



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

News Release

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Corps Supplementing EIS on IHNC Lock Replacement Project

Public comment needed, including dredging and construction

NEW ORLEANS—The public is invited to a meeting to provide the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with ideas on environmental impacts of the replacement of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Lock (also known as the Industrial Canal Lock) in New Orleans.

The public meeting will begin at 6 p.m. on April 4 in the cafeteria trailer of the Holy Cross School, 4950 Dauphine St., New Orleans, La. 70117. It will be preceded by an open house at 5:30 p.m.

“We need the public’s facts and ideas to help frame a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on how up update or improve plans to address the environmental impacts,” said Larry Poindexter, the Corps’ project manager.

All comments welcomed

In particular, comment is solicited on methods of dredging, the disposal of dredged material and related issues, and on the alternatives of cast-in-place or float-in construction for the lock itself. However, all parties are invited to participate in the scoping process by identifying any additional concerns on issues, studies needed, alternatives, procedures, and other matters related to the scope of the SEIS.

The original EIS in 1998 recommended building the new lock between North Claiborne and Florida Avenues, extending the Mississippi River flood protection levees and floodwalls to Florida Avenue, replacing the St. Claude Avenue Bridge, modification of the Claiborne Bridge, implementing a community impact mitigation plan, and a fish and wildlife mitigation plan.

The present lock is 86 years old and its 75 by 640 foot chamber causes delays in barge and other lock traffic during high-water season on the Mississippi River. Some delays exceed 24 hours.

As authorized by Congress, the replacement lock's chamber would be 110 by 1,200 feet, allowing it to accommodate three standard river barges abreast. It would reduce the problem of towing industry backup along the Industrial Canal and eastbound Gulf Intracoastal Waterway on one side of the lock, and along the Mississippi on the other.

The public meeting is known as a "scoping" meeting under the National Environmental Policy Act. The Corps is seeking information from the public to help to determine the full scope of the issues to be considered in framing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Comments may also be submitted by mail, e-mail or fax to the Corps officials listed below. The public may comment at any time during the study. Interested citizens should ask to be included on the mailing list. The public comments will be summarized in an appendix to the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Direct comments or questions to:

Lock project. Larry Poindexter, U.S. Army corps of Engineers, CEMVN-PM-E, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La., 70160-0267, phone 504-862-2932, fax 504-862-1785 or e-mail
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Supplemental Environmental Impact Statment. Royce Kemp, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-PM-RP, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La. 70160-0267, phone 504-862-2675, fax 504-862-2088 or e-mail
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