

CEMVN-OD-R

DEC 24 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Army Engineer Division,
Mississippi Valley, ATTN: CEMVD-ET-CE

SUBJECT: Annual Inspection of Completed Works Program

In accordance with ER 1150-2-301, ER 1130-2-339, and DIVR 1130-2-304, the following report (Eng Form 4390-R) is submitted herewith for maintenance performance by local interests for all features originally authorized under the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project and under Construction General. Included also are inspection reports for New Orleans District projects.

GP
BREERWOOD
OD-R
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OD

- 2 Encls
1. Rept, MR&T Levees
and Small Flood
Control Projects
2. Rept, Completed
Eng Form 4390-R

W. L. Conner
WILLIAM L. CONNER
LTC Colonel, EN
for Commanding

EXEC OFC

1997 Annual Inspection for Maintenance of Completed MR&T Flood Control Works in the New Orleans District

1. The 1997 inspections of FCMR&T levees, floodwalls, and drainage structures operated and maintained by local interests were conducted during the period 19 September through 14 November 1997.
2. All inspections were conducted by the District Commander and/or his Deputy, appropriate members of Operations Division, Engineering Division, Construction Division, Programs and Project Management, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD), and Levee Board Commissioners and their staff.
3. It should be noted that the MR&T levees were subjected to the fifth largest flood of the century during March and April 1997. Erosion and concrete slope pavement damaged during the flood were repaired by the respective levee districts or our hired labor unit. All levees performed extremely well during the 1997 MR&T flood.
4. Comments on the condition of levees, of maintenance performed by local interests during the year, and our ratings are as follows:

a. EAST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is responsible for maintaining 12 miles of levee on the east bank of the Mississippi River and 17.5 miles of hurricane protection levees and floodwalls along and adjacent to Lake Pontchartrain, within Jefferson Parish.

The river levee, hurricane protection levees, and floodwalls were inspected on September 19, 1997. The only remaining river levee work in this district is 0.8 miles in the Jefferson Heights area and it is scheduled for FY 1999. The deficiencies are minor (1 to 2 feet) and are considered low priority since they are within freeboard. In FY 1998, we will initiate landside drainage (runoff control) projects on all five of the lakefront reaches and levee enlargement in Reach 3. The levees and floodwalls were exceptionally well maintained. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

b. ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is responsible for maintaining 125.9 miles of levees and floodwalls in Orleans Parish; 13.3 miles on the east bank of the Mississippi River and 13.9 miles on the west bank, and 98.7 miles along the shore of Lake Pontchartrain and canals connected thereto.

The mainline river levees and floodwalls were inspected on September 26, 1997, and the hurricane protection levees were inspected on May 29, 1997. Both flood protection systems were in exceptional condition, including the Bayou Bienvenue control structure which was dewatered and refurbished during April 1997. There are still 2.3 miles of flood protection work remaining in this district. The remaining work is on the east bank and consists of the Carrollton levee (1.9 miles) and the New Orleans District floodwall Phase I (0.4 miles). These items are considered low priority and are scheduled at the end of the project. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

c. RED RIVER, ATCHAFALAYA and BAYOU BOEUF LEVEE DISTRICT

The levee system within MVN consists of the Mansura Hills to Hamburg levee (20.3 miles), Bayou des Glaises fuse plug levee (8.1 miles), Atchafalaya River levee - right descending bank (43.0 miles), and a portion of the west Atchafalaya Basin protection levee (34 miles).

The inspection was conducted on October 2, 1997. The levees, cattle guards, and fence lines were all well maintained. With the completion of the W-40 levee contract, all levee construction work within the levee district is completed. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

d. FIFTH LOUISIANA LEVEE DISTRICT

The levee system within MVN consists only of the right descending Mississippi River levee (16.8 miles) between Black Hawk, LA, and the Old River lock. They are also responsible for 338 miles of levees in MVK.

The inspection was conducted on October 3, 1997, and the levee was found to be well maintained. There is one remaining contract for 3.5 miles of levee construction in this levee district. The award of this last contract was delayed from FY96 to FY03 due to funding constraints, relatively minor grade

deficiency, and the uncertainty of the availability of borrow material. Levee grade deficiencies within this contract area are minor (2.5 feet) and are considered low priority since they are within the allowable freeboard. If the borrow issue is resolved soon, funds could probably be made available to advance the award since the contract cost estimate is relatively minor. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

e. WEST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is responsible for maintaining 20.2 miles of levee on the west bank of the Mississippi River and 40 miles of back levees, which are being upgraded under the West Bank Hurricane Protection Project, in Jefferson Parish.

