

**Colonel Thomas Julich**  
**Mississippi River Commission**  
**High Water Inspection**  
**April 14, 2000**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**SLIDE**

**PRINT**

1. Corps seal

2. Super: MRC High Water Inspection, New Orleans, LA, April 12-15, 2000

Major General Anderson, members of the Mississippi River Commission and distinguished guests, I am Col. Tom Julich, New Orleans district engineer. It is my pleasure to present the status of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project and associated programs in the New Orleans District.

3. MVD Map

Let me quickly mention that the N.O. District is the southernmost district in the Mississippi Valley Division and makes up 30,000 square miles of south Louisiana.

4. Graphic: Topics:  
\*River Stages  
\*Funding Program  
\*MR&T Projects, current and future  
\*Atchafalaya Acq.

These are the topics I'll be covering this morning ...

5. Graphic: '99 Total Latitude Flows

... and I'll begin with a look at river conditions in the N.O. District since the low water inspection trip back in September. At the latitude of Old River, the total flows crested just above 900,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Stages and flows have been below normal since late August 1999.

6. Graphic: Miss. R.  
Saltwater Barrier

In October 1999, the district built an underwater structure to mitigate for saltwater intrusion. The sill was constructed at river mile 63.7, about 32 miles below New Orleans and 12 miles below the Belle Chasse water intake. Saltwater is heavier than freshwater. With too little flow to deter it, saltwater intrudes upstream along the river bottom. The Saltwater Barrier served to stop the upstream migration of the saltwater wedge. We built the sill to an elevation of -50 NGVD and completed it on October 30, 1999. A sill was previously constructed in 1988 at the same location under similar drought conditions.

7. Graphic:  
Simmesport Stage  
Hydrographic

Record low flows were set on the Mississippi River from February 9<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the same time frame record low stages were set on the Atchafalaya River at Simmesport and Butte LaRose. Record low stages were again set on the Atchafalaya River at Simmesport and Butte LaRose from March 18<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Stages and flows are currently on the rise on both the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. They are expected to continue rising over the next week.

8. Graphic: March  
2000 Crest Stages  
RRL 37.6  
BR 23.1  
NO 7.2  
Sim 24.3  
MC 3.3

Shown here are the corresponding March 2000 crest stages at various locations on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya. Today (14 April 2000), the total combined discharge of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers at the latitude of Old River is \_\_\_\_\_ cfs. The average discharge for this date is 1,124,000 cfs.

9. Graphic: 70/30

We continue to maintain the 70/30 flow distribution between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers as mandated by 1954 legislation that authorized the Old River Control Project.

10. Photo: Aerial, ORC However, in early March, Gov. Foster requested an increase in flows through the Old River Complex for the benefit of crawfish production in the Atchafalaya Basin. Beginning Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> the flow through the Old River Control Complex was increased from 30% of latitude flow to 32% and continued for a two-week period, ending March 27<sup>th</sup>. We are currently maintaining the 70/30 flow distribution.

11. Graphic: 00-01

NOD program

Congressional Adds

00 - \$38 M

01 - pending (\$30)

Local Interest

00 - \$30 M

01 - \$30 M

President's Budget

00 - \$333 M

01 - \$349 M

Turning now to the New Orleans District program...we received \$401 million in FY 2000, including Congressional adds. The President's budget for FY 2001, shown in green, is \$16 million more than in FY 2000. Congressional adds are pending for FY 2001.

12. Graphic: FY 00-01

GI, Const., O&M

Funding needs:

OR-\$7m

Atch B-\$4m

Morganza study-\$2m

Morganza const-\$1m (w/auth)

New studies-\$200k

The MR&T program in FY 2001 is \$8.5 million more than in FY 2000, a 9% increase, totaling \$102.3 million. In comparing the FY 2001 programs to FY 2000, we find the Study program increases by \$2.3 million to about \$4 million. The Construction program in FY 2001 is \$2 million more than in FY 2000, a 3% increase totaling \$62.9 million. The Maintenance program in FY 2001 is \$4.2 million more than in FY 2000, a 13% increase totaling \$35.4 million. We have a \$14 million funding need in the MR&T program for the next fiscal year.

