

In The Matter Of:

La. Coastal Area Miss. Area Hydro. & Delta Mgmt. Study

*Nat'l. Environmental Policy Act Public Meeting
April 24, 2012*

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LOUISIANA COASTAL AREA
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
HYDRODYNAMIC AND DELTA
MANAGEMENT STUDY

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT
PUBLIC MEETING

* * * * *

The above-entitled cause came in for a meeting
at the Waveland Civic Center, 335 Coleman Avenue,
Waveland, Mississippi, on Tuesday, April 24th, 2012,
and commencing at 6:27 p.m.

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Reported by:
JoLyn A. Malley
Certified Court Reporter
In and For the State of Louisiana

A P P E A R A N C E S

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U.S. ARMY CORP OF ENGINEERS:

Timothy Axtman

Danny Wiegand

Joseph "Wes" LeBlanc

Micaela Coner

Sandy Stiles

Lee Mueller

* * * * *

1 MS. MUELLER:

2 We're going to go ahead and get started
3 tonight. My name is Lee Mueller. I work
4 in the Public Affairs Office at the Army
5 Corps of Engineers. Thank you very much
6 for joining us. I would like to recognize
7 some of the representatives we have with
8 us, the Mayor of Waveland, Mr. Garcia.
9 Also, we have Fred Sullivan representing
10 Congressman Palazzo's office. Thank you
11 for coming.

12 As I'm sure you've heard, this is a
13 joint study between the Corps of Engineers
14 in New Orleans and the State of Louisiana's
15 Coastal Protection and Restoration
16 Authority. I'll just go ahead and
17 recognize the team members we have here
18 with us this evening: Mr. Wes LeBlanc,
19 Program Manager; Micaela Coner, Study
20 Manager; and Chuck Peridon, Public
21 Information Director. He's in the back of
22 the room. And then from the Corps, Danny
23 Weigand, Planner; Tim Axtman, Senior
24 Planner; Bill McFarland, Manager; and Sandy
25 Stiles from the Environmental Branch.

1 As you can see, tonight is the fifth of
2 six public scoping meetings. We'll be out
3 in St. Bernard on Thursday, if you guys
4 have any family or friends you think will
5 be interested in learning more about this
6 study.

7 Real quick, what we're going to cover
8 tonight. First, we'll start with an
9 overview of the L.C.A., the Louisiana
10 Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Program,
11 then we'll move into some details about the
12 study we're here for tonight, the
13 Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta
14 Management Study. Then we'll go over the
15 National Environmental Policy Act Scoping
16 Process, which is your opportunity to give
17 public input into this study.

18 Now, we understand sometimes our
19 presentations are pretty technical and
20 science-based, so after the presentation
21 we'll have an informal question-and-answer
22 session. The team will be available to
23 answer any questions you may have.

24 Now, if you don't have a question but
25 you do have a comment, a complaint, or

1 maybe a compliment about the study we're
2 here for, the formal scoping session is
3 your opportunity to submit a formal
4 comment. The court reporter is here this
5 evening and she'll capture it in our formal
6 record. So if you want a formal comment to
7 be captured in the scoping report, the
8 formal scoping session is your opportunity
9 to do so. And so just to reiterate why
10 we're here tonight, public input is a
11 really important part of this process for
12 this study.

13 We'll just start the presentation.
14 First, Micaela Coner, with C.P.R.A., will
15 start the presentation.

16 MS. CONER:

17 Can everyone hear me all right if I
18 speak this way? Please let me know if for
19 any reason you can't hear me. I'm going to
20 start today by giving a little overview of
21 the Louisiana Coastal Area Program. It was
22 initiated based on a report that was
23 finalized in late 2004, early 2005. The
24 goal of the program is basically to revise
25 the current trend of ecosystem degradation.

1 The report identified 15 what we call
2 near-term projects that could be
3 implemented in the short-term. These were
4 the things that they said we need to go
5 ahead and get out and get these projects
6 accomplished to help save our coast, so
7 these were the critical needs.

8 At the same time, the report also
9 identified six long-term, large-scale
10 studies, so while you're implementing these
11 projects go ahead and take a closer look at
12 what we need to do over the long-term on a
13 broader scale for ecosystem restoration.

14 So what we're doing now is beginning
15 two of those long-term, large-scale
16 studies, and we're combining it into one
17 report. They are the Mississippi River
18 Hydrodynamic Project, which is studying
19 basically sediment and water patterns in
20 the Mississippi River, and then the
21 Mississippi River Delta Management Project,
22 which is going to focus on how can we use
23 those sediment and water resources in a way
24 that can create a sustainable coastal
25 environment in the basins.

1 Here is a map showing those 15
2 near-term projects that were identified in
3 the Louisiana Coastal Area Report. They
4 are made up of various types of projects,
5 river sediment production, marsh creation,
6 and barrier island restoration. These
7 projects we're currently working on. They
8 are in various stages, so some of them are
9 in planning, some of them are in what we
10 call pre-construction engineering and
11 design, which is that phase right before
12 construction.

13 So you can see that to date the
14 Louisiana Coastal Area Program has focused
15 on these near-term features, but now under
16 the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and
17 Delta Management Study we're going to take
18 a look at how these projects work in
19 concert, identify what gaps we have so that
20 we can recommend that those projects be
21 authorized by Congress.

22 This is a map showing our proposed
23 study area. Remember that this map is
24 currently in draft form. We need your
25 input and your feedback on this. It begins

1 at the mouth of the Mississippi River and
2 the Gulf and extends north into Vicksburg.
3 And the reason that we're doing that, we're
4 doing some modeling in the Mississippi
5 River and we want to try and capture some
6 of the complexities in the river a little
7 further north. This area right along the
8 coast here, we included that area to try
9 and capture some of what we call longshore
10 sediment transport processes, which is
11 basically the movement of sediment west
12 along the coast that is carried by wind and
13 water currents. That's why that area's
14 included.

15 We're going to continue to refine the
16 study area as we go. Once we find out more
17 information, we're going to choose where we
18 want to place certain projects, certain
19 coastal restoration features, and then
20 we're going to kind of delve in and take a
21 closer look at those specific areas. So
22 this will continue to be refined.

23 Here are some quick facts about the
24 project. As I talked about earlier, this
25 is the first large-scale, long-term study

1 which is authorized by the Water Resources
2 Development Act of 2007. In this study,
3 we're going to consider and evaluate the
4 benefits of what projects we propose under
5 the study, what the benefits will be, and
6 are also going to write what we call an
7 environmental impact statement that's going
8 to disclose what impacts these projects
9 might have to the river and to the coastal
10 areas.

