

CELMV-ED-PG (CEOW-EP/21 Aug 89) (1105-2-10c) 1st End Mr. Bardwell/ts/5925
SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity, High Level Plan, Design
Memorandum No. 18 - General Design, St. Charles Parish, North of Airline
Highway

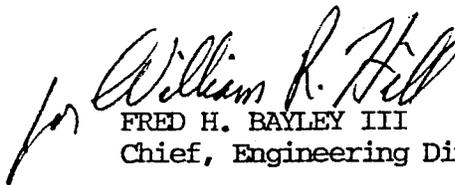
CDR, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080

05 SEP '89

FOR Commander, New Orleans District, ATTN: CELMN-ED-SP

Referred for action.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


FRED H. BAYLEY III
Chief, Engineering Division

CELMN-ED-SP (CECW-EP/21 Aug 89) (1110-2-1150a) 2d End

Mr. Stutts/jd/2614

SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity, High Level Plan, Design Memorandum No. 18 - General Design, St. Charles Parish, North of Airline Highway

DA, New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267 2 Oct 89

FOR Commander, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, ATTN:
CELMV-ED-PG

The following gives our response to the CECW-EP basic letter. Responses are keyed by reference to paragraphs in the basic letter.

1. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.

a. Comment 3.a. RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN LIFTS.

Responsibility for interim maintenance between levee lifts has been borne by the local sponsor since the initiation of project construction. Interim maintenance in general involves mowing or cutting the levee to prevent growth of voluntary species of trees or shrubs in the levee rights-of-way.

b. Comment 3.b. COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION. Concur.

2. PUMPS VERSUS GRAVITY DRAINAGE.

a. Comment 4.a. Concur.

b. Comment 4.b. Do not concur. See our response paragraph 8., 2d End dated 15 Sep 89 to your CELMV-ED-PG, 1st Endorsement comments dated 9 May 1989.

3. Comment 5. RECREATION ACCESS. Do not concur. While the road will incidentally provide recreational access, it will be constructed to provide access to the flood gates/pumping station for operation and maintenance.

4. Comment 6. OIL AND GAS WASTE PITS. Do not concur. In the event that cleanup of the oil and gas waste pits does not occur as stated, the levee will be realigned to avoid any conflict. It is not, in our opinion, the responsibility of the local levee district to remove a hazardous waste site when a less expensive

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levee realignment will satisfy the objective of providing hurricane protection.

5. Comment 7. BAYOU TREPAGNIER. Concur. The statement in the 30 January 1989 letter from Shell is correct.

6. Comment 8. PONDING AND INUNDATION AREAS.

a. Mapping: Inundation limits and depth-durations from interior and exterior flooding have not changed since the 1984 reevaluation study. No wave splashover occurs with the design levee in place.

b. LERRDS (Paragraph 54, page 36). Do not concur. Under the terms of the project authorization as enumerated in the assurances of local cooperation, interior drainage required for reclamation and development is the sole responsibility of the local sponsor.

c. PLATES 2-10. In view of our response 6.b. above, we see no need to label ponding areas on these plates. Plate 6 is corrected by reversing the "Floodside" and "Protected Side" labels on the plate.

7. Comment 9. LEVEE ALIGNMENT.

a. SHELL OIL. Concur.

b. LEVEE CENTERLINE. Habitat impacts of the levee alignment induced or otherwise were dealt with in the 1984 FSEIS. GDM 18 presents the technical engineering details for the levee design. The EA covers only those areas that were not addressed in the FSEIS or where minor changes in proposed levee design have been made since publication of the FSEIS.

8. Comment 10. ECONOMIC UPDATE.

a. UPDATE. Concur. See our response, paragraph 16, 2d endorsement dated 15 Sep 89, to your CELMV-ED-PG, 1st Endorsement comments dated 9 May 89.

b. CHANGED CONDITIONS. Field inspections made since the July 1984 Reevaluation Study indicate that additional development

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has occurred in the St. Charles Parish area that will be protected by the work described in this GDM. However, an economic reanalysis of the project to reflect these changes is not warranted since the resulting increase in benefits is minor compared to the overall project benefits.

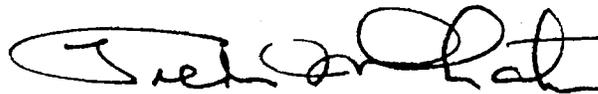
9. Comment 11. WAVES AND FREEBOARD (Page A-32).

