

**Colonel Thomas Julich  
Mississippi River Commission  
High Water Inspection  
April 6, 2001  
New Orleans, Louisiana**

*Final*

**SLIDE**

**PRINT**

1. Corps seal

2. Super: MRC High Water Inspection, New Orleans, LA, April 6, 2001

Gen. Arnold, 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. Graphic: Topics:  
\*River Stages  
\*Funding Program  
\*MR&T Studies & Projects  
\*Breux Act

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

4. Graphic: 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 August. At the latitude of Old River, total flows crested just below 1.6 million cfs on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Stages and flows are currently slightly above normal and are expected to fall slowly over the next week.

5. Photo: Bonnet Carre Spillway, hi water leakage

Bonnet Carre Spillway experienced leakage through its needles from Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> thru the 22<sup>nd</sup>. At the crest on Mar 11<sup>th</sup>, about 1,700 cfs was flowing through the spillway. Leakage is no longer occurring and is not expected to again, unless the stage at New Orleans rises above 12.5 ft.

6. Graphic: Mar 2001 Crest Stages  
RRL 51.9  
BR 35.3  
NO 14.2  
Sim 36.1  
MC 6.1

Shown here are the corresponding March 2001 crest stages at various locations on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. Today (6 Apr), 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 1.1 million cfs.

7. Photo: Close up of flows through Auxiliary Structure gates

In early February, Governor Foster requested an increase in flows through Old River to maintain a minimum stage of nine feet at Butte La Rose throughout the spring for the benefit of crawfish production. Shortly after the Governor's request the stage at Butte La Rose started rising due to rains over the Mississippi and Red river basins.

8. Hydrograph of Butte LaRose stages

On February 20, the stage was at 10.9 feet without any increase in flows through Old River. The stage at Butte La Rose crested at 17.9 feet on March 11.

9. Aerial of the lower basin, M.C./ Stephenville (1983)

The New Orleans District is prepared to increase flows in the Atchafalaya River up to a maximum of 32 percent of flows at the latitude below Old River if such a deviation will help maintain the Butte La Rose stage above 9 feet. However, we will not implement a change in flow unless stages at Butte La Rose go below 9 feet. We will limit the duration to two weeks, monitoring conditions to determine if another shorter extension is warranted to further maintain the Butte La Rose stage above 9 feet.

10. Graphic: 70/30

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

11. Graphic: NOD  
FY 2001 Program

Bullet:

Federal Expenditures
\$359 M (MR&T = \$97M)
Local Interest (non-fed)
\$20 M
Funds Managed w/Others
\$19 M (CWPPRA)
\$8 M (Superfund)
<hr/>
\$406 M (Total)

Turning now to the New Orleans District's program. In FY 2001, we anticipate expenditures totaling \$359 million in federal funds, of which \$97 million is targeted for MR&T. We'll spend \$20 million in funds provided by our local sponsors, another \$19 million of Coastal Wetlands funds and \$8 million of Superfund monies on projects we manage in cooperation with other agencies. This brings our anticipated total program to \$406 million. However, we have a need for about \$40 million more to meet construction requirements this fiscal year.

12. Graphic:  
Morganza to the Gulf  
Study map

And now for our MR&T efforts. We are currently managing four studies. The boundaries of the first one, Morganza to the Gulf, are shown on this slide.

13. 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. We will release the report for public review later this month.

14. 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 in FY 2000. This project will be available for construction in FY 2004.

15. Graphic:  
Alexandria to the  
Gulf of Mexico map

In June 1999, we completed the reconnaissance phase of our second study. We addressed flooding and other problems in a 1,700-square-mile area extending through nine parishes from Alexandria to the Gulf of Mexico. A plan for diversion of flows from the Chatlin (pron. CHAT lin) Lake Canal in the Alexandria area to the Red River was found to be feasible. Other plans will be evaluated in the feasibility study. We are currently negotiating a feasibility cost-sharing agreement for the first phase of the study with DOTD and Gravity Drainage District No. 1 of Rapides (pron. rah PEEDS) Parish. We expect to execute the cost-sharing agreement for the first phase, which will address the Chatlin Lake Canal plan in April 2001.

