



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

Press Release

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Gates/Pumps Protection Complete on City's 3 Outfall Canals

Last Pumps Installed, Tested at 17th Street Canal

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Hurricane Protection Office (HPO), will test the remaining 3 of 11 new direct drive pumps at the 17th Street Canal on Monday 20 August at approximately 6:30 PM CST.

These pumps—the last to be installed and tested at the city's three outfall canals—mark the completion of a massive building project the Corps began on February 2006 to provide the city's outfall canals with interim gates and pumps to protect them from Lake Pontchartrain storm surge during a tropical event.

The Army Corps of Engineers made a commitment to the people of New Orleans to have the direct drive pumps up and running by mid August. "Today we are fulfilling that promise," said Col Jeff Bedey commander, Hurricane Protection Office. Tonight, all 11 direct drive pumps will be pumping in unison as over 4,000 cfs of water flows through the giant 108 inch discharge pipes.

The Corps and its partners have been working 24\7 in order to meet the goal of increased pumping capacity at the canals by mid-August. Currently, 8 of the 11 direct drive pumps have been successfully tested at 17th Street Canal. With the addition of the 11 direct pumps, pumping capacity there will be increased from 7,600 cfs (cubic feet per second) to between 8,800 and 9,200 cfs. (One cubic foot = 7.5 gallons.)

This increased level of protection is achieved through a combination of portable hydraulic pumps, temporary hydraulic pumps, and the newly installed direct drive pumps.

Pumps and approximate capacities at the interim closure structures are as follows:

17th Street Canal

11 Direct drive pumps	4000 cfs
18 Temporary hydraulic pumps	3600 cfs

14 Portable hydraulic pumps	1600 cfs
London Avenue Canal	
8 Direct drive pumps	2800 cfs
12 Temporary hydraulic pumps	2400 cfs
Orleans Avenue Canal	
10 Temporary hydraulic pumps	2200 cfs

Pumping capacity at the three outfall canals totals approximately 16,000 cfs (120,000 gallons per second). By way of comparison, an average Olympic-sized swimming pool holds some 660,000 gallons of water; thus, at maximum pumping capacity, the three canals could fill an Olympic-size pool in about 6 seconds. Targeted capacities were determined based upon the Interagency Performance Evaluation Taskforce (IPET) modeling for the city's 10-year design storm event.

At the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue Canals, the temporary floodgates prevent storm surge from entering the outfall canals during adverse tropical storm conditions. The Corps' pumps alongside these floodgates allow rainfall runoff to continue moving out of the canals and into the lake when the gates are closed.

The Corps awarded contracts to M.R. Pittman LLC and Weston Solutions, Inc., 22 December 2006 and 31 January 2007, respectively. These contracts called for the manufacture, platform construction, and installation of 19 direct drive pump systems (8 at London Ave. Canal and 11 at 17th St. Canal Interim Closure Structures). Already 8 direct drive pumps have tested successfully at London Ave. Canal.