Wave runup was not a significant factor in determining flood elevations or levee heights. The alignment of the levee is just north of Airline Highway and, therefore, it is not exposed to direct wave attack from Lake Pontchartrain. Trees, vegetation, and other barriers, such as railroads and highways would dampen waves before they could reach the levee. Two feet of freeboard is based on the uncertainties of predicting storm surge and settlement of the levee.

10. Comment 12a. LEVEE HEIGHTS (Page A-33). Do not concur. Please refer to paragraph 9 above for reasons.

11. Comment 12b. LEVEE HEIGHTS (Page A-33). The possible future changes are conjectural in nature and do no warrant discussion.

12. Comment 13. Concur.



FREDERIC M. CHATRY
Chief, Engineering Division

CELMV-ED-PG (CEOW-EP/21 Aug 89) (1105-2-10c) 3d End Mr. Bardwell/ts/5925
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Highway

CDR, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080

13 MAR '90

FOR CDR, HQUSACE (CEOW-EP), WASH DC 20314-1000

Concur in the District's responses.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


FRED H. BAYLEY III
Chief, Engineering Division

CECW-EP (CECW-EP/21 Aug 89) (1105-2-10c) 4th End
B. WALLACE/vs/272-0719)

SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity, High Level
Plan, Design Memorandum No. 18 - General Design, St. Charles
Parish, North of Airline Highway

HQ, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, DC 20314-1000
13 June 1990

FOR COMMANDER, LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION
ATTN: CELMV-ED-PG

1. The responses provided in the second endorsement satisfactorily respond to the concerns presented in the basic memorandum except the WLRC comment as indicated in the following paragraphs.

2. Basic memorandum, paragraph 8 and corresponding response in second endorsement. The ponding areas must be identified. If the ponding area mapping was not included in the July 1984 reevaluation report, they must be included in this report or in the operations and maintenance manual of the project. Ponding areas, if not acquired by fee or easement, must be identified as a basis for the enforcement of local cooperation item in paragraph h. on page 7 of the report which is as follows:

"Acquire adequate easements or other interest in land to prevent encroachment on existing ponding areas unless substitute storage capacity or equivalent pumping capacity is provided promptly."

3. The basis for the nonconcur response is that interior drainage required for reclamation and development is the sole responsibility of the local sponsor as enumerated in the assurance of local cooperation. The item describing this assurance is listed on page 3, paragraph a(6) of the report. However, these local cooperation items were amended when the project changed from the "Barrier Plan" to the "High Level Plan" now recommended. The applicable local cooperation items, signed and approved April 1987, are listed on pages 5-7 of the report. These do not contain any item on reclamation and development.

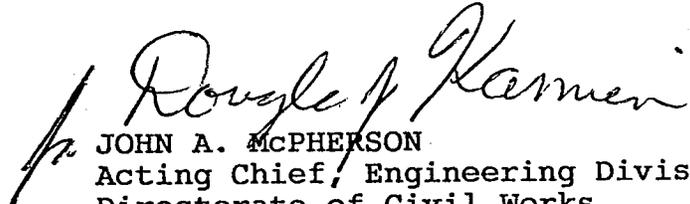
4. Unless these areas have been identified by maps, the above item of local cooperation (which is one frequently included in levee projects) would not be enforceable. This region has a history of encroaching on ponding areas or of allowing development in such areas. Clear delineation of the ponding area is necessary both to enforce this local assurance and to

CECW-EP

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preclude future Federal projects protecting new development
which may occur within the ponding area. The mapping would also
serve as a regulatory control for determining flood insurance
eligibility.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CIVIL WORKS:


JOHN A. MCPHERSON
Acting Chief, Engineering Division
Directorate of Civil Works

CELMV-ED-PG (CECW-EP/21 Aug 89) (1105-2-10c) 5th End Bardwell/caf/5925 JB
SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity, High Level Plan, Design
Memorandum No. 18 - General Design, St. Charles Parish, North of Airline Highway