The mainline river levee was inspected on October 8, 1997. The hurricane protection levees will not be inspected until construction is completed. The river levee and floodwall segments were in excellent condition. All construction work on the Mississippi River in this district is complete. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

f. LAFOURCHE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is responsible for maintaining 61.7 miles of levee on the west bank of the Mississippi River between Donaldsonville, LA, and the Jefferson-St. Charles Parish line.

The levee was inspected on October 16, 1997, and was found to be in excellent condition. Final segments of levee construction (enlargement and slope paving) were completed in late FY 96. No future work is scheduled in this district. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

g. ATCHAFALAYA BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT

The levee system consists of the following reaches of river and floodway levees:

Levee along the south and west banks of lower Old River and the right descending Mississippi River levees from Barbre Landing in Pointe Coupee Parish to Bayou Lafourche at Donaldsonville, Ascension Parish (length is 119 miles, including 1.2 miles of spur dikes and the 3,906-foot length of the Morganza

control structure) the upper Morganza floodway levee (length is 12.0 miles including 3.0 miles which are a part of the mainline levee at Morganza control structure); the lower Morganza floodway levee and the east Atchafalaya Basin protection levee extending from the west Mississippi River levee at Morganza, along the east side of the Atchafalaya Basin to a point approximately 6 miles south of Morgan City, in St. Mary Parish (length is 92.6 miles, of which 5.8 miles are maintained by the City of Morgan City and St. Mary Parish); the west Atchafalaya Basin protection levee from Bayou Courtableau in St. Landry Parish along the west side of the Atchafalaya Basin to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway below Berwick, in St. Mary Parish (length is 92.6 miles, of which 4.9 miles below the lower Atchafalaya River are maintained by the Town of Berwick and St. Mary Parish); the left descending Atchafalaya River levee from Barbre Landing in Pointe Coupee Parish to a point about 1.5 miles above the head of Whiskey Bay Pilot Channel in St. Martin Parish (length is 51.1 miles); the right descending Atchafalaya River levee from Bayou Courtableau in St. Landry Parish to a point below Butte Larose settlement in St. Martin Parish (length is 18.0 miles); total length of levees in the district is 387.0 miles.

The levee inspection was conducted on October 21 and 22, 1997. There were no ongoing Mississippi River levee contracts, however, there was one ongoing contract along the east Atchafalaya Basin protection levee and one ongoing contract along the west Atchafalaya Basin protection levee (WABPL). We also inspected the slides along the WABPL (W-46, W-58, and W-64). Although the slides have existed for years, they have been stable and are not considered critical. Therefore, the slide repairs have been given a low priority due to a lack of a nearby borrow source and funding. The levees and floodwalls were well maintained. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

h. MORGAN CITY

The protection system north of the Southern Pacific Railroad is known as "Morgan City Front", which consists of 213 feet of earthen levee, 1.3 miles of concrete floodwall, a pumping station and 1600 feet of storm drainage facilities; south of the railroad is known as "Tiger Island", which consists of 1.6 miles of levee, 2,000 feet of concrete floodwall, a pumping station, and 2,500 feet of storm drainage facilities. Morgan City's flood protection and maintenance responsibilities also extends north beyond the "Morgan City Front" area to include the east Atchafalaya Basin protection levee up to the Morgan City

corporate limits, which correlates with approximate east Atchafalaya Basin protection levee station 2276+30.3.

The inspection was conducted on October 22, 1997. There were no significant maintenance deficiencies noted. A SATISFACTORY rating is assigned.

i. TOWN OF BERWICK

The protection system consists of 1.6 miles of levee, 0.9 mile of concrete floodwall, and a gated drainage structure to provide protection for a 32-inch storm sewer passing through the floodwall.

The inspection was conducted on October 22, 1997. There were no significant maintenance deficiencies noted. A SATISFACTORY rating is assigned.

j. ST. MARY PARISH

The protection system consists of 63 miles of levees, 11 drainage pumping stations, drainage structures, and numerous culverts, making up the Levees West of Berwick, LA, protection system.

The inspection was conducted on October 23, 1997. There was one ongoing levee enlargement contract (Wax Lake West "B"); however, in FY 1998, we are scheduled to initiate four levee enlargement projects and one pump station/drainage structure project. There were no significant maintenance deficiencies noted. A SATISFACTORY rating is assigned.

k. LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is responsible for maintaining 12 miles of levee on the east bank of the Mississippi River, 43 miles of hurricane protection levee along and adjacent to the MRGO, 7 pumping stations, and 19 internal drainage canals in St. Bernard Parish.