11 We signed a cost-share agreement in
12 August of 2011. It's a \$25.3 M project.
13 It's slated to take approximately five
14 years. The State of Louisiana and Army
15 Corps of Engineers are 50/50 partners in
16 this project, so we share the work and we
17 share the cost 50/50.

18 Going into a little more detail about
19 each portion of this study, the
20 hydrodynamic portion of the study will
21 evaluate the Mississippi River system to
22 assess its operation with respect to
23 ecosystem restoration, flood risk
24 reduction, and navigation. So when we say
25 evaluate, we're going to quantify how much

1 and where the river resources are
2 available. We're going to develop tools to
3 evaluate those resources over time, and
4 then we're going to make decisions on how
5 to best implement restoration strategies to
6 maximum the use of those resources that are
7 available. Traditionally, the river has
8 been managed for navigation and flood
9 protection, so this study gives us the
10 chance to elevate ecosystem restoration as
11 a valuable service that the river provides
12 the coasts of Louisiana and the nation as a
13 whole.

14 The Delta Management portion of the
15 study is going to identify and evaluate
16 what features we need, what projects we
17 need to restore Delta growth, what we need
18 to do to build land. Some of the features
19 that we are going to look at might include
20 some of the larger scaled diversion
21 projects, 50,000 cfs, cubic feet per
22 second, and above. We might look at
23 diversion projects that are smaller than
24 that as well. We could potentially look at
25 the need to align the navigation channel,

1 realign the navigation channel. We will
2 also look at other features, such as
3 outfall management features, dedicated
4 dredging, etcetera, what are things that
5 are going to compliment and work together.
6 So all of these things will be considered.

7 Now, I don't want you to think that we
8 are starting from scratch. We are not
9 starting from scratch. From the State of
10 Louisiana's perspective, this study is
11 going to be heavily influenced by
12 Louisiana's 2012 Coastal Master Plan. It's
13 going -- basically, what the Coastal Master
14 Plan has done is identified projects and
15 features that the state feels is necessary
16 for restoring Louisiana's coast, so we're
17 going to take a closer look under this
18 study, help and form the placement and
19 operations of those projects and diversions
20 that were recommended in the Master Plan.
21 The type of analysis we need, we need more
22 detailed information to bring those
23 projects to construction. Also, we need to
24 provide information necessary for those
25 projects to be authorized through Congress.

1 The final deliverable for this study is
2 an environmental impact statement that will
3 disclose, as we discussed earlier, the
4 benefits and impact of those restoration
5 features that we select.

6 I'm going to turn it over to Danny
7 Wiegand, with the Corp, who's going to talk
8 a little about some of the problems we've
9 identified and some objectives that we
10 identified from the study.

11 MR. WIEGAND:

12 Good evening. Again, my name is Danny
13 Wiegand. I'm with the Corps of Engineers,
14 in New Orleans. First off, I'd like to
15 thank you all for coming out tonight,
16 taking time out of your busy schedules. We
17 really appreciate your input and look
18 forward to your feedback.

19 I'm going to talk a little bit about
20 the Corps' planning process and some of the
21 initial steps that we take when we initiate
22 the process. One of the first things we do
23 out the gate is try to identify the
24 problems and articulate it in a clear way.
25 It's very important to get a new planning

1 study on the right -- up on the right foot.

2 As Micaela said, we combined two
3 studies, the Hydrodynamic Study and the
4 Delta Management Study, into one. Really,
5 I think the Hydrodynamic Study is kind of
6 the river side, and then the Delta
7 Management Study is what happens in the bay
8 side. So this first problem that we have
9 up here is kind of what we have in the
10 river. We know a lot about what happens in
11 the river, but we are missing some data and
12 a little bit of a lack of understanding on
13 some of the -- on the resources that are
14 available and how having ecosystem
15 restoration in whole, how that changes
16 things with the traditional occurrences of
17 navigation and flood risk reduction. So
18 that's our first problem we've identified.

19 Then we started looking on the basin
20 side or the bayside, and I don't think this
21 is any news to anybody, but we're
22 experiencing land loss at a pretty rapid
23 rate from Southeast Louisiana, so land loss
24 and disruption of the deltaic process is
25 obviously a problem for us. Another

1 bayside problem, the bayside is a very
2 complex and dynamic system. And we still
3 have a lot to learn about that, so that's
4 definitely something that made our list.

5 Lastly, I'm sure you all are very
6 familiar with it as well, that the Gulf of
7 Mexico is encroaching on our communities
8 and our homes. I think we're all pretty
9 well aware of that.

10 So now that we have our problems
11 identified, the next step is look for what
12 opportunities do we have available to us
13 and how can we, you know, fix the problems
14 or make things better.

15 The first opportunity that we have
16 identified is we really looked to create
17 this systemwide suite of tools and data
18 sources that will be available to this
19 project as well as other restorations
20 projects, especially on a large scale and
21 more whole systemwide type of approach. So
22 that's the first opportunity.

23 Secondly, we see an opportunity to more
24 effectively manage those resources that we
25 just mentioned are a problem for us and

1 that we don't fully understand them. We
2 see an opportunity to more effectively
3 manage those resources, especially with
4 ecosystem restoration as whole, in addition
5 to navigation and flood risk reduction. We
6 see an opportunity here to go a step
7 further from things we've done in the near
8 past and reconnect the river and the
9 resources that are available in the river
10 to those basins in the bayside, whether it
11 be Barataria, Breton, or Pontchartrain, any
12 of those basins that are in our study area.

13 And then this is where we get into more
14 of a sustainability way of thinking. Once
15 we have a lot of these resources available
16 to us and we figure out what it is that
17 looks good, we want to influence those
18 processes and have a more net-positive
19 elevation in the receiving areas, so
20 essentially a sustainable coast is kind of
21 the bottom line with that.

22 And this last one similarly gets to
23 that. We see an opportunity to rethink
24 hydrology in the basins or the bayside of
25 the Delta and make and create things that

1 are going to last longer, be more
2 sustainable over time.

3 So now that we've identified the
4 problems and the opportunities, the next
5 step is to take all this information and
6 boil it down into a goal and some
7 achievable objectives. So what we've come
8 up with for the study goal is basically a
9 lot of the things I just talked about,
10 reconnecting the river and resources that
11 are available in the river and creating a
12 sustainable coast, and having all this work
13 in conjunction with navigation, flood risk
14 reduction. We don't want to compromise
15 those services that exist.

