



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

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Army Corps of Engineers Strengthens Floodwall Repairs in New Orleans

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New Orleans, LA (October 19, 2005) - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to providing the safest and strongest emergency repairs possible for the floodwall breaches in the 17th Street, London Avenue and Inner Harbor Navigation canals in New Orleans.

Emergency repairs immediately following Hurricane Katrina were made based on expediency and availability of materials and construction equipment. Repairs included large sandbags placed by helicopters and rock and sandy-gravel fill materials.

The Corps has reinforced and added strength to the land-side of the breach closures at all of the canals by increasing the width of the stability berms and filling the scour hole voids that were eroded by the flood waters. The Corps is monitoring the breach repair sites and has stockpiled materials nearby for any future emergencies.

Additionally, the Corps is actively controlling the water levels in the 17th Street and London Avenue canals to reduce pressure on the canal walls and on the breach sites. The sheet-pile wall closures will remain in place at the Leon Simmons and Old Hammond Highway bridges in the event that future storm surge needs to be repelled from the canals.

Now that the immediate flood threat has been contained, the Corps has transitioned its focus to providing an interim level of flood protection for the rainy season ahead. The Corps is working to elevate the breach sites to elevation ten (feet above sea level) and will soon begin installing deep sheet pile cutoff walls at the 17th Street and London Avenue canal breach sites. The IHNC breach site has already been reinforced with a stability berm and brought up to elevation ten.

These interim repairs are being done under the direction of Corps' geotechnical engineers with experience in the unique geology of the New Orleans area. They are assisted by Corps experts from the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and other Corps offices. Because of the volume of work and expediency issues, in some cases consulting engineers, selected on the basis of their qualifications to perform this particular work, are also working on the projects. All final technical direction of the work is done by the Corps.

These interim repairs will address the preliminary information gathered at the floodwall breaches identified by Corps research staff and independent research teams organized by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the National Science Foundation (NSF).

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