US Army Corps of Engineers
Mississippi Valley Division

Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report Newsletter *February 21, 2011*

100 Days to 100-year perimeter defense

For Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity and West Bank & Vicinity projects

USACE Photo by Paul Floro

Seabrook Floodgate Complex - Feb. 2011

Cofferdam construction is underway at the Seabrook Floogate Complex on the north end of the Industrial Canal, just south of the Sen. Ted Hickey Bridge.

by Susan Spaht

On February 21, President's Day, the Greater New Orleans area will be 100 days away from having a hurricane risk reduction system for LPV and WBV projects that will defend against a 100-year storm surge.

"We are committed to our goal," said Mike Park, the new Chief of Task Force Hope. "We will have a perimeter system that will defend against a 100-year storm surge on June 1, the start of Hurricane Season 2011."

Q: What can the public expect on June 1, 2011?

A: 100% of the perimeter system will be capable of defending against a 100-year storm surge with:

- 97% of the system constructed to the 100-year criteria;

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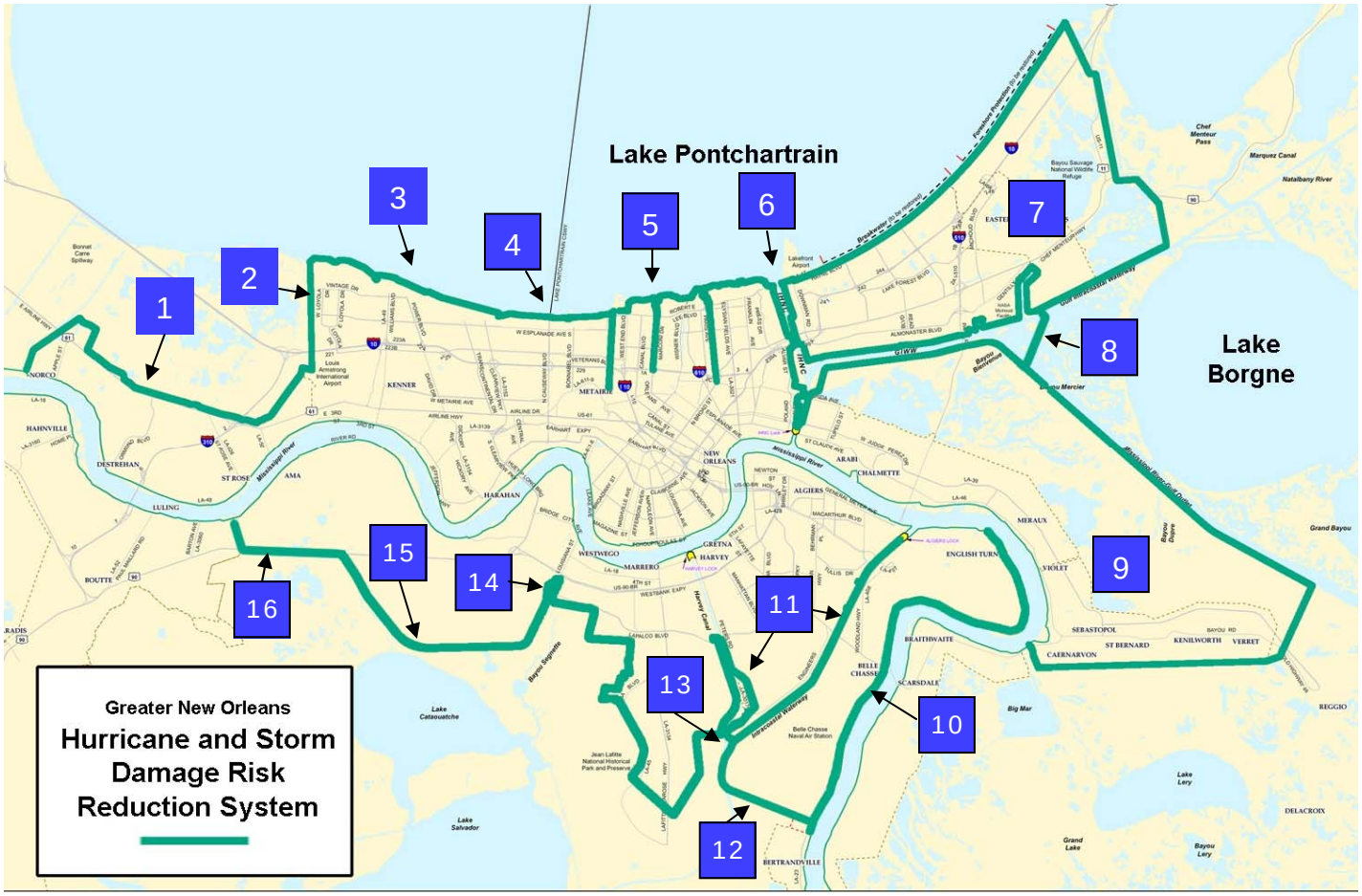

