US Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter *April 12, 2011*

Making the deadlines, *reaching the milestones*

Team New Orleans *making noticeable progress throughout HSDRRS*

by Susan Spaht

Over the past 5 ½ years, the Corps of Engineers, its contractors and partners have made huge strides in the restoration and improvement of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) around the Greater New Orleans area. As the start of hurricane season draws closer, levees and floodwalls are going up and flood gates are going in as the perimeter defense system visibly and impressively takes shape. The Corps is making important construction deadlines and reaching major milestones to defend against 100-year storm surge by June 1.

A notable event was achieved last month when the nation's largest pair of sector gates – at 225 feet – were installed at the West Closure Complex. A few weeks ago, the vertical lift gate for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Surge Barrier project at Bayou Bienvenue arrived six weeks early and was installed to great media attention. The tallest sector gates in the system – at 43 ½ feet high – were installed recently at Bayou Dupre in St. Bernard Parish. All are major milestones toward achieving 100-year level risk reduction.

On March 16, contractors filled the last "cell" with sand to complete the north wall of the cofferdam at the Seabrook Floodgate Complex. This marked a big step toward attainment of interim 100-year level risk reduction for the project located at the mouth of the Industrial Canal leading into Lake Pontchartrain. Construction is ahead of schedule at the Seabrook project. USACE Photo

"We're making incredible progress on the HSDRRS," said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope. "The major pieces of the system are now being put into place. Giant gates, pumps, and miles of levees and floodwalls are beginning to take the shape of a true system that will reduce the risk of storm surge for the people of the Greater New Orleans area."

Also in this issue:

LPV 145 reaches 100-year designation

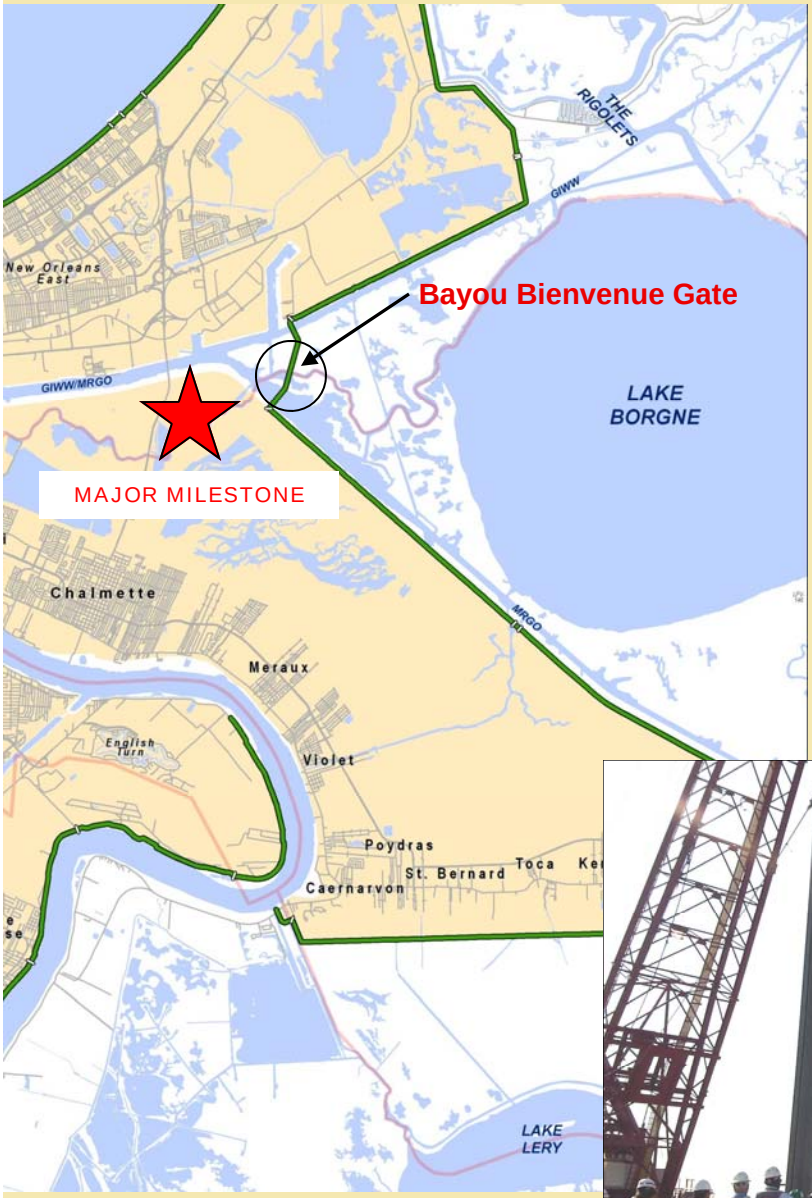
The St. Bernard floodwall between Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou Dupre, LPV 145, attained 100-year level designation last month. This marks a major milestone toward reducing surge risk for St. Bernard Parish.

