



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

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# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Rene Poche, 504-862-1767

April 28, 2008

## **Corps releases draft of Individual Environmental Report 15**

*Document discusses protection of Lake Cataouatche area*

**NEW ORLEANS** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, released Individual Environmental Report (IER) 15, entitled "Lake Cataouatche Levee, Jefferson Parish" today for a 30-day public review period. Public comments on IER 15 must be submitted to the Corps by 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 28, 2008.

The preferred alternative for IER 15 is an earthen levee, at an elevation of approximately 15 feet, with a floodwall protecting the Lake Cataouatche pump station. The levee enlargement project is located on the Westbank of Jefferson Parish.

"The footprint of the Lake Cataouatche Levee project has been environmentally cleared for upgrades that will reduce the risk of impacts from a storm event that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year," said Gib Owen, chief of the Corps' Ecological Planning and Restoration Section.

The Corps expects District Commander, Col. Alvin Lee, to sign the IER 15 decision record. IER 15 is a step toward awarding construction contracts on the Lake Cataouatche Levee. Lake Cataouatche is part of the Westbank and Vicinity portion of the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

Improvements to the Lake Cataouatche Levee will reduce risk in several areas on the Westbank of Jefferson Parish including Bridge City, Harvey, Lake Cataouatche, Marrero, Waggaman, Westwego and surrounding neighborhoods.

The Corps provided full descriptions of the alternatives under consideration for the Lake Cataouatche project area at public meetings on Jan. 15 in Avondale and Mar. 25 in Marrero.

Alternative arrangements allow the Corps to expedite the environmental process required of all federally funded projects while fully complying with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Corps mailed notices that IER 15 was available for review to parties who previously indicated their interest in reviewing the document. It can also be downloaded at [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov) where written comments may also be submitted through May 28.

Questions or comments concerning Individual Environmental Reports or the Corps' environmental process may be addressed to:

Gib Owen, PM-RS  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267  
Phone: 504-862-1337  
Fax: 504-862-2088  
E-mail: [mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil](mailto:mvnenvironmental@usace.army.mil).

For more information or to sign up to be on a meeting notification list please visit the following web site: [www.nolaenvironmental.gov](http://www.nolaenvironmental.gov).

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