier project at Lake Borgne are on site and ready for installation. These are the largest, and last to be installed, of three gated structures along this nearly two-mile project at the intersection of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet and the Gulf Intra-coastal Waterway. When these gates are installed - scheduled for May 26 completion - the gigantic project will achieve 100-year criteria and will be able to defend large portions of Orleans and St. Bernard parishes from a 100-year storm surge.

Weighing in at 650 tons, the pair of sector gates, manufactured by Shaw Global at Delcambre, La. and barged through the Gulf of Mexico to the IHNC Sector Gate site, arrived on



**Manufactured by Shaw Global in Delcambre, La., the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier sector gates are readied for transport to New Orleans. These are the largest of three gated structures in the project.** USACE Photo

May 8. Installation of the gates will begin next week.

The Lake Borgne Surge Barrier complex will work in tandem with the Seabrook Floodgate Complex, currently under construction across the Industrial Canal, to reduce the risk of storm surge for New Orleans East, metro New Orleans, the Ninth Ward, Gentilly and St. Bernard Parish. All gates in the IHNC Surge Barrier project will remain open at all times ex-

cept during tropical weather events.

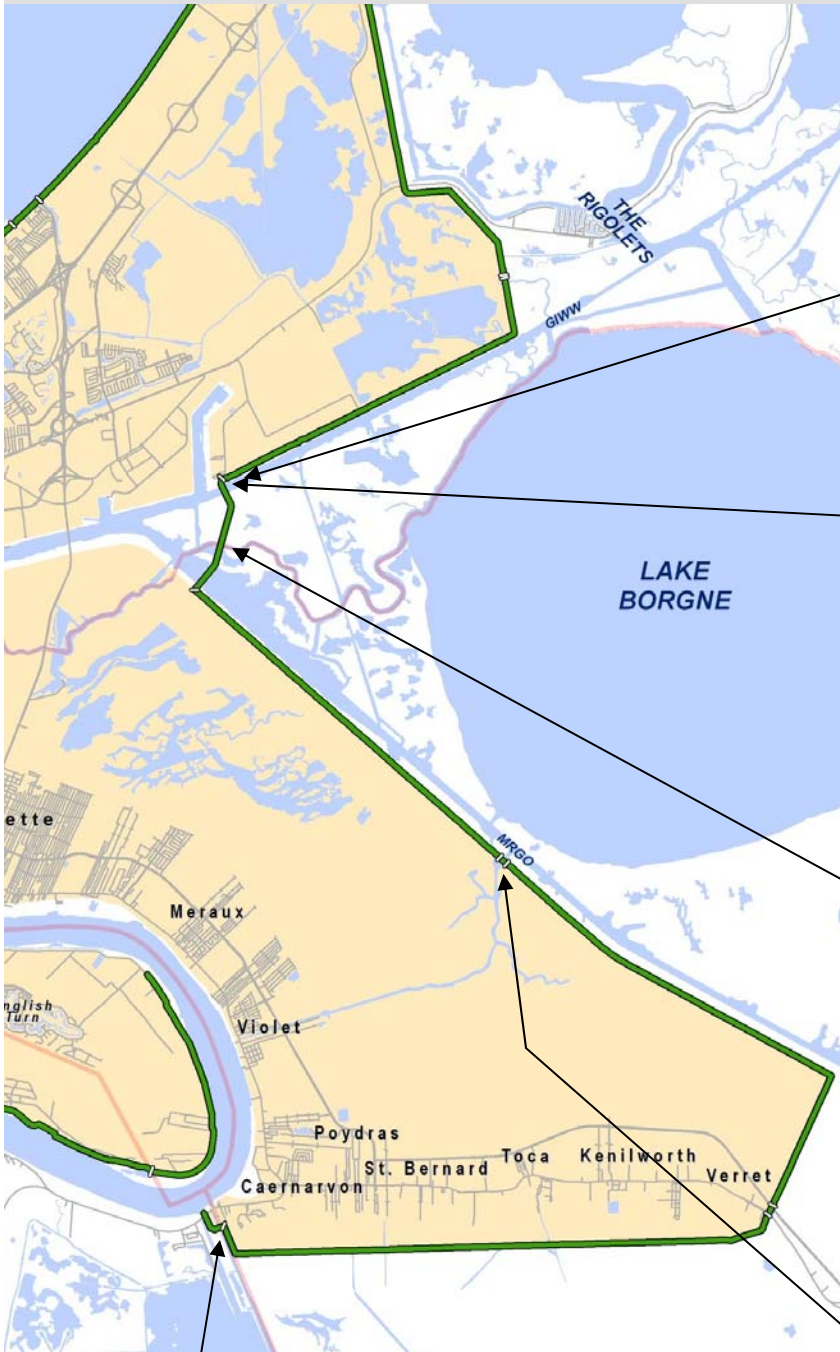
All three gated structures will be capable of closing for the 2011 hurricane season although finish-up work will continue until 2012.