Above: **Workers install the last monolith in the LPV 145 floodwall on March 21. This occasion marked the achievement of 100-year designation for that stretch of the St. Bernard floodwall.**
Below: **The completed floodwall section**

USACE Photos


Barging to the site

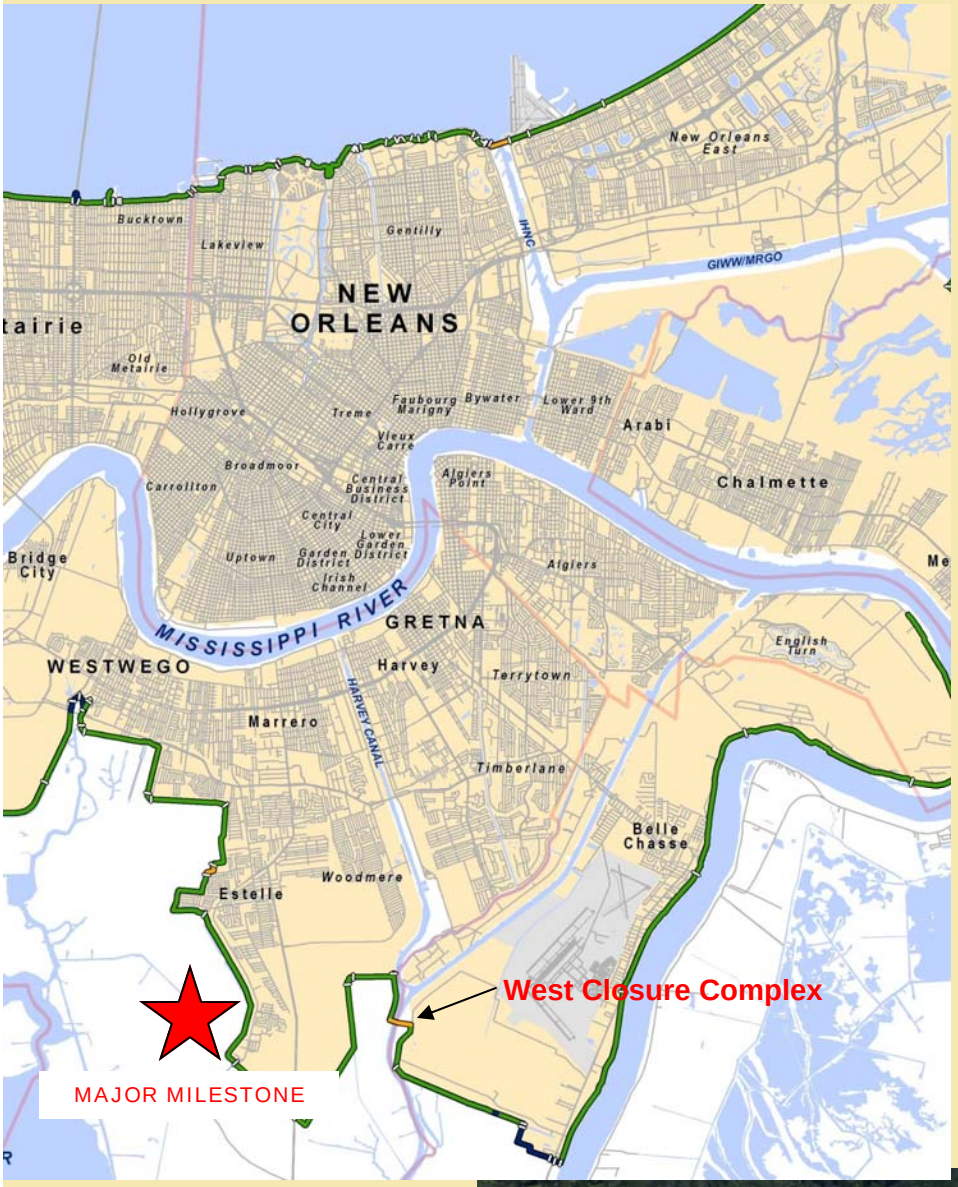

The Approach



Bayou Bienvenue Lift Gate arrives ahead of schedule

On March 24, the Bayou Bienvenue Lift Gate was lowered into place along the IHNC Surge Barrier wall. Installation of the new gate, six weeks ahead of schedule, was an important element toward construction completion of the Surge Barrier project at Lake Borgne. The new gate is the first of three in the Surge Barrier project. The others are the barge gate and the 150-foot sector gates, both of which will be in place by June 1.
All gates will be open except during a tropical event.

