

**Summer Industry Seminar
Army Engineer Association
Comments for Col. Thomas Julich
Washington D.C.
July 31, 2001**

Final

SLIDES

TEXT

1. Seal Obverse
2. Photo: Aerial, district headquarters building
3. MVD/MVN boundary map
4. 30,000 square mile graphic
Bullet: \$406 million civil works program

Greetings. Introduction.

This morning I'm going to cover some of the New Orleans District's projects of importance to south Louisiana.

Let me first familiarize you with our boundaries. We are the southern most of the Mississippi Valley Division's six districts. Our jurisdiction encompasses 30,000 square miles of south Louisiana. Note the gray area on the slide...the Mississippi River drains 41% of the continental United States and two Canadian provinces. The New Orleans District manages the 420 billion gallons per day of freshwater as it passes between our levees on its way to the Gulf of Mexico. This creates unique challenges for the district which I'll be talking about throughout the presentation.

While New Orleans District covers only a small area geographically, we administer the largest civil works program in the Corps – a total of \$406 million in FY 2001 and \$422 million for FY 2002.

5. Graphic: NOD FY 2002 Program

Bullet:

\$318 M Regular Appropriations

\$15 M Other Programs

\$25 M Local Interests

\$25 M Coastal Restoration

\$2 M Support for Others

\$37 M Proposed House Adds

\$422 M (Total)

The President's Budget for FY 2002 includes \$318 million for regular appropriations and \$15 million on other programs. The house allocation for the Energy & Water Appropriations bill includes \$37 million in proposed Congressional adds. We expect another \$25 million in local interests' non-federal funds, \$25 million in coastal restoration funds and \$2 million in monies we manage in cooperation with other agencies.

6. Ships anchoring in Belle Chasse

We address our navigation mission in New Orleans by dredging about 400 miles of deep draft channel for international shipping. And we maintain about 2,400 miles of shallow draft barge channel.

7. Waterway graphic map

Many of our waterways are navigable thanks to the operation of our 12 locks and 6 control structures. The purpose of our locks is two-fold: some allow passage through various river systems while others protect sensitive environments from saltwater intrusion.

8. IHNC, high aerial, showing barge traffic

This is the Industrial Canal Lock, one of our high profile projects. Built in the 1920s, it connects two of the busiest waterways in America, the Mississippi River and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

9. IHNC

After many years of study, the district recently began constructing a new lock to replace the outdated and undersized lock. We will award some 20 contracts during the 10- to 12- year construction life of the \$585 million project.

10. Arabi levee/floodwall,
high water

From a flood control perspective, south Louisiana is safer than it's ever been from high water on the Mississippi River. We've built almost 1,000 miles of levees and floodwalls to protect against historical spring flooding.

11. Old River Control

We operate the Old River Control Structure 60 miles above Baton Rouge to keep the Mississippi on course at all times and to divert flood flows into the Atchafalaya when necessary.

12. Graphic: B.C.,
Morganza and ORC

In conjunction with Old River, we operate the Bonnet Carre Spillway and the Morganza Control structures when floodwaters on the Mississippi threaten downstream cities and communities.

13. Graphic: 5 HPP
w/inset photo: aerial,
Romeville/Remy levee

We continue to build floodwalls and levees to protect against hurricane storm surges. We have five authorized projects as shown on the slide.

14. West Bank HPP

The \$312 million West Bank and Vicinity project is our most recent hurricane protection endeavor. Our goal is to complete all first levee lifts by 2005. We are scheduled to award five contracts at \$12 million in FY02 under the current funding stream.

15. Lake Pontchartrain
HPP, PS#2 breakwaters

The Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project has a total estimated project cost of \$742 million. The fiscal year 2002 budget currently shows a proposed appropriation amount of \$13.5 million.

16. SELA, '95 street flooding

About six years ago the district initiated a new type of flood control work when we took aim on city street flooding caused by heavy rain events. The \$600 million plus Southeast Louisiana Urban Flood Control project, or SELA, allows for the design, construction and improvements to pump stations and drainage canals in a tri-parish area to reduce flooding.

17. SELA, West Bank, Cousins Ave. Canal, Phase 1

16 contracts totaling more than \$82 million are scheduled for award in FY 02, the remaining year of construction. However, \$300 million in additional work is anticipated once approved by the Chief of Engineers.