13. Graphic: Morganza to the Gulf Study map

The district is currently managing four MR&T studies. This slide shows the project area of the Morganza to the Gulf Study.

14. Graphic: Morganza to Gulf, Hwy. 57 Alignment  
The primary purpose of the Morganza study is to provide hurricane protection to Terrebonne Parish from Bayou DuLarge to the Larose to Golden Meadow levee. A draft feasibility report is scheduled for completion by June.
15. Map: Houma Canal (200'w, 1,200'l, 15'd)  
A prominent feature of the Morganza to the Gulf study is the Houma Navigation Canal Lock. We initiated preconstruction engineering design this past January. The locals are currently seeking authorization in WRDA 2000.
16. Graphic: Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico map  
In a second study, we completed reconnaissance of flooding and other problems in the area west of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway between Alexandria and the Gulf of Mexico. A plan for diversion of flood flows from the Chatlin Lake Canal to the Red River was found to be feasible. Initiation of a feasibility study is dependent upon the receipt of the non-federal sponsor's cost share of study funds.
17. Graphic: Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico map  
Our third study area, Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico, extends between Bayou LaFourche and the Mississippi River. The reconnaissance study began in January 1999 and is scheduled for completion in June 2000. Initiation of the 3-year feasibility study is scheduled for October 2000. The main feature to be recommended is a hurricane protection levee extending from Larose in Lafourche Parish to the vicinity of Luling in St. Charles Parish.
18. Graphic: Lower Atchafalaya Basin Study map  
In our fourth study area we are conducting feasibility level design of alternatives on the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Reevaluation Study. A draft feasibility report is scheduled for completion this fiscal year.

19. Photo: Leadership meeting

Bullet:

*Meeting regional needs*

Three alternatives: **Modified 1982 Plan** - Continue levee raising to pass project flood; **Option 8b** - New channel entrance & control structure, enlarge WLO; **Option 8c** - Same as Op. 8b w/smaller enlarge. of WLO

We are continuing our coordination with the public in conducting this study. Input derived from the public meetings has enabled us to develop an alternative that meets both the MR&T project needs and those of the region. We are currently evaluating this alternative against federal criteria. The feasibility report will present three plans in detail, among them is the locally preferred plan.

20. Photo: Angola construction

Work on the Louisiana State Penitentiary project began with the award of three construction contracts in September 99. The good news is that this was just two years after we received funds to initiate detailed designs. The Limited Reevaluation Report, PCA and plans & specs were prepared and approved on an extremely fast track and construction is ahead of schedule. All three contracts will be completed next fiscal year, at about the same time we plan to award a final levee contract. This project could be completed late in FY 02 or early FY 03.

21. Graphic: MR levee mileage chart

Total: 512

Comp FY99: 484

Ongoing: 11

Remaining: 17

And now for our construction work on the MR&T levee system. The district's Miss. River levees extend from river mile 320 above Head of Passes to Mile 10 at Venice for a total of 512 miles of levees and floodwalls on both banks. Here are the figures for Miss. River levees completed, under construction and remaining. At present, the Miss. River levee system in N.O. District is about 97% complete.

22. Photo: Current Plaquemines W-2<sup>nd</sup> Lift Levee

We have three ongoing contracts – one contract, the Plaquemines West 2<sup>nd</sup> Lift, was initiated in FY 99.

