1997

APPROPRIATION TITLE: Construction, General - Local Protection (Flood Control)

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 east Bonnet Carré Spillway guide levee to the Jefferson-St. Charles Parish boundary; a floodwall along the Jefferson-St. Charles Parish line; an enlarged levee along the Jefferson Parish lakefront; an enlarged New Orleans lakefront levee landward of the seawall including parallel flood protection on the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue, and London Avenue outfall canals; a new and enlarged levee and floodwall along both sides of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC); a new levee and floodwall along the lakefront 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 northside of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet (MR-GO) and GIWW; 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 Caernarvon; 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 parallel protection work for Orleans and London Avenue Outfall canals is unprogrammed after FY 1997.

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

REMAINING BENEFIT TO REMAINING COST RATIO: 3.4 to 1 at 3 1/8 percent.

TOTAL BENEFIT - COST RATIO: 3.0 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.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

Estimated Total Appropriation Requirement		$504,000,000	
Programmed Construction	$470,318,000		
Unprogrammed Construction	33,682,000		
Future Non-Federal Reimbursement		7,000,000	
Programmed Construction	7,000,000		
Unprogrammed Construction	0		
Estimated Federal Cost (Ultimate)		497,000,000	
Programmed Construction	463,318,000		
Unprogrammed Construction	33,682,000		
Estimated Non-Federal Cost		210,000,000	
Programmed Construction	208,056,000		
Cash Contribution	$ 71,918,000		
Other Costs	129,138,000		
Reimbursements:			
Hurricane Protection	7,000,000		
Unprogrammed Construction	1,944,000		
Cash Contribution	0		
Other Costs	1,944,000		
Reimbursements	0		
Total Estimated Programmed Construction Cost		$671,374,000	
Total Estimated Unprogrammed Construction Cost		35,626,000	
Total Estimated Project Cost		$707,000,000	
Allocations to 30 September 1995		316,149,000	
Conference Allowance for FY 1996		13,348,000	
Allocation for FY 1996		13,348,000	
Allocations through FY 1996		329,497,000	
Allocation Requested for FY 1997		4,025,000	
Programmed Balance to Complete after FY 1997		136,796,000	
Unprogrammed Balance to Complete after FY 1997		33,682,000	

STATUS (1 January 1996)	PERCENT COMPLETE	PHYSICAL COMPLETION SCHEDULE
New Orleans East Unit	90	1
New Orleans West Unit	12	1
Mandeville Unit	100	2
Chalmette Unit	98	1
Entire Project	80	1

ACCUM. PCT. OF EST. FED. COST
65
66

---

[1] Being determined.

[2] Work accomplished by the FY 1992 Dire Emergency Supplemental under Appropriation 96x3125, Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies.

Levees: Average Height: 16 feet
Length: 80 miles

Dam Closures: 2

Pumping Plant: 1

Control Valve Structures: 3

Drainage Structures: 9

Floodwalls: 17.9 miles

Floodgates: 2

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 $95,771,000.

FISCAL YEAR 1997: The requested amount will be applied as follows:

NEW ORLEANS EAST UNIT	
Continue:	
17th Str Outfall Canal Bridge	$ 500,000
Complete:	
Orleans Marine Ph 4	600,000
Federal Real Estate Support	6,000
Surveys and Layouts	25,000
Supervision and Administration	80,000
Subtotal	$ 1,211,000
NEW ORLEANS WEST UNIT	
Complete:	
LV NOA Rch IIA 1st Lift	361,000
Mitigation	1,339,000
Federal Real Estate Support	20,000
Survey and Layouts	45,000
Planning, Engineering and Design	669,000
Supervision and Administration	280,000
Subtotal	$ 2,714,000
CHALMETTE UNIT	
Surveys and Layouts	50,000
Planning, Engineering and Design	50,000
Subtotal	$ 100,000
Total	$ 4,025,000

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	Payments During Construction and Reimbursements	Annual Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation, and Replacement Costs
Provide lands, easements, and right-of-ways, and borrow and excavated or dredged material disposal areas.	$ 42,979,000	-
Accomplish alterations to roads, pipelines, cables, wharves, oil wells, and any other facilities necessary for construction of the project.	19,911,000	-
Pay 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.	140,110,000	-
Reimburse the Federal Government for costs allocated pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 1974.	7,000,000	-
Pay all costs of operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacements of all features of the project works.		$1,223,000
Total Non-Federal Costs	$210,000,000	$1,223,000

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
Total	25,366,000

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 interests 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 project 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 project 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 project 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 project 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.

c. Pontchartrain Levee District: New agreements of assurances covering all project 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 cost estimate of $504,000,000 is a decrease of $11,000,000 from the latest estimate ($515,000,000) presented to Congress (FY 1996). This change includes the following items:

Item	Amount
Price Escalation on Construction Features	$-11,000,000
Total	$-11,000,000

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		Estimated Cost and Year of Price Level
FC Act of 1965 dated 27 October 1965 (PL 89-298) (HD 231/89/1)	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.	$56,235,000 (1961)[1]
Water Resources Development Act of 1974 dated 7 March 1974 (PL 93-251) Section 92	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.	
Water Resources Development Act of 1986, dated 17 November 1986 (PL 99-662), Section 805	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.	$3,500,000 (1985)

[1] 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.

Authorizations		Estimated Cost and Year of Price Level
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)	
Water Resources Development Act of 1992, dated 31 October 1992 (PL 102-580) Section 102(j)(2)	A reevaluation of the reallocation of project cost based on the benefit study required by the WRDA 1990 Sec. 116K	
Water Resources Development Act of 1992, dated 31 October 1992 (PL 102-580) Section 102(j)(1)	A modification to the project to include conveying landsite runoff from the Jefferson Parish Lakefront levee from the levee right-of-way to the street drainage system.	