The mainline river levee was inspected on October 31, 1997. The levee and sections of floodwall were well maintained. All construction work on the Mississippi River levee in this district was completed many years ago. The hurricane protection levees will not be inspected until construction is completed; however, it should be noted that Periodic Inspection No. 8 of the Bayou Dupre Control Structure was conducted on September 3, 1997.

The structure was well maintained and is scheduled to be dewatered and completely refurbished in late FY 1998 or early FY 1999. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

1. GRAND PRAIRIE LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is one of three under the direction of Plaquemines Parish Government and is responsible for maintaining 37.4 miles of levee on the east bank of the Mississippi River between the St. Bernard-Plaquemines Parish line and the Bohemia Spillway, and 33.4 miles of hurricane protection levee behind the mainline river levee.

The levee was inspected on October 31, 1997. The levee was well maintained and in excellent condition. The hurricane protection levees will not be inspected until construction is completed. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

m. PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is responsible for maintaining 111 miles of levee on the east bank of the Mississippi River from a point just below Baton Rouge to the St. Charles-Jefferson Parish line.

The levee was inspected on November 6, 1997. The levee, cattle guards, and fences were well maintained and no significant deficiencies were noted. There are three ongoing contracts for levee construction within the levee district. They are Romeville-Remy, 5.6 miles; Remy-Garyville, 5.2 miles; and Marchand-Darrow, 1.7 miles. An emergency contract was let during the 1997 MR&T Flood to raise much of the Marchand-Darrow reach to provide necessary freeboard. The only remaining MR&T levee construction work within the levee district is the Carville-Marchand contract. It consists of 1.2 miles of levee construction and is scheduled to be awarded in October 1998. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

n. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL OF BATON ROUGE

This Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining only 2.1 miles of levee on the east bank of the Mississippi River at Baton Rouge.

The levee was inspected on November 6, 1997 and was observed to be in excellent condition. There was no ongoing levee construction work in the area. The last item of work is the Baton Rouge Front Phase 2 (0.2 mile) which is scheduled in

the future. During the 1997 MR&T Flood, a 500-foot section of deficient levee in the Baton Rouge Front Phase 2 reach was raised (3-foot sandbag wall) by the city of Baton Rouge to provide necessary freeboard. A soil nailing contract was awarded in September 1997 as an attempt to arrest the bank movement in this upstream area before proceeding with further levee construction. The results of the soil nailing will be monitored for several years before proceeding with any further levee construction work in this area. The issue of the cracked concrete slope pavement just downstream of the old ferry landing that was discussed during last year's inspection was discussed again this year. Apparently, this area is a continuation of the foundation problems that are occurring just upstream where the soil nailing work was previously done. Inclinometers have been installed at the site and the movement in this area will be monitored. However, it is our contention that this area will also require soil nailing in order to stabilize the movement. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

o. PLAQUEMINES PARISH WEST BANK LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is another of three levee districts under the direction of the Plaquemines Parish Government and is responsible for maintaining approximately 37.4 miles of levee on the west bank of the Mississippi River from the Orleans-Plaquemines Parish line to approximate river mile 44.0 AHP at Point Michel.

The inspection was conducted on November 14, 1997, and the levee was well maintained. There was no ongoing levee enlargement work within the district, however, there is one last contract for 7.2 miles of levee enlargement work (second lift) scheduled to be awarded in FY 98 (May 1998). An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

p. BURAS LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is also under the direction of the Plaquemines Parish Government and is responsible for maintaining 34.1 miles of levee on the west bank of the Mississippi River from Point Michel to Venice, LA, and 34.4 miles of hurricane protection levees behind the river levee.

The river levee was inspected on November 14, 1997, and it was considered well maintained. The hurricane protection levees will not be inspected until construction is completed.

However, it should be noted that as a result of our Periodic Inspection conducted in January 1996, the Buras Levee District let a contract in February 1997, to replace the Empire Floodgate's gate hoisting chains, perform electrical load test, dredge the gate bay, replace guide wall timbers, and other minor maintenance work. An OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

q. SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT

This district is responsible for maintaining the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Project which consists of 40 miles of hurricane protection levee, six pumping stations, and two floodgates.