16. 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. Initiation of a 3-year feasibility study is scheduled this month. The main feature is a hurricane protection levee extending from Larose in Lafourche Parish to the vicinity of Luling in St. Charles Parish.

17. Graphic: Lower  
Atchafalaya Basin  
Study map

We have completed the preliminary draft report on our fourth study, the Reevaluation of the Lower Atchafalaya. We have provided the document to the Leadership Group for review and discussion prior to submission to the Corps review process.

18. Graphic: MR  
levee mileage chart  
Total: 512  
Comp FY00: 491  
Ongoing: 4  
Remaining: 17

As for construction work on the MR&T levee system in New Orleans District -- it is about 97% complete. Here are the figures for Mississippi River levees completed, under construction and remaining.

19. Photo: (aerial)  
Carville to Marchand

Below Baton Rouge, we have two ongoing contracts – Carville to Marchand and Reveille to Point Pleasant. They will be completed this fiscal year.

20. Photo: Angola  
construction

Above Baton Rouge, our work at the Louisiana State Penitentiary has been ongoing since the '97 high water season. At that time, we provided technical expertise while the La. National Guard provided construction assistance during the summers of '97, '98 and '99. Once the federal project was approved, we awarded two levee enlargement contracts and a drainage structure contract in September 99. All three contracts will be completed this fiscal year. We also plan to award a final levee contract this month. This contract should be completed by early FY 03.

21. Photo: WABPL-  
95

Bullet: Atch Basin  
levees (mi)  
Completed: 387  
Ongoing: 1  
Remaining: 61  
Total: 449

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

22. Graphic: FY01  
Atch contracts

**Completed (1):** W-123  
**Ongoing (3):** W46/64-2ndLift,  
E96/99Ph2 and MC/B#1

Here are the locations of our work in the basin in FY 2001. One contract was completed earlier this fiscal year, shown in purple. Contracts are ongoing at the three sites shown in red. One contract is for a second lift on the West Atchafalaya Levee where we have experienced numerous slides in the last few years. Congress added funds to our budget to accomplish this task.

23. Graphic: FY01

Atch contracts

**To be awarded (4):**

EBS Gordy, West Bayou Sale  
Maryland, Todd, & Wax Lake  
East Drain Struc.

**To be completed/carried**

**over from 00 (2):**

E-96/99 Erosion & M.C. Flood  
proofing

Also in FY 2001, we plan to award three additional levee contracts and a drainage structure contract, shown in green. We are scheduled to complete two of the contracts carried over from last year.

24. Super: Atch Basin

I'd like to call your attention to our real estate acquisition work currently underway in the vast Atchafalaya Basin.

25. Graphic: Pie chart  
50K/338K

\*Own 34,100 acres in fee  
north of I-10; 17,500  
acres of these are cypress.

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

\*Have negotiated  
137,209 acres of  
easements

The district is 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 protect the environment.

26. Photo:  
Simmesport Boat  
Launch

Fiscal Year 2001 funds are being used to acquire additional lands in easements and complete acquisition of lands in fee. Funds will also be used to:

- execute the project cooperation agreement and initiate construction of the Simmesport Boat Launch
- initiate planning on the Myette (pron. me ETTE) Point Boat Launch and Lake End Park,
- and continue planning on the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit.

