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# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**
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September 20, 2007

*Safe water elevation raised from four to five feet.*

## Corps announces decision to raise London Avenue Canal safe water elevation

NEW ORLEANS –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the results of the preliminary analysis from the London Avenue Canal Load Test today, which allows the Corps to further reduce risk from interior flooding.

Raising the safe water elevation just one foot will allow the city to pump water into the canal at a higher rate and allow the floodgates to remain open longer during a storm surge from Lake Pontchartrain. “This test is an excellent example of a collaborative effort between the Corps, our partners and stakeholders.” said Maj. Nick Nazarko, Officer in Charge of the load test. “This test was done in an open and transparent fashion, to include site visits and communication with local community leadership and an external peer review.”

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The load test involved constructing a cofferdam along a 150-foot section of I-wall on the inside of the east side of the canal. The cofferdam isolated a particular section of the I-wall considered to be the weakest point from the rest of the water in the canal. The level of water against the section of flood wall was then raised incrementally while a robust instrument package recorded the reaction of the wall and underlying soils.

“This one foot increase in safe water elevation will allow Sewerage and Water Board about 30% more pumping capacity into the London Avenue canal,” stated Dr. John Grieshaber, Chief of Execution Support, Hurricane Protection Office, Corps of Engineers. “Historically, water levels in the canal have rarely exceeded four feet, but the extra capacity is important to have in a heavy rainfall or tropical event.”

The preliminary analysis of the data recorded from the test took approximately three weeks to complete. This analysis enables the Corps to raise the safe water elevation, effectively reducing risk from flooding due to interior rainfall.

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