



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

News Release

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Hurricane fix: Harvey Canal closing 5 months

Will speed up installation of sector gates to block storm surge

NEW ORLEANS – To install two hurricane-protection sector gates by early in the 2006 hurricane season, the Harvey Canal in metro New Orleans will be closed for five months on or about Feb. 13.

“Completing this \$39 million project is of high importance to providing hurricane protection for 250,000 people who live on New Orleans’ West Bank,” said Col. Richard Wagenaar, district engineer of the New Orleans District.

The Harvey Canal is an industrial waterway about 10 miles long for inland barges, towboats and other shallow-draft vessels. It will be closed at one point only, the construction site just south of the Lapalco Boulevard in Harvey.

“No industries will be blocked by this closure,” said Lary Yorke, the Corps’ construction site-engineer. “The construction site is less than one quarter mile long.”

After the five-month closure, the canal will reopen at its authorized navigable width of 125 feet. If a hurricane is imminent, 175-ton sector gates would be closed to block this gap and prevent a storm surge from moving northward.

Speeding up completion of the floodwalls that would flank the sector gates—and tie into hurricane protection on either side of the Harvey Canal—is a more difficult task.

“We are at work trying to solve this problem, and achieve closure of the canal by an early point in the 2006 hurricane season,” said Carol Burdine, the Corps’ senior project manager for the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project.

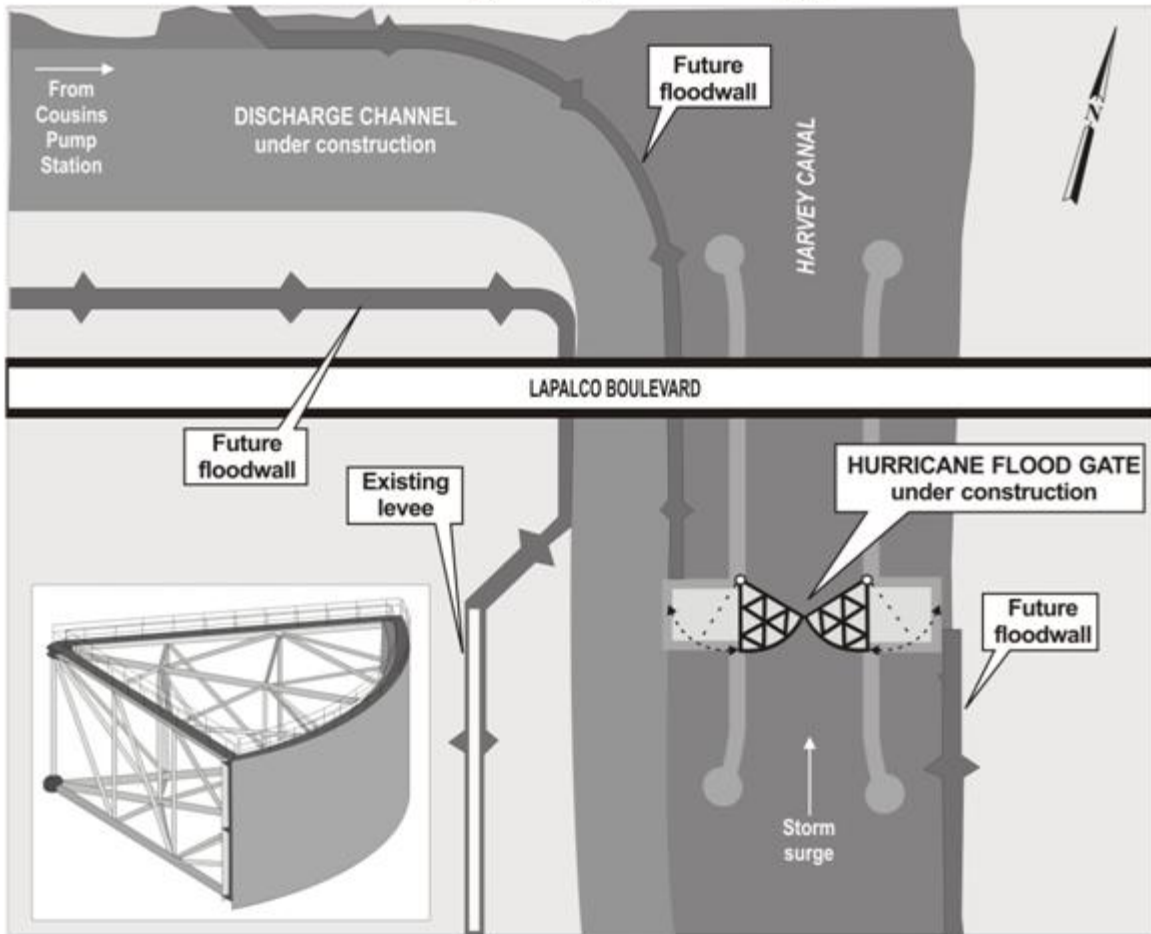
“In any event, the project will be better off to have these big gates installed before the worst of the hurricane season arrives,” Burdine said. “We definitely do not want to risk installing these huge structures at the height of the season.”

The Harvey Canal links the Mississippi River, three miles north of the floodgate construction site, with the westbound Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, via the Corps’ Harvey Lock. However, the Mississippi and the westbound GIWW will remain linked throughout the Harvey Canal closure by way of the Algiers Lock and Algiers canal just downriver.

Navigation Bulletin

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/navbulletins/Detail.aspx?ID=177>

Hurricane flood gate, Harvey, La.



Anne Marino,
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Flood gate will extend hurricane protection across the Harvey Canal for the first time.