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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

March 15, 1978

Colonel Early J. Rush  
District Engineer  
New Orleans District  
Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

Dear Colonel Rush:

During the recent Hurricane Barrier Hearings in New Orleans, the members of the Water Resources subcommittee restrained themselves from asking many questions on the ground that added questions could be answered by witnesses in writing following the hearing. Accordingly I have enclosed a list of questions which I hope you will have answered for us at your earliest convenience.

Thank you and with warmest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

*Robert L. Livingston*  
Robert L. Livingston  
Member of Congress

RLL:bm

Encl.



- 1) Many persons in St. Tammany Parish fear a so-called "end-around" effect from Lake Ponchartrain waters. How was such an effect felt by the area at the time of Hurricane Camille?
- 2) In the eastern section of St. Tammany Parish, where such effects are most feared, what is the elevation? What is the elevation of Slidell?
- 3) If the barriers were in place, and a severe rainstorm occurred over a period of several days in the Lake Ponchartrain and watershed vicinity, what would be the maximum increase in Lake Ponchartrain water level?
- 4) What are the expected effects of opening the Bonne Carre' spillway after heavy rains? During otherwise normal conditions?
- 5) How frequently, and to what extent, has the Corps of Engineers' Mobile District office been consulted about the Hurricane Protection Plan?
- 6) What is the feasibility, both structurally and economically, of sheet piling in the construction of high levees?
- 7) Are shorter levees a feasible approach to protection in the Paris Road, Orleans Parish, area? The forty Arpent, St. Bernard Parish, area? And what would be the cost of such levees?
- 8) What was the date of the last meeting between the Corps of Engineers and navigational interests in the Lake Ponchartrain area? Are any meetings planned for the future?
- 9) Do you feel that a new study of the high levee plan might produce new economic evidence regarding their cost? Why?
- 10) How much would a complete mathematical model of the Hurricane Protection Plan cost? How long would it take? Who would you recommend for the job if it was funded?
- 11) Why is the proposed National Weather Service mathematical model not being considered?