



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



# Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report

March 27, 2009

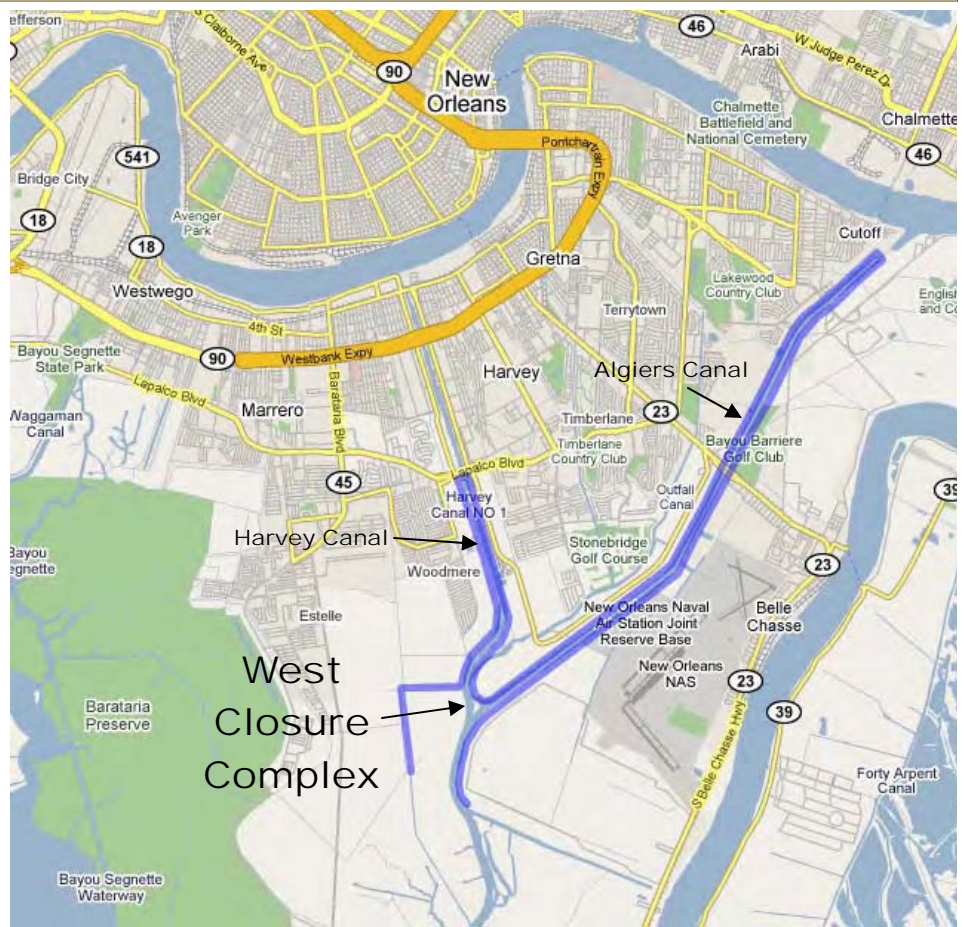
## West Closure Complex *moving forward*

*West Bank project  
expected to have  
largest pumps  
in the world*

By Susan Spaht

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is planning to build and/or upgrade levees, floodwalls, floodgates and pumping stations for the West Bank & Vicinity as part of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). This massive project, called the **Gulf Intracoastal Waterway - West Closure Complex** (GIWW-WCC), will span three parishes - Jefferson, Orleans and Plaquemines. When completed, the West Closure Complex (WCC) will provide 100-year level of risk reduction for that area.

After numerous public meetings, comments from stakeholders, consultations with government and non-



government agencies, and a joint public hearing with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the selected alternative was approved last month by Col. Alvin Lee, Commander of the New Orleans District. Prior to and during the public comment period, special attention was given to the Bayou aux Carpes area

which is a 404c designation, an EPA environmentally-protected area.

*Continued on page 2*

**Also in this issue:**

Company Canal getting new risk reduction measures.....Page 4

**T**he West Closure Complex, located at the confluence of the Harvey and Algiers Canals, will include floodwalls, navigable gates, earthen levees, and a pump station with a capacity of 20,000 cfs.