18. SELA, Jeff Parish, Canal #3, I-10 to Soniat

SELA was put to the test back in early June when Tropical Storm Allison dropped a about 6.6 inches of rain in a 24-hour period in Jefferson & Orleans parishes. In Jefferson Parish, where SELA projects are 50% complete, residents experienced significant improvement in drainage, sustaining only minor street flooding.

19. Photo: Environmental scenic

In the environmental arena, the district is at the forefront of restoration efforts in south Louisiana.

20. Photo: dredge pumping material into new marsh w/insert of brown pelicans

Using material dredged from our ship channels since the mid-1970s, we have created about 10,200 acres of marsh habitat, protecting endangered and threatened species in the process.

21. Caernarvon FWD
Structure

In addition, we've designed and built two freshwater diversion structures to redirect Mississippi River flows into the coastal zone. Caernarvon has been on-line since 1991 benefiting Breton Sound.

22. Photo: aerial, Davis
Pond

Davis Pond will be ready for service in the fall and will benefit the more expansive Barataria Basin.

23. Photo: Coastal erosion
Bullet: Breaux Act

And the district serves on the federal and state task force working to provide wetland enhancement and coastal restoration projects authorized under the Breaux Act.

24. Photo: Atch scenic
Bullet:
50,000 acres for public
access
338,000 for easements

We're also buying large tracts of land in the Atchafalaya Basin. The purpose of fee acquisition is to maximize the public's access to floodway resources, manage land use, and protect the environment.

25. Photo: Oil/gas activity
on the Mermentau River

Another of our responsibilities is regulating activities in navigable waterways and wetlands. We investigate and issue more than 4,000 permits annually.

26. Photos (3): Coast
Guard, F&W facilities,
Superfund

The district plays an active role in the Corps Support for Others program, constructing facilities like this tower for the U.S. Coast Guard, the walkway and restroom facilities in a wildlife refuge center for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Superfund activities for EPA.

27. Photo: EOC, in-house
action

Furthermore, we take a proactive role in preparing for and responding to natural and national emergencies in support of the Army.

28. Graphic: Morganza to the Gulf Study map

In addition to our construction needs, the district is involved in many studies. I'd like to address four of particular interest, beginning with the Morganza to the Gulf study, shown here.

29. Graphic: Morganza to Gulf, Hwy. 57 Alignment

The primary purpose of the Morganza study is to provide hurricane protection to Terrebonne Parish from Bayou DuLarge to the Larose to Golden Meadow levee. We will release the report for public review next month (August).

30. Map: Houma Canal (200'w, 1,200'l, 15'd)

A prominent feature of the Morganza to the Gulf study is the Houma Navigation Canal Lock. We began preconstruction engineering design in FY 2000. This project will be available for construction in FY 2004.

31. Graphic: Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico map

The next study of interest, Donaldsonville to the Gulf of Mexico, extends between Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River. A 3-year feasibility study was initiated this week. The main feature is a hurricane protection levee extending from Larose in Lafourche Parish to the vicinity of Luling in St. Charles Parish.

32. Graphic: five hurricane projects/areas

We have begun the reconnaissance phase on a third study for additional hurricane protection for south Louisiana. Its purpose is to determine if protection against Category 4 or 5 hurricanes can be implemented in the targeted area.

33. Photo: stakeholder meeting

This is a multi-jurisdictional study area with various stakeholders. Their input to proposed alternatives as well as potential problems and solutions is vital. This study should take about 18 months to complete and cost about half a million dollars.

The three studies just mentioned address a human safety factor in hurricane protection and represent more than \$1 billion in construction over the next ten years.

34. Photos (2)
* Coastal erosion
Bullet: Coast 2050 Feasibility Study
* 40/80 slide

Our fourth and final study of interest, the Coast 2050 Feasibility Study, addresses environmental factors affecting coastal Louisiana. Statistics related to coastal land loss in the state is alarming. 40% of the nation's coastal marshes are in Louisiana; however, 80% of the nation's coastal marsh loss is occurring there.

