



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Media Advisory

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Testing on 150 Foot Section of London Avenue Wall to Begin Friday

WHY: Test results will show whether the safe water elevation can be raised above 4 feet. The area being tested has subsurface soils that have been identified as resembling the areas that breached during Katrina.

HOW: A cofferdam on the inside of the canal will isolate a 150-foot section of the I-wall from the rest of the canal. The Corps will then incrementally increase the level of water inside the cofferdam against the levee and floodwall to measure and analyze the impact of the different levels of water on the I-wall and underlying soils. Each increase in the water level will go through a decision process to include consultation with the Levee Authority, New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, and the Corps' External Peer Review Team before the entire team will decide on proceeding to the next step.

WHEN. August 17-31. (Various times during daylight hours)

WHERE. Cofferdam on the east side of canal and protected side at 5772 Warrington Drive.

BACKGROUND: This test is designed to calibrate models used to determine the safe water elevation in the London Avenue Canal. Currently, based on previous conservative analysis of London Avenue canal, the safe water elevation is 4 feet. Based on test results the safe water level might be raised. Raising the safe water level in the canal would:

- allow the City to pump water into the canal at a higher rate
- allow the floodgates to remain open longer
- reduce the risk of flooding

This test will not impact the Sewerage and Water Board's ability to pump water into the canal during normal rainfall events.

Note: Reporters should call ahead to coordinate site visit with the Public Affairs Office. ###