



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Mississippi Valley Division



# Corps Hurricane Response

Task Force Hope Status Report

September 25, 2013



## Construction underway at PCCP

By Susan Spaht

**A crane lowers a construction barge into the water at the Orleans Avenue Outfall Canal to begin soil boring tests.**

USACE Photo

**C**onstruction at the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) is underway and progressing at full speed.

The PCCP project, a major element in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System, will replace the interim pumps and closure structures at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street, London Avenue and Orleans Avenue Outfall Canals. The new structures will provide a permanent and more sustainable

measure for reducing the risk of a 100-year level storm surge entering the outfall canals. The Interim Closure Structures (ICS) at each of the outfall canals will remain in place and functional until the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps are commissioned. At that time the interim structures will be dismantled.

The PCCP will be composed of permanent gated storm surge barriers

and brick façade pump stations across each of the three outfall canals and will be located at or near the lakefront. During a tropical weather event, the gates will be closed to reduce the risk of surge entering the canals, while the pumps will move interior rainwater out of the canals, around the gates and into Lake Pontchartrain. All of the perma-

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Mississippi Valley Division Change of Command, *see page 7*



Closures and Pumps are completed and functional.”

**From Interim to Permanent**

The ICS were constructed at all three outfall canals following Hurricane Katrina in 2005 to reduce the risk of storm surge from entering the drainage canals while simultaneously removing interior rainwater from much of Orleans Parish. These temporary structures have been maintained by the Corps of Engineers since that time and have been put into service on several occasions over the past seven years, including during Hurricanes Isaac and Gustav.

When complete, the PCCP at 17<sup>th</sup> Street will consist of six 1,800 cubic feet per second (cfs) pumps and two 900 cfs pumps and have a total pumping capacity of 12,600 cfs. The PCCP at Orleans Avenue will consist of three 900 cfs pumps and have a total pumping capacity of 2,700 cfs. The PCCP at London Avenue will consist of four 1,800 cfs pumps and two 900 cfs pumps and have a total pumping capacity of 9,000 cfs.

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ment structures will be equipped with stand-alone emergency power supply capacity so that they can operate independently of any publically provided utility.

The Corps of Engineers awarded the approximately \$615 million construction contract to PCCP Constructors JV in April of this year. On June 14, Corps leadership; national, state and local officials; the media; and interested citizens gathered at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Outfall Canal to ceremoniously break ground on construction of the PCCP, the last major risk re-

duction structures in the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

Construction is now progressing at all three outfall canals simultaneously and is expected to be completed in 44 months (2017).

“Public safety is the Corps’ number one priority,” said Dan Bradley, Senior Project Manager for the PCCP. “We want to assure the public that the Interim Closure Structures currently in place at the three outfall canals will remain in place and operational until the Permanent Canal

*Interesting Fact*

When fully operational, the three new pump stations at the outfall canals will be able to pump **24,300 cubic feet per second**. That is 181,777 gallons per second, or 10,906,597 gallons per minute!

**Neighborhood Impacts**

The outfall canals and PCCP construction activities are located in close proximity to residential neighborhoods and businesses; therefore, the Corps and its contractor are making a concerted effort to

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**Bypass Cofferdam Construction at 17th Street Canal**



