



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



# Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter

March 22, 2012

Major HSDRRS Milestone achieved at Seabrook

**“The perimeter system at the Lakefront is now closed.”**

**Massive sector gates  
installed at  
Seabrook Floodgate Complex  
on Industrial Canal**

by Susan Spaht

Located at the mouth of the Industrial Canal at Lake Pontchartrain, the Seabrook Floodgate Complex is one of the largest and most critical projects in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. The Seabrook structure design calls for a 95-foot sector gate and two flanking 50-foot wide vertical lift gates.

The complex is designed to work in tandem with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at Lake Borgne to block surge entering from Lake Borgne and Lake Pontchartrain during storm events.

On March 15, the first 220-ton leaf of the Seabrook sector gate was

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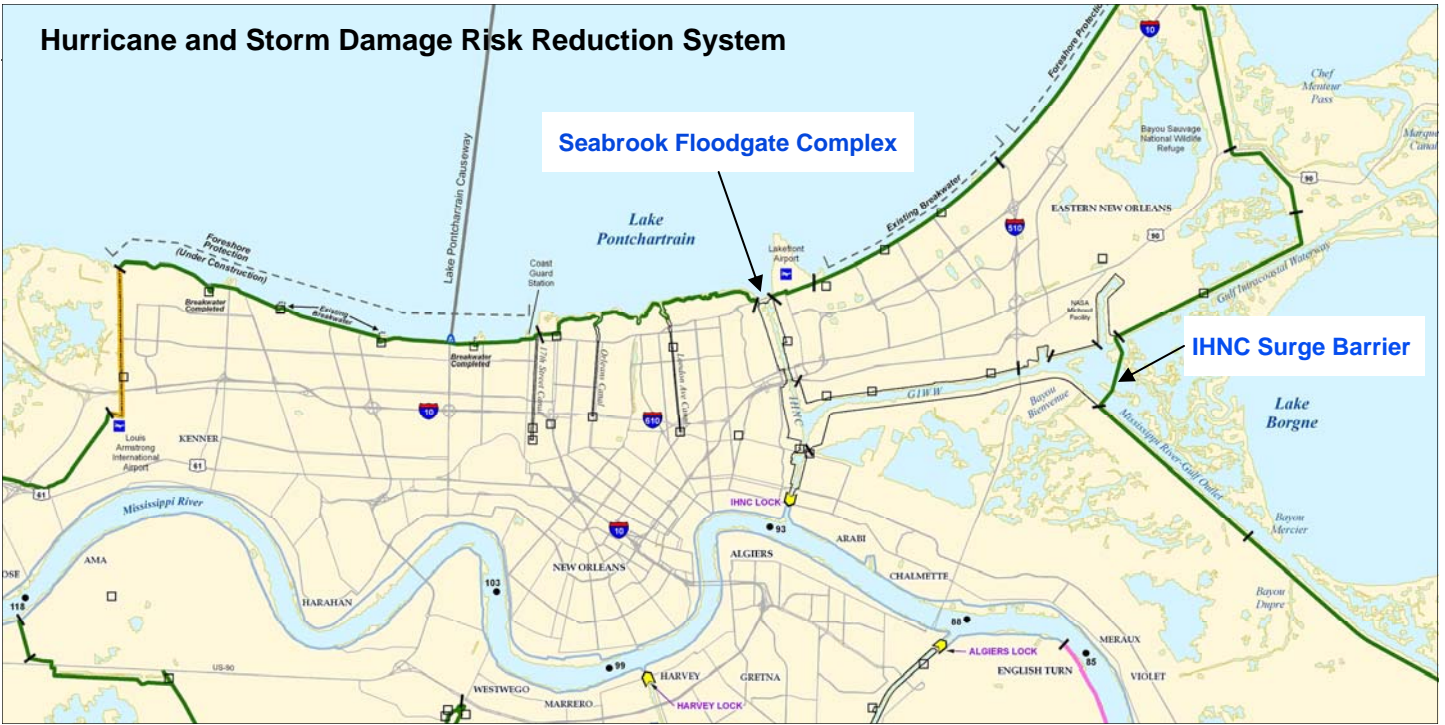
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Seabrook sector gate

USACE Photos by Maarten Kluyver



The Seabrook Floodgate Complex is located at the mouth of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, called the Industrial Canal, at Lake Pontchartrain. The structure is designed to work in tandem with the IHNC Surge Barrier at Lake Borgne to defend against storm surge from both lakes.

