

Mississippi River Commission

Low Water Inspection

Colonel Alvin Lee

August 24, 2007

SLIDE

SCRIPT

1. Title Slide
Bullet: MRC Low
Water Inspection,
Morgan City, August
24, 2007

(Thank you, sir.)
Good morning, General Crear, members of the Mississippi River
Commission and distinguished guests.

2. Required graphic.
Bullets:
-2,800 miles of
navigable channel
-14,500 miles of
coast
-978 MR&T miles of
levees
-325 miles of
hurricane levees
-18 locks and control
structures
-15 pumping plants
-13 rec. areas

It's my pleasure to present the status of the Mississippi River and
Tributaries Project and associated programs in the New Orleans
District.

3. Graphic: MR&T
status
Overall: 87.8%
New Orleans District:
96+%
Miss. River Levees
96%
Old River Control
100%
Channel

I'll begin with the status of the Mississippi River and Tributaries
project. Overall, it is about 88 percent complete. In the New Orleans
District, the percent completion exceeds 96 percent.

Improvement 95%
 Atchafalaya Basin
 96%
 Morganza Floodway
 100%
 Bonnet Carre
 Floodway 100%

4. Graphic: Total Latitude Flows

Now let's move on to river stages in the New Orleans District since the high water inspection in April.

At the latitude of Old River, total flows crested at 837,000 cubic feet per second on July 17th. Since this crest, stages and flows have been falling steadily and are expected to continue falling over the next week.

5. Photo:
 Graphic: Crest Stages
 Jul. 17, 2007 1935-
 2006

	<i>(crest)</i>	<i>Max.</i>	<i>Avg.</i>
RRL	37.7	49.8	27.9
BR	22.1	36.5	15.4
NO	7.0	16.6	5.8
Sim	21.3	46.7	
	19.2		
MC	3.3	5.8	2.3

Shown here are the July 17 crest stages at various locations on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya [uh CHAF uh lie uh] rivers and the corresponding maximum and average stages since 1935.

Today (August 24, 2007), the combined discharge of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya [uh CHAF uh lie uh] rivers at the latitude of Old River is [redacted] cfs. The average discharge for this date is 364,000 cfs. And the stage today at New Orleans is [redacted] ft.

6. Graphic: 70/30

At present, we are maintaining the 70/30-flow distribution between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya [uh CHAF uh lie uh] rivers. The cumulative percent into the Atchafalaya Basin since January 1 is slightly below 30 percent. The deficit is about 6,400 cfs and is expected to be made up by year-end.

7. Graphic:
 FY 2007
 Program Funds
 Distribution
 \$7.0 B
 3rd Sup. \$2.06 B
 4th Sup. 3.65 B
 5th Sup. 1.30 B
 New Orleans District

Now let's move on to our FY 07 program...

Our FY 2007 funding is more than \$6 billion for the district's civil works and hurricane and storm damage reduction programs. This is due primarily to the \$7 billion appropriated in Emergency Supplemental Funds since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Approximately \$1 billion has been expended to date. Funding for General Investigations, Construction General, Operations & Maintenance and the

2007
\$242 M

Mississippi River & Tributaries Work Plan for FY2007 total approximately \$242 million. This is down from the normal amount appropriated to these programs. The Emergency Supplemental Funds appropriated are currently scheduled to cover work in the following areas: repair, restore and accelerate completion of hurricane and storm damage reduction projects, and advance completion of some civil works projects at Full Federal expense. These funds were provided to make improvements to the performance of the existing system, raise the system to provide 100-year levels of protection to the Greater New Orleans Area, and evaluate higher levels of protection.

8.
FY2008 Pie chart
New Orleans District
MR&T \$ 89 M
ONM 126 M
GI 15 M
CG 0
Total \$230 M

The president's FY 2008 budget of \$230 million is mostly limited to projects with high rates of return. The budget for the district is just a little less than the president's budget for FY 2007.

Of that \$230 million, General Investigations will include \$14.7 million, with \$13 million to continue funding of the Louisiana Costal Area Authority and the Science and Technology Program, \$1.3 million for Bayou Sorrel [SOAR el] Lock replacement and \$395,000 for the Calcasieu [CAL kuh shoe] River Basin feasibility study.

There's no funding for Construction General because the hurricane protection projects were funded in FY2006 supplemental appropriations. Also, the Comite [CO meet] River Diversion, Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock Replacement and the East Baton Rouge Parish Flood Damage Reduction Project are unbudgeted in Construction General. \$126 million is provided for Operations and Maintenance, General, to include funds for major high-use waterway dredging.

The Mississippi River & Tributaries budgeted amounts are slightly less than FY2007.