**Construction Access Road at London Ave. Canal**



**Test Pile Construction at Orleans Ave. Canal**



17th Street  
Outfall Canal

*Conceptual Illustrations*  
**Permanent Canal  
Closures & Pumps**

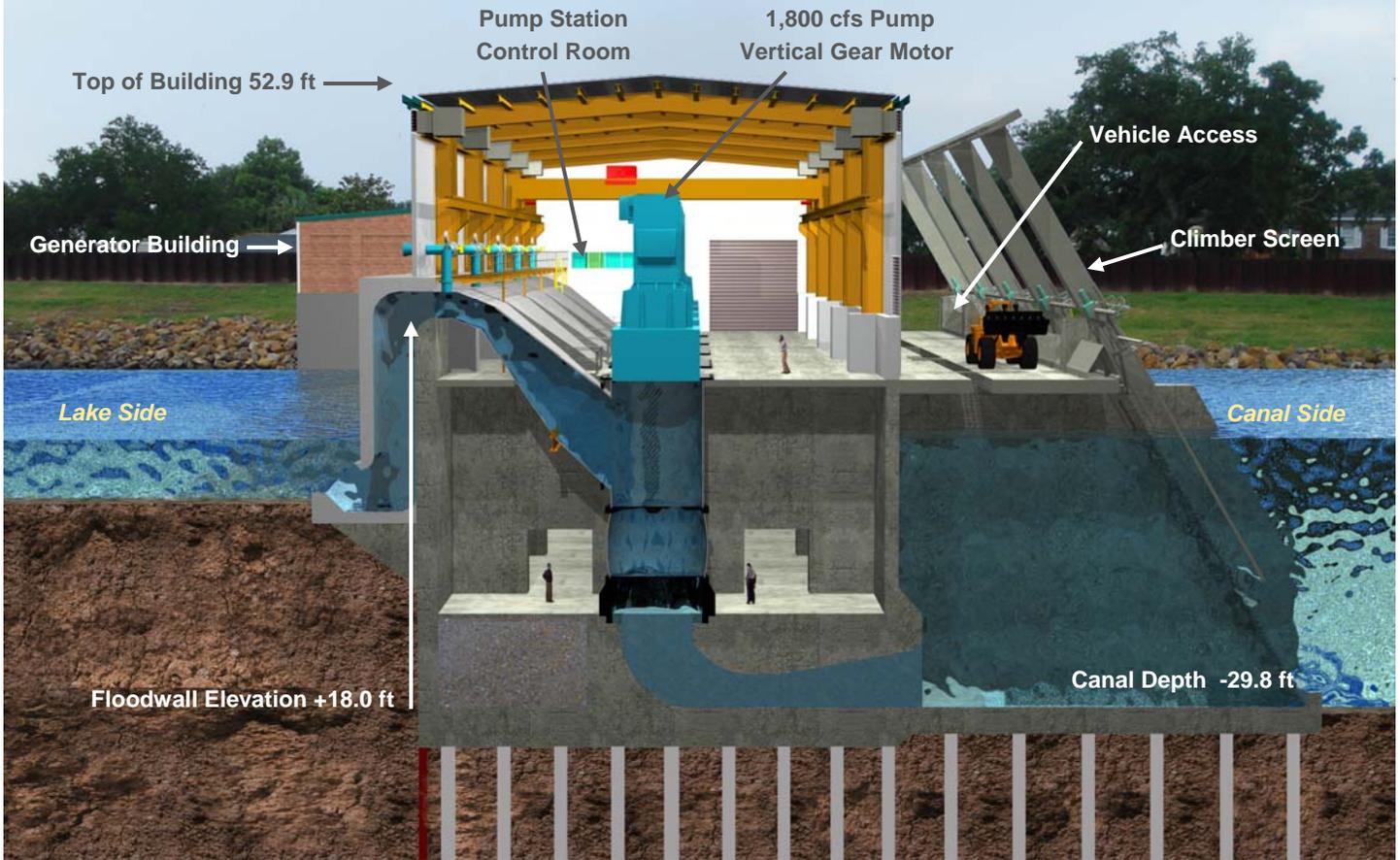


London Ave.  
Outfall Canal



Orleans Ave.  
Outfall Canal

# 17th Street Pump Station



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keep the community informed of possible road closings and other construction impacts, and will continue to do so throughout the entire construction process.

“Our goal is to have construction of the PCCP go as smoothly as possible,” explained Bradley, “to keep the community well-informed, and to hold construction impacts to a minimum. To that end we have already attended several neighborhood association meetings in the area and we have several more engagements planned. We will continue to use the *Construction Impact Hotline* which was established in 2008 for residents to call with any questions or con-

cerns they have regarding any Corps of Engineers construction activities including the PCCP.” That number is 1-877-427-0345.

### Third Largest HSDRRS Project

“The Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps project is the third largest construction contract in the \$14.6 billion Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System mission,” said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope.



Mike Park

“This is a critical element in reducing the risk of storm surge for the city of New Orleans.