16 With that, that overall and
17 overreaching -- well, not overreaching, but
18 that overall goal, we've identified these
19 objectives, similar to a lot of the things
20 we've already seen, but we want to identify
21 those resources that are in the river and
22 quantify them to the best of our ability,
23 then figure out how to direct them so that
24 we can more effectively manage them and
25 also create a decision-making framework.

1 This is more of a programmatic approach to
2 what we're doing. We want to do things for
3 this study, but it will -- this first
4 long-term, large-scale restoration feature
5 of the L.C.A. Program, we want to look at
6 all coastal restoration and provide
7 framework for all these studies to have
8 something to work from as far as the
9 resources and understanding the dynamics
10 and complexities.

11 Lastly, this kind of goes back to the
12 sustainability. We want to get those
13 resources into the basin and the bayside
14 and keep them there and have that so that
15 you end up with a net positive in your
16 coastal area.

17 Now, I think that is all for me. I
18 think now I'll turn it over to Sandy to
19 explain the N.E.P.A. and scoping process.

20 MS. STILES:

21 Good evening. I appreciate you guys
22 coming out tonight to offer your
23 suggestions and input into this study. I
24 am a substitute environmental manager. The
25 true environmental manager on the study,

1 Bill Klein, he's been under the weather, so
2 I'm stepping in to help him out with this.

3 The National Environmental Policy Act
4 of 1969 ensures that environmental
5 information is available to the public and
6 decision-makers before decisions or
7 anything -- before any action is taken.
8 Also with that Act it spells out the
9 scoping process. It identifies an
10 opportunity for the public to provide input
11 into the study on what's important, where
12 you want the study to go, what the
13 significant resources are to you, what you
14 think the study should focus on, and the
15 scopes of the study, how big or how little
16 should the study be.

17 The Environmental Impact Statement,
18 whenever there's a major federal action
19 it's required that the Federal Government
20 prepare an Environmental Impact Statement,
21 E.A. or E.I.S. For this study we're doing
22 E.I.S. It will detail the environmental
23 impact of the action. Those can be
24 beneficial and those can be for there may
25 be mitigation, those kind of things.

1 Schedule for the E.I.S, the notice of
2 intent was published in the Federal
3 Register March 23rd of 2012. We're going
4 through the scoping process right now.
5 This is the fifth meeting of six public
6 meetings planned. The draft E.I.S. is
7 planned for November 2015. That's about
8 the time frame it will be presented to the
9 public for the 45-day comment period. The
10 final E.I.S. is expected in January 2016,
11 and then that would end for the record of
12 decision.

13 Scoping, as I stated, it was published
14 in the Federal Register March 23rd of 2012.
15 This is an opportunity for those interested
16 in the study to give your input and guide
17 the study on where it goes on the issues
18 that are important to you, what you want us
19 to talk about. This is your meeting. You
20 know, you can take it where you want to
21 take it and, you know, we welcome your
22 input. We want your input. The study can
23 only get better with your involvement.

24 After all of the scoping meetings, the
25 six scoping meetings, we're going to

1 develop a public scoping report. It's
2 planned after 30 days, so you would need to
3 provide your input within 30 days so that
4 we can get it into the scoping report.
5 However, scoping lasts throughout the
6 study, all the way through. Technically,
7 till you get to the final, but the sooner
8 you get your input in, the sooner we can
9 get it into the study that way. So if you
10 want your information into the scoping
11 report, we need your input in 30 days.
12 Those who are interested in receiving a
13 copy of the scoping report, provide your
14 name and address and we will make sure that
15 you get a copy.

16 So now is the question and answer
17 session. I have one suggestion just from
18 the other meetings and how they've gone,
19 save it for -- ask questions during this
20 period. Your comments really come after
21 the Q. and A. So I don't want anybody to
22 provide any comments, but we'd just ask
23 that you save them.

24 MS. MUELLER:

25 I'm going to have some of our team

1 members come up and sit up here.

2 MR. KIDD:

3 I'm Mark Kidd. I live here in
4 Waveland. Let's say this all goes through
5 and we go ahead and have the coastal
6 protection and everything else in
7 Louisiana. If we refer back to 2005 when
8 we had Hurricane Katrina, instead of us
9 having 30 feet of water, how much more do
10 you think we would have here?

11 MR. AUXTMAN:

12 Let me take that. Let me preface this
13 by saying that the things we're considering
14 in the districts we are studying, the
15 problems we'd have, and I did ask those in
16 regard to our coastal protection and so
17 forth, what I can tell you is if there was
18 a barrier plan proposed, you'd expect to
19 see the biggest impact from the Pearl River
20 in more of the -- and it's pretty
21 consistent from actual event from 100 up to
22 500 from the impact we saw. I'm talking on
23 top of whatever that surge is, not in terms
24 of --

25 MR. KIDD:

1 Have you ever been here during the
2 summer when we experience hard winds with
3 the levee that we have, just from east
4 winds on our inlands how much flooding we
5 have at that time? So I can really imagine
6 if we have a strong hurricane, something
7 that could be in our future with a barrier,
8 you know, the water's going to pile up.
9 And we do have a lot of low-lying areas in
10 Waveland and the Jordan River, so on. That
11 water's going to back up and pile up and
12 there's going to be flooding.

13 MR. AUXTMAN:

14 I will tell you this, what we -- and
15 this is working with Mobile on their
16 program, what we saw was from the Pearl
17 River about an additional two feet if we
18 had that barrier. As you go eastward,
19 probably about the time you get to Bay St.
20 Louis it's about five-tenths. By the time
21 you get to the Gulf, we're down to about
22 two-tenths. And that's on top of what --
23 so that's the impact.

24 MR. KIDD:

25 Is that with a storm like Katrina?

1 MR. AUXTMAN:

2 That additional amount of water was
3 pretty consistent regardless of the size of
4 the storm. With that impediment, those
5 numbers would be what we expect to see
6 additionally. We did get, I, I got about
7 300 letters from residents from Coastal
8 Mississippi at the end of that study that
9 came from the Mobile district that was sent
10 to that commander and then forwarded to us.
11 One of the things they pointed out, and
12 they were actually correct, was there
13 wasn't a sufficient level of coordination
14 in order to move forward with any option.
15 In fact, we didn't make any final
16 recommendations in that report. We pointed
17 to five or six things in multiple areas,
18 including the Eastern part of Louisiana,
19 that you'd like to see. But we didn't make
20 any final recommendation at that time. The
21 Master Plan does look at the broader range
22 of restoration, coastal protection. I
23 don't believe the Master Plan points to
24 that option.