**Also in this issue:**

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Work Stop on MRLs.....Pages 4-5  
New Generator for S&WB.....Page 6

# Custom-built gates will defend against surge this hurricane season



IHC Barge Gate, on site



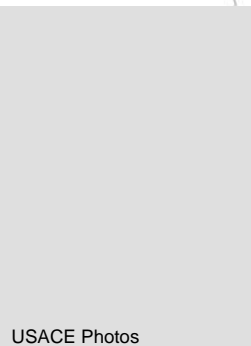
IHC Sector Gates, on site



Bayou Bienvenue Lift Gate, installed



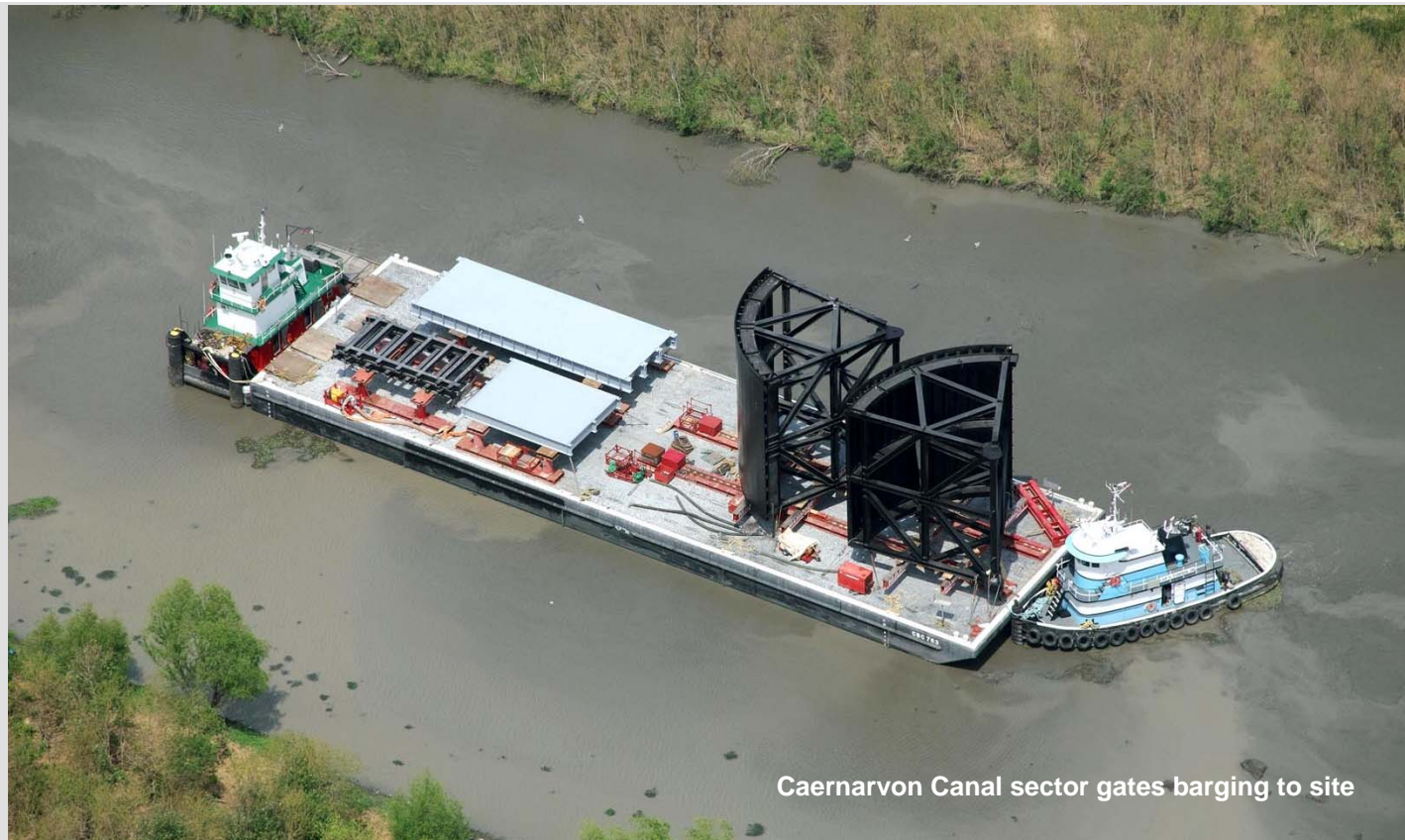
Caernarvon Sector Gates, installed



USACE Photos



Bayou Dupre Sector Gates, installed



Caernarvon Canal sector gates barging to site



Caernarvon Canal sector gates installed

## High water on Mississippi River prohibits construction on levee section co-located with HSDRRS



Jeff Falati, Resident Engineer, inspects installation of floodfight measures along the co-located levees in Plaquemines Parish on a recent site visit with Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority- West members and parish government officials. In addition to the rows of protective cement bags and plastic sheeting shown, more bags and plastic sheeting have been added to the crown of the levee.