“During the Project Partnership Agreement negotiation process, the Corps of Engineers listened to the non-Federal sponsor on this important project and accommodated their concerns by including engineered features that would facilitate future modifications should those be authorized and funded.

“We are very pleased to have construction underway on this critical risk reduction project.” 

For more information on the PCCP project:

- [www.mvn.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil)
- [www.facebook.com/PermPumps](https://www.facebook.com/PermPumps)
- [www.twitter.com/teamneworleans](https://www.twitter.com/teamneworleans)
- [www.flickr.com/teamneworleans](https://www.flickr.com/teamneworleans)



Senior Project Manager Dan Bradley, center, reviews PCCP plans with team members Cori Caimi, PCCP Administrative Manager, and Ana Petkova, a PCCP Project Manager.

USACE Photo

## PCCP Construction Milestones



- **Install Bypass Cofferdam\***  
Start Sept. 2013 Complete: Dec. 2013
- **Dewater Bypass Cofferdam\***  
Start Dec. 2013 Complete: Feb. 2014
- **Install Pump Station Cofferdam\***  
Start Nov. 2013 Complete: Nov. 2014
- **Pump Station Foundation Piling**  
Start July 2014 Complete: Sept. 2014
- **Dewater Pump Station Cofferdam\***  
Aug. 2014 (Orleans), Nov. 2014 (London) , Dec. 2014 (17<sup>th</sup>)
- **Superstructure Complete**  
May - Aug 2015
- **Generator Building Complete**  
Nov. 2014 – Apr. 2015
- **Install Pumps and Motors**  
Start: July 2015 Complete: Dec. 2015
- **First Pump Test – Jan 2016**
- **Contractual completion – 2017**

\*Cofferdam = a structure built to hold water out of a construction area

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The Task Force Hope *Status Report Newsletter* supports the information program for Task Force Hope and its stakeholders. It also serves as the primary tool for accurately transmitting the Corps' hurricane risk reduction efforts to stakeholders.

*This is an online publication that is open to public distribution.*

This issue and past issues can be found at:

[http://www2.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/hps\\_newsletters.asp](http://www2.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/hps_newsletters.asp)

and

<http://www.mvd.usace.army.mil/Media/PublicationsTaskForceHopeNewsletter.aspx>

Comments and questions may be sent to the Status Report Newsletter editor at: [b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil](mailto:b2fwdpao@usace.army.mil)

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#### **Status Report Newsletter**

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*Mississippi Valley Division*

# Change of Command



**During formal change of command ceremonies are, from left, Brig. Gen. Peter A. DeLuca, the new Commanding General of the Mississippi Valley Division; Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Chief of Engineers; Maj. Gen. John W. Peabody, outgoing Commander of MVD; and Eddie Belk, MVD Chief of Regional Programs.**

USACE Photos by Alfred Dulaney

**In** a formal change of command ceremony, Major General John W. Peabody transferred command of the Mississippi Valley Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to Brigadier General Peter A. "Duke" DeLuca, on Tuesday, September 24. The ceremony, held in the Vicksburg Convention Center, was officiated by the Corps' Chief of Engineers, Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick.



Maj. Gen. Peabody, MVD Commander and President of the Mississippi River Commission since November 2011, has been assigned as the Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington, D.C.

Brig. Gen. DeLuca comes to Vicksburg from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he was the Commandant of the United States Army Engineer School, United States Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence. He has also served as the Commanding General of the Corps' North Atlantic Division in Brooklyn, New York.

As MVD Commander, General DeLuca will be responsible for the Corps' water resources programs in a 370,000-square-mile area that includes portions of 12 states; its boundary extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. District offices are headquartered in St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans.

In addition, General DeLuca will be president-designee of the Mississippi River Commission, the presidentially appointed agency that oversees the comprehensive Mississippi River and Tributaries flood control and navigation project, as well as the entire Mississippi River and its tributaries.

"All of us at Task Force Hope extend a hearty welcome to Brigadier General DeLuca," said Mike Park, Chief of Task Force Hope which is an extension of the MVD. "We look forward to being part of your team and to putting the finishing touches on the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System on your watch!"



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