

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, DC 20315

8 OCT 1982

Mr. W. H. Sheley, Jr.  
Director  
Mission Analysis and  
Systems Acquisition Division  
U.S. General Accounting Office  
Washington, D. C. 20548

Dear Mr. Sheley:

This is in response to your final report to the Secretary of the Army dated August 17, 1982, "Improved Planning Needed By the Corps of Engineers to Resolve Environmental, Technical, and Financial Issues on the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project" MASAD-82-39 (OSD Case #6048).

The GAO report and recommendations to the Secretary of the Army derived from that report identify important problems and raise important issues concerning the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project. Before I act upon your recommendations and direct the Chief of Engineers to develop (1) an acquisition strategy plan, (2) an implementable technical approach to construction of the drainage canals, and (3) specific milestones for completion of the remaining portions of the project, I want to understand precisely what the current status of the project is, and what the Corps' plans are for implementing the remainder of the project, including all key engineering, policy, and financial assumptions upon which these plans are founded. Toward that end, I will meet early next month with appropriate Corps of Engineers officials to review the Lake Pontchartrain Hurricane Protection Project. This meeting, undertaken in the context of the annual budget process, will be an important step in our effort to resolve the fundamental questions raised by your report and recommendations. Soon after this meeting, a detailed report on the resolution of the problems and issues will be provided.

Sincerely,

*W. R. Gianelli*

William R. Gianelli  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)