



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
504-862-2201

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Davis Pond dedication set for Tuesday

Fresh water, nutrients, sediment from Mississippi River will help restore Louisiana's coastal wetlands, aid fisheries and help hurricane protection

What. Dedication of the \$119.6 million Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

When. 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 26.

Where. West bank of Mississippi River just below Luling, 23 river miles above New Orleans, on Louisiana 18, the river road. **(Driving map attached.)**

Who. Speakers include Louisiana Gov. Mike Foster and Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, the Corps' chief of engineers. Main speaker: U.S. Rep. Billy Tauzin of Louisiana.

Opening the gates. Officials will pull a rope to throw a ceremonial lever to climax the ceremony. Water will then flow through the Davis Pond structure for the first time. Ceremony is at outflow channel. The structure is accessible from levee – suggest using vehicle from ceremony, because of triple railroad tracks and La. 18. St. Charles Parish will have gate operators on duty at the structure.

Davis Pond's purpose. Mimics nature's age-old flooding of the Mississippi's delta region, now largely blocked by man's levee system. Diversion of up to 10,650 cubic feet per second will help to restore the Barataria wetlands by re-introducing freshwater, nutrients and sediment, pushing back destructive saltwater intrusion and promoting marsh re-growth and fisheries. Added benefit: restored wetlands reduce hurricane storm surges.

How big is it? Davis Pond's capacity of 10,650 cubic feet per second is almost as much as the average annual flow on the Potomac River of 11,900 cfs near Washington, D.C.

Media assistance on-site. Transmission of digital video for download on your Web site, but no live video transmission. Workstations with email, printer, copier and fax.

Web brochure. <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/bro/FreshwaterDiversion.pdf>



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