*Continued from page 1*

The selected alternative proposes to alter the original system alignment and construct a streamlined surge barrier and approximately three miles of floodwalls and levee alignments.

The surge barrier would remove 25 miles of existing parallel protection (levees) from the primary line of defense, making those levees a secondary line of defense. The surge barrier reduces the number of potential failure points in the system, increases quality control, and minimizes impacts to residences and businesses since the footprint of the existing levee system would not need to be widened.

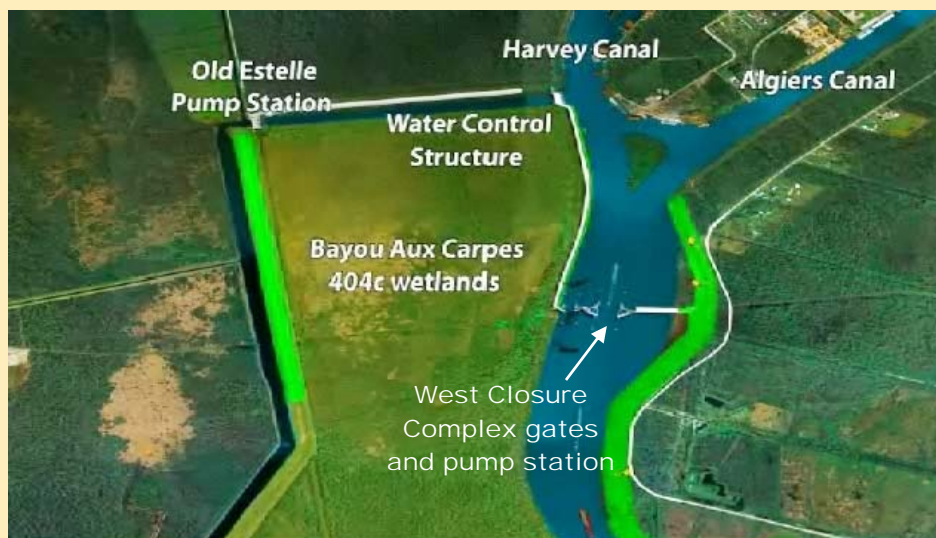
The largest feature of the selected alternative is the proposed closure complex that will cross the GIWW, a federally-maintained navigation channel. The closure complex will include a primary 225-foot navigation gate and a secondary 75-foot to 110-foot gate.

A permanent bypass channel and a 20,000 cfs pump station with positive backflow prevention will be included in the construction. **The pumps for the station are expected to be the largest in the world.**

*Continued on page 3*



Aerial view of the GIWW at the confluence of the Harvey and Algiers Canals.



This enhanced aerial photo shows the West Closure Complex gates and pump station, the Bayou aux Carpes wetlands area, the Harvey and Algiers Canals, and the WCC surroundings.



Artist's conception of the massive West Closure Complex surge barrier gates and pump station crossing the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.



Continued from page 2

An estimated four million cubic yards of material will be removed during construction of the eastern floodwall, closure complex, levee and road realignment. After being evaluated for suitability, this material will be used as borrow (levee dirt) for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System. Any rock and suitable earthen material will be used to construct the new road on the site.

The selected WCC design alternative limits adverse impacts to the Bayou aux Carpes area by building a floodwall in lieu of an earthen levee (i.e., a much smaller footprint than an earthen levee) in order to ensure that the least environmentally damaging alternative is in place.

"The Corps has committed to the EPA, resource agencies and to our stakeholders to minimize the footprint of the surge barrier component within the Bayou aux Carpes area to the greatest extent practical," said Col. Lee.

"Construction of this proposed action would not only provide the most system reliability and risk reduction for this segment of West Bank & Vicinity, but would bring into protection those industrial areas along the Harvey Canal that are currently outside of the risk reduction system," Col. Lee added.