25 MR. LEBLANC:

1 And just to be clear, this study is not
2 going to focus on protection measures.
3 This is just looking at ways to get the
4 resources from the river into the receding
5 basins. So, you know, in the event that it
6 would have impact to Mississippi, we're
7 going to take all that into consideration
8 when we look at that.

9 MR. KIDD:

10 I may disagree. You know, all the
11 information that we have, you know, I know
12 next year you all are going to go ahead and
13 put everything in place, but I'm just
14 really concerned what could happen to our
15 city, you know, from a storm. You know,
16 look where we're at right now over five
17 years past Hurricane Katrina. There are so
18 many assets that we still have along the
19 beach here, not so many. I would hate to
20 see something put in place that would harm
21 certain people by trying to protect
22 Louisiana.

23 MS. MUELLER:

24 That sounds like something maybe you
25 also could keep for the scoping comment

1 section as well to make sure that's
2 captured. Do we have any other questions?

3 MR. HINSON:

4 I'm Patrick Hinson, from Bay St. Louis.
5 The elevation for that, what time period
6 are you comparing it to that we can see
7 this kind of erosion we're having on the
8 coast, like as far as you all's map?

9 MR. WEIGAND:

10 Like Micaela mentioned in her
11 presentation, we have a lot of data already
12 from ongoing coastal restoration projects
13 in the Louisiana area, so we're going to
14 try to utilize as much of this new data,
15 this secondary data that is available. Our
16 study area is still pretty broad and we
17 target in on specific areas where we know
18 we've got a gap, then we might identify
19 some addition data. Right now we're
20 looking at secondary data.

21 MR. HINSON:

22 Then you need to know how fast things
23 are changing before you come up with a plan
24 of action?

25 MR. WEIGAND:

1 Right.

2 MR. AUXTMAN:

3 And that's in the study map for the
4 area. Basically, within that study area
5 we'll be assessing for future condition, 50
6 years out, 100 years out, into the future.
7 We're looking at different sea level rising
8 areas associated with that.

9 MR. GARCIA:

10 Well, I guess that goes along with the
11 question I was asking earlier, you know,
12 where we had the green spots marked that's
13 where you determined possible areas of
14 outflow to be taken out of the river to
15 determine a lot of these things, correct?

16 MR. AUXTMAN:

17 That will be the future with that
18 condition, how would we change the
19 condition.

20 MR. LADNER:

21 How much consultation have you had with
22 Vicksburg and Mobile in that?

23 MR. AUXTMAN:

24 As far as this study, we have a lot of
25 coordination with Vicksburg. We don't

1 really have as much coordination with
2 Mobile on this particular study. On
3 previous studies we were talking about, the
4 surge, we worked very, very close with
5 Mobile on that. That's, again, the
6 previous study we were talking about.

7 MR. LADNER:

8 When you dredge the rivers for flood
9 control, how much storm surge as you
10 renourish the marshes can you reduce on
11 Louisiana?

12 MR. LEBLANC:

13 It really depends on where we replace
14 that and, you know, what direction the
15 storm comes in from. But any marsh
16 restoration efforts or sediment placement,
17 we're going to evaluate that and look at
18 that particular area.

19 MR. LADNER:

20 If we don't renourish our marshes,
21 that's what we're going to do, we won't
22 protect out inlands from storms.

23 MR. LEBLANC:

24 We're only talking about a foot per
25 mile depending on the amount -- the type of

1 forestation. The rule of thumb is one foot
2 per mile of wetland.

3 MR. LADNER:

4 So that would have to be a very, very
5 viable question to us here in Mississippi
6 how much storm surge land reduced on our
7 side, because anything adversely affects
8 what's going on with us over here.

9 MR. GOINS:

10 Stradford Goins. A question regarding
11 the impact. How do you evaluate the
12 benefits to Louisiana at the expense of
13 Mississippi, specifically the benefits of
14 the shipping industry versus the industries
15 in Coastal Mississippi, the tourism and
16 gaming? You know, the things you're doing
17 to protect Louisiana are going to have
18 adverse impact on the industries here in
19 Mississippi. How does your study
20 specifically address that?

21 MR. WEIGAND:

22 To address the benefits part, we --
23 this is a national ecosystem restoration
24 study, so it focused on the ecosystem
25 restoration. And we go through the process

1 of quantifying typically wetland values up
2 close in your study area. So that gives us
3 benefits, and then as part of that, as part
4 of the broader evaluation process for the
5 project you have to look at impact to
6 fisheries or any socioeconomic concerns.
7 You know, as we get further along in the
8 process, we identify what sort of --

9 MR. GOINS:

10 So you're not looking at the industry,
11 the gaming industry, our tourism industry?

12 MR. WEIGAND:

13 Yeah. Yeah. That's what I'm saying.
14 Once we get -- you know, we're still very
15 early in the process and we have a big
16 study area. That's going to be --
17 ultimately need to narrow that down,
18 especially if we start targeting an area
19 that will have more obvious impacts to
20 Mississippi. We'll definitely start
21 coordinating more with Mobile and getting
22 --

23 MR. GOINS:

24 How do you address, say the future of
25 gaming, where our coastal communities are

1 looking to expand, you know, beyond the
2 number of casinos you have here? How will
3 your study address that future?

4 MR. WEIGAND:

5 I'm sorry, I misunderstood gaming. You
6 mean like casinos, stuff like that?

7 MR. GOINS:

8 Right.

9 MR. WEIGAND:

10 I mean, as far as our economics
11 analysis, I have to admit I'm not sure I've
12 ever seen that line item. But since we're
13 getting input, you know, that's something
14 that we can definitely incorporate when we
15 get into that point in the study and see
16 the need.

17 MR. AXTMAN:

18 The point Danny made is in the N.E.R.
19 study looks at ecological output, and it
20 will look at direct economic trail. I
21 don't believe the study at this point is
22 scoped to look at or quantify is there a
23 surge modification on that. I think that's
24 what you're referring to.

25 MR. GOINS:

1 Well, it's both. I'm looking at it
2 from the environmental side and the
3 economic side. From the environmental
4 side, are you all going to consider
5 anything, you know, the future? In a
6 couple years the Panama Canal will be
7 running and we'll have the largest ships
8 and they're going to dredge the river to go
9 deep and that's actually what caused the
10 wetlands to get in the situation that
11 they're in confining the river to those
12 banks. Now they're going to deepen it and
13 cause an even more adverse impact on the
14 environment. You know, the better solution
15 is, you know, eliminate the levees along
16 the river and let the river into the marsh,
17 but I doubt if your study's even considered
18 that.