As far as the Corps' portion of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill:

FY2008 pres budget	\$4.8 billion
FY2008 HOUSE allocations:	\$5.5 billion
FY2008 SENATE allocations:	\$5.4 billion

9. Graphic:
Four areas.

Further on the Mississippi River & Tributaries, we're currently managing four studies in the New Orleans District:

Alexandria to the Gulf
Lower Atchafalaya Basin
Morganza to the Gulf
Donaldsonville to the Gulf

- Alexandria to the Gulf
- the Lower Atchafalaya [uh CHAF uh lie uh] Basin Re-evaluation
- Morganza to the Gulf, and
- Donaldsonville to the Gulf.
All are sub-watershed studies that focus on water resource issues.

10. Graphic:
Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico map
(19 miles of channel;
2 control structures)

The Alexandria to the Gulf Phase One Feasibility Study was initiated in May 2004. This project not only provides flood protection, but also incorporates water supply to the farmers south of Alexandria. Capturing these additional benefits hopes to provide for a more justified project when submitted to Congress. We completed the structure inventory and surveys of the existing tributaries. The Existing Conditions Hydraulics and Hydrology Modeling is currently under Internal Technical Review, and will be completed this month. Due to the district's heavy work load, we are contracting the environmental impact statement to help keep the project on schedule.

11. Graphic:
Lower Atch Basin
Study Photo: Atch
levee system

As recommended in the Lower Atchafalaya [uh CHAF uh lie uh] Basin Re-evaluation study draft report, we are developing a revised flow line for the Atchafalaya Basin. The current flow line was computed in 1987. When the flow line and Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration analyses are completed in December 2007, we will be able to better address the needs of the lower basin and area east and north of Morgan City.

12. Graphic:
Morganza to the Gulf
Graphic: Project
Area, J-1

At this time the Water Resources Development Act, or WRDA, is still pending in Congress. Key projects for the New Orleans District that await authorization in WRDA are Morganza to the Gulf, Louisiana Coastal Authority near-term plan, Bayou Sorrel [SOAR el] lock replacement, and Port of Iberia navigation project. I'll talk about these in the next few minutes.

Project design is ongoing for Morganza to the Gulf hurricane and storm damage reduction. This project will safeguard about 150,000 people and improve or protect 1,700 square miles of wetlands. The project includes: 64 miles of earthen levee, 13 sector gate structures for flood control, 12 tidal exchange structures, the Houma [HOME uh] Navigation Canal Lock Complex consisting of: 110-foot by 800-foot lock with a 250-foot floodgate adjacent to the structure. We're conducting a detailed design on the complex. Mitigation for direct impacts will require creating about 1,400 acres of new marsh. The project will help reduce saltwater intrusion and the frequency and

duration of wetland flooding.

Also, the local sponsor of the Morganza to the Gulf project was authorized to advance construction on levee reach J-1. The contract was awarded January 2006 and is now 80 percent complete.

13. Graphic:
Donaldsonville to the
Gulf of Mexico map

These are the possible hurricane levee alignments that are being considered for Donaldsonville to the Gulf. Hurricane modeling data that was developed for the LACPR Study will be used by the sponsor's architect engineer firms to design the levees and structures. One of these levee alignments will be recommended after the designs and cost estimates are completed.

14. Graphic:
Bayou Sorrel Lock
Replacement

Now moving into the Bayou Sorrel [SOAR el] Lock Replacement Project. The chief of engineers report was signed January 3, 2005. The design is 35 percent complete and undergoing independent technical review from a regional team composed of individuals from five Mississippi Valley Division districts.

15. Graphic:
Port of Iberia TBD

On to the Port of Iberia Navigation Project.

The chief of engineers report was signed December 31, 2006, recommending the deepening of three navigation channels to improve access between the Port of Iberia and the Gulf of Mexico. When completed, the Commercial Canal, Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and Freshwater Bayou channel dimensions will be 150 feet wide, by 16 feet deep from the Port to the Gulf. A design cost-share agreement is scheduled to be executed in August 2007 with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development as the non-federal sponsor. Pre-construction engineering and design is scheduled to be completed within 18 months by the Corps; however, the sponsor will begin construction of bulkheads and relocations in 2008, prior to channel dredging.

16. Graphic:
LACPR

In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Congress directed the Secretary of the Army, through the Corps of Engineers, to develop a technical report on the design and analysis for a full range of hurricane protection, flood control, and coastal restoration measures that could provide protection from storm surge up to, and/or equivalent to that from a category five hurricane. The report covers the entire coast of Louisiana. A Preliminary Technical Report was submitted in July 2006. A Final Technical Report is being prepared and will be ready for submission to Congress in December 2007.

17. Graphic:
Southwest Louisiana
Hurricane Study

We are also conducting the Southwest Louisiana Hurricane Protection Study in Cameron, Calcasieu [CAL kuh shoe], and Vermillion [ver MIL yun] parishes. We submitted the Reconnaissance report to the Mississippi Valley Division in June 2007 recommending proceeding to the feasibility study phase. The study will be compatible with LACPR and will look at integrating hurricane protection and ecosystem restoration. LADOTD has provided a letter of intent to cost share in the feasibility study.

