



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New Orleans District

News Release

Public Affairs Office, 7400 Leake Avenue
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/>

Tel. 504-862-2201
Fax 504-862-1724

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Contact: John Hall, 504-862-2201

Oct. 1, 2004

Hurricane project: Harvey Canal to be closed

40 days required to drive pilings for \$36 million floodgate to stop storm surges

NEW ORLEANS – The Harvey Canal will be closed to navigation for 40 days in order to drive the pilings for a \$36 million floodgate to protect the West Bank area of New Orleans from hurricane storm surges.

Closing is set for Monday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Friday. The canal is expected to remain closed to through traffic for seven days a week and 24 hours a day until about Nov. 13.

“This floodgate will be the centerpiece of the West Bank system of hurricane levees, floodwalls and gates,” said Carol Spraul Burdine, the Corps’ senior project manager for the project. “We expect completion of the gate in 2006.”

“The gate is the biggest single step toward achieving a closed system of hurricane protection for 250,000 people in metro New Orleans who live west of the Mississippi River,” Burdine said.

During storms, the floodgate will close the Harvey Canal gap between the levee and floodwall systems. Most of the time, however, it will remain open to provide a 125-foot horizontal clearance for vessel traffic.

When a hurricane approaches, two 175-ton gates will pivot out of their bays to meet and form the barrier to storm surges coming north from the wetlands, lakes and canals toward metro New Orleans.

“It will take 10 minutes to close it,” Burdine said.

The project is being built by the Corps with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the West Jefferson Levee District. Costs are shared 65 percent federal and 35 percent non-federal. Completed works will be maintained and operated by the West Jefferson Levee District.

The 7-mile long Harvey Canal links the Mississippi River with the westbound Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. During the closure at Lapalco, through traffic, which is mostly towboats and barges, must use the Algiers Lock downriver.

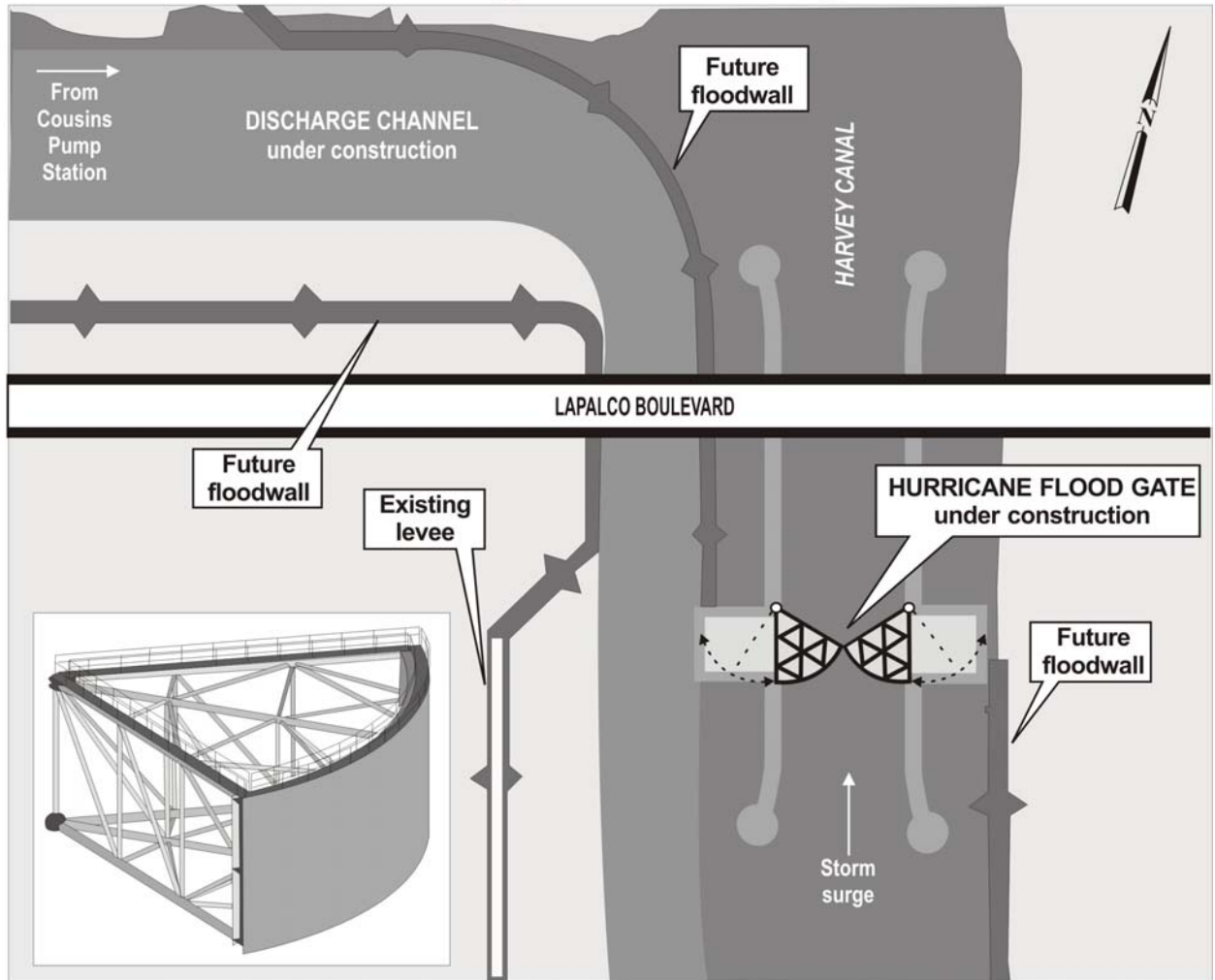
On the Harvey Canal, vessel traffic north of Lapalco must enter and exit via the Harvey Lock at the river. Traffic to the south must use the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

The project's name is the West Bank and Vicinity, New Orleans Hurricane Protection Project. Completion is expected in 2016 based on current projected funding levels. Total cost is estimated at \$314 million.

Fact sheets for West Bank and other Louisiana hurricane protection projects
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/response/HURPROJ.asp?prj=lkpon1>

Attached map: Harvey Canal floodgate and immediate area

Hurricane flood gate, Harvey, La.



Anne Marino,
New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Flood gate will extend hurricane protection across the Harvey Canal for the first time.