by Susan Spaht

**C**onstruction to raise a 15.5-mile section of the Mississippi River Levees that are co-located with the West Bank & Vicinity Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System has been temporarily suspended due to high water levels on the river. The co-located section of levee runs from Oakville to English Turn (*see map on page 5*). Construction on this segment to meet HSDRRS requirements will resume once river stages have receded. The Corps expects to com-

plete this work by the peak of hurricane season as long as river stages reach acceptable levels to allow work to resume by late June.

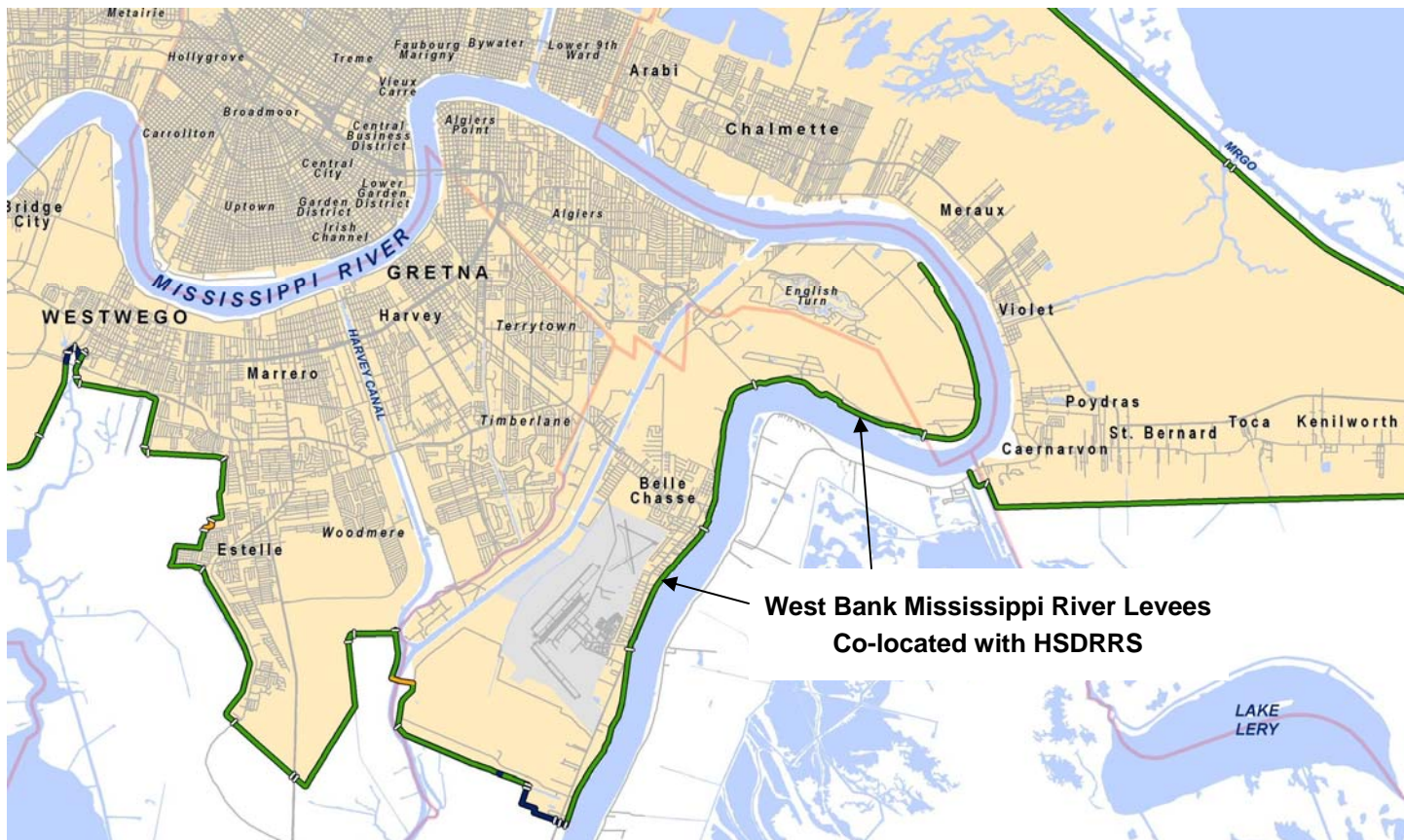
Over the past several months, record rains, horrific storms and tremendous snow melt runoff across the world's third largest watershed have generated record flooding in 11 states. The Mississippi River has already set new record stages and is forecasted over the coming weeks to be at or near the historic flood levels of 1927 and 1937. These unusually high water levels are placing tremen-

dous stress on the Mississippi River levee system.

