



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

News Release

Public Affairs Office
504-862-2201

www.mvn.usace.army.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julie Morgan, 504-862-2587

August 1, 2007

Corps works with state to develop hurricane protection and coastal restoration alternatives for Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in full partnership with the State of Louisiana in producing the State Master Plan, continues to work through the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration (LACPR) project to develop a suite of recommendations for a comprehensive coast-wide protection and restoration plan. The effort builds on the vision of the State's Master Plan to identify the maximum level of Federal participation possible in a report that will enable lawmakers to make informed decisions.

The Corps and State have been working with stakeholder groups, agencies and the public to make informed recommendations. Under consideration are coastal, non-structural and structural measures. Study objectives focus on people, property, the environment and cultural heritage.

In designing to achieve these objectives, the Corps analyzes dimensions of a storm, to include wind speed relationship with other storm characteristics, such as radius to maximum winds, central pressure, forward speed, and land falling location/conditions.

These additional factors are critical to determining potential surge and wave elevations. Based on these factors, which can be observed in storms, the 1,000-year hurricane flood event is generally equivalent to a high Category 5 and the 400-year event could be considered roughly the equivalent of a low Category 5. LACPR is designing for both of these events.

Both the LACPR and the IPET Risk & Reliability roll-out effort are currently providing information to the public concerning the importance of these additional design factors.

To date, there have been no official dollar figures put to any of the alternatives. Preliminary cost estimates have been developed so that stakeholders can take them into account in providing feedback of evaluated plan. The alternatives, as well as costs, will be reviewed both internally and through external peer review at the appropriate time.

The draft report with appropriate environmental documentation is scheduled to be delivered to Washington in December 2007 to meet the Congressional directive. A final report is scheduled to be completed in July 2008 and submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works for action. The final decisions will then lie with the Administration and Congress to authorize a plan and appropriate funding for that plan.

###