



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

News Release

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Miss., Atchafalaya inspections begin Friday

Will be more rigorous to apply lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina

NEW ORLEANS—The 2006 river-levee inspections in south Louisiana will be conducted Oct. 13 to Nov. 28 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, beginning in New Orleans.

These will be visual, drive-by inspections at a slow pace. The purpose is to identify and correct any major maintenance deficiencies prior to the high-water season of spring 2007.

The inspections will cover 524 miles of Mississippi River levees and 449 miles of levees in the Atchafalaya Basin.

The first inspection will cover the Orleans Levee District on Oct. 13. The Corps will conduct all of the inspections in coordination with its non-federal partners.

The Corps' New Orleans District manages an Inspection of Completed Works Program in south Louisiana. It includes inspection of the 973 miles of levees and floodwalls along the Mississippi River and within the Atchafalaya Basin, another 325 miles of hurricane protection levees and floodwalls, and many pump stations, flood-control and hurricane-defense structures.

The Corps works in partnership with levee districts, parish governments and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to ensure that inspections are performed and deficiencies corrected.

The levee districts and other project sponsors inspect the levees and structures throughout the year. The river inspections will be the annual joint-agency Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Compliance inspections to assess maintenance by the project sponsor, similar to the annual hurricane-defense levee inspections conducted in May and June 2006.

In response to the effects of Hurricane Katrina, the District has modified the Inspection of Completed Works with more demanding standards for levee boards and sponsors responsible for the inspections.

Failure to adhere to these requirements will require the Corps to notify the Governor and FEMA of unacceptable operation and maintenance practices, which could jeopardize federal assistance for these projects. At the end of the year, the District will rate levee boards and parish officials on their operation and maintenance performance. These ratings will be made available for public review.

Requirements of the Inspection of Completed Works Program include:

- Annual joint-agency on-site inspections with District officials. The inspections will include a checklist of items to be inspected.
- Quarterly inspections by the levee districts and sponsors.
- Submission by the levee district or sponsor of semi-annual inspection reports to the Corps' New Orleans District commander.
- Timely resolution of any deficiencies cited during the inspection or in the reports.

Corps' 2006 river-levee inspection in south La.

Oct. 13, Friday—Meet Orleans Levee District at 9 a.m. on the levee at the foot of Eagle Street near the Orleans-Jefferson parish line. Depart at 9:15 a.m. to inspect Mississippi River levees and floodwalls on east and west banks.

Oct. 17, Tuesday—Meet **St. Mary Parish** officials at 9 a.m. at the Harold J. "Babe" Landry landfill in Berwick, La. Inspect levees in St. Mary Parish.

Oct. 18, Wednesday—Meet **Town of Berwick** officials at 9 a.m. at City Hall. Inspect levee and floodwall within the Town of Berwick. Meet

Morgan City officials at 10:30 a.m. at City Hall. Inspect levee and floodwalls.

Oct. 25—Meet the **Red River, Atchafalaya and Bayou Boeuf Levee District** at 10 a.m. on the right descending bank of Atchafalaya River levee beneath the U.S. 190 bridge at Krotz Springs. Group 1 will inspect West Atchafalaya River levee. Group 2 will inspect West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

Oct. 26—Meet **Fifth Louisiana Levee District** at the New Orleans-Vicksburg district boundary line at Black Hawk, at 9 a.m. Inspect Mississippi River levees from Black Hawk to Concordia-West Feliciana Parish line. Board the Angola ferry (or the St. Francisville ferry, depending on river stages) at 10 a.m. and cross the Mississippi River to the **Angola State Penitentiary**. Inspect 12 miles of federally constructed levee along the left descending bank of the Mississippi River.

Oct. 31—Meet **West Jefferson Levee District** at 8:30 a.m. on the Mississippi River levee at the Jefferson-St. Charles parish line (west bank). Inspect Miss River levees downstream to the Jefferson-Orleans parish line.

Nov. 2—Group 1 meet **City of Baton Rouge** at 8:45 a.m. in the parking lot upstream of the Capitol Annex. Inspect Miss River levee within city limits. Meet **Pontchartrain Levee District** at 9:30 a.m. at the McKinney Towing site in the vicinity of levee station 36+00 and proceed downstream to the Jefferson-St. Charles Parish line. Group 2 meet **Pontchartrain Levee District** at 9:30 a.m. at the St. Charles-Jefferson parish line and proceed upstream.

Nov. 8—Meet **Grand Prairie Levee District** at 9 a.m. at St. Bernard-Plaquemines parish line. Inspect Miss River levees in Plaquemines Parish on east bank.

Nov. 14--Meet **Lafourche Basin Levee District** at 8:30 a.m. at the Jefferson-St. Charles parish line (west bank). Inspect Mississippi River levees upstream to Donaldsonville.

Nov. 16—Meet **Plaquemines Parish** officials at 8 a.m. at the Belle Chasse Auditorium. Inspect Mississippi River levees on west bank in **Plaquemines Parish West Bank and Buras Levee Districts**.

Nov. 27--Group 1 meet **Atchafalaya Basin Levee District** at the old ferry landing in Donaldsonville at 9 a.m. Inspect Mississippi River levees from Donaldsonville to Old River. Inspect East Atchafalaya River levee to

Sherburne Management Area near Interstate 10. Group 2 meet **Atchafalaya Basin Levee District** at Avoca Island ferry landing at 9 a.m. Inspect Avoca Island. Proceed to Lake Palourde along the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee to Morganza and North Guide levee.

Nov. 28—Meet **Atchafalaya Basin Levee District** at their office in Port Allen at 7:30 a.m. Group 1 inspect West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee from Bayou Courtableau Control Structure downstream to Patterson, La. Group 2 inspect West Atchafalaya River Levee from Bayou Courtableau to Butte Larose. Groups meet on the West Atchafalaya levee. Continue downstream to Patterson, La.