



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

News Release

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Sheet Pile Work Begins at 17th Street

New Orleans – Corps of Engineers contractors began driving sheet pile today at the 17th Street Canal.

Boh Brothers of Baton Rouge will drive approximately 700 feet of sheet pile at the levee site. They will drive the piling to a depth of 51 feet and it will rise 14 feet above ground. Sheet piling is a metal construction product with mechanical connections that interlock to form a continuous wall of sheeting.

The sheet pile project will take about 21 days, at which time the subcontractor, Bertucci Contracting Corp. of New Orleans, will begin placing large rock on the channel side of the levee and smaller stone on the land side to help stabilize the sheet pile structure. Placing the rock will take about 30 days.

During the actual driving of the sheet pile, engineers will block the canal's exit to Lake Pontchartrain at the Hammond Highway Bridge. This is a safety precaution in case the pile driving causes seepage through the emergency levee placed after Hurricane Katrina breached the levee. If significant rain fall requires the city to pump water from the canal into the lake, engineers will remove the barrier and temporarily suspended the pile driving.

Hurricane Katrina breached about 400 feet of the drainage canal levee which contributed to extensive flooding in New Orleans.

The Army Corps of Engineers' Task Force Guardian is making the levee repairs at 17th Street as part of its efforts to restore New Orleans levees to their pre-Katrina level of performance by June 1, 2006.