

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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March 6, 2006

## **How should Category 5 protection be provided?**

*Public meetings to hear ideas on hurricane work across Louisiana*

NEW ORLEANS—To the public: Please give us your ideas on how to protect coastal Louisiana from the most powerful hurricanes, Category 5 storms.

“The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been directed to conduct a comprehensive investigation of Category 5 protection of coastal Louisiana from hurricane storm surges,” said Col. Richard Wagenaar, district engineer of the New Orleans District

“We must act quickly, so tell us your concerns, ideas or issues. Come to one of the four public meetings or write, e-mail or phone. The more we know now, the less delay there will be down the road,” Wagenaar said.

The public meetings will be “scoping” meetings. The Corps seeks information from the public to help to determine the full scope of the issues to be considered in framing the Report to Congress and an accompanying Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Public meetings**

New Orleans—Thursday, March 9 at 7 p.m., Health and Physical Education Center, University of New Orleans, Elysian Fields at Leon C. Simon Avenue.

Thibodaux—March 14 at 6:30 p.m., Howard Johnson, 201 Canal Blvd., La. 20 and La. 308.

Lake Charles—March 15 at 6:30 p.m., Baker Auditorium, Farrar Hall, McNeese State University.

Lafayette—March 16 at 6:30 p.m., Cajundome, 444 Cajundome Blvd.

### **Alternatives proposed**

Cat 5 for La.: public meetings

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In developing the Report to Congress the Corps of Engineers will consider ways to protect south Louisiana from Category 5 hurricane storm surges. The alternatives may include the following:

Structural. Earthen levees or concrete walls with floodgates and other devices.

Structural-coastal restoration combination. Structural with coastal wetlands and barrier island restoration commensurate to the level of structural fortification to protect against a Category 5 hurricane.

Non-structural. Elevating homes and improving evacuation plans, with coastal restoration.

No Action. Maintain current protection against a Category 3 hurricane.

Comments may also be submitted by mail, e-mail or fax to the Corps of Engineers officials listed below. The public may comment for the scoping document until March 27, 2006. Interested citizens should ask to be included on the mailing list. The public comments will be summarized in an appendix to the environmental impact statement.

#### **Where to send comments or questions**

**Report to Congress.** Gregory Miller, project manager, New Orleans Engineer District CEMVN-PM-C, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La. 70160-0267. **Tel.** 504-862-2310. **Fax** 504-862-1892. **E-mail** gregory.b.miller@mvn02.usace.army.mil

**Environmental impact statement.** Bruce Baird, biologist, New Orleans Engineer District CEMVN-PM-R, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La. 70160-0267. **Tel.** 504-862-2526. **Fax** 504-862-1525. **E-mail** bruce.h.baird@mvn02.usace.army.mil

**Pubic Notice** for Category 5 study and EIS.