19 MS. STILES:

20 The E.I.S. will address socioeconomic
21 impact, adverse and beneficial. To the
22 extent that we can quantify it, we will. I
23 think it's too early to tell exactly what
24 tools we would use to determine what those
25 impacts would be, but it's not going to be

1 like an N.E.D. We're not going to
2 determine the economic benefits in a dollar
3 amount, but from the standpoint of, you
4 know, putting a diversion it will have
5 impacts and ramifications and we do have to
6 address that, and they will be addressed.

7 MR. GOINS:

8 But specifically I'm trying to state,
9 the bottom -- the underlying problem with
10 the marsh is it is not getting nutrients
11 and fresh water, and the reason they're not
12 is because there's a levee. But there's no
13 plan, no consideration to just tell the
14 navigation industry, you know, we're topped
15 out. You've always conceded to the
16 navigation industry at the expense of the
17 environment. You know, is there any part
18 of this study that would address, you know,
19 that as an option, telling the navigation
20 industry that we've reached our capacity,
21 you know, this is it, we're not going to
22 damage our environment anymore just to
23 benefit your industry?

24 Actually, that would also get rid of an
25 adverse impact to the Coast of Mississippi

1 because what you've done with that river by
2 making a floodwall just puts it on St.
3 Bernard, New Orleans, and Mississippi, and
4 it's all for the benefit of the shipping
5 industry at the expense of Coastal
6 Mississippi. No one's looked at that as an
7 economic impact.

8 MR. WEIGAND:

9 Just to answer your question, just a
10 reminder, the goal of this study is to look
11 at getting the resources that are in the
12 river and then to connect over the years
13 getting those resources out of the river
14 and into the basins. But we do have to --
15 we are bringing ecosystem restoration up to
16 a level playing field with navigation and
17 wetland production. So I think to answer
18 your question, yeah, we are going to be
19 evaluating the three of them and how can
20 they coexist and still provide the
21 services.

22 MR. GOINS:

23 I wouldn't say on equal level because
24 you're going to have dredging to
25 accommodate those larger ships within two

1 years. The L.A.C.P.R. Master Plan is not
2 going to have a net gain on wetlands till
3 30 years from now. You can't say doing
4 something in 2 years versus 30 years is an
5 equal playing field.

6 MR. LEBLANC:

7 This study is going to evaluate the
8 capabilities the river has as it stands
9 now. We're going to look at alternative
10 navigation channels, and that may be
11 something that we have to look closer at if
12 we realize we can't meet our restoration
13 goals and keep navigation status quo.

14 MS. RAMSEY:

15 Does the Corp still have a model of the
16 Mississippi River somewhere, maybe like
17 Vicksburg or somewhere? I thought that
18 years ago there was a model. I thought
19 something was said somewhere about you had
20 a model of the Mississippi River. I'm
21 Sibyl Ramsey.

22 MR. WEIGAND:

23 I think Micaela mentioned it, we are --
24 the study area going up to Vicksburg on
25 that map that she showed you, and the

1 hydrodynamic side of the study of the river
2 we are testing a lot, data collection. And
3 we do have some existing models in certain
4 regions of the river, so we are utilizing
5 those existing models. We have one
6 dimensional, two dimensional, and multi
7 dimensional models with various parameters.

8 MS. RAMSEY:

9 Are those digital, or do you mean
10 actual physical --

11 MR. WEIGAND:

12 Digital, I'm sorry.

13 MR. LEBLANC:

14 And they do have a small scale model at
15 Louisiana State University. And they're
16 actually working to modify that and bring
17 it up to the new specifications, you know,
18 how the river's changed and whatnot.

19 MS. RAMSEY:

20 Okay. Because I thought years ago I
21 heard something about a model.

22 MR. LEBLANC:

23 They built it in France and brought it
24 over here, and then they're starting to
25 work on sections now.

1 MR. AXTMAN:

2 I think you're referring to basically a
3 model that has the river from Minnesota all
4 the way to the Gulf that was outside of
5 Vicksburg, and that is still there but it's
6 been decommissioned.

7 MS. RAMSEY:

8 I see. Thank you.

9 MS. MUELLER:

10 Any additional questions?

11 MR. LANDRY:

12 Steve Landry. Concerning along the
13 Gulf Coast, once you set the boundaries for
14 this study and the study's underway and you
15 find that something pops up, would the
16 boundaries be extended so that any problems
17 can be addressed, or once these boundaries
18 are established that's it?

19 MR. AXTMAN:

20 Typically once you set the boundary,
21 you have them set the model up within those
22 boundaries. If something would happen,
23 started showing up, we would consider
24 expanding that. I think in terms of what
25 land and vegetative response might be, I

1 think all that will occur within the
2 boundaries there. You know, the other
3 thing that's going on is soil changes,
4 what's happening in fresh and salt water.
5 You know, I think the model has a pretty
6 good handle on what the extent of that is,
7 but if there's something there once we
8 start running the models --

9 MR. LANDRY:

10 So there are reasons to extend that?

11 MR. AXTMAN:

12 Yes. We've done that on a couple of
13 studies here recently.

14 MR. SULLIVAN:

15 Fred Sullivan with Congressman
16 Palazzo's office. So if I understand what
17 you're saying, when you set the boundaries
18 for the study it's because you then take
19 these projects that you're looking at that
20 they wouldn't have impact outside of the
21 boundaries of the study; is that right?

22 MR. AXTMAN:

23 Right.

24 MR. SULLIVAN:

25 Thank you.

1 MR. GOINS:

2 Just one follow-up on that. You're
3 saying it won't have an impact beyond the
4 boundaries of your study, but it will.
5 It's an economic in addition to
6 environmental. When you -- the tourism and
7 gaming industry are going to be outside of
8 your boundary all the way to Jackson
9 County. You're going to have effects all
10 along the Coast with tourism and gaming.
11 They're going to be outside that project
12 boundary and have direct results of your
13 project. I mean, how are you going to
14 address that?

15 MR. AXTMAN:

16 I'm not sure I understand what --

17 MR. GOINS:

18 When you protect flood water from
19 Louisiana to Mississippi, you're going to
20 have an effect on our gaming and tourism
21 industry. And that's going to extend
22 beyond this artificial project boundary
23 line versus the actual impact along the
24 Coast. How are you going to address that?