For more information on the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway- West Closure Complex, go to this Web site:  
[www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov)

Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex



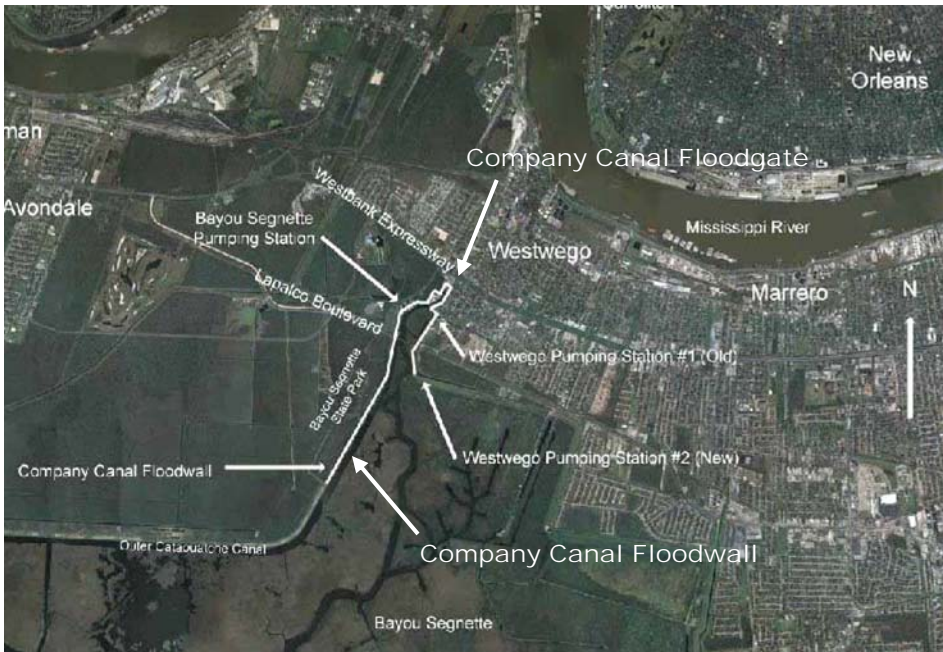
**Kevin Wagner, Senior Project Manager:** *"Over 245,000 people live on the West Bank...their safety is our number one concern. We've put the best plan forward to make that happen, and we are moving forward with that plan."*

Quoted from the Corps' on-line video on the GIWW-WCC at:  
[http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/videos/wb\\_video.asp](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/videos/wb_video.asp)

Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex



**Tim Connell, Project Manager:** *"This challenging project is estimated to cost more than \$500 million to design and construct. The proposed action was the best of four alternatives. Construction of the pump station and surge barrier will be completed in 2011. Construction on the secondary control structure will continue for another year."*



## Company Canal to get new risk reduction measures

**T**he Corps of Engineers plans to construct and maintain a Company Canal Floodwall which will meet the 100-year level of risk reduction from Bayou Segnette State Park to the New Westwego Pumping Station.

The project area is on the West Bank of the Mississippi River in Jefferson Parish. The Company Canal area has been developed over the years for recreational, residential, commercial and industrial purposes.

The Corps' plan is to replace the existing 9.5-foot floodwall along Company Canal with a robust 14-foot floodwall, construct approximately 1,000 to 1,200 feet of earthen levees, and install a new navigable floodgate structure across the waterway. In addition, a 400 cfs pump station will be built adjacent to the navigable floodgate.

"These 100-year risk reduction features will prevent storm surges from entering the Company Canal area," said Gary Brouse, Senior Project Manager. "Residents who use these waterways can expect to see construction within and around Bayou Segnette soon."

Four public meetings were held by the Corps to obtain comments from stakeholders and the public on four possible alternatives for this area.

Before the final alternative was selected, the Corps also assessed the significant resources in the project area including air and water quality, wetlands, fisheries and aquatic habitats, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, recreation, aesthetics, and socioeconomic resources.



**News Flash:** On March 25, the Corps of Engineers responded to a request from the Southeast Levee Flood

Protection Authority – West to close the Company Canal gate due to strong southerly winds pushing water into the canal. On March 26, the Corps closed

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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 recovery work to stakeholders.

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Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at: [b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil](mailto:b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil)

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the Harvey Canal gates, again in response to the Levee Authority. These measures were taken to reduce the risk of possible flooding to the area.