



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Army Corps closes canals as water rises in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS Oct. 3 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began closing the 17th Street and London Avenue canals at 11 a.m. today as weather forecasts predict higher than normal tides and winds rising in the area.

Engineers are currently placing additional sandbags on the areas that were breached along the two canals during Hurricane Katrina.

“We are taking these prudent measures to ensure we provide the best possible protection we can to the city of New Orleans,” said Col. Duane Gapinski, commander of the Corps’ Unwatering Task Force in New Orleans.

Engineers continue to monitor sites across the area as strong east winds and high tides drive water higher in the region. The steel sheetpiling will be removed as soon as wind-driven waters recede in the area.

South of New Orleans the Army Corps is currently working to provide emergency assistance to Plaquemines and Terrebone parishes.

In Terrabone Parish, the Corps is responding to the report of a 20 foot wide area that is currently being overtopped near Montegut. Three commercial helicopters are currently placing large sandbags across the temporary closure made last month. Fifty sandbags have been placed across the overtopped location today, and another 55 sandbags are enroute from the sandbag staging area near 17th Street Canal in New Orleans.

In Plaquemines Parish, five Army Chinook helicopters continue to place sandbags along the damaged levee system. Approximately 650 sandbags were placed in Plaquemines Parish Sunday by five Army Chinooks, two Coast Guard, and two commercial helicopters. The sandbags were placed in the Citrus Farms and Scarsdale areas. Interim repairs have been made near Braithwaite. The area between Belle Chasse and Homeplace is nearly dry.

For more information, contact Mitch Frazier at 504-862-1645.