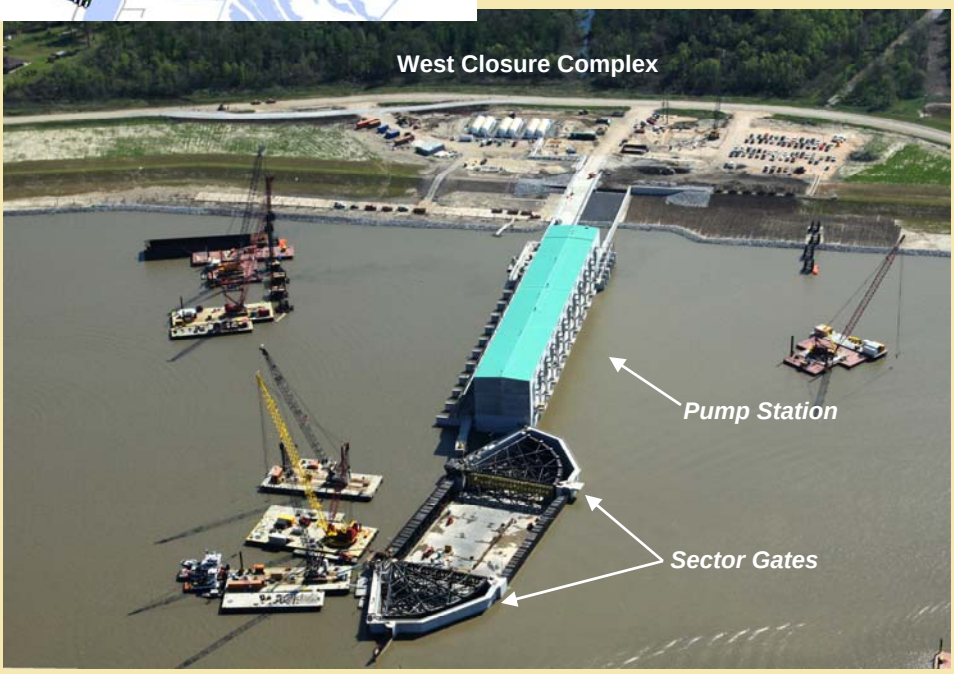

The Installation, March 24: *a Media Event*



Nation's largest sector gates installed at West Closure Complex

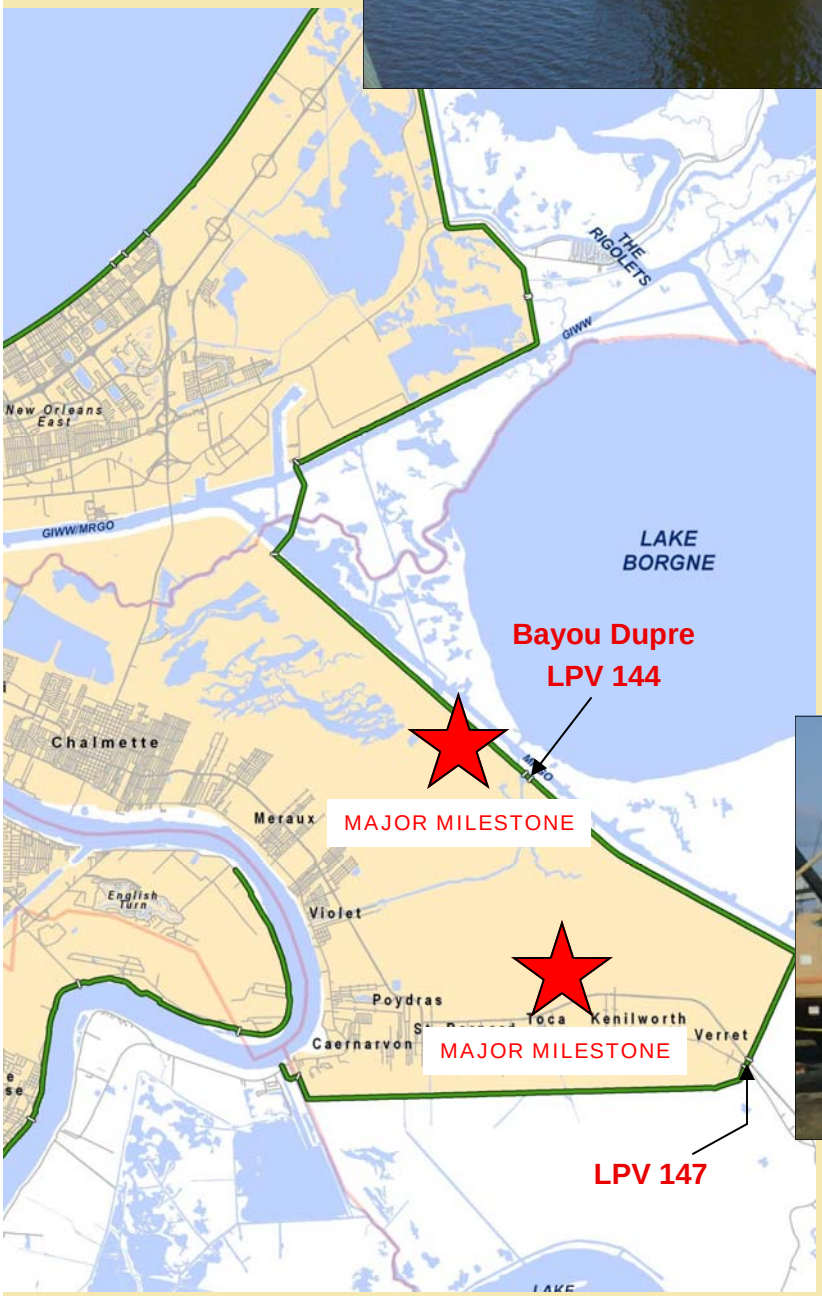
On March 10, the Corps of Engineers installed the second leaf of the nation's largest pair of sector gates at the West Closure Complex on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at Belle Chasse. Each sector gate weighs 750 tons and will take 30 minutes to close in the event of storm surge.

The new gates are standing along side the world's largest drainage pump station.



LPV 144
The new Bayou Dupre sector gates being barged to St. Bernard Parish. At 431/2 feet high, these sector gates are the tallest gates in the HSDRRS.


