

1991

**APPROPRIATION TITLE: Construction General - Local Protection (Flood Control) - Construction**

**PROJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and Vicinity (Hurricane Protection)(Continuing)**

**LOCATION: The project is located in St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard, and St. Tammany Parishes in southeast Louisiana in the general vicinity of New Orleans adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain.**

**DESCRIPTION: The recommended plan consists of a new levee north of US HWY 61, from the Jefferson-St. Charles Parish boundary to the east Bonnet Carre' Spillway guide levee; a new levee along the Jefferson Parish lakefront; an enlarged New Orleans lakefront levee landward of the seawall; a new and enlarged levee and concrete-capped sheetpile wall along both sides of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC); a new levee and floodwall along the lakefront from the airport to South Point; an enlarged levee from South Point to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW); an enlarged levee and new floodwall along the north of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet (MR-GO) and GIWW from the IHNC to the barrier; a new levee in the Chalmette area from the IHNC levee along the south bank of the MR-GO to approximately 2-1/2 miles northwest of Verret and west to the Mississippi River levee near Caernavon; a strengthened Mandeville seawall on the north shore at present height; and a new pumping station and vertical lift gates for the Florida Avenue Complex. The only unscheduled part of the project is the strengthening of the Mandeville seawall.**

**AUTHORIZATION: Flood Control Act of 1965 and Water Resources Development Acts of 1974 and 1986.**

**REMAINING BENEFIT TO REMAINING COST RATIO: 5.0 to 1 at 3-1/8 percent.**

**TOTAL BENEFIT - COST RATIO: 8.1 to 1 at 3-1/8 percent.**

**INITIAL BENEFIT-COST RATIO: 17.6 to 1 at 3-1/8 percent (FY 1967).**

**BASIS OF BENEFIT - COST RATIO: Benefits are from the latest available evaluation approved in February 1985 at 1984 price levels.**

**SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA**

Estimated Total Appropriation Requirement	\$423,000,000
Scheduled Construction	\$421,056,000
Unscheduled Construction	1,944,000

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**New Orleans District**

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Future Non-Federal Reimbursement		\$ 11,000,000	
Scheduled Construction	\$ 11,000,000		
Unscheduled Construction		0	
Estimated Federal Cost (Ultimate)		412,000,000	
Scheduled Construction	410,456,000		
Unscheduled Construction	1,944,000		
Estimated Non-Federal Cost		177,000,000	
Scheduled Construction	176,102,000		
Cash Contribution	\$109,337,000		
Other Costs	55,765,000		
Reimbursements:	11,000,000		
Hurricane Protection	11,000,000		
Unscheduled Construction		898,000	
Cash Contribution	898,000		
Other Costs	0		
Reimbursements	0		
Total Estimated Scheduled Construction Cost		586,158,000	
Total Estimated Unscheduled Construction Cost		2,842,000	
Total Estimated Project Cost		589,000,000	
Allocations to 30 September 1989		217,325,000	
Conference Allowance for FY 1990		39,898,000	
Allocation for FY 1990		34,292,000 1/	
Allocations through FY 1990		251,617,000	59
Allocation Requested for FY 1991		11,655,000	62
Scheduled Balance to Complete after FY 1991		157,784,000	
Unscheduled Balance to Complete After FY 1991		\$ 1,944,000	

STATUS: (1 January 1990)	PERCENT COMPLETE	COMPLETION SCHEDULE
New Orleans East Unit	89	Sep 1995
New Orleans West Unit	5	Sep 2006
Mandeville Unit	0	Indefinite 2/
Chalmette Unit	95	Jan 1997
Entire Project	77	Sep 2006 3/

2/ Completion schedule indefinite until financial support is furnished by local interests.

3/ Excludes Mandeville Unit which has an indefinite completion date.

Accum. Pct. of Est. Fed. Cost
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1/ Reflects reduction of \$3,849,000 assigned as savings and slippage, \$410,000 sequestered in accordance with the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Act, and \$1,347,000 reprogrammed from the project.

