



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

New Orleans District

**Notice of Initiation for the Preparation of a  
Programmatic Environmental Impact  
Statement and Scoping Meetings**

**March 9, 2006 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.**  
**Health and Physical Education Center**  
**University of New Orleans Main Campus**  
**(old gym on Leon C. Simon and Elysian Fields)**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana 70148**

**March 14, 2006 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**  
**Howard Johnson**  
**Envie Banquet Room**  
**201 Canal Blvd**  
**LA Hwy 20 & LA Hwy 308**  
**Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301**

**March 15, 2006 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**  
**Baker Auditorium/Farrar Hall**  
**Mcneese State University Campus**  
**Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601**

**March 16, 2006 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.**  
**Cajundome**  
**444 Cajundome Boulevard**  
**Lafayette, Louisiana 70506**

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**Category 5 Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Project**

**Summary**

The proposed action would provide protection to residents and public and private businesses, located along coastal Louisiana against catastrophic Category 5 Hurricanes storm surge impacts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been "...directed to conduct a comprehensive hurricane protection analysis and design at full federal expense to develop and present a full range of flood control, coastal restoration, and hurricane protection measures...." and "...That the Secretary shall consider providing protection for a storm surge equivalent to a Category 5 hurricane within the project area and may submit reports on component areas of the larger protection program for authorization as soon as practicable." Environmental analysis would be used to determine the most practical plan, which would provide for the greatest overall public benefit. Specifically, a

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CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
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NEW ORLEANS, LA 70160-0267

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
CEMVN-PM-R

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) will analyze the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of implementing flood control, coastal restoration, and hurricane protection measures for south Louisiana.

### **Study Authority**

Applicable legislation includes Corps of Engineers – Civil Investigations, The Energy and Water Appropriations Act, 2006 (Pub. L. 109-103), November 19, 2005, Section 5009, The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006 (Pub. L. 109-148), December 30, 2005, and Chapter 3, The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006 (Pub. L. 109-148), December 30, 2005, for assessment of Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration

### **Need for Action**

On August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina, a major hurricane (sixth strongest Atlantic basin cyclone on record), made landfall in southeast Louisiana and left in its path the costliest natural disaster recorded in the history of the United States of America. On September 24, 2005, Hurricane Rita (fourth strongest Atlantic basin cyclone on record), made landfall in southwest Louisiana leaving in its path a trail of severely impacted communities and infrastructure. It is estimated that as much as 100 square miles of coastal wetlands were lost as a direct result of both storms.

Congress has directed the Corps of Engineers, in close coordination with the State of Louisiana, to begin a six-month endeavor, titled the Category 5 South Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Report, also referred to as the Category 5 LACPR Report, to identify, describe and propose a full range of flood control, coastal restoration, and hurricane protection measures for south Louisiana. A preliminary technical report is due within six months from December 30,

flood protection, business and industrial activity, employment, land use, property values, public/community facilities and services, tax revenues, population, community and regional growth, transportation, housing, community cohesion, and noise.

### **For Further Information**

Questions regarding the proposed project should be addressed to the Project Manager, Mr. Gregory Miller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-PM-C, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267, telephone (504) 862-2310. Questions regarding the PEIS should be addressed to Mr. Bruce Baird, CEMVN-PM-R, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267, telephone (504) 862-2526. Questions can also be sent via E-mail to the following address: [LACPR\\_EIS@mvn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:LACPR_EIS@mvn02.usace.army.mil).

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Date

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Robert Martinson, Acting Chief  
Environmental Compliance  
and Analysis Branch

North or South: Take Hwy 167 (Johnson St.) until you see Cajundome Blvd. Take a left on Cajundome Blvd. and you will see the Cajundome and Convention Center on the right. this arena is 2.5 miles off the interstate.

## **Alternatives**

Four alternatives, including the no-action alternative, have been preliminarily proposed for further evaluation in the six and 24-month technical reports. Those alternatives are as follows: 1) a structural alternative, which is flood protection consisting of a continuous line of earthen or concrete walls, along southern coastal Louisiana connected at various locations, as needed, by floodgates and other devices to provide protection against a storm surge originating from the Gulf of Mexico produced by a Category 5 hurricane; 2) a structural alternative with coastal restoration features commensurate to the level of structural fortification to provide protection against a storm surge originating from the Gulf of Mexico produced by a Category 5 hurricane; 3) and a non-structural alternative consisting of coastal restoration measures to provide protection against a storm surge originating from the Gulf of Mexico produced by a Category 5 hurricane. Other non-structural measures such as, raising or moving structures to meet existing or revised flood plain base elevations, would be a part of any proposed action alternative. The no-action alternative would maintain current levels of flooding and hurricane protection against a Category 3 hurricane.

## **Resources and Issues to be Addressed in the EIS**

The tentative list of resources and issues that would be evaluated in the PEIS includes tidally influenced coastal wetlands (marshes and swamps), aquatic resources, commercial and recreational fisheries, wildlife resources, essential fish habitat, water quality, air quality, threatened and endangered species, recreation resources, and cultural resources. Socioeconomic items that would be evaluated in the PEIS include navigation,

2005, while a final technical report is due within 24 months from December 30, 2005. A final PEIS, without a Record of Decision, will be submitted in conjunction with the 24-month final technical report.

