

31 January 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, New Orleans District, ATTN: CEMVN-ED

SUBJECT: CEMVN-ED Policy Letter of 1985 - NGS Benchmarks

1. We concur with your proposal to use the NAVD88 benchmark information for future work on all projects. Accordingly, the new policy is as follows:

- a. All gages will be set to conform to the NAVD88 benchmark information.
- b. Main stem features of the MR&T project under construction or to be constructed in the future will utilize the NAVD88 benchmark elevations.
- c. Off-main stem projects of the MR&T under construction or to be constructed in the future will use the NAVD88 benchmark data.
- d. All C&M dredging will use the NAVD88 benchmark data.
- e. Hurricane protection projects under construction or to be constructed in the future will use the NAVD88 benchmark data.

2. We also agree that if CORS proves to be a reliable and accurate system for determining benchmark elevations, MVD and the New Orleans District should re-evaluate the above policy to consider use of the CORS benchmark information in lieu of the NAVD88 benchmark information. Further, the New Orleans District should at that time begin evaluation of completed projects to determine whether or not modifications are necessary to achieve authorized levels of protection.

3. We request that you provide MVD semi-annual status reports on the installation and operation of the CORS. We are interested in confirming its accuracy in determining benchmark information and subsidence rates as well as evaluating its application in other MVD districts.

Encls
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CF:
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