35. Photos (3): Coastal loss, an impressive oil/gas related photo, scenic coastal

You may be aware of the great effort being undertaken to preserve and restore the Florida Everglades. There is no argument as to the value of the Everglades as a great national resource. However, I'll submit to you that the loss of coastal Louisiana would be an equal or greater travesty. For example, Louisiana's coastal environment coexists with a large economic infrastructure that supports the might and mobility of this nation. Restoration efforts currently underway as well as those proposed are of national interest and should be given the highest priority.

36. Graphic: 2040 coastline

This is the forecast for Louisiana's landscape by 2040 if we do nothing more to save our coast.

37. Bullet: What's at stake?

Loss of the state's coastal marshes, if left unchecked, will have a profound effect on the nation.

38. Photo: Shrimp boat
Bullet: Importance of Coastal La to the Nation – seafood industry

Our marsh nurseries contribute more than \$1 billion to the seafood industry with an annual catch comparable to the entire Atlantic seaboard.

39. Photo: Oil & Gas infrastructure
Bullet: Importance to the Nation – oil/gas revenues

Oil and gas related infrastructure in Louisiana's coastal wetlands account for 17% of the oil and 25% of the natural gas produced for the nation.

40. Infrared: oil & gas in Plaquemine, Jeff, Lafourche & Terrebonne

This slide shows the location of oil and gas wells in just four of our state's coastal parishes. It's an impressive image.

41. Photo: aerial, ship traffic at refinery
Bullet: Importance of Coastal La to the Nation - #1 port

Louisiana is home to the number one port complex in the nation. The coastal marshes protect some 400 million tons of waterborne commerce each year.

42. Photo: ducks
Bullet: Imp. Of Coastal La to the Nation - waterfowl

The coastal wetlands provide winter habitat for more than half of the Mississippi Flyway waterfowl population.

43. Photo: coastal erosion
Imp of Coastal La to the Nation – erosion against hpl

Simply by their presence, wetlands serve as a buffer from hurricane tidal surges. For about every two miles of marsh, a hurricane's surge is reduced by about one foot. This additional defense protects our hurricane levees.

44. Photo: aerial,
Timbaleur Island wave
action
Bullet: Breaux Act

Coastal wetland loss in Louisiana became a national concern with passage of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, commonly referred to as the Breaux Act.

45. Photo: aerial, Whiskey
Island marsh creation
Bullet:
Total 89 cost sharing
agreements
44 projects completed
12 projects under const
11 projects initiated this FY
23 projects scheduled in FY02

Through the Breaux Act, approximately \$40 million per year in federal funds and state matching funds is dedicated to help restore and protect Louisiana's coastal wetlands. This slide provides you with the current status of projects. When all of these Breaux Act projects are built, they will create or preserve almost 84,000 acres of wetlands.

46. Photo: aerial, coastal
erosion

Unfortunately, there is still a large disparity between the acres gained under present restoration efforts and the trends of loss. Therefore, Congress has allocated funds to begin statewide coastal restoration initiatives under the Coast 2050 study plan.

47. Graphic: Coast 2050
goals – common ground,
consensus building,
strategic plan

Coast 2050's overall goal is to restore and protect the coastal ecosystem. The Coast 2050 Plan and its development process required massive public involvement and consensus building efforts to successfully form one common vision of how to restore Louisiana's coast.

48. Graphic: 2050, regional approach

Because of the magnitude of the study area, we will prepare a feasibility report for each of the state's nine basins. At the end of each report, we will recommend construction projects. The feasibility reports will be cost shared on a 50/50 basis, while construction will be shared 65/35. Each study has the potential to run from 18 months to 3 years. We anticipate a cost of \$35 million for the 10-year study effort.

49. Photo: aerial, 2050 cost

Construction of projects for all of the basins could take up to 30 years with a price tag of \$14 billion. It will take a thoroughly integrated, massive-scale effort on the part of federal, state and local agencies, as well as a full-fledged commitment from stakeholders and community and business leaders, to achieve a legacy of ecosystem diversity and economic prosperity for Louisiana and the nation.

50. Photo: aerial, Cameron Creole

In New Orleans District, we know it can be done. As always, we stand ready to address water resource and environmental engineering concerns, providing our customers with quality service and reliable products.

51. Seal obverse

Are there any questions?