## **Scoping Process**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provides for an early and open public process for determining the scope of issues, resources, impacts, and alternatives to be addressed in an EIS. This process is referred to as scoping. During scoping, the goal is to solicit ideas, concerns, or issues from local, state, and other federal agencies, public and private organizations, and individuals.

The purpose of this document is to inform the public that an environmental analysis is being conducted; to begin the scoping process; and to invite the public to attend a scoping meeting. Ideas and issues from scoping are incorporated into the EIS, thereby reducing need for reformulation or reassessment after the public review of the draft PEIS.

## **Public Action Requested**

The public is invited to provide comments on the issues and alternatives to be addressed in the project and PEIS. Four public scoping meetings will be held. The first meeting will be held on March 9, 2006, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the old gym at the University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana. The second meeting will be held on March 14, 2006, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Howard Johnson Envie Banquet Room, Thibodaux, Louisiana. The third meeting will be held on March 15, 2006, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Baker Auditorium on the McNeese State University Campus, Lake Charles, Louisiana. The fourth meeting will be held on March 16, 2006, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Cajundome in Lafayette, Louisiana. The scoping meetings will begin with brief descriptions of the project and the NEPA process. The tentative alternatives and issues developed by the Corps will also be presented.

The public will then be asked to comment on alternatives and issues. If a large number of people attend the meeting, attendees will be divided into smaller groups to facilitate recording of comments. Participants will be asked to focus on the following questions:

*Question #1: What are the critical natural and human environmental problems and needs that should be addressed in the DPEIS?*

*Question #2: What are the significant resources that should be considered in the DPEIS?*

*Question #3: What are the reasonable hurricane protection, coastal restoration, and flood control alternatives, alternative barrier plans, etc., which should be considered in the DPEIS?*

Participants will also be encouraged to voice whatever other concerns or comments they believe are appropriate to the study. Comments will be summarized in a “Scoping Document” that will be mailed to all meeting attendees.

Comments on the study and PEIS may also be submitted by mail or E-mail to the persons identified at the end of this announcement. Scoping is not limited to the beginning of the study. The public is encouraged to express their concerns and comments at any time during the study.

### **Directions to Public Scoping Meetings**

March 9, 2006 scoping meeting, starting promptly at 7:00 p.m., in the old gym at the University of New Orleans located on the corner of Leon C. Simon and Elysian Fields. From the West: take Interstate-10 West into New Orleans. Take Interstate-10 Interstate-610 West Ramp to Exit 3 on Interstate-610. After exiting, take a right onto Elysian Fields. The old gym is approximately 2.25 miles from Interstate-610. From the East: take Interstate-10 East into New Orleans. Stay left and take Interstate-610 east to Exit 3 on Interstate-610. After exiting, take a left onto Elysian Fields. The old gym is approximately 2.25 miles from Interstate-610. From the Northshore: take the Causeway toll bridge south to Interstate-10. Take Interstate-10 East into New Orleans. Stay left and take Interstate-610 east to Exit 3 on Interstate-610. After exiting, take a left onto Elysian Fields. The old gym is approximately 2.25 miles from Interstate-610.

March 14, 2006 scoping meeting, starting promptly at 6:30 p.m., in the Howard Johnson Envie Banquet Room. From New Orleans: Take I-10 West to Baton Rouge. Exit I-310 to Boutte-Houma. From I-310, exit US 90 West to Boutte-Houma. From US 90 West, exit LA 682 to

Raceland. Take LA HWY 308 West to Thibodaux and the Howard Johnson Hotel. Located at the intersection of LA HWY 308 and LA HWY 20. From Baton Rouge: Take I-10 East to New Orleans. Exit Sorrento-Donaldsonville to Sunshine Bridge. Exit Thibodaux to left. Take a left on LA Spur 70. At next stop sign, turn left onto LA HWY 308. Follow LA HWY 308 to Howard Johnson Hotel. Located at the intersection of LA HWY 308 and LA HWY 20. From Morgan City: Take US 90 East LA HWY 20 and head East. Cross overpass in Schriever. Stay on LA HWY 20 North to Thibodaux and the Howard Johnson Hotel is located at the intersection of LA HWY 308 and LA HWY 20.

March 15, 2006 scoping meeting, starting promptly at 6:30 p.m., Baker Auditorium is located in Farrar Hall. Farrar Hall can be found just east of the quad and behind the Recreational Center. From the West: Take Interstate-10 east into Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, then change to Interstate-210 when approaching Lake Charles. From Interstate-210, take exit 6A (Ryan Street) in Lake Charles. Turn left from the exit ramp onto College Street and drive east for 1/10 of a mile to the intersection of College Street and Ryan Street. Turn right onto Ryan Street and drive south for one mile. After you cross Sale Road, you will see the university on your left. From the East: Take Interstate-10 west into Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, then change to Interstate-210 when approaching Lake Charles. From Interstate-210, take exit 6A (Ryan Street) in Lake Charles. Turn left from the exit ramp onto Ryan Street and drive south for one mile. After you cross Sale Road, you will see the university on your left.

March 16, 2006 scoping meeting, starting promptly at 6:30 p.m., at the Cajundome Arena in Lafayette. From the East or West: Take I-10 to exit 100 (Ambassador Caffery). Go south (turn left) for approximately 2 miles towards Bertrand Dr., take a left on Congress. The Cajundome and Convention Center are on the right. From the