

1993

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 Carré Spillway guide levee; a new levee along the Jefferson Parish lake front; an enlarged New Orleans lake front levee landward of the seawall; a new and enlarged levee and concrete-capped sheet pile wall along both sides of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC); a new levee and floodwall along the lake front 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 unscheduled part of the project is the strengthening of the Mandeville seawall.

AUTHORIZATION: Flood Control Act of 1965; Water Resources Development Acts of 1974, 1986 and 1990; and FY 1992 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

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.

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**SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA**

Estimated Total Appropriation Requirement		\$466,000,000		STATUS:	PERCENT	PHYSICAL
				(1 January 1992)	COMPLETE	COMPLETION
					SCHEDULE	SCHEDULE
Programmed Construction	\$464,056,000			New Orleans East Unit	90	Jan 2000
Unprogrammed Construction	1,944,000			New Orleans West Unit	10	Nov 2013
Future Non-Federal Reimbursement Programmed Construction	7,000,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	Mandeville Unit	0	Indefinite
Unprogrammed Construction	0	0	0	Chalmette Unit	97	Jan 1997
Estimated Federal Cost (Ultimate) Programmed Construction	457,056,000		459,000,000	Entire Project	79	Nov 2013?
Unprogrammed Construction	1,944,000					
Estimated Non-Federal Cost Programmed Construction	196,102,000	197,000,000				
Cash Contribution	\$ 56,736,000					
Other Costs	132,366,000					
Reimbursements:						
Hurricane Protection	7,000,000					
Unprogrammed Construction		898,000				
Cash Contribution	898,000					
Other Costs	0					
Reimbursements	0					
Total Estimated Programmed Construction Cost	\$653,158,000					
Total Estimated Unprogrammed Construction Cost	2,842,000					
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$656,000,000					
Allocations to 30 September 1991	245,218,000					
Conference Allowance For FY 1992	21,491,000					
Allocation for FY 1992	10,102,000					
Allocations through FY 1992	255,320,000					
Allocation Requested for FY 1993	11,607,000					
Programmed Balance to Complete after FY 1993	197,129,000					
Unprogrammed Balance to Complete After FY 1993	1,944,000					

*130,000,000*  
*1,000,000*  
*1,000,000*

ACCUM.  
 PCT. OF EST.  
 FED. COST

58

55

- 1 Completion schedule indefinite until financial support is furnished by local interests.
- 2 Excludes Mandeville Unit which has an indefinite completion date.
- 3 Reflects \$3,196,000 reduction assigned as savings and slippages and \$8,193,000 reprogrammed from the project.

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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

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 pre project 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. The project will provide protection against flooding from the Standard Project Hurricane (SPH). The average annual benefits, all flood control, are \$179,856,000, based on 1 October 1981 prices.

FISCAL YEAR 1993: The requested amount will be applied as follows:

NEW ORLEANS EAST UNIT		
Initiate:		
Orleans Marina Phase 2 <sup>3</sup> (Typing Error)	\$ 300,000	4/93
Complete:		
South Point to GIWW procurement	2,600,000	4/93
Federal Real Estate Support	12,000	
Surveys and Layouts	20,000	
Planning, Engineering and Design	1,117,000	
Construction Management	600,000	
Subtotal	4,649,000	

*4/93*  
*gcked Aud 8/13*

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NEW ORLEANS WEST UNIT

Initiate: Floodwall, Station 115-128 at Pumping Station No. 4

*AWB Jun 93*

Complete: Levee N. of Airline Hwy Reach IIA, Sand Fill  
 1st Enlargement 354-435 Reach 4  
 Floodwalls at I-10 and Station 0 to 9+00  
 Surveys and Layouts  
 Federal Real Estate Support  
 Planning Engineering and Design  
 Construction Management

Subtotal

800,000  
 1,789,000  
 690,000  
 588,000  
 60,000  
 20,000  
 1,360,000  
 500,000

*Sum  
 Conf  
 FY 92  
 Adm  
 20/9/92*

CHALMETTE UNIT

Complete: Pipeline Canal and Gap Closure, Final Enlargement  
 Final Levee Enlargement Station 251-367  
 Surveys and Layouts  
 Federal Real Estate Support  
 Planning, Engineering and Design  
 Construction Management

Subtotal

Total

1,151,000  
 \$11,607,000

*AWB Jun 93  
 Shows funds in FY 94 All  
 Funds were obligated by  
 11/5/92 by Schalmette  
 Completed 12/29/92  
 Initiate 5/93  
 I 7/92 Seed Camp 9/93  
 Schalmette 9/93*

NON-FEDERAL COST: In accordance with the cost sharing and financing concepts reflected in the Flood Control Act of 1965, the non-Federal sponsors must comply with the requirements listed below:

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 pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.  
 Reimburse the Federal Government for costs allocated pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.  
 Bear all costs of operations, maintenance, and replacements of all features of the project works.

Payments During Construction and Reimbursements  
 Annual Operation, Maintenance, and Replacement Costs

Total Non-Federal Costs

\$ 41,529,000  
 19,408,000  
 129,063,000  
 7,000,000  
 \$197,000,000  
 \$928,000  
 \$928,000

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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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,366,000</b>

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. Any work performed by the non-federal after project authorization, that 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.

**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.

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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 \$466,000,000 is an increase of \$31,000,000 from the latest estimate (\$435,000,000) presented to Congress (FY 1992). This change includes the following items:

Item	Amount
Price Escalation on Construction Features	\$+32,000,000
Post Contract Award and Other Estimating Adjustments (Including contingency adjustments)	- 1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$+31,000,000</b>

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 Fiscal Year 1966, and funds to initiate construction were appropriated in Fiscal Year 1967.

**Authorizations**

FC Act of 1965 dated 27 October 1965  
(PL 89-298) (HD 231/89/1)

Estimated Cost and  
Year of Price Level

\$56,235,000 (1961)<sup>1</sup>

A program for protection from hurricane flood levels at New Orleans, LA and surrounding areas by means of levees, floodwalls, control structures, navigation structures, locks, dams and drainage structures.

Water Resources Development Act of  
1974 dated 7 March 1974 (PL 93-251)  
Section 92

\$ 3,500,000 (1985)

A modification of the FC Act of 1965 (PL 89-298) to provide that non-Federal public bodies may agree to pay the unpaid balance of the cash payment due with interest, in yearly installments.

A modification of the project to include construction of a floodwall with sluice gates or other necessary means to ensure that hurricane-flood protection within Jefferson Parish will be unimpaired as a result of any pumping station constructed by local interests.

Water Resources Development Act of  
1990, dated 28 November 1990  
(PL 101-640) Section 116(k)

A restudy of and report on project benefits to determine whether or not sponsors have received expected benefits and whether or not there should be a reallocation of costs as a result of any unrealized expected benefits. No non-Federal payment for the St. Bernard Parish portion of project was required during the study period (28 November 1990 - 28 November 1991).

\$80,000,000

FY 1992 Energy and Water  
Development Appropriation Bill  
dated 17 August 1991 (PL 102-104)

Deauthorized that portion of the project which provides frontal protection at the London Avenue and Orleans Avenue Outfall Canals (\$25 million) in favor of more expensive (\$105 million) parallel protection.

<sup>1</sup> This is net cost to the Federal Government. The gross cost is \$60,185,000. The difference is \$3,950,000, which is capitalized value at 3-1/8 percent interest over 100 years for O&M on Rigolets Lock which is to be contributed by local interests and used by the Federal government for project construction.

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