CDR, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080

13 JUL '90

FOR Commander, New Orleans District, ATTN: CELMN-ED-SP

1. The 4th endorsement comments are referred for action.
2. Para 3. The amended assurance for the approved "High Level Plan" contains the identical item with respect to requirements for reclamation and development, as was required by the Flood Control Act of 1965 (PL 89-298). See paragraphs 3a(6), page 3, and 7f, page 6, of the report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


FRED H. BAYLEY III
Chief, Engineering Division

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CELMN-ED-SP (CECW-EP/21 Aug 89) (1105-2-10c) 6th End

Mr. Stutts/mn/2614

SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity, High Level Plan, Design Memorandum No. 18 - General Design, St. Charles Parish, North of Airline Highway

DA, New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 60267,
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267 6 Sep 90

FOR Commander, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, ATTN:
CELMV-ED-PG

Our response to paragraphs 2. and 4. of the 4th Endorsement is as follows:

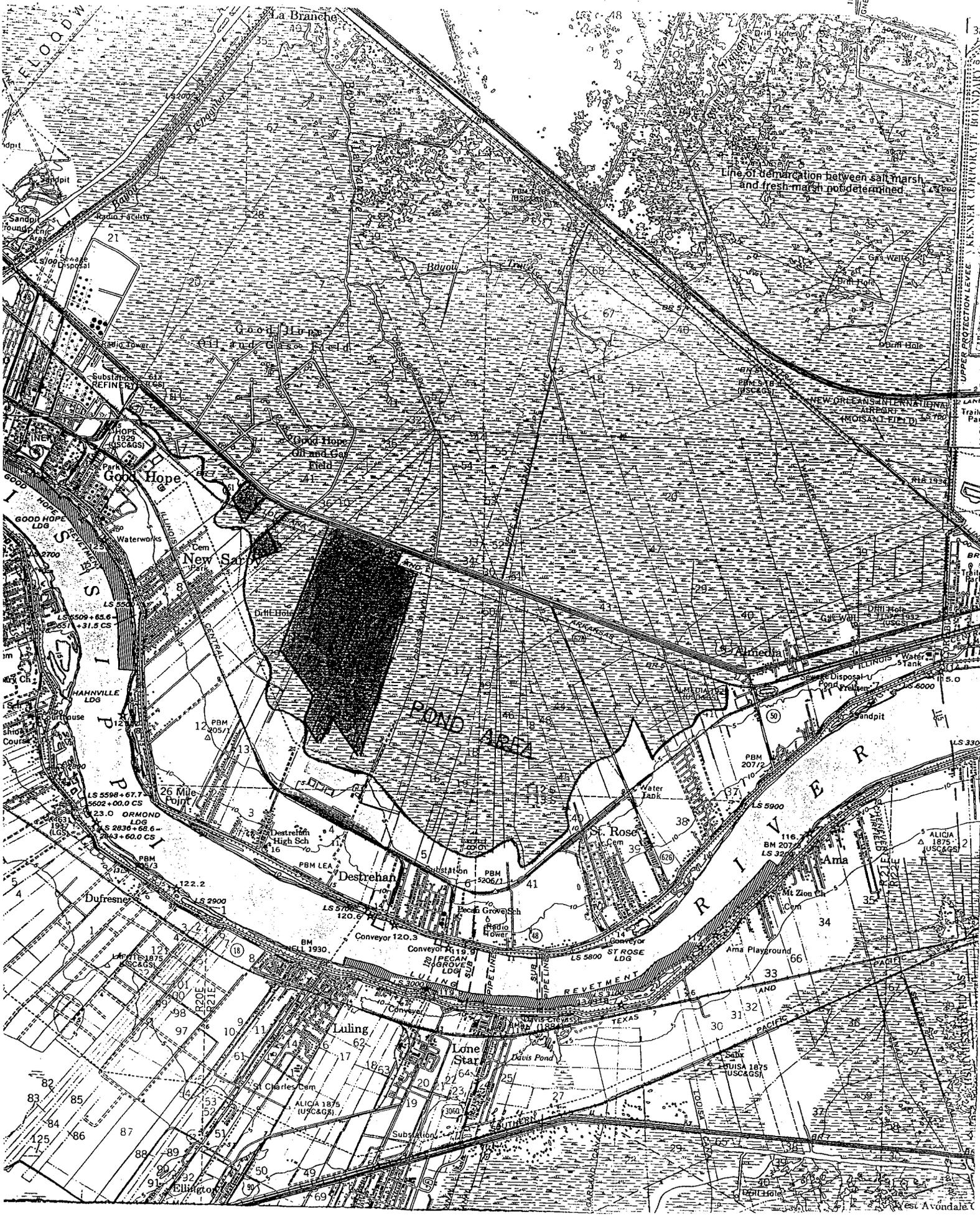
The 1984 reevaluation report did not depict the ponding area south of the proposed levee. We are enclosing a copy of the quad-sheet for the area and have labeled the ponding area as directed. As can be seen, with the exception of the blocked out areas, the entire ponding area is a wetland and its development is regulated by existing Federal, state and local permitting authority. In developing the stage-storage curves for the area, we assumed no storage in the blocked out areas since they were previously leveed or filled. The District Engineer will weigh in his decision the potential impacts due to reduced storage capacity that any proposed developmental encroachments might have before issuing or denying a permit in the ponding area.

