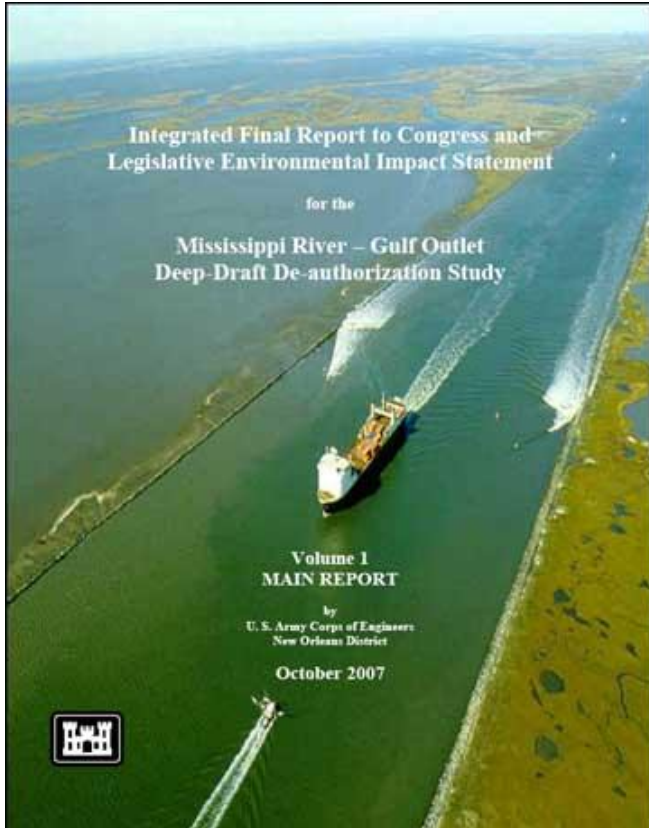


# Mississippi River - Gulf Outlet Deep Draft De-authorization Study, LA 19 October 2007



**Abstract:** The project area includes portions of St. Bernard, Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist and Tangipahoa Parishes, Louisiana. It covers the Middle and Lower Pontchartrain Basin. The Middle Basin consists of Lake Pontchartrain with its adjacent cities and towns and surrounding wetlands. The Lower Basin consists of Lake Borgne, Mississippi River – Gulf Outlet (MRGO), Chandeleur and Breton Sounds and the surrounding wetlands.

The proposed project would deauthorize that portion of the MRGO Federal deep draft navigation channel from the Gulf of Mexico to its confluence with the channel with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at mile 60 at the southern bank of the GIWW. The plan includes the construction of a rock closure structure at the south ridge of Bayou La Loutre in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, at approximately mile 36 on MRGO. The structure would span the MRGO a distance of approximately 950 feet rising to elevation +7 North American Vertical Datum 1988, have a top width of approximately 12 feet and side slopes of 1 vertical to 2 horizontal. In addition, overbank extensions would be approximately 50 feet wide and 7 feet high and extend inshore approximately 150 feet on the south bank and approximately 250 feet on the north bank. Existing bank stabilization features and jetties in this portion of the MRGO

would be deauthorized but would remain in place. Navigation aids and channel markers would be removed by the United States Coast Guard. Disposal area easements and perpetual channel easements that are no longer required will be released in accordance with federal law. Because the proposed plan would not have any significant adverse environmental effects, no mitigation measures (beyond management practices and avoidance) or compensation measures are required.

The estimated total first cost of the proposed plan based on October 2006 price levels is \$24.7 million. The Federal share of the first costs is \$23.4 million, which includes 100 percent of the construction cost of the closure structure and 100 percent of the costs related to the disposal of existing easements, costs currently estimated at \$23,285,000 and \$125,000, respectively. The non-Federal sponsor will be responsible for providing the lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas (LERRDs), a cost estimated at \$1.3 million. Following construction of the project the non-Federal sponsor will be responsible for the operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement (OMRR&R), a cost currently estimated at \$172,000 per year. Based on a 4.875-percent discount rate and a 50-year period of analysis, the total equivalent average annual costs of the project are estimated to be \$5.1 million, including OMRR&R. The equivalent average annual benefits are estimated to be \$12.5 million with net average annual benefits of \$7.4 million. Average annual benefits are associated with future O&M cost avoidance. The benefit-cost ratio is approximately 2.4 to 1.

**Report Documentation:** Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB, and subsequent Washington Level Review Actions are linked below.

- [CWRB Briefing Agenda](#)
- [Project Summary](#)
- [CWRB Briefing Slides](#)
- [CWRB Lessons Learned](#)
- [CWRB Meeting Record](#)
- [State & Agency Review Comment Letters](#)
- [Documentation of Review Findings](#)
- [Signed Chief of Engineers Report FINAL](#), 29 Jan 08
- [Advance Copy to Congressional Committees](#)
- [ASA \(CW\) Memo to OMB](#)
- [OMB Response](#)
- [ASA \(CW\) Transmittal to Congress](#)
- [Signed Record of Decision](#), 5 June 2008
- Authorization
  - [Section 7013 WRDA 2007](#)

**Additional Information:**

[Mississippi Valley Division](#)

[New Orleans District](#)

[Mississippi River Gulf Outlet  
Deep-Draft De-authorization  
Interim Report to Congress](#)