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barged in, raised and lowered into place; and on March 16, the second leaf was placed adjacent to it (see photos next page). According to Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope, "Placement of the Seabrook gates is a major milestone for us and for the people of the Greater New Orleans area. The perimeter system at the Lakefront is now closed."



**Mike Park**

When the gates are fully installed in early May, Seabrook will join the IHNC Surge Barrier at Lake Borgne to provide 100-year level surge de-

fense for some of the areas hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina: New Orleans East, metro New Orleans, Gentilly, the Ninth Ward and St. Bernard Parish.

Other components of the Seabrook Complex include upgrading the Alabama Great Southern Railroad gate, constructing 2,000 feet of new T-walls that tie into the Orleans Metro perimeter system, and raising the Hayne Boulevard ramp. The gates, floodwall tie-ins and other features associated with the Seabrook Floodgate Complex are being built to an elevation of 16 feet above sea level.

Construction completion at Seabrook is expected for late-June, before the height of hurricane season. The total construction cost of the Seabrook Floodgate Complex is approximately \$165 million.

"We realize Seabrook is a vital part of the HSDRRS," said Eric Stricklin,

Project Manager. "Alberici, the contractor; Bio-Arcadis, the designer; and the entire Corps staff have done an excellent job over the past few years to get this project operational for the people in this area. This structure closes the last link of storm surge defense on the lakefront, and when we complete construction this June, not only will the city be better protected but navigation to Lake Pontchartrain will again be open which is so important to businesses along the channel."



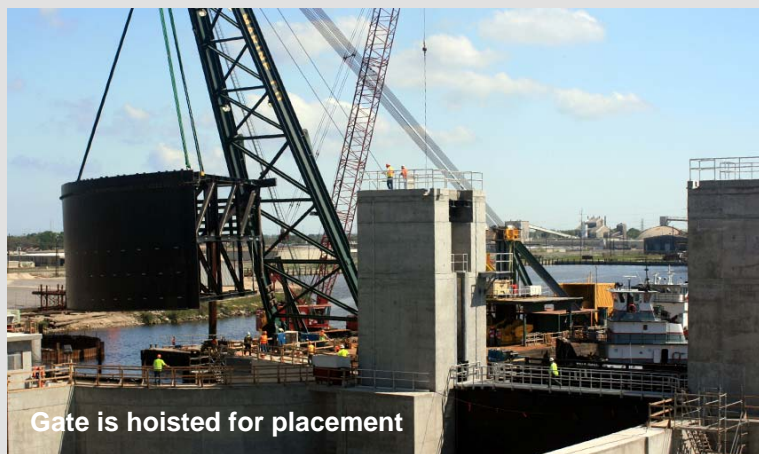
**Eric Stricklin**



*Conceptual rendering*  
**Seabrook Floodgate Complex**



Seabrook gate arrives by barge



Gate is hoisted for placement

USACE Photos by Ricky Boyett



Gate goes in!

- News Release from the Federal Emergency Management Agency -

*FEMA coordinating with Corps of Engineers to update*

# Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Greater New Orleans area

*Maps to be available at public meetings  
before finalization*

**The** Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) and local communities is working to update the current **Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps** in the Greater New Orleans area. The updated maps will incorporate the **Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System** (HSDRRS) improvements recently completed by the USACE as well as some flood risk reduction projects completed by the local communities.

These updated maps will provide communities in the Greater New Orleans area (Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson, Plaquemines and St. Charles Parishes) more current information about their flood risk, allowing communities, business owners, and residents the ability to make more informed decisions on how to reduce risk to life and property.

In late spring 2012, FEMA will meet once again with local and state officials to share the results of the updated analysis. Comments received from local officials will be reviewed for incorporation,

and a preliminary map issuance date will be scheduled.

Once revised preliminary maps are released, the maps will be available for viewing online and Open Houses for the general public will be scheduled. Those interested will have an opportunity to review the new maps. A 90-day public comment period will commence shortly after the Open Houses.



It is important to remember that while preliminary maps are being updated to show the benefits of the HSDRRS improvements and other local flood risk reduction projects, flood risk still exists. FEMA strongly encourages the citizens of the Greater New Orleans area to take action to reduce risk to their families, businesses and property. Remember, anywhere it can rain, it can flood. In addition to having flood insurance and informing yourself about the levee system, you should also prepare for the possibility of a flood.

Residents can follow the process to update the Greater New Orleans maps online at <http://go.usa.gov/5fM>.

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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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This issue and past issues can be found at:  
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps>

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