18. Photo:
Bullet: MR levee
miles Completed:
480.8
Under Construction:
.2
Remaining: 31.2
Total: 512

And now for construction progress on the Mississippi River levee system in the New Orleans District.

Based on current information and benchmark adjustments after Katrina, we are 96% complete and have 31.2 miles of work remaining. Only deficiencies in freeboard remain. Currently, we have one ongoing construction project at the Edgard [ed GUARD] Ferry Landing. We plan to award a construction contract for the Hermitage Seepage Control project next month. New Orleans District is actively pursuing completion of the remaining levee work and has obtained design assistance from other districts in the division and A/E contract firms. Rock Island is performing designs for Jefferson Heights and Vicksburg is designing the Carrollton levee.

19. Graphic:
Hohen Solms to
Modeste Levee

Construction is complete for the Hohen Solms to Modeste levee enlargement and concrete slope-paving. Work can now begin on the St. Charles Parish west-bank bike path. Hermitage Seepage Control is expected to be awarded by the end of this FY. We currently have six plans and specifications underway. These packages are expected to be completed by the end of FY 08. Three of the plans and specification packages are being done by private architect engineer firms and the rest of the work is being executed by brokering to other districts.

20. Graphic:
ICW/Levee
Assessment

We continue assessments to determine existing conditions relative to pre-Katrina authorized elevations. This is being done using the recommendations from the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force or IPET for short. These assessments will help us determine the requirements to raise hurricane levees to authorized elevations levels and improve stability.

21. Graphic or Photo:
Davis Pond
Bullets:
West Guide Levee
Lift: Complete
Davis Pond
modeling: Complete
Channel
Lengthening/
Widening in process

- The following projects are in progress:
 - West Guide Levee Second Lift with Vinyl Sheet Pile is complete.
 - Hydrologic Modeling of Ponding Area by Engineering Research Development Center or ERDC to address drainage issues is complete.
 - Design for deepening existing five cuts through the lower ponding areas marsh and gabion weir and additional three cuts through weir and marsh. This project should go out for bid September 2007.

22. Photo:
WABPL-40
Bullet: Atch Basin
levee miles
Completed: 416
Under Construction:
3
Scheduled for
remainder of
FY07: 4
Remaining: 26
Total: 449

These numbers reflect levee progress in the Atchafalaya [uh CHAF uh lie uh] Basin, where we are about 96 percent complete. Based on IPET findings, the inspection of completed works manager will assess the previously completed levees using newly defined standards from IPET and lessons learned from Katrina.

The remaining levee work represents challenging engineering design requirements and there is a lack of available borrow areas. Other major work remaining in the Basin includes modification of the 3 locks - Bayou Sorrel, Bayou Boeuf, and Berwick - and Charenton [SHAR en ton] and Calumet [cal u MET] floodgates.

23 Graphic:
Atchaf.
Bullet: Atch contracts
Completed FY06:
W-52 Levee,
E-69/73 Levee,
WLOE, Melville,
Krotz Springs
Completed FY07:

In FY 2006 we completed five contracts, and in FY 2007 we completed two additional contracts and placed two under construction. Earlier this month, we opened bids for the West Bayou Sale [sally] Gordy Levee Enlargement, Phase A, and will open bids for the W86 Levee Enlargement next week. Both of these contracts for work in St. Mary and Iberia Parishes will be awarded next month. One contract was rescheduled to FY 08. (PAUSE)

E-33 and Gordy P.S.
discharge lines
Under Construction:
W-102 W124 Gaps
Closure To be
awarded: WBS
Gordy Phase A
W86A

24 Photo:
Atch Basin
Title: Authorized
Management Units
Bullets:
- Buffalo Cove
- Beau Bayou
- Cocodrie Swamp
- Flat Lake
- Henderson Lake

We executed the Buffalo Cove Project Cooperation Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources in May 05. Construction was delayed by storms. We completed phase one construction February '06, and will begin phase two fall '07 with 100 percent federal funding. We have begun a supplemental environmental impact statement for Henderson Management Unit and Recreation Feature of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System and plan to start the SEIS process for the remaining units in November '07.

25 Photo:
Boating Recreation
Bullet: Future boat
landings and
improvements:
-Millet Point in St.
Mary Parish -
negotiating
*-Bayou Sorrel in
Iberville Parish
-Krotz Springs in St.
Landry*

We opened bids for the Millet [mee YET] Point boat landing August 13. The bids are currently being reviewed and we anticipate awarding the contract next month. We are also in the planning phase for recreation features and related improvements at the sites shown.

