



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

News Release

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Harvey Floodgate Operational and Canal Closure Complete

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed a project to prevent hurricane storm surge from entering the Harvey Canal north of the floodgate at the Lapalco Bridge, while still allowing the Cousins Pump Station to pump rain water.

Construction of a navigable sector gate structure across the Harvey Canal is complete and is operating. In the event that surge from a tropical event would threaten the canal, the gate could be closed within minutes to protect the area north of the gate from that surge. For the 2007 season, the gate will be operated by the Corps of Engineers in close coordination with Jefferson Parish Drainage District and the West Jefferson Levee District.

The Harvey floodgate together with the adjacent Cousins Pump Station discharge channel floodwalls provides protection to an elevation of 8 feet for the peak of the 2007 Hurricane Season. This was done by installing a pile supported, braced sheet pile wall (Temporary Retaining Structure) designed to protect from hurricane storm surge, in the section of the discharge channel where the floodwalls are not yet complete. This installation was completed July 31, 2007.

"Achieving closure across the canal represents a significant reduction of risk from hurricane storm surge on the west bank of Jefferson and Orleans Parish," said Project Manager Mike Stack.

Temporary pumps were installed on the Harvey Floodgate structure to replicate the discharge of the Harvey Pump Station. The pumps provide over 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) of pumping capacity through the use of seven 42-inch hydraulically driven pumps. (One cubic foot = 7.5 gallons)

By way of comparison, an average backyard pool holds 15,000 gallons of water; thus, at 750 cfs, the pumps could fill the pool in less than 3 seconds.

This capacity combined with storage between the Harvey Lock and the Harvey Floodgate will allow the Harvey Pump Station to continue to pump rainfall runoff during a tropical event after the Harvey Floodgate is closed.

The full discharge channel floodwall is on schedule to be complete prior to the 2008 Hurricane Season. Construction of the floodwalls along the east bank of the Harvey Canal below the floodgate is underway and is expected to be complete by April 2009.

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