

1992

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 unprogrammed part of the project is the strengthening of the Mandeville seawall.

AUTHORIZATION: Flood Control Act of 1965 and Water Resources Development Acts of 1974, 1986, and 1990.

REMAINING BENEFIT TO REMAINING COST RATIO: 5.4 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 dated December 1982 at 1981 price levels.

Lower Mississippi Valley Division

New Orleans District

Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and
Vicinity (Hurricane Protection)

5 FEB 1991

77

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

			STATUS: (1 January 1991)	PERCENT COMPLETE	COMPLETION SCHEDULE
Estimated Total Appropriation Requirement		\$435,000,000			
Programmed Construction	\$433,056,000		New Orleans East Unit	90	Jan 2000
Unprogrammed Construction	1,944,000		New Orleans West Unit	10	Nov 2013
			Mandeville Unit	0	Indefinite ¹
			Chalmette Unit	97	Jan 1997
Future Non-Federal Reimbursement		\$8,000,000			
Programmed Construction	8,000,000		Entire Project	79	Nov 2013 ²
Unprogrammed Construction	0				
Estimated Federal Cost (Ultimate)		427,000,000			
Programmed Construction	425,056,000				
Unprogrammed Construction	1,944,000				
Estimated Non-Federal Cost		184,000,000			
Programmed Construction	183,102,000				
Cash Contribution	\$ 45,782,000				
Other Costs	129,320,000				
Reimbursements:	8,000,000				
Hurricane Protection	8,000,000				
Unprogrammed Construction	898,000				
Cash Contribution	898,000				
Other Costs	0				
Reimbursements	0				
Total Estimated Programmed Construction Cost		608,158,000			

¹ Completion schedule indefinite until financial support is furnished by local interests.

² Excludes Mandeville Unit which has an indefinite completion date.

Lower Mississippi Valley Division

New Orleans District

Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and
Vicinity (Hurricane Protection)

5 FEB 1991

78

Total Estimated Unprogrammed Construction Cost	2,842,000	
Total Estimated Project Cost	611,000,000	

Allocations to 30 September 1990	250,207,000	ACCUM.
Conference Allowance for FY 1991	11,655,000	PCT. OF EST.
Allocation for FY 1991	0 ¹	FED. COST
Allocations through FY 1991	250,207,000	58
Allocation Requested for FY 1992	21,491,000	62
Programmed Balance to Complete after FY 1992	161,358,000	
Unprogrammed Balance to Complete After FY 1992	1,944,000	

PHYSICAL DATA

Levees: Average height: 16 feet	Drainage Structures: 9
Length: 80 miles	
Dam Closures: 2	Floodwalls: 17.9 miles
Pumping Plant: 1	Floodgates: 2
Control Valve Structures: 3	

¹ Reflects \$1,131,000 reduction assigned as savings and slippage, \$5,524,000 reduction for prior year unobligated balances, and \$5,000,000 reprogrammed from the project. Project continuing with funds carried over from prior years.

Lower Mississippi Valley Division

New Orleans District

Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and
Vicinity (Hurricane Protection)

5 FEB 1991

79

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 preproject 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 then 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. The average annual benefits, all flood control, are \$179,856,000, based on 1 October 1981 prices.

FISCAL YEAR 1992: The requested amount will be applied as follows:

NEW ORLEANS EAST UNIT		
Continue:		
-	New Orleans Lakefront Levee	
	Outfall Canal at Orleans	\$ 6,000,000 ✓
	Surveys & Layouts	30,000
Complete:		
→	Southpoint to GIWW Levee	911,000 <i>Sched Awd Aug 23</i>
	Planning, Engineering and Design	330,000
	Construction Management	1,200,000
	Subtotal	8,471,000

*Not Broken into Sep Contracts at this time
Admin Position was not to do*

NEW ORLEANS WEST UNIT

Initiate:

Levee North of Airline Hwy Reach II 1st Lift
 Floodwalls at Sta 0-9

Continue:

Surveys and Layouts

Complete:

Levee North of Airline Hwy Reach IA, 1st Lift
 - 1st Enlargement 354-435 Reach 4
 1st Enlargement 438-550, Reach 5
 Planning Engineering and Design
 Construction Management

Subtotal

3,646,000

300,000

40,000

1,300,000

2,391,000

322,000

2,090,000

1,700,000

\$11,789,000

Act only was
 award Aug 91
~~changed to 7/25/91~~
 - Awarded May 93

Awd 21 Aug 91 (physical)
 Awd Sep 91 Comp 12/29/92
 Awd 10/90 Comp 2/21/92

CHALMETTE UNIT

Initiate:

Pipeline Canal and Gap Closure, Final Enlargement

Initiate & Complete:

- Station 278-355 Final Enlargement

Continue:

Surveys and Layouts

Planning, Engineering and Design

Construction Management

Subtotal

Total

248,000

682,000

40,000

157,000

104,000

\$1,231,000

\$21,491,000

I Awarded 7/92
 Awd 31 MAR 92 Comp 93

I 1127
 I 1165

I 1127
 I 1158
 I 1159

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:

Lower Mississippi Valley Division

New Orleans District

Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and
 Vicinity (Hurricane Protection)

5 FEB 1991

81

Requirements of Local Cooperation

Provide lands, easements, and right-of-ways, including borrow areas and spoil disposal areas.

Accomplish alternations to roads, pipelines, cables, wharves, oil wells, and any other facilities necessary for construction of the project.

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 Act of 1974.

Reimburse the Federal Government for costs allocated due to the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.

Bear all costs of operations, maintenance, and replacements of all features of the project works.

Total Non-Federal Costs

Payments During Construction and Reimbursements	Annual Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement Costs
\$ 41,529,000	-
17,047,000	-
109,424,000	-
8,000,000	\$932,000
\$176,000,000	\$932,000

Lower Mississippi Valley Division

New Orleans District

Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and
Vicinity (Hurricane Protection)

5 FEB 1991

82

In addition, local interests, through the combined efforts of the State of Louisiana, local levee and drainage districts, and parish police juries, have 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	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 performed by local interests after project authorization, 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.

Lower Mississippi Valley Division

New Orleans District

Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and
Vicinity (Hurricane Protection)

5 FEB 1991

83

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 \$435,000,000 is an increase of \$12,000,000 from the latest estimate (\$423,000,000) submitted to Congress (FY 1991). This change includes the following items:

Item	Amount
Price Escalation on Construction Features	+\$21,379,000
Design Changes	-33,933,000
Post Contract Award and Other Estimating Adjustments	+24,554,000
Total	+\$12,000,000

Lower Mississippi Valley Division

New Orleans District

Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, and
Vicinity (Hurricane Protection)

5 FEB 1991

84

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.

The Water Resources Development Act of 1990 requires a study of the project benefits to the non-Federal sponsors to determine whether or not the sponsors have received the expected benefits and whether or not there should be a reallocation of costs as a result of any unrealized expected benefits from the project.