NEWS RELEASE

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Over the nine billion gallon mark in daily draining

New Orleans water continues to recede over a foot per day

NEW ORLEANS, LA. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' unwatering operation is getting results approaching 14,000 cubic feet of water per second (cfs) – or more than nine billion gallons daily – pumping out of Orleans, East Orleans and St. Bernard parishes.

Unwatering Task Force Commander, Col. Duane Gapinski, said the Corps was steadily progressing and observers are now seeing a continual drop in water levels. In the 17th Street Bridge area, watermarks on homes show evidence of at least a six-foot drop in water levels.

"We're still looking at completing the unwatering mission in a little over a month, but we can see the end of the road – certainly we can now see the road! Our focus is, and has been, assisting the teams at the pump stations in any way we can to get the pump stations repaired and running," he said.

In Plaquemines Parish, five of ten permanent pumps are pushing over 4,100 cfs a day. For nearly a week, Plaquemines Parish floodwaters were receding naturally through three breaches and a deliberate notch. The Corps will complete construction of the three breach closures in Plaquemines this week and, with the assistance of temporary pumps, will begin immediate pump operations.

Fifty mobile pumps and teams are supporting the unwatering operations, including teams from the Netherlands and Germany. The German contingent worked in the Orleans and St. Bernard parishes Sept. 12, and a combined pump team from the Corps' Tulsa and Little Rock districts operated in Orleans Parish. The Dutch team arrived yesterday and began their first pump station mission today.

St. Bernard Basin

Corps crews in Saint Bernard Parish cut the roadway at Highway 48 to allow drainage to Pump Station 8. At Pump stations 1, 4, 6 and 7, the Corps installed booms – or floating oil barriers – to protect facilities from oil hazards. The Corps continues to monitor the area. Crews also installed a temporary roof at Pump Station 7, enabling the station crew to begin necessary maintenance. The Corps' Project Manager, Kevin Wagner**,** expects to complete the unwatering mission in St. Bernard Parish within the next week.

East Orleans Basin

In East Orleans, four more portable pumps will be added in support of Pump Station 15 to increase the overall capacity to 1,100 cubic feet per second. For the first time, the Jahncke Pump Station ran at its full capacity of 1,200 cfs today. Citrus Pump Station and St. Charles Pump each are currently running at half capacity because the Citrus Pump Station has to pull power from a generator at one of the other two stations. Total possible capacity for these two stations is 1,750 cfs.

Orleans Basin

On Sept. 12, water overtopped the temporary breach closure at the London Avenue Canal because of operations at Pump Station 3, which caused the canal to rise faster than the temporary pumps at the end of the canal could drain. Operations at Pump Station 3 were immediately stopped and a few sheet piles were removed to allow the canal water level to equalize. The Corps is clearing the rock dike at Lake Shore Drive today, removing sheet pile, and raising wire sheet to allow Pump Station 3 to continue pumping at a high rate. Corps personnel are monitoring both breach sites at London Avenue Canal around the clock.

Corps contractors will complete the road to the second London Avenue breach tomorrow. In the meantime, the Corps project manager there reported an increase of local residents into the parish, causing vehicle congestion and overall interference with the unwatering mission. The Corps asked for local authority assistance to help alleviate the problem.

As of this morning, 27 of 104 permanent pumps and 43 temporary pumps are running, pushing more than 13,000 cfs out of the metropolitan New Orleans area.

Pumps *As of Sept. 12, 2005*

Parish	Station	Current CFS	Capable CFS	Working Pumps	Total Pumps
Orleans					
	Pump Station (P/S) 1	0	6,825	0	11
	P/S 2	0	3,190	0	7
	P/S 3	0	4,260	0	7
	P/S 4	0	3,720	0	6
	P/S 5	0	2,260	0	5
	P/S 6	3,750	9,480	6	15
	P/S 7	0	2,690	0	5
	P/S 12	1,000	1,000	1	1
	P/S 19	2,100	3,650	2	5
	I-10	610	860	3	4
	Permanent Pump Totals:	*7,460*	*37,935*	*12*	*66*
	Misc. Orleans West	60	60	1	1
	Misc. Orleans North	300	300	3	3
	Misc. Orleans Southeast	100	100	3	3
	Germans	100	100	15	15
	Arkansas	100	100	10	10
	Temporary Pump Totals:	*660*	*660*	*32*	*32*
	Orleans Parish Totals:	***8,120***	***38,595***	***44***	***98***
East Orleans					
	P/S 10 (Citrus)	0	1,000	0	4
	P/S 14 (Jahncke)	900	1,200	3	4
	P/S 15	500	750	2	3
	P/S 16 (St. Charles)	1,200	1,200	3	4
	Permanent Pump Totals:	*2,600*	*4,150*	*8*	*15*
	East Orleans West	450	450	10	10
	East Orleans Southeast	200	200	4	4
	Temporary Pump Totals:	0	400	0	4
	East Orleans Parish Totals:	*650*	*1,050*	*14*	*18*
St. Bernard					
	P/S 1 (Fortification) & P/S 6 (Jean Laffite)	1,000	2,227	3	6
	P/S 2 (Guichard)	0	578	0	2
	P/S 3 (Bayou Villere)	0	500	0	2
	P/S 7 (Bayou Ducros)	0	1,000	0	3

	P/S 4 (Meraux)	0	1,227	0		4
	P/S 5 (E.J. Gore)	130	660	1		3
	P/S 8 (St. Mary)	840	840	3		3
	Permanent Pump Totals:	*1,970*	*7,032*	*7*		*23*
	St. Bernard Parish Totals:	***1,970***	***7,032***	***7***		***23***
	Permanent Pump Totals:	12,030	49,117		27	104
	Temporary Pump Totals:	1,310	1,710		46	50
	Totals:	**13,340**	50,827	73		154
Plaquemines	Belair		130			
	Belle Chasse 1		3,500			
	Belle Chasse 2		990			
	Bellevue	516	516	1		1
	Braithwaite					
	Diamond	256	256	1		1
	Duvic (Venice)	560	560	1		1
	Gainard Woods	0	408	0		1
	Grand Lizard (Buras)	0	840	0		1
	Hayes	500	500	1		1
	Lower Ollie		120			
	Ollie 2		300			
	Pointe A La Hache-Eastbank	0	516	0		1
	Pointe A La Hache-West	516	516	1		1
	Scarsdale	1,780	1,780			
	Sunrise 1	0	200	0		1
	Sunrise 2	0	290	0		1
	Buras-Triumph		840			
	Upper Ollie		250			
	Permanent Pump Totals:	*4,128*	*12,512*	*5*		*10*
	Plaquemines Parish Totals:	***4,128***	***12,512***	***5***		***10***