IN REPLY REFER TO
LMNED-DL

3 October 1975

Mr. Greg J. Lannes, Jr., Chairman
Hurricane Protection Committee
Regional Planning Commission
Masonic Temple Building
Suite 900
333 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

Dear Mr. Lannes:

This is in regard to your letter of 23 September 1975 which requested information relative to the hurricane protection levee being constructed within St. Bernard Parish. This levee is part of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity hurricane protection project.

In answer to the three questions posed in your letter, the following information is forwarded:

a. Public Law 298, 89th Congress, 1st session, approved 27 October 1965, authorized the total Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity hurricane protection project. As you know, the Chalmette unit is a part of this hurricane protection project. One provision of the law specifies that the local assuring agency must provide all lands, easements, and rights-of-way, including borrow and disposal areas, necessary for the construction of the project. The Government cannot assume any of the responsibilities which are assigned by law to the local assuring agency.

b. The Government and the assuring agency, to the best of my knowledge, fully intends to complete the subject project.

c. My office is now conducting a study to determine feasible alternatives in regard to the borrow pit problems we are now encountering. We feel confident that suitable alternatives will be developed in the near future.

Mr. Hart/ka/436

LMNED-DL 3 October 1975

Mr. Greg J. Lannes, Jr., Chairman

If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please advise.

Sincerely yours,

EARLY J. RUSH
Colonel, CE
District Engineer

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REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
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September 23, 1975

Colonel Early J. Rush, III
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70180

Dear Colonel Rush:

Reference is made to the September 16th public meeting of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, Violet, Louisiana, concerning the construction of a St. Bernard hurricane protection levee.

The Times-Picayune for September 17th (sec. 3, p. 19) stated of this meeting: "U. S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives said the barrier pit must be included in the rights-of-way for the levee project." Furthermore, "When Corps representatives said they could not provide for the barrow pit, Gilbert Andry, legal counsel for the board...said the Corps, 'with all the resources of the federal government, should be able to come up with a solution...what we (the board) can't do is come up with a bunch of money.'" "Corps representatives said they would check into the possibility of contracting for the materials or using clay and mud from the batture."

Kindly advise this committee as to the current status of construction of the St. Bernard hurricane protection levee: (1) If the Levee District cannot fund a barrow pit, will the Corps assume this cost? (2) If neither the Levee District nor the Corps will assume the cost of a barrow pit, what is the current and/or future possibility of the construction of this St. Bernard hurricane protection levee? (3) Can the Corps (with its resources) come up with a suitable solution (or alternative) to this problem?

An answer at your earliest convenience will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

GREG J. LANNES, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HURRICANE PROTECTION COMMITTEE

BY: Emile J. Gex, Jr.
EMILE J. GEX, JR.
SENIOR PLANNER

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Times Picayune
9/17/75
Section 3 Pg 19

Levee Project Needs Land for Barrow Pit

The Lake Borgne Basin Levee Board is now faced with finding one million yards of high land for a barrow pit for construction of the St. Bernard hurricane protection levee.

During the regular board meeting Tuesday, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representatives said the barrow pit must be included in the rights-of-way for the levee project.

Raymond Willhoit, board president, told the corps members the levee board does not have the money to purchase the land for the pits as is now required by law.

When corps representatives said they could not provide for the barrow pit, Gilbert Andry, legal counsel for the board from the district attorney's office, said the corps, "with all the resources of the federal government, should be able to come with a solution.

"If we don't have something, the project stops. But if the corps doesn't have something, it goes on as usual," Andry said.

"We have to explore every reasonable and unreasonable alternative because we (the board) don't have the money," he said.

"We want to do everything we can do to help but one thing—and what we can't do is come up with a bunch of money."

Corps representatives said they would check into the possibility of contracting for the materials or using clay and mud from the batture.