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- 2% of the system will have Engineered Interim Closure Structures in place (about 4 miles), and

- 1% of the system will have Engineered Construction Closures (about ¾ mile) on site to close gaps should a hurricane threaten the area.

Going clockwise around the map above, here is a look at where the Corps stands now on construction of 100-year features for the system:

1 Starting in St. Charles Parish, all 14 construction projects are underway and seven are already complete. Over 70% of the 9.5 miles of levees, floodwalls and gates have been constructed to the 100-year elevation. The remaining work is scheduled for completion by June 2011.

100-Year Storm

A storm or hurricane that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

2 The new West Return Floodwall on the St. Charles/ Jefferson Parish line is under construction on the flood side of the original West Return Floodwall. The original floodwall will remain in place and will be strengthened with Engineered Interim Measures, in the form of earthen berms, along the southernmost section of the existing wall to provide interim storm defense this hurricane season. The existing floodwall will be removed when the new floodwall is completed in December 2011.

3 Construction is ongoing along Lake Pontchartrain in East Jefferson Parish. All of the 9.1 miles of perimeter levees have been raised to the 100-year elevation. Fronting Protection construction is underway at the four parish pump stations along the lakefront. The breakwaters at Bonnabel and Duncan pump stations currently provide 100-year risk reduction, while Engineered Interim Measures will be in place at the Elmwood and Suburban pump stations to defend against the 100-year storm surge.

4 Start of construction for bridge abutment and floodwall tie-ins at the Causeway Bridge was delayed due to a construction protest. Floodwall work is currently underway and scheduled for completion in January

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2012. The existing floodwall – with the addition of sandbags across the bridge decks to minimize wave overtopping - will provide 100-year storm defense for this year's hurricane season.

5 Interim pumps and closure gates at the three outfall canals offer 100-year defense. These gates and pumps performed as designed during Hurricane Gustav in 2008. The permanent pumps and gates are expected to be completed in 2014.

6 The Seabrook Floodgate Complex is under construction and moving fast. This project closes the last of four openings in the perimeter system from Lake Pontchartrain. A cofferdam and floodwall tie-ins on the east and west sides will be in place this spring to defend against a 100-year storm. Construction on Seabrook sector gate is expected to be completed in early 2012.

7 All New Orleans East levees and floodwalls under construction will provide 100-year level risk reduction by June 1.

8 The IHNC Surge Barrier wall and tie-ins are now complete and the Corps is constructing the three gates. All gates will be on site by June 1 and can be put in place to provide 100-year level risk reduction. The remaining work on this project will be completed by June 2012.

9 The St. Bernard floodwall project is 23 miles long and rises from 26 to 32 feet high. This huge

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A recently-completed section of floodwall along Lakeshore Drive near Topaz St.

Crews work to replace the existing railroad gate where it intersects with the levee just north of the GIWW.

USACE Photos by Paul Floro

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project will provide 100-year level risk reduction by June 1.

10 Approximately 15.5 miles of the Mississippi River Levee, from Mile 70 to Mile 85.5, will be raised to meet the new criteria for 100-year level of risk reduction. MRL work will consist of Engineered Alternative Measures including 3 stabilized soil levee reaches and 2 earthen levee reaches. The award of these contracts is contingent on completion of Right of Entry requirements which are pending.

11 The Algiers and Harvey Canals have been removed from the *first line of storm defense* by the construction of the West Closure Complex which restricts storm surge from entering the canals. However, improvements to the detention basin along the Harvey and Algiers Canals are required to complete the enhanced West Bank project. The Harvey Canal Floodgate, a major risk reduction feature, was completed in 2007. To complete risk reduction south of the floodgate, approximately 2.5 miles of floodwalls and one mile of levee have been constructed along the Harvey Canal. Hero Pump Station Fronting Protection is scheduled to be completed by February 2011. The industrial reach along the Algiers Canal has been raised and additional work is ongoing reinforce the levee with a stability berm. Three other construction contracts have been awarded to raise levees and increase levee stability along the remaining Algiers Canal levees. Other ongoing construction along the

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USACE Photos

USACE Photo by Tom Durel

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Algiers Canal includes the construction of floodgates and pump station fronting protection in three parishes.

