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# News Release

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## **Eyewitness Accounts of Hurricane Katrina Flooding by Relocated Residents Sought to Assist with Study**

Washington (February 16, 2006) – Relocated residents of the greater New Orleans area who stayed during Hurricane Katrina and personally witnessed flooding due to levee overtopping or floodwall breaching before relocating are asked to provide information, photos, and any other related data to the Interagency Performance Evaluation Task Force (IPET). This information will assist with IPET's efforts to provide engineering answers to questions about the performance of the New Orleans hurricane and flood protection system during Hurricane Katrina.

Since September, IPET team members have been gathering data in the New Orleans area, including eyewitness accounts, related to the hurricane protection system and the impacts from Hurricane Katrina. To expand this fact gathering effort, IPET is attempting to contact displaced residents who might have information useful to this critical study.

IPET is particularly interested in information from the morning of Monday, Aug. 29, 2005, when Katrina made landfall. Information that would be valuable includes personal observations of levee and floodwall overtopping or breaching (photographs or videotape with date-time code would be of special interest); descriptions of water levels and wave activity in the areas of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Orleans, London Avenue or Inner Harbor Navigation Canals or the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet; and descriptions of flooding, particularly when the flooding began, how fast the water rose, and the direction of flow.

Anyone with information may contact the IPET through these methods: the IPET Web site (<https://ipet.wes.army.mil>) has a link where people can electronically submit their info; information can be e-mailed to [Katrina.Accounts@usace.army.mil](mailto:Katrina.Accounts@usace.army.mil); eyewitnesses can call a toll free number (1-866-502-2570, extension 5004) Monday through Friday (8 a.m. to 3 p.m. (EST)); or information can be mailed to the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, ATTN: IPET - Katrina Accounts, 3909 Halls Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

Persons providing information will be asked to supply their name and contact information to allow the IPET to contact them with additional questions and to determine the location of their observations. The information provided will be combined in a general IPET summary.

IPET, established by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is comprised of some of the nation's leading engineers and scientists from government (federal, state and local agencies), academia and private industry. The IPET team includes approximately 150 engineers, scientists and other professionals, representing more than 50 independent organizations. The IPET includes 10 analysis teams; almost all are jointly co-led by professionals from independent organizations and from the Corps.

All releasable IPET documents, including design and construction records on the New Orleans hurricane protection system, are posted on the public Web site, <https://ipet.wes.army.mil>. Various interim IPET reports and data will be released and posted on the IPET Web site as they are validated and verified. IPET's Report 1 was released on the site Jan. 10. IPET's final report will be completed June 1, 2006.

All IPET reports and data are being reviewed by an External Review Panel of experts from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). A National Research Council panel of experts will review and provide comments on the IPET and ASCE efforts. The National Research Council panel will report its findings in the summer of 2006. All of these reports will be released to the public.