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### PHYSICAL DATA

Levees: Average height: 16 feet  
Length: 80 miles

Drainage Structures: 9

Dam Closures: 2

Floodwalls: 17.9 miles

Pumping Plant: 1

Floodgates: 2

Control Valve Structures: 3

**JUSTIFICATION:** The lowlands in the Lake Pontchartrain tidal basin are subject to tidal overflow. The Greater New Orleans Metropolitan Area which lies in this basin will continue its rapid economic development in the future years even though severe damages have resulted from several hurricanes in the past years. Hurricane damages result from surges entering Lake Pontchartrain from Lake Borgne through natural tidal passes at the Rigolets and Chef Menteur Passes and the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. The surges are intensified by local wind effects and the combination of waves and surges causing overtopping of the protective works along the shores of Lake Pontchartrain. The eastern portion of the area is also subject to flooding by surges and waves that move directly from Lake Borgne and overtop the existing inadequate protective system seaward of the developed land areas. As a result, residences and industrial and commercial establishments suffer damage, business activities are disrupted, lives are endangered, and hazards to health are created. Hurricanes much more severe than any of record are possible. In the event of the occurrence of such a severe hurricane, catastrophic property damage and loss of human life would be experienced. Local interests have requested protection against these threats to life and property. Hurricane Betsy, in September 1965, caused extensive damage and flooding of urban areas of the New Orleans area to depths of up to 10 feet. Hurricane Camille occurred in the project area in August 1969, and flooded areas along the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal. Extensive flooding and overtopping of levees would have occurred in the project area in September 1974, if Hurricane Carmen had continued on its predicted course. In 1985, Hurricane Juan caused extensive flooding in the St. Charles Parish area. The Lake Pontchartrain hurricane protection project will provide protection from similar occurrences. However, flooding also occurred in St. John the Baptist Parish which will not be protected by the project. The project will provide protection against flooding from the Standard Project Hurricane (SPH). The average annual benefits, all flood control, are \$179,856,000, based on 1 October 1989 prices.

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FISCAL YEAR 1991: The requested amount will be applied as follows:

**NEW ORLEANS EAST UNIT**

Initiate: New Orleans Lakefront Levee	
Outfall Canal at Orleans	5,450,000
Complete: South Point to GIWW Levee	840,000
Engineering and Design	2,000,000
Supervision and Administration	1,782,000
	Subtotal
	\$10,072,000

**NEW ORLEANS WEST UNIT**

Initiate: Jefferson Lakefront Station 354-435 (1st Enlargement)	\$ 800,000
Engineering and Design	169,000
Supervision and Administration	169,000
	Subtotal
	\$ 1,138,000

**CHALMETTE UNIT**

Initiate and Complete: Floodwall Capping (North Florida Avenue)	\$ 290,000
Continue: Surveys and Layouts	105,000
Complete: Floodwall Capping (Bayou Dupre)	50,000
	Subtotal
	\$ 445,000

		Total	\$11,655,000
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**NON-FEDERAL COST:** In accordance with the cost sharing and financing concepts reflected in the Flood Control Act of 1965, the non-Federal sponsor must comply with the requirements listed below:

Requirements of Local Cooperation	Payments During Construction and Reimbursements	Annual Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement Costs
Provide lands, easements, and right-of-ways, including borrow areas and spoil disposal areas.	\$ 39,638,000	-
Accomplish alterations to roads, pipelines, cables, wharves, oil wells, and any other facilities necessary for construction of the project.	16,127,000	-
Bear 30 percent of the total project cost, including the items listed above and a cash contribution or equivalent work specifically undertaken as an integral part of the project after authorization and in accordance with construction schedules as required by the Chief of Engineers, excluding a reimbursement to the Federal Government for costs allocated due to the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.	110,235,000	-
Reimburse the Federal Government for costs allocated due to the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.	11,000,000	
Bear all costs of operations, maintenance, and replacements of all features of the project works.		\$ 994,000
<b>Total Non-Federal Costs</b>	<b>\$177,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 994,000</b>

In addition, local interests, through the combined efforts of the State of Louisiana, local levee and drainage districts, and parish police juries, spent an estimated \$25,366,000 between 1930-1963, based on the best cost records available, to improve and maintain the hurricane protection system existing prior to project authorization. Available costs of record are as follows:

