



Gate Closures at Outfall Canals

Sept. 18, 2006



Question: What is the purpose of the outfall canals?

Answer: The gated closure structures return the outflow canals to their originally intended purpose of rainwater evacuation. The structures separate the canals from the hurricane protection system as recommended by the IPET team and other independent reports. The gates themselves help prevent the catastrophic flooding that devastated the city in September 2006.

Question: How do the gate closures help prevent flooding?

Answer: Despite diminished pumping capacity this year, installation of these gates and pumps vastly improve the inundation situation by stopping lake surges at the lake.

It is a matter of inches of water that can be removed in hours, rather than feet of water that remain in the city for weeks.

Question: How does the Corps of Engineers decide to close the floodgates?

Answer: Decisions to close the floodgates will be based on the predicted storm surge.

Question: Who actually makes the decision to lower the floodgates?

Answer: The New Orleans District Commander. District personnel will then notify local officials.