



# OUTFALL CANAL CLOSURE STRUCTURES

Updated May 2013

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Public safety is the Corps of Engineers' top priority. Congress has fully authorized and funded the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) for southeast Louisiana. The \$14.45 billion HSDRRS includes five parishes and consists of 350 miles of levees and floodwalls; 73 non-Federal pumping stations; 3 canal closure structures with pumps; and 4 gated outlets.

## Project Summary

There are three main drainage outfall canals in the City of New Orleans. These canals are a critical element of New Orleans' flood control system, serving as drainage conduits for much of the city. Levees line the sides of the canals and floodwalls are situated on the top of each levee. The canals run south-to-north near the Orleans Parish lakefront between the Jefferson Parish line and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC; also known locally as the Industrial Canal). The 17th Street Canal extends 13,500 feet from Pump Station 6 to Lake Pontchartrain along the Jefferson Parish line. The Orleans Avenue Canal, between the 17th Street Canal and the London Avenue Canal, runs approximately 11,000 feet from Pump Station 7 to Lake Pontchartrain. The London Avenue Canal extends 15,000 feet north from Pump Station 3 to Lake Pontchartrain about halfway between the Orleans Avenue Canal and the IHNC.

Following Hurricane Katrina, the Corps constructed Interim Closure Structures at the mouths of the three outfall canals to provide the 100-year level of storm surge risk reduction. These structures were completed prior to the 2006 hurricane season, the first full hurricane season after Hurricane Katrina, at a cost of about \$400 million.

## Project Features

The interim closure structures at the three outfall canals are composed of both gated structures and various pumps. These pumps move rainwater out of the canals, around the gates and into Lake Pontchartrain during a tropical weather event. The 17th Street Canal consists of 18 hydraulic pumps, 11 direct drive pumps, 14 bridge pumps, and has a pumping capacity of 9,200 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The Orleans Avenue Canal consists of 10 hydraulic pumps and has a pumping capacity of 2,200 cfs. The London Avenue Canal consists of 12 hydraulic pumps, 8 direct drive pumps, and has a pumping capacity of 5,200 cfs.

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The decision to close the gates is based on predicted storm surge and water elevations in Lake Pontchartrain. Once the Corps makes the decision to lower the gates, local officials are notified. Once conditions improve, the gates will be raised as soon as possible.

## **Project Status**

The interim closure structures at the three outfall canals currently provide the 100-year level of risk reduction. Since their installation, the pumps have run successfully for tropical weather events such as Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008 as well as during Hurricane Isaac in 2012. These interim closure structures have a limited design life, though, and they will be replaced with permanent canal closures and pumps. Construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2013 and expected to take approximately 44 months. Questions about construction may be directed to the **Construction Hotline** at 877-427-0345.



***17<sup>th</sup> St. Canal***



***Orleans Ave. Canal***



***London Ave. Canal***

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