27. Super: Channel Improvement  
 Bullet:  
 382 authorized  
362 completed  
 20 remaining
- Under our channel improvement program, we've constructed just over 361 miles, making revetment work about 95% complete.
28. Photo: Generic mat unit/levee
- This year we will install a quarter of a mile of articulated concrete mattress revetment on the Mississippi River at Nestor (mile 40).
29. Photo: Revetment plant at work
- Also included in this year's program is .8 miles of foreshore work on the left descending bank at Lower Plaquemine (mile 207).
30. Photo: Stone foreshore protection
- And 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 .9 miles of revetment on the right descending bank of Crooked Bayou (mile 21.2), and on the left descending bank at Toles (mile 35.6) and Red Cross (mile 28.4).
32. Graphic: Atch Basin Bank Stabilization (Miles)  
 Completed: 53.8  
 Schl'd this Year: .9  
 Remaining: 3.3  
 Total: 58
- Completion of this work will leave a little more than 3.3 miles of the presently authorized 58 miles of required Atchafalaya revetment to be constructed.
33. Photo: Mat plant Super:  
 Existing Revetment Maintenance  
 - M.R. approx. 2 mi.  
 - Atch - approx. 1 mi.
- Finally, we are scheduled to maintain existing revetments on the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. While on the topic of maintenance, let me reassure our customers that we will continue to maintain and operate our structures at the high level of performance you have come to expect.

34. IHNC Lock

For example, the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock, built in 1920's, has become obsolete. After working for many years with the Port of New Orleans and the community adjacent to the lock, construction for a new, larger lock is finally underway. We will award about 22 contracts during the 10- to 12-year construction phase.

35. Photo: American Planning Assoc. award

Because of our partnering efforts with the community on mitigating lock impacts, the district together with our contractor, gcr, won the "Outstanding Non-Military Federal Planning Project" of 2000 by the Federal Planning Division of the American Planning Association. The \$37 million community impact mitigation plan will offset the effects of the lock's construction on the neighboring communities over the life of the project as well as act as a springboard for continued urban revitalization after the lock is completed.

36. Graphic: Davis Pond map

Switching topics now to the environmental arena, I'd like to highlight our work on the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure. We anticipate it being as successful as Caernarvon, which has exceeded our expectations for the last eight years. At Davis Pond, we will be capable of diverting a larger volume of water into the Barataria Basin, improving fish and wildlife habitats and reducing the rate of land loss.

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

We have awarded the remaining two contracts on the project. If scheduling goes as planned, we can begin diversion later this summer, if environmental conditions warrant.



38. Photo: Channel  
Armor Gap Crevasse  
Bullet:  
83 cost share agmts  
40 proj compl  
10 proj under const  
18 proj schd FY01  
16 proj schd FY02

We're also working closely with the state's Department of Natural Resources and other federal agencies on the Breaux Act Task Force to restore Louisiana's coast. The Breaux Act recently received a 10-year extension that will fund us through 2009. This slide gives you the current status of projects. When all of these Breaux Act projects are built, they will create or preserve almost 84,000 acres of wetlands.

39. Photo: Barataria  
Bay Waterway

Unfortunately, there is still a large disparity between the acres gained under present restoration efforts and the trends of loss. Therefore, Congress has allocated funds to study statewide coastal restoration initiatives under Coast 2050.

40. Graphic: Coast  
2050

Coast 2050's overall goal is to restore and protect the coastal ecosystem through partnerships across the region. The Louisiana Coastal Area Feasibility Study, initiated in February 2000, is evaluating the various Coast 2050 strategies.

41. Photo: barrier  
island restoration or  
wetland creation  
project  
Bullet:  
Coast 2050  
Estimated cost: \$14  
Billion over the next  
30 years

Phase I of the study is addressing barrier island restoration, wetland creation and restoration, and river diversions for the Barataria Basin. Early estimates indicate that there are about \$14 billion in coastal restoration and protection projects needed across Louisiana over the next 30 years. The importance of Coast 2050 to the future of coastal Louisiana cannot be overstated.

42. Photo: (aerial)  
N.O. CBD

That about wraps up the current status of projects in the New Orleans District.

43. Photo: Fr. Quarter  
floodwall

Let me close by saying that we could not have initiated or accomplished any of our projects 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 efforts undertaken to ensure continued prosperity for all of Louisiana's citizens.

44. Seal Obverse