As we indicated in a previous endorsement, the St. Charles Parish Council has filed for a permit to construct four pumping stations. These stations are intended to supplement the approved gravity drainage structures. Operation of the pumping stations as proposed in the permit application is intended to reduce ponding requirements during times that the gravity drainage structures gates are closed due to high lake stages caused by hurricanes or tropical storms. The proposed permit will not allow the pumps to be used to drain the wetland area on the protected side of the levee. Based on our meetings with Federal and state resource agencies and the receipt of no adverse public comments during the permit review process, issuance of the permit appears likely. Construction of the pumping stations along with regulation of development within the ponding area will fulfill local interest obligations under item h. of local cooperation agreement. We are confident that no additional easements, regulations, or institutional constraints on the area are necessary.



W. EUGENE TICKNER
Chief, Engineering Division

Encl
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CELMV-ED-PG (CECW-EP/21 Aug ⁸⁹90) (1105-2-10c) 7th End Eckenrod/caf/5925
SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity, High Level Plan, Design
Memorandum No. ~~28~~¹⁸ - General Design, St. Charles Parish, North of Airline Highway

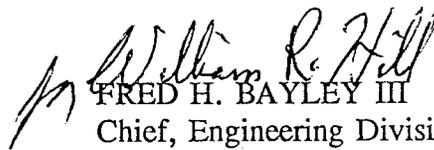
CDR, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, Vicksburg, MS 39181-0080
03 OCT '90

FOR Commander, New Orleans District, ATTN: CELMN-ED-SP

1. The 6th endorsement is returned for further clarification.
2. The use of the word "supplement" in the third paragraph implies simultaneous operations of the pumps and gravity structures. However, after conversations with District personnel, it is our understanding that the pumps will only be used to pump inflows from the time the gravity structures are closed. In addition, the pumps will not be operated when the gravity structures are open. Therefore, you should clarify the operation of the proposed pumps to ensure that we understand the impacts on the approved Federal project; and you should outline how you will comply with NEPA and other environmental requirements. You should also clarify how the proposed addition of pumps would interface with ongoing development of a fish and wildlife mitigation plan for the overall project.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encl
nc


FRED H. BAYLEY III
Chief, Engineering Division

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U.S. NAVY
NEW ORLEANS
LA 70113

CELMN-ED-SP (CECW-EP/21 Aug 89) (1105-2-10c) 8th End
Mr. Stutts/mn/2614

SUBJECT: Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana and Vicinity, High Level
Plan, Design Memorandum No. 18 - General Design, St. Charles
Parish, North of Airline Highway

DA, New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 60267,
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267 14 Dec 90

FOR Commander, Lower Mississippi Valley Division, ATTN:
CELMV-ED-PG

The following clarification to the 6th Endorsement is offered and
is in keeping with agreements made at our meeting held at NOD on
8 November 1990.

a. We will continue with the design and construction of the
gravity drainage structures as proposed in the DM. We will
develop an operations plan for the structures in conjunction with
State and Federal resource agencies and your office. The
operations plan will follow the spirit of the 1984 FSEIS on the
project, i.e., the structures will remain open all the time
except when a hurricane or tropical storm threatens the area.

b. Since our 8 November 1990 meeting, the State has
indicated intentions that they now want to cost share in the
mitigation plan. As we work out the details with the State, we
will keep you informed by a separate chain of correspondence.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



W. EUGENE TICKNER
Chief, Engineering Division

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