25 MR. LADNER:

1 I'd like to expand it, if you ask me.
2 He talks about our gaming and tourism, and
3 fishing in your boundary lines that's
4 proposed here in your floodwalls. Our
5 port, which is the livelihood for Hancock
6 County, sits right outside these
7 boundaries. That's why I asked the
8 question, one, where are you going -- how
9 much storm surge and what are you going to
10 do? How much cooperation have you had from
11 Vicksburg and Mobile? Nobody I don't think
12 here has taken that into account.

13 I've listened to you all say about the
14 studies that you all have done already, but
15 I don't agree with them. I have to be
16 honest with you, that's just me. If you
17 have the majority of Hancock County's
18 taxpayers working out of our port, how do
19 you put a price on the livelihood of every
20 Hancock County resident here by creating
21 this, and also Hancock County, Mississippi
22 and as far as Mobile port with the tourism
23 and casinos?

24 MR. HINSON:

25 I think they're working on restoring

1 the marsh and reversing --

2 MR. LADNER:

3 They are. They are. They're reducing
4 the storm surge by building up sinking
5 Louisiana. While that reduces the amount
6 of storm surge that affects Louisiana,
7 which in turn is not going to be able to go
8 up in those marshes, will come over here
9 and flood our port that's the livelihood of
10 our people in Hancock County.

11 MS. CONER:

12 I think that that kind of does a
13 systemwide scope instead of just Louisiana
14 State. I kind of think of it as a large
15 city/river system. So I think hearing
16 tonight the comments that you've brought
17 up, I really appreciate the comments in the
18 scoping portion, that you feel that
19 expanding the study area would be a good
20 idea. There's going to be --

21 MR. LADNER:

22 And granted, with that being said,
23 that's why I came. I understand
24 Louisiana's putting up 50 percent match
25 that the Corps of New Orleans is. Here we

1 have Vicksburg in Mississippi that's not
2 implemented comes up to us and says, hey,
3 we have to protect what's down here. The
4 Mobile district runs right here. You have
5 to look at the opposite. They need to
6 consolidate them into one and that way
7 there's a formal study done along the whole
8 Gulf Coast to see how much it impacts not
9 only the levees, the restoration of the
10 marshes, but everything, even the closing
11 of Lake Pontchartrain and Slidell's going
12 to be adversely affected. There has not
13 been a whole study that I have seen between
14 the three of them. Granted, the person is
15 here tonight that's lived to fight for us
16 who happens to have an opinion, and I would
17 almost encourage him to stand up and
18 interject something.

19 MR. PULLMAN:

20 I intend to. I had my hand up.

21 MR. AXTMAN:

22 That's a good point, and we like to
23 have your comments. I would suggest, you
24 know, what you want to say is you want to
25 make sure we look at modification storm

1 surge as part of this. That will make a
2 totally different model than what we're
3 fitting into these boundaries. The model
4 that we have in front of you, that wouldn't
5 be the Gulf. It would be the model that
6 we've run already for the Gulf post
7 Katrina. Anywhere we're looking at surge,
8 we're looking at storm tracks.

9 MR. PULLMAN:

10 My name is Rodrick Pullman,
11 R-O-D-R-I-C-K, Pullman. I live in
12 Pearlinton. I've got a few questions. I
13 mean, the Mississippi River's been in
14 existence for a long, long time. You've
15 got the Old River construction site and you
16 also have the Morganza Spillway. Have you
17 all been able to tie that into any past
18 studies to show the major benefits from
19 inducing sediments from the Mississippi
20 River and what it's accomplished on the
21 West side of the Mississippi River system?
22 Can you tell us what that's accomplished,
23 because that's exactly what you've done?
24 And you've also done some induction through
25 the Bonnet Carre Spillway.

1 I'd just like to know what are the
2 benefits from the past. Have you studied
3 what's the benefits and what benefits are
4 we going to see on this side? And I
5 understand the concerns of Bonnet Carre
6 dropping into Lake Pontchartrain and the
7 fact that it runs basically down what most
8 people call the Northshore and empties into
9 the Rigolets Pass, but as that goes out it
10 goes through Booger Lake and that goes out
11 and goes through Middle Lake and the East
12 Pearl River, and those are the concerns
13 that we have.

14 We want to know that you may think
15 you're protecting flood systems from
16 occurring in Louisiana, but the water
17 deflects. You know, marsh, you're going to
18 build it over a foot or two, that's it. If
19 you get a storm surge of 15 feet, 20 feet
20 above that, well guess what, what you've
21 done didn't have no impact whatsoever.
22 Then the levees built by the Corps then
23 become deflectors and it does shoot stuff
24 over our way. So, I mean, I think that's a
25 big concern.

1 You know, I think the bottom line is
2 the people in Mississippi just want to know
3 that the federal dollars that they're
4 paying in to agencies just like the Corps
5 of Engineers is being used to protect them,
6 too, or to be encompassed in the study to
7 show what impacts are going to us and what
8 is our life going to be after this is done.
9 Once you've incorporated this, how is it
10 going to impact us? Do we have to move to
11 higher ground? I think that's the big
12 concern here.

13 I think you just need to look further
14 what can be accomplished by Old River site,
15 Morganza Spillway, and then over this way.
16 You know, when you open up the Bonnet
17 Carre, how is it affecting the Louisiana
18 marsh and is it providing any assets in
19 growth that actually helps them, because
20 the marsh basically is a barrier. Anyway,
21 that's a question with a concern, and I
22 hope you all look at that.

23 MR. AXTMAN:

24 I can tell you what we do have. We
25 have studied the Bonnet Carre and sediment

1 through there, what happens to that
2 material. The coarse material and stuff,
3 93 percent of that never makes it to the
4 lake. The Morganza similarly is a long way
5 over land flowing before it gets back to
6 the channel. Old River, now we do see some
7 pretty significant delta involvement at the
8 lower end of that system. So we see in
9 some of the process anywhere that water
10 goes it's slowly coming back. We kind of
11 have some background data what's relative
12 performance of those waters through. We
13 looked at the Westbank that was cut below
14 Venice a few years ago and how that system
15 -- we're using all that information.

16 We still need to know more about how
17 diversions are going to perform. There's
18 both retention and reduction in land that
19 we're looking for.

20 MR. PULLMAN:

21 Let me ask you this. I apologize for
22 not knowing you all's names. I came in
23 late and I'm sorry for that. With that
24 being said, is the study that you're taking
25 under today and you want to move forward

1 with, could the information that you gather
2 on the ecosystem eventually be used to
3 construct levees knowing that your areas --
4 you've learned all the eco what is and what
5 isn't? I mean, can that be used to -- this
6 information that you've gathered, could it
7 be used to future levee designs that you
8 will incorporate to protect Louisiana?