Combination of State of Louisiana and Lake Borgne Levee District and Chalmette Back Levee District on the Chalmette Back Levee Protection Systems	\$ 4,410,000
Orleans Levee District Board	12,010,000
Port of New Orleans (levees along Industrial Canal)	924,000
Pontchartrain Levee District	5,022,000
Fourth Drainage District of Jefferson Parish	3,000,000
Total	\$25,366,000

A very severe hurricane, "Betsy," occurred in the project area in September 1965 just prior to the authorization of the project in October 1965. Considerable damage was done to many of the existing levees, and local interests immediately instituted an accelerated rehabilitation program, with the view of restoring and strengthening existing protection prior to succeeding hurricane seasons. Only work which was performed by local interests after the project authorization, and which conforms to the project design criteria and alignment, is considered as work-in-kind in lieu of a cash contribution.

**STATUS OF LOCAL COOPERATION:** Assurances are required for the two independently justified plans.

**1. Chalmette Area Plan:**

a. Orleans Levee District: New agreements of assurances covering all local cooperation requirements and a deferred payment plan as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 were executed on 30 March 1976. These assurances were accepted on behalf of the United States on 7 December 1977.

b. St. Bernard Parish Police Jury and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District: New joint agreements of assurances covering all local cooperation requirements and a deferred payment plan as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, were executed on 2 April 1976. These assurances were accepted on behalf of the United States on 7 December 1977.

## **2. High Level Plan:**

a. **Orleans Levee District:** For the Barrier Plan, new agreements of assurances covering all local cooperation requirements and a deferred payment plan as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, were executed on 30 March 1976. These assurances were accepted on behalf of the United States on 7 December 1977. Amended assurances for the High Level Plan were executed by the local sponsor on 29 May 1985, and accepted by the United States on 21 June 1985.

b. **St. Tammany Parish:** The Louisiana Office of Public Works executed an act of assurance dated 8 November 1976, agreeing to fulfill all local cooperation requirements for that portion of the project in St. Tammany Parish. These assurances were accepted on behalf of the United States on 7 December 1977. Amended assurances for the High Level Plan are required; however, due to failure of the local sponsor to agree to the items of local cooperation, this portion of the project has an indefinite completion date.

c. **Pontchartrain Levee District:** New agreements of assurances covering all local cooperation requirements and a deferred payment plan as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, were executed on 20 September 1976. On 8 November 1976, the Louisiana Office of Public Works agreed to lend financial assistance above \$100,000 to the Pontchartrain Levee District for that portion of the Barrier Plan which is the responsibility of that levee district. These assurances were accepted on behalf of the United States on 7 December 1977. Supplemental assurances for the High Level Plan were executed by the Pontchartrain Levee District for the St. Charles Parish portion of the project on 20 April 1987, and accepted on behalf of the United States on 7 August 1987.

d. **East Jefferson Levee District:** Supplemental assurances for the High Level Plan were executed by the East Jefferson Levee District for the Jefferson Parish portion of the project on 16 January 1987. A financial plan was received on 25 November 1987, and accepted on behalf of the United States on 21 December 1987. These levees were previously the responsibility of the Pontchartrain Levee District.

**COMPARISON OF FEDERAL COST ESTIMATE:** The current Federal (Corps of Engineers) cost estimate of \$423,000,000 is a decrease of \$30,000,000 from the latest estimate (\$453,000,000) submitted to Congress (FY 1990). This change includes the following items:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Price Escalation on Construction Features	\$- 6,789,000
Design Changes	- 2,192,000
Post Contract Award and Other Estimating Adjustments	-21,019,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$-30,000,000</b>

**STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT:** The final Environmental Impact Statement was filed with the Council on Environmental Quality on 17 January 1975. By court order dated 30 December 1977, a revised Environmental Impact Statement was ordered. A draft revised Environmental Impact Statement for the High Level Plan and the Reevaluation Report, which documents the proposal to adopt that plan instead of the Barrier Plan, were released to the public and filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on 16 December 1983. The final revised Environmental Impact Statement was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on 7 December 1984.

**OTHER INFORMATION:** Funds to initiate preconstruction engineering and design were appropriated in FY 1966, and funds to initiate construction were appropriated in FY 1967.

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