Since Corps of Engineers construction regulations prohibit surface and subsurface work within 1,500 feet of a river levee once the river reaches 15 feet on the Carrollton gate, construction work on these levees to meet hurricane surge requirements will not be completed by 1 June.

"The Mississippi River levees are under terrific pressure from the his-

*Continued on page 5*



West Bank Mississippi River Levees Co-located with HSDRRS

### High water temporarily halts HSDRRS construction work on river levees

Continued from page 4

torically high water levels we are experiencing now,” said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope. “It is strictly prohibited to conduct any type of construction work on them during this period.

“In the interest of public safety, we will not jeopardize the integrity of the levees during this high water situation. As soon as the river recedes to the appropriate levels, we will continue our work to bring them up to 100-year risk reduction levels. We expect to do that before the peak of hurricane season.”

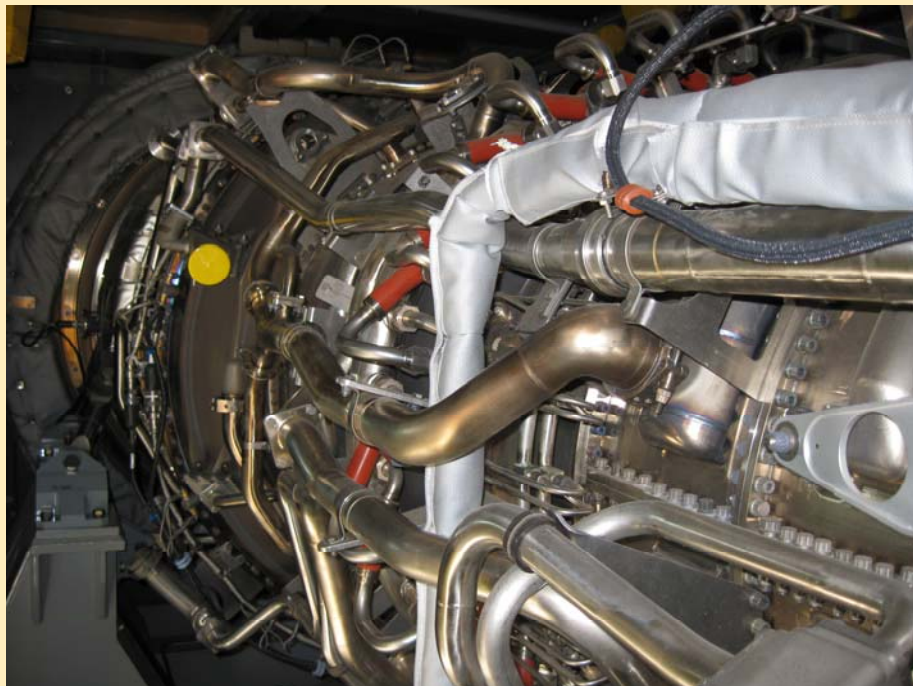
The Corps continues to focus its resources on completing the entire HSDRRS in order to meet its com-



mitment to be ready to defend against a 100-year storm. The infrastructure in place is stronger and more resilient than it has ever been, reducing the risk of flooding from hurricane storm surge to its lowest

levels ever. The Corps and its partners have raised and strengthened virtually all of the levees, floodwalls and surge barriers that form the 133-mile Greater New Orleans HSDRRS perimeter.





## Corps building \$31.2 Million generator/housing for S&WB at full Federal expense

By Susan Spaht

**The** Corps of Engineers is putting the finishing touches on a new gas-turbine engine for a 15 mega watt generator that is being installed at the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board's Carrollton Water Power Complex. The Corps is also building a structure to house the big generator and its own 250,000-gallon diesel tank. The \$31.2 million project is 100% Federally-funded.

When complete, "this storm proofing project will provide much-needed back-up electric power," said John Ashley, Branch Chief for Existing Pumps, "and will help ensure the operability of the city's drainage system during hurricanes, storms and high water events."

The new generator also has the ability to self-start the entire power plant



in the event of total power failure.

"The S&WB has 60-cycle generators at various pump stations with 4 MW being the largest," added Ashley. "This new 15 MW generator will be the largest 60-cycle generator the S&WB will operate."



### Contact Information

#### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

##### **Task Force Hope**

(504) 862-1836

##### **New Orleans District**

(504) 862-2201

##### **Hurricane Protection Office**

(504) 862-2080

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](mailto:b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil)

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Task Force Hope  
Strategic Communications  
7400 Leake Ave., Room #388  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
(504) 862-1949