9 MR. AXTMAN:

10 One of the findings in the L.A.C.P.R.
11 report that we pointed to was, one,
12 (inaudible) would provide a highly wild
13 number, it varies widely; two, using
14 wetlands or swamp as a form of storm surge.
15 Not that they can't have a storm surge or
16 don't have an affect, but if you want that
17 to be a reliable, if you want to reduce the
18 levee bank by a couple feet trying to keep
19 some of live marsh in place or 100 yards of
20 trees in place probably isn't -- it's a
21 highly risky thing to do. In any event
22 we're going to lose that and it's really
23 difficult to get it back. The objective of
24 most of this restoration is to keep what's
25 out there now in place so that what we have

1 structurally is reliable. We did find if
2 we don't do anything and we let it go,
3 there's a significant increase in risk.

4 MR. PULLMAN:

5 Let me say this just so you all
6 understand. I have been very supportive of
7 ecosystem restoration. I am very
8 supportive. The only thing I'm concerned
9 about, though, unfortunately people - and
10 this is where you get into the public side
11 of it - they want protection from future
12 floods. You know, the Corps, I have bashed
13 the Corps up and down, left and right, and
14 I'm not proud of that, but let me say that
15 at the end of the day the Corps is directed
16 by Congress to take on these projects. You
17 don't wake up and say, we want to do this,
18 and you take off and do it. I know that.
19 And for the times that I've got on the
20 Corps, you know, I guess I'm saying, you
21 know, I probably shouldn't have.

22 I should have gone to our congressional
23 leaders and told our congressional leaders
24 they fell short at the end of the day and
25 get them to include us in the study in the

1 flood control protection system and that's
2 what needs to be changed. We need to do
3 that.

4 We need to basically back up and
5 encompass what you're going to impact in
6 your study area. You know that the water
7 don't flow in your boundary lines. That's
8 not quite right. We need to encompass
9 those areas where the water actually flows
10 to, and that is Mississippi. We'd
11 appreciate that. Thank you.

12 MR. GOINS:

13 Doesn't the N.E.P.A. laws prohibit
14 transferring the problem from one
15 jurisdiction to another, specifically flood
16 waters?

17 MS. STILES:

18 What N.E.P.A. requires is that it's a
19 disclosure law. It requires that we obtain
20 input and that we also present the
21 environmental documents where the impacts
22 of the proposed action are and the
23 alternatives. So we need to talk about
24 everything. It's true that our model
25 sometimes we see that we're going outside

1 the imaginary boundary line and that, yeah,
2 there are things that are happening in
3 Mississippi. Those things have to be
4 discussed in the E.I.S.

5 MR. GOINS:

6 Well, two things specifically where,
7 like I said, from one jurisdiction is
8 adversely affecting another. Again, when
9 the river is -- when the surge comes, you
10 know, moving from east to west, when it
11 hits that river levee it backs up. That's
12 an artificial barrier that has an adverse
13 affect here. The other thing is those
14 river levees are starving the coast of the
15 nutrients that used to flow here, now even
16 more because of the environment of the
17 river.

18 So, you know, you're protecting again
19 the shipping industry at the expense of the
20 environment here in Mississippi in two
21 different ways, one with confining the
22 river and starving us of the nutrients and
23 the other is putting up that levee and
24 having that water build up. If that
25 barrier wasn't there, that surge wouldn't

1 go through, wouldn't build and dump back
2 here, and would get the nutrients.

3 MS. MUELLER:

4 That sounds like something you need to
5 comment in the scoping part. Do we have
6 any additional questions?

7 MR. HINSON:

8 Patrick Hinson. Now, I know N.O.A.A.,
9 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
10 Administration, they map the coastline of
11 the U.S. ever five years. Have you ever
12 thought about asking for their input in
13 some of the data they have so maybe you can
14 look at a bigger picture?

15 MR. LEBLANC:

16 We look at all the information
17 available. N.O.A.A. is actually a partner
18 in the study, N.O.A.A., E.P.A. Any
19 information that's out there we're going to
20 bring in.

21 MR. HINSON:

22 Good deal.

23 MR. PULLMAN:

24 One more follow-up on that, and this is
25 just real brief. If you all would, is

1 there any way for the comments that's been
2 gathered here in Mississippi to be given to
3 the Mobile district? I would appreciate
4 that. It probably wouldn't hurt to send
5 them to Vicksburg also.

6 MS. MUELLER:

7 We can make sure they get a copy.

8 MS. RAMSEY:

9 Sybil Ramsey. Your line includes
10 Chandelier Island chain, what's left of it.
11 So you are hoping that some sediment will
12 somehow manage to get out that far and
13 maybe restore before it disappears or --

14 MR. WEIGAND:

15 Well, again, that's more just a
16 conceptual study area. It's not very -- as
17 you said, it's a pretty broad-sweeping
18 area. In order to at least do a -- we're
19 trying to capture -- protect and influence
20 area where sediment may actually end up
21 could be what we end up as targeting as the
22 various hydrodynamic study will give us,
23 through their modeling give us more
24 information on optimal locations in the
25 river to actually do diversions. So where

1 that ends up and how that sediment makes
2 its way that far out will close in on what
3 we, you know, end up narrowing in on as far
4 as project area. So it's more just to
5 capture, you know, the areas we're
6 considering the scope of the project.

7 MS. RAMSEY:

8 Will some of your results be online so
9 people can look at them?

10 MR. WEIGAND:

11 We already have a website and we will
12 present that in a little bit. We already
13 have a website for the study. We don't
14 have any data yet, but information will be
15 put there that people can check in and see
16 what has been done.

17 MS. RAMSEY:

18 Thank you.

19 MR. GOINS:

20 Current federal regs, if I'm not
21 mistaken, prohibited additional
22 expenditures for pumping sediment into the
23 marshes. How will this project get around
24 that or -- because right now the majority
25 of the sediment falls off the continental

1 shelf. Again, they're going to dredge the
2 river, deepen the river, so it's going to
3 be flowing faster and you're going to have
4 even more sediment going off the
5 continental shelf. If the regs currently
6 prohibit you from, you know, putting in
7 pipelines to deposit the dredging material,
8 how do you envision building that marsh if
9 the regs, you know, confine us? Don't they
10 have something about some sort of cost
11 limitation on how far they can put --

12 MS. STILES:

13 I think you're getting into the federal
14 interest, taking sediment beyond federal
15 interest.

16 MR. GOINS:

17 Well, I see a problem with the regs
18 because there's a benefit for the shipping
19 industry, you know, doing this for them,
20 that industry, again, adverse to the
21 environment. There's not a balance there.
22 You know, the total cost should include
23 putting back where nature would normally
24 put it had the project not been there.
25 They're not taking that into account. It

1 seems to be one-sided for the dredging and
2 navigation project at the expense of the
3 environment. Maybe there's some sort of
4 way the members of Congress or assistants
5 can get some legislation to change that,
6 because without it, to be quite frank, you
7 know, I don't see these projects coming to
8 fruition without some change.