23. Photo: (aerial)  
Baton Rouge riverfront  
Bullet: Awarded in  
January 2000  
\*Carville to Marchand  
- \$3.4 M  
\*Reveille to Point  
Pleasant - \$2.0 M  
To Be Awarded FY  
2000  
\*Baton Rouge Front,  
Phase II - \$112,000

The other two contracts, Carville to Marchand and Reveille to Point Pleasant, were awarded in FY 2000 and will be completed in FY 2001. We will award one additional contract this fiscal year at the Baton Rouge front. On a side note ... in the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Congress authorized \$10 million under Construction General for the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Ascension and Livingston parishes. The purpose is for the Corps to provide environmental assistance in the form of planning, design and construction of environmental infrastructure projects for water supply and wastewater treatment and related facilities. The district has expressed a \$10 million capability in FY 01 for this effort.

24. Photo: EABPL-36  
( '85) Old berm work  
Bullet: Atch Basin  
levees (mi)  
Completed: 386  
Ongoing: 2  
Remaining: 61  
Total: 449

These numbers show our levee progress in the Atchafalaya Basin, where we're about 93% physically complete.

25. Graphic: FY00  
Atch contracts  
**Completed (4):** Teche Ridge-  
Franklin, W-95, E-84B and Wax  
Lake West-B  
**Ongoing (3):** W-123, Wax Lake  
West-A and MC/B#1  
**Scheduled for award (5):**  
*Flood proofing -- MC/B # 2 & 3*  
*Levees -- Todd and W-46/64*  
*Erosion protection -- E-96/99,*  
Phase 2

Here are the locations of our work in the basin in FY 2000. Four contracts were completed earlier this fiscal year (shown in purple). Contracts are ongoing at the three sites shown in red.

*(Continued)*

The first flood proofing contract for the businesses along the Morgan City/Berwick riverfront will be completed later this year. At that time, the second and third contracts of the five planned for this project are scheduled for award. However, since the designs are more complex than envisioned in the project report, construction of the remaining items will be delayed until we submit a supplement to the technical report, which will update the conceptual designs and cost estimates.

Also in FY 2000, we plan to initiate two levee contracts (Todd & W-46/64) and one erosion protection contract (E-96/99, Phase 2) and complete the Wax Lake West-A contract carried over from last year.

One of the contracts scheduled for award next month is for a second lift on the West Atchafalaya Levee at W-46/64 where we have experienced numerous slides in the last few years. Congress added funds to our budget to accomplish this work. Last year we completed work on six slide areas below Henderson using in-house labor forces.

## 26. Graphic: FY01

### Atch contracts

#### **To be awarded (7):**

*Levees* –WBS Gordy, EBS Gordy, WBS Maryland-North Bend, E-73.3 2<sup>nd</sup> and North Bend  
*Flood proofing* -- MC/B #2 & 3

#### **To be completed/carried over from 00 (7):**

*Levees*—W-123, Todd, W-46/64, Wax Lake West A, E-96/99 Erosion  
*Flood proofing*: MC/B #2 & 3

In FY 2001, we plan to award five levee and two flood proofing contracts shown in green, and we are scheduled to complete seven of the contracts carried over from this year.

27. Super: Channel Improvement  
Let's turn now to our channel improvement program. We've constructed just over 361 miles of the authorized 381 miles of revetment along the Mississippi River, making construction of revetment about 95% complete. While the program is nearing completion and we have fewer problems with scouring banks, the levee protection system is only as strong as its weakest link. We must continue with the planned revetment and foreshore work in order to maintain our navigation channels.
28. Photo: Generic mat unit/levee  
This year we will install a total of one mile of articulated concrete mattress revetment on the Mississippi river at Allendale, Waterford and Bohemia.
29. Photo: Revetment plant at work  
Also included in this year's program is one mile of stone dike paving on the left descending bank at Olga (mile 14).
30. Photo: Stone foreshore protection  
We have completed 142 of the presently authorized 160 miles of required foreshore work.
31. Photo: generic revetment work on Atch R.  
On the Atch. River, we will construct one mile of revetment on the right descending bank of Bayou Big Graw.
32. Graphic: Atch Basin Bank Stabilization (Miles)  
Completed: 51.5  
Scheduled this Year: 1  
Remaining: 5.5  
Total: 58  
Completion of this work will leave a little more than 5.5 miles of the presently authorized 58 miles of required Atchafalaya revetment to be constructed.