26 Graphic:
Pie chart
50K/338K

To date, the Corps has estimated expenditures of \$86 million and purchased more than 47,300 acres in fee title in the basin, and acquired another 108,400 acres for easements.

27. Graphic:
Super: Channel
Improvement
Bullet:
Channel
Improvement Bullet:
381 authorized 362
completed 19

As for the district's channel improvement program, we've constructed just over 362 miles, making revetment work about 95% complete on the Mississippi River. This year we will continue construction of a series of three dikes at the downstream end of Springfield Bend, Mississippi River mile 241.5. We will also construct a series of hard points at Mississippi River miles 246.5, 254.5 and 189.1 to control erosion.

remaining

28. Photo:
Generic revetment
work on Atch
Bullet: Atch Basin
Bank Stabilization
(miles)
Completed: 58
Remaining: 4
Total 62

In October 2006 we completed the last reach of planned revetment construction work on the Atchafalaya River. We will continue to monitor the remaining four miles and take the necessary action when conditions warrant.

29. West Atchafalaya
Basin river levee hard
point structures

In addition to revetment construction, we also performed bank repairs immediately below Bayou Sorrel Lock to protect the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee and we constructed hard point structures to protect the West Atchafalaya Basin River Levee from erosion.

30. DCAS
construction

I would like to bring you up to date on a few of items that are occurring in the Morgan City Area.

As part of our continuing efforts to address the fluff issue in the Atchafalaya River bar channel, the Corps recently constructed a test segment of a demonstration channel alignment structure or DCAS. The structure is designed to increase velocity in the channel and to prevent fine-grained sediment from entering the channel from the east. Completion of the test section resulted in the identification of some design modifications. The scheduled bid opening for construction of the full DCAS has been temporarily postponed to incorporate these changes. Our goal is to set a bid opening date before the end of FY 2007.

After construction of the approximately three-mile long DCAS, monitoring will be conducted to evaluate the success of the structure in reducing fluff presence in that section of the channel.

31. Atch. River,
Bayou Chene, Bayou
Boeuf, Bayou Black

The Corps continues to work on the proposed 35 ft. project. We are addressing the feasibility of providing deeper access channels to facilities on the Lower Atchafalaya River below Morgan City and on bayous Chene [shane], Boeuf [buff] and Black east of Morgan City. The existing waterways provide a channel to marine fabrication and repair facilities that build offshore oil and gas rigs and platforms.

The scheduled completion of the Draft Feasibility Report is July 2008. The Vicksburg District is managing the Study.

The Reliance platform jacket is an example of one of the structures fabricated at these facilities, this one in Amelia, and scheduled to be towed out of the channel in the near future.

Also, as part of routine channel maintenance, a dredging contract is underway to dredge sections of the bar, bay and horseshoe reaches of the project.

32. Map of New Orleans and Vicinity (MVN, HPO, SELA and pump stations)

Now I'd like to update you on what's going on in the metro New Orleans area. Here you see a graphic of the hurricane and storm damage reduction system. In FY 2006, we awarded eight contracts and have awarded 25 so far in FY 2007. Based on current funding we plan to award another 28 this fiscal year.

33. MRGO

The Corps has not dredged the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet since prior to Hurricane Katrina. The MRGO maintenance budget was zeroed out by Congress in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 and in the president's FY 2008 budget; these are clear messages that the Administration and Congress do not want the channel maintained.

The 3rd supplemental appropriation provided \$75 million to protect endangered wetlands and provide erosion protection in the MRGO area. Using these funds we have begun constructing projects to restore or protect more than 4,000 acres of wetlands on or near the MRGO. In addition, Congress directed us to prepare a comprehensive plan to de-authorize deep-draft navigation on the channel. An interim report was sent to Congress December 2006. The Draft Final Report & Legislative Environmental Impact Statement is now out for public review and comment which will end September 4, 2007. The final report to Congress is due in December 2007 as part of the LACPR. The draft final report identifies a Tentatively Selected Plan which includes the total closure using a rock structure at Bayou La Loutre [la LU tra].

34. Call to Duty

Finally, I want to tell you how the people of the New Orleans District have answered the Call to Duty—in response to two of the greatest hurricanes to strike the U.S. coast, in restoring hurricane protection, doing their part in the Global War on Terror and serving in the U.S. military. These folks have done their jobs faithfully through many hardships, including losing their homes and grieving over the deaths of friends and family.

In 2007, twelve employees deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, where they provided technical expertise vital to sustain the nations' people.

Barbara Windham, MVN administrative support employee in Operations Division, is pictured here in Iraq.

35. Photo: Scenic with 2007 coin

In closing, I'd like to thank the levee districts, state and local representatives, other partners and stakeholders, district employees and the Mississippi River commissioners, who, working together, ensure the continued safety and economic benefits to citizens and businesses in south Louisiana.

36. MVN mission map (*Used for reference by the public in follow-up statements*)