12 Construction continues on the Hero Canal closure structure, levees and floodwalls; and to the Eastern Tie-in swing gate across Hwy. 23 and the adjacent railroad floodgate. Engineered Construction Closures will be used this hurricane season if the area experiences a storm.

13 The massive West Closure Complex will include a 225-foot sector gated structure, floodwalls, foreshore protection, five sluice gates, an earthen levee, and the largest pump station in the world (*see photo, page 1*). The Corps is driving hard to have the West Closure Complex features in place to defend against a 100-year storm by June 1. All project construction is scheduled for completion in late 2012.

14 To provide the 100-year level of risk reduction to the Company Canal and Bayou Segnette area, the Corps is building a floodgate/levee/pump station complex. Additional work in the Bayou Segnette area includes fronting protection at the Segnette Pump Stations. At Company Canal, an operable interim closure gate across the canal is currently providing 100-year risk reduction.

15 Levee enlargement work is underway for the Lake Cataouatche area; a floodwall is being replaced at Bayou Segnette State Park; and fronting protection construction is underway for the Lake Cataouatche Pump Station. These features will offer 100-year risk reduction by June 1.

16 The Western Tie-In, a project designed to link the HSDRRS with the Mississippi River Levee, is currently under construction. Engineered Construction Closures will be in place along Highway 90 and at railroad crossings to defend against a 100-year storm event. There will be three closings and one Engineered Interim Closure measure along Bayou Verret.

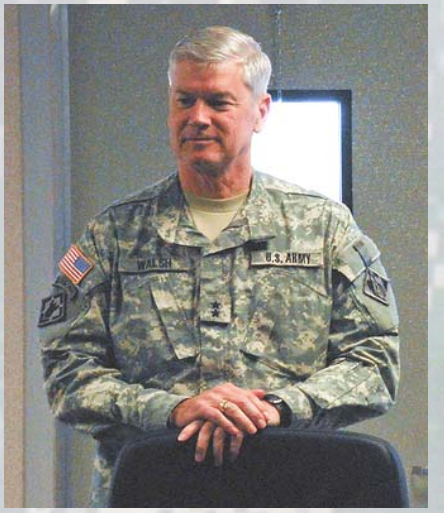
Commitment

"We made a commitment to the people of the Greater New Orleans area to have a perimeter system in place that could defend against a 100-year storm, and we will meet that goal," said Park. "It has been, and continues to be, a team effort. It has required a lot of hard work, determination, and close collaboration with our stakeholders and partners to get to this point - and we are still driving hard."

A word from our
COMMANDING GENERAL

On this President's Day, 21 February 2011, we are 100 days from delivering a perimeter system that will defend the Greater New Orleans area from a 100-year storm surge.

Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Corps of Engineers set an ambitious goal and undertook a precedent-setting civil works mission to repair and restore 220 miles of damaged levees and floodwalls in a five-parish area, complete sections of the system that were unfinished, and design and construct a state-of-the-industry perimeter system that will defend the area against a 100-year storm surge. The timeframe we set for this enormous undertaking was less than six years!



Michael Walsh

MG Michael J. Walsh, Commander
Mississippi Valley Division

Congress and the Administration, recognizing the importance of this area to the nation, provided the authority and 100 percent of the funding *upfront*. Now two Presidents have committed to providing 100-year level risk reduction by the start of Hurricane Season 2011, a commitment that is rooted in reducing risk for the people of southeast Louisiana as quickly and effectively as possible. Today we are 100 days from meeting that goal – and we will!

We are very proud of what has been accomplished so far, but we did not get here alone. Not only did we draw on the breadth and depth of the Corps of Engineers, but also on academia and private industry to review our work. We also relied on our non-federal partners to assist with real estate acquisition and on extensive collaboration with the general public. We call it *Team New Orleans*. The work that we have accomplished here in southeast Louisiana symbolizes what can be done when we all work together as a team.

Today we are 100 days from the 2011 Hurricane Season, and 100 days from our goal. The area already has the best perimeter defense in its history....and we are still building strong!

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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:
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US Army Corps of Engineers

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