33. Photo: Mat plant  
Super:  
Existing Revetment  
Maintenance

- Miss R- approx. 2 mi.
- Atch R- approx. 1 mi.

Finally, we are scheduled to maintain existing revetments on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers.

34. Graphic: Davis  
Pond map

Switching gears now, I'd like to highlight our work on the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure. We expect it to be as successful as Caernarvon, which has exceeded our expectations for the last eight years. At Davis Pond, we will be capable of diverting larger volumes of water into a much larger basin. Davis Pond will improve the fish and wildlife habitat and reduce the rate of land loss in the Barataria Basin.

35. Photo: (aerial)  
latest construction  
work at Davis Pond

We will award two contracts this fiscal year before we can begin to divert water—one for the outflow canal at \$3 million and a levee job for \$250,000. We'll have some levee lift contracts in 2002 before the project is considered physically complete.

36. Super: Atch Basin

I'd now like to turn your attention to one of the Corps' biggest environmental efforts--our work in the vast Atchafalaya Basin.

37. Graphic: Pie chart  
50K/338K

\*Own 34,000 acres in fee north of I-10; 17,000 acres of these are cypress.

\*Own 2,200 acres of cypress tupelo south of I-10.

The district is currently authorized to purchase 50,000 acres in fee for public access, as well as 338,000 acres of flowage, developmental control and environmental protection easements. This is the largest land acquisition project in the Corps of Engineers. The purpose of fee acquisition is to maximize the public's access to floodway resources, manage land use and to protect the environment.

38. Photo: Atch,  
Super: Land  
Acquisition  
-March 2000  
\* 36,300 acres fee  
\* 134,349 acres  
easements

To date, we have acquired more than 19,000 acres of cypress fee lands from landowners that have agreed to sell their property. We are currently negotiating the acquisition of an additional 6,500 acres from one landowner. This will bring the total cypress fee lands to more than 26,000 acres. We have negotiated the acquisition of about 36,300 acres of land in fee title and 134,349 acres in developmental control and environmental protection easements.

39. Photo: Atch, scenic  
bald cypress  
Super: Land  
Acquisition  
- FY 2000 scheduled  
\* 13,700 acres fee  
\* 40,000 acres  
easements

In fiscal year 2000, we are negotiating the acquisition of the remaining 13,700 acres of fee lands (which includes 6,500 acres of cypress lands) from three willing sellers and the acquisition of about 40,000 acres of easement lands from 100 ownerships.

40. Photo: Atch, scenic  
\* 2004 -  
Negotiations complete  
\* 2009 - Real Estate  
transactions complete

Current funding levels are adequate to complete all real estate negotiations by 2004 and all real estate transactions by 2009.

41. Photo: (aerial)  
ORC

That about wraps up the current status of the MR&T Project in the New Orleans District. However, if you will permit, I'd like to quickly mention two very important milestones recently achieved by the district.

42. Photo: (aerial)  
IHNC Lock

The first milestone is that a contract was awarded and work begun on the outdated Industrial Canal Lock. New Orleans District will award 19 more contracts during the 10- to 12-year construction phase.

43. Photo: 2050 signing ceremony

Our second milestone was the signing of the Louisiana Coastal Area-Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study with our sponsor, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources. The study will lead to large-scale projects to protect our diminishing coastal wetlands.

44. Photo: aerial, Bayou Yokely Pump Station (Atch Basin)

Let me close by saying that we could not have accomplished any of our MR&T work without the support of the levee districts and state and local governments. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our partners. Together, we can be proud of the flood control measures taken to ensure continued prosperity for all of Louisiana's citizens.

46. Seal Obverse