



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

# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Julie Morgan, 504-862-2587

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## **Corps hosts public meeting to present alternatives for permanent protection at outfall canals**

**NEW ORLEANS** - The New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is hosting a public meeting on Thursday, Nov. 29, 2007, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6249 Canal Blvd., to provide details on the broad range of alternatives being considered to provide permanent protection for the 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue outfall canals.

An open house begins at 6:00 p.m. Corps project managers will be available to provide one-on-one feedback on the possible alternatives. A formal presentation of all the alternatives will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by a question and answer period.

The meeting is part of the Corps' commitment to a series of public meetings as a part of the National Environmental Policy Act alternative arrangements. Content of the Corps presentation will focus on the alternatives and their possible environmental and human impacts, which are currently being investigated in Individual Environmental Report 5 – entitled Permanent Protection for the Outfall Canals, 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue Canal in Orleans and Jefferson Parish. The meeting will provide the public the opportunity to learn more about the alternatives under consideration and provide feedback on which alternative they prefer.

The Corps, together with engineering and development consultants, academia, local government, resource agencies and the public, developed the alternatives which provide a snapshot of the various solutions being considered:

- **No Action:** no further actions other than maintenance would be done to the projects that are now in place; the Interim Control Structures would remain in place for the life of the project.
- **Non-Structural:** includes floodproofing by raising homes and businesses, or real estate acquisition or relocation of residences within the Orleans East Bank sub basin to a comparable residence selected by the homeowner.

- **Improved Parallel Protection:** includes alternatives such as concrete lined canals or replacing “I-walls” with more robust “T-walls.”
- **Canal Closures:** includes various alternative gate configurations to block Lake Pontchartrain storm surge from entering the outfall canals.
- **Canal Closures and Pumps:** variations of this alternative include a pressurized conduit system, conversion of the interim control structures to permanent systems, or construction of new permanent gated or closure structures and pump stations at or near the mouths of the canals which would concurrently block storm surge while allowing for drainage of city stormwater.
- **Lake Pontchartrain Barrier Plan:** first investigated in the 1972 Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Environmental Impact Statement, this system would provide a barrier between Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf of Mexico.

Additionally, the Corps is looking at various water diversion projects that would decrease the capacity demands of any pump station installed on the outfall canals. These diversion projects include options such as diverting water from the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal to the Mississippi River through Hoey’s Basin and from the London Avenue Canal to the Industrial Canal.

The Corps encourages the public to provide written comments on the alternatives for the hurricane protection system by mail, e-mail or by visiting [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov) at any time throughout the environmental analysis period.

Questions or comments concerning proposed hurricane and storm damage reduction actions should be addressed to: Gib Owen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, PM-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267; phone: 504-862-1337; fax; 504-862-2088 or by e-mail at: [mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil). For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list please visit the following web site: [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov).

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