Barging to St. Bernard



St. Bernard gates set records, reach new milestones

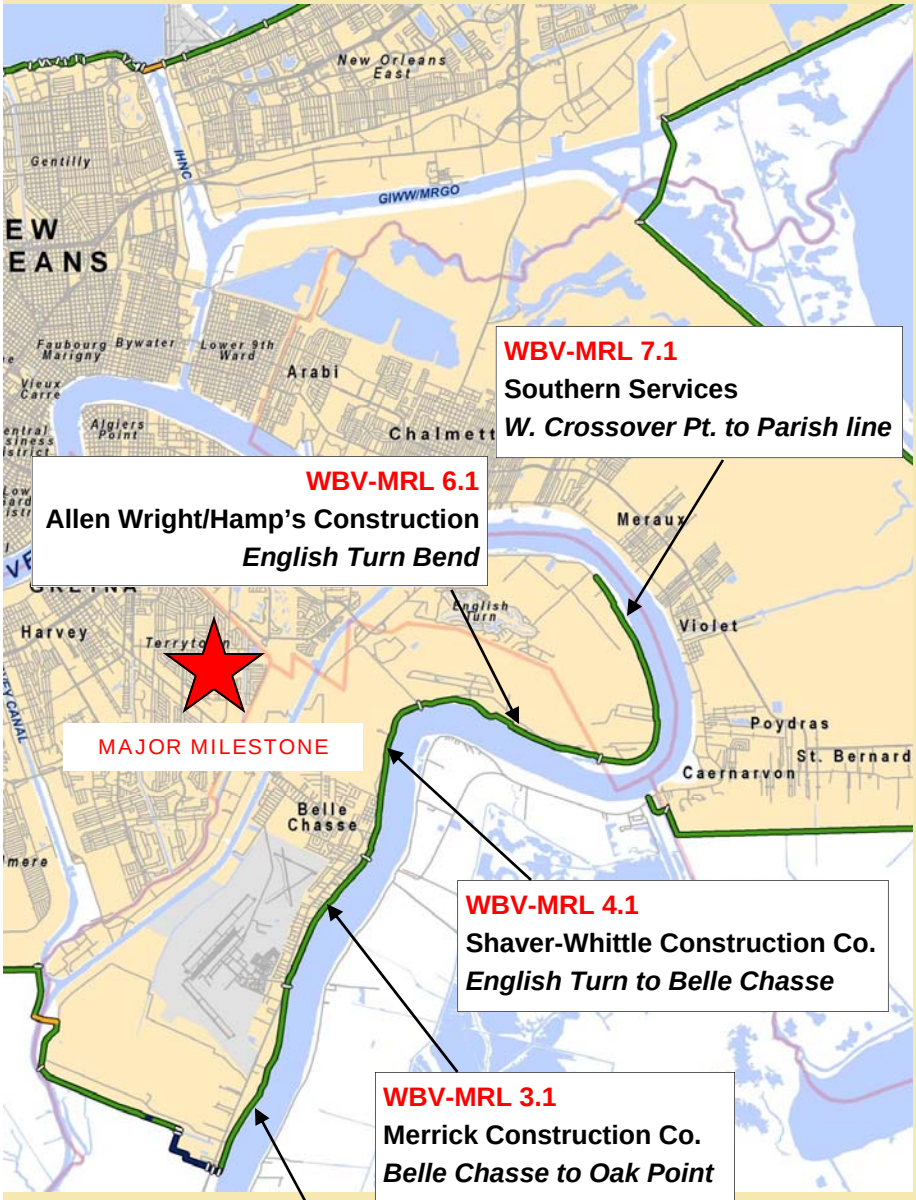
The Bayou Dupre sector gates were installed in early April. At 431/2 feet high, these are the tallest gates in the HSDRRS.

Also, the largest flood gates across a roadway were installed recently at Hwy. 46. Their installation signaled 100-year attainment for that section of the 23-mile St. Bernard floodwall project.


LPV 147

LPV 147 Last month, the Hwy. 46 north and south gates were installed across the roadway. These are the largest highway gates in the system.

USACE Photos



Mississippi River levee contracts awarded

On April 2, a major milestone was reached when the final four of five contracts were awarded for the Mississippi River co-located levee work in Plaquemines Parish. This section of river levee is co-located with the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. All projects will raise the existing earthen levees with an all-clay section within the existing levee footprint. This work, called Engineered Alternative Measures, will defend against 100-year storm surge until the final features are constructed.

Workers prepare a section of Mississippi River levee to be raised with an all-clay section within the existing levee footprint.

