

Media Advisory

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Contact: John Wm. Hall, 504-862-2201 June 28, 2005

Going amphibious to pour concrete Wednesday

Trucks to drive onto barges to pour slabs of Harvey Canal flood gate

What. Pouring the concrete slabs for the Harvey Canal hurricane floodgate.

When. Pouring begins sometime between 8 p.m. and midnight, Wednesday, June 29. Later is more likely than earlier. Here's a cell number for on-scene updates: 504-812-6004. A total of 1,250 cubic yards will be poured.

Where. Park in prime contractor Boh Bros. Construction Co. lot on southwest side of Harvey Canal at Lapalco bridge.

Why. Construct the bases to support two 175-ton floodgates and the bays that will house them on the west and east sides of the Harvey Canal.

What's to see? Concrete trucks will line up on Destrehan Avenue, awaiting their turns to drive onto a barge. At a given time, three trucks will be aboard the barge, a pumper and two mixer trucks. Concrete will flow through long pipes into the cofferdams to cover the steel reinforcing bars and compete a slab that will be eight feet thick. **Navigation** will NOT be interrupted.

Contacts. Corps people available to media will include Kenny Crumholt and Lary Yorke, on-site construction managers, and Jackie Purrington, the project manager.

Background. The \$38 million floodgate will protect the West Bank of New Orleans from storm surges. The canal is one of the few remaining major gaps in West Bank hurricane protection. The \$340 million West Bank and Vicinity New Orleans Hurricane Protection Project will protect about 250,000 people in Jefferson and Plaquemines parishes. Gate completion is estimated in 2006, given funding. Project completion is expected in 2018, given funding.