9 MS. STILES:

10 I think that's a good comment to make
11 for the scoping and comments that we could
12 record down and, you know, something that
13 needs to be looked into. Do we have
14 anymore questions? Are you guys ready to
15 move into getting comments?

16 MS. MUELLER:

17 If anyone wants to stick around after
18 the meeting is formally closed, they can go
19 ahead and ask some more questions then.

20 MS. STILES:

21 For the scoping part, if you could, we
22 have some kind of guidelines for, you know,
23 how to formulate your comments. It helps
24 us if we can get specific. We've heard
25 some very specific things that were

1 -- that came in the form of questions, like
2 including Mobile district, including
3 Vicksburg district. What I was hearing
4 from that is you want them as part of the
5 team. So in giving your comments, if you
6 could kind of be specific, if you have
7 certain things, alternatives, different
8 things that you want the study to look at,
9 resources that -- we heard navigation,
10 heard economics as things that are very
11 important here. So if you could form your
12 comments specifically, that helps us a
13 great deal. If anybody has a comment
14 they'd like get on the Record.

15 MS. MUELLER:

16 Before we start, please stand up and
17 state your name and face the court reporter
18 so she can capture your comment.

19 MR. LADNER:

20 Tony Ladner. Let me reiterate what I
21 said earlier that there needs to be a
22 formal study with New Orleans, Vicksburg,
23 and Mobile districts involved for a total
24 impact of not only the Louisiana coast,
25 Mississippi coast, also the Alabama

1 coastline for a regional study instead of
2 putting it just on Louisiana with it
3 adversely affecting all three states.

4 MS. STILES:

5 I appreciate your comment. Go ahead.

6 MR. LANDRY:

7 Steve Landry. Could the study, the
8 boundary studies include for looking at
9 transportation and also look at baseline in
10 Hancock County things like recreation,
11 fishing, and tourism?

12 MS. STILES:

13 Thank you for your comment. Anybody
14 else?

15 MR. GOINS:

16 Stradford Goins. I have several
17 comments. One, specifically, how are you
18 going to address getting the sediment to
19 the marshes, one, with the limitations
20 under regulations on depositing dredging
21 material; two, with the climbing of the
22 river with the levees, starving the
23 wetlands of the nutrients. You know, are
24 any considerations given to, you know,
25 putting significant breaches, not just

1 diversions, significant breaches in levees
2 to allow the sediment and the fresh water
3 to flow naturally? Is there also any
4 consideration to telling the shipping
5 industry that the river is maxed out, you
6 know, we've reached the point to where
7 we're not going to harm the environment
8 anymore to their benefit?

9 The other question I'd like to see
10 addressed is how this is -- the future
11 depth of the river to accommodate the
12 Panama ships, you know, if we can fit it in
13 this study. If they have to dredge the
14 river deeper than it's currently dredged,
15 the river's going to end up with higher
16 velocity, more sediment that's just going
17 to fall off the continental shelf. And
18 that's the sediment we're going to need for
19 these projects that we won't have. I'd
20 like to see how you're going to address
21 that.

22 The final thing I'd like to see them
23 address is the economic impact, the true
24 economic impact of not only this coast and
25 the wetland restoration but the existing

1 conditions you have in Louisiana, the
2 levees and floodwalls and future projects
3 that they're considering for flood
4 protection. How does that consider the
5 negative economic impacts that those
6 projects will have along coast of
7 Mississippi?

8 MS. STILES:

9 Thank you for your comment.

10 MR. GARCIA:

11 David Garcia, Mayor of Waveland. Added
12 to his comment, I think what needs to be
13 added to that is if this is completely
14 restored as planned, what would be
15 additional total storm surge that we could
16 expect and how far inland as well should be
17 added to that.

18 MS. STILES:

19 Thank you. Anybody else have a
20 comment? (No response.) I guess that will
21 end that and we'll move on. So your verbal
22 and written comments are accepted by
23 e-mail. I was telling you earlier I'm a
24 substitute environmental manager for Bill
25 Klein. There's his contact information,

1 and there's the address for postmarking and
2 sending in your comments by May 4th so that
3 they can get into the scoping report. I'm
4 going to let Lee take it from here.

5 MS. MUELLER:

6 And we also have written comment cards
7 out on the table if you have family and
8 friends who aren't able to be here today
9 and you think they may have a comment
10 they'd like to submit for the report. You
11 can find those out on the table.

12 Like we said, we do not want to just go
13 and pop something out in five years. We do
14 want to engage the public a lot throughout
15 the study. We do plan on participating in
16 several coastal restoration conferences,
17 State of the Coast, in New Orleans, is one,
18 definitely a stakeholder's engagement
19 meeting.

20 The Corps has a speaker's bureau
21 request. You can fill out a form and a
22 representative can come talk to your
23 neighborhood association, a coastal
24 restoration group. And then we also have
25 yearly formal updates plan with the team.

1 R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E

2 I, JoLyn A. Malley, Certified Court
3 Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, as
4 defined in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil
5 Procedure and/or Article 1434(b) of the Louisiana
6 Code of Civil Procedure, do hereby state on the
7 Record:

8 That due to the interaction in the
9 spontaneous discourse of this proceeding, dashes (--)
10 have been used to indicate pauses, changes in
11 thought, and/or talkovers; that same is the proper
12 method for a Court Reporter's transcription of
13 proceedings, and that the dashes (--) do not indicate
14 that words or phrases have been left out of this
15 transcript;

16 That any words and/or names which could not
17 be verified through reference material have been
18 denoted with the phrase "phonetic."

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20 JoLyn A. Malley, C.C.R.

21 Certified Court Reporter

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, JoLyn A. Malley, Certified Court Reporter, in and for the State of Louisiana, do hereby certify that the proceeding is set forth in the foregoing pages;

That the proceeding was reported by me in Stenomask and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision, and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding;

That I am not related to the parties hereto, and I am in no way interested in the outcome of this event; and am a valid member in good standing of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Certified Shorthand Reporters.

JoLyn A. Malley

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