Faces of Hope

HPO's *Angela DeSoto-Duncan* wins prestigious engineer award

By Nick Silbert

Angela DeSoto-Duncan accepts the Federal Engineer of the Year Award during ceremonies in Washington, D.C. recently. From left, are Michael Hardy, President, National Society of Professional Engineers; Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Col. Robert Sinkler, Commander, Hurricane Protection Office; and Larry Jacobson, Executive Director, National Society of Professional Engineers. USACE Photos

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee and New Orleans native Angela DeSoto-Duncan, P.E. was recognized last month in Washington, D.C. as the 2011 Corps Civil Works Federal Engineer of the Year Award winner. DeSoto-Duncan was also honored as a top ten finalist for the National Society of Professional Engineers' (NSPE) Federal Engineer of the Year Award. DeSoto-Duncan was the only Corps civilian named among the top ten finalists for that award.

"I am truly honored to receive the Corps' Engineer of the Year award," said Ms. DeSoto-Duncan. "And it is really gratifying to be among the ten finalists for the NSPE Engineer of the Year award. I consider it a huge accomplishment to be in the same category with top engineers and scientists from the Corps and other federal agencies such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Air Force, and the Navy's Facilities Engineering Command.

"I share this award with the HPO staff, contractors and all of the people who are working so hard to provide a safer place to live for the people of Greater New Orleans."

DeSoto-Duncan joined the Corps' Hurricane Protection Office (HPO) in 2008 to serve as the design lead for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier, the largest design-build civil works project in the history of the Corps of Engineers. In this role, DeSoto-Duncan leveraged technical support from Corps Headquarters, three Divisions, nine Districts, and the Engineer Research and Development Center, as well as teammates from the Netherlands. Her effort to cooperate with designers and technical experts from around the world resulted in over $300 million in savings on the Surge Barrier project.

Since 2008, DeSoto-Duncan has also served as the HPO Deputy Chief and Chief of the Technical Support Branch. In February 2011, she was promoted to the Deputy Chief of the HPO Execution Support Division, spearheading levee, floodwall, floodgate and pump station construction. She oversees more than 20 engineers and scientists who work to support HPO's construction efforts.

"Angela has many responsibilities here at HPO, including design lead for one of the largest projects in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS)," said Col. Robert Sinkler, Commander of the Hurricane Protection Office. "The Engineer of the Year award brings

Continued on page 8


IHNC Surge Barrier Wall, Lake Borgne

Continued from page 7

honor to her and to all of the great engineers in the Mississippi Valley Division. It highlights the remarkable job everyone is doing to deliver the Greater New Orleans area HSDRRS."

DeSoto-Duncan joined the Corps' New Orleans District office in 1987 as a student intern. She later came onboard full-time in 1988 after earning a Bachelor of Science degree from Tulane University with a concentration in Civil Engineering. She worked in the Structures Branch of the New Orleans District before joining the HPO.

In addition to her day-to-day job duties at HPO, DeSoto-Duncan frequently represents the Corps at engineering conferences, workshops, trade shows and universities around the country to share lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and engineering best practices. She also is an active member and leader of over a dozen professional engineering and technical societies.

DeSoto-Duncan stays busy outside of work too. She has previously served as the Federal Childcare Coordinator for the Corps' Castle Kids Child Development Center and the Coordinator for the Boy Scouts of America's Pinewood Derby Competition, among others. Earlier this year, she served as a parent chaperone for her son's chess team at a competition held in Orlando, Fla.

The Federal Engineer of the Year Award program, now in its 32nd year, is sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, a division of the National Society of Professional Engineers, and recognizes government engineers who have made significant engineering achievements. Award recipients are also selected based on civic and humanitarian activities, continuing education, membership in professional and technical societies, as well as awards and honors.

"I've spent my entire career to date with the Corps in New Orleans," said DeSoto-Duncan. "It's like working with one big family."

Contact Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Task Force Hope
(504) 862-1836

New Orleans District
(504) 862-2201

Hurricane Protection Office
(504) 862-1708

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.

This is an online publication that is open to public distribution.

This issue and past issues can be found at:
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Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at:
b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil

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Task Force Hope
Strategic Communications
7400 Leake Ave., Room #388
New Orleans, LA 70118
(504) 862-1949