An informal inspection was conducted on November 24, 1997, at the request of the South Lafourche Levee District. Since the hurricane protection levees are still in the early stages of construction, a formal inspection will not be conducted until completed reaches of levee have been "turned over" to the levee district. However, in the interim we inspected several reaches of levee along the east side of the ring levee system that were not under construction. The inspection extended from pump station no. 6 at Breton Canal to the Golden Meadow floodgate (sections D-North, D-South, and A-East). Although the levees are in the early stages of construction they were well maintained, and therefore, an OUTSTANDING rating is assigned.

r. Town of Grand Isle

The beach and sand dune features of the Grand Isle and Vicinity Hurricane Protection project were inspected throughout the year, and deficiencies resulting from lack of maintenance by the Town of Grand Isle still exist. The Town of Grand Isle and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD), a co-sponsor of the project, have been advised, by letters and meetings of our concern for the lack of maintenance and the need for corrective action. We are extremely concerned about their inability to appropriate funds to correct maintenance deficiencies (now and in the future), and therefore, no additional Federal funding will be committed for maintenance or for emergency repairs until funding for maintenance of the project is assured by the local sponsors. Grand Isle was hoping to get funding during the last legislative session, however, the necessary funds were not approved.

Grand Isle recently elected a new mayor, and we plan on meeting with Mayor David Camardelle to discuss his plan of action. Mr. Camardelle is also the president of the Grand Isle Levee District, a position he held prior to becoming Mayor. Before the election it was his intention as president to initiate discussions with the Town of Grand Isle concerning the take over of the project by the Grand Isle Levee District. According to Mr. Camardelle, even though he is now the Mayor, he is still interested in having the Grand Isle Levee District take over the project and will continue discussing the matter with the Town's officials.

It is now estimated that it will cost approximately \$5 million to restore the project, of which Grand Isle and the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development are responsible for 88 percent of the total cost. It has also been estimated that out of the \$5 million, Tropical storm Josephine and Hurricane Danny are responsible for approximately \$755,000 in damages. A request for PL-99 funds in the amount of \$755,000, is being prepared and will be forwarded to HQUSACE for approval.

s. SMALL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS, NEW ORLEANS AREA

In accordance with ER 1130-2-530 dated 30 October 1996, Chapter 3, Section 3b., small flood control projects authorized under Section 2 of the Flood Control Act of 1937 or Section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 need not be inspected unless they are being considered for emergency rehabilitation under PL 84-99. The small flood control projects that we have inspected and reported on annually in the past are not under PL84-99 consideration, and therefore, were not inspected this year.

Historically, we have not had any problems with these projects, and unless we receive complaints or any reports of problems they will not be inspected. We will continue to monitor the semi-annual reports that the local sponsors are required to submit, and will investigate any problems that are reported. The semi-annual inspection reports that our office has received in the past from the local interests have indicated that the projects are in satisfactory condition.

LOCAL PROTECTION PROJECTS (Local Maintenance Responsibility) CONSIDERED DEFICIENT AS OF DECEMBER 19 97
 (ER 11.30-2-3.19)

REPORTS CONTROL SYMBOL
 (DAEN-CWO-10)

PROJECT	DEFICIENT IN MAINTENANCE OF		DEFICIENT IN CONTROL OF												ESTIMATED COST		REMARKS					
	READINESS FOR FLOOD EMERGENCY	LOCAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM	FLOODWALLS	LEVEE SECTION AND GRADE	LEVEE CROWN ROADWAYS & GATES	REVERTED AREAS	DRAINAGE STRUCTURES	PUMPING PLANTS	PONDING AREAS	CHANNELS & FLOODWAYS	CLOSURE STRUCTURES	ENCROACHMENT & TRESPASS	WILD GROWTH	BURROWING ANIMALS	GRAZING	BEACH MAINTENANCE		LOCAL INTEREST NOTIFIED OF EXISTING DEFN.	RESTORING PROJECT TO SATISFACTORY CONDITION (\$000's)	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE (\$000's)		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		17	18	19	20	21
TOWN OF GRAND ISLE	✓	✓		✓								✓				✓					5,000	THE TOWN OF GRAND ISLE AND LADOTD, THE LOCAL SPONSORS, HAVE BEEN ADVISED BOTH BY LETTERS AND MEETINGS FOR THEIR LACK OF MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES. SEE SUBPARAGRAPH "F." OF THE INSPECTION REPORT FOR A BROADER EXPLANATION. SINCE LAST YEAR'S REPORT, VERY MINOR MAINTENANCE WORK HAS BEEN PERFORMED BY THE LOCAL SPONSORS, AND IT IS NOW ESTIMATED THAT IT WOULD COST APPROXIMATELY \$5 MILLION TO FULLY RESTORE THE PROJECT. OUT OF THE \$5 MILLION, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY \$755,000 COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO DAMAGES CAUSED BY TROPICAL STORM JOSEPHINE AND HURRICANE DANNY.