



Corps of Engineers and construction industry collaboration to save time and money in implementation of Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System improvements

BATON ROUGE, La. September 30, 2009 - A working group of Corps of Engineers staff and members of the Greater New Orleans Construction Task Force has been meeting for months with the goal of improving the implementation of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) efforts underway through 2011. The effort will enhance implementation of the HSDRRS and save time and money in the construction of the system.

“We realized early on that the urgency and complexity of improving the risk reduction system required a close working relationship between the Corps of Engineers and the contractors”, said Tony Zelenka of Bertucci Construction Corporation. “There has been a commitment by both sides to identify potential challenges and collaborate on the means to address these challenges.”

One example of the benefits of this collaboration has been a refinement in the Corps restrictions on contractors levee work during hurricane season. The revised standards provide for a process of “sealing” the levees and also provide for a limited construction area during the peak of hurricane season. While putting a premium on safety, the refined standards are more cost effective to contractors than some other standards that had been discussed and it is estimated the new standards could save thousands of dollars for each mile of levee. With over 100 miles of levee being constructed and improved, the savings will be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars as a result of the collaboration on this issue.

Working group member Phyllis Adams with Phylway Construction provided the field test necessary to get final Corps approval of the refined “under construction” levee standard for hurricane season. “Phylway was happy to provide the resources necessary to get final approval on this hurricane season standard for under construction levees. The contracting community is eager to see the implementation of this system go extremely well and we appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the Corps as these projects are planned and constructed.”

Other topics covered by the working group include payment timelines, procurement procedures, materials testing standards and material specifications. In all of these areas, new or refined

practices and procedures have been introduced since Hurricane Katrina and the working group spent considerable time discussing the best way to implement these changes.

As the New Orleans District of the Corps of Engineers enters an intense two year period of project work, the working group will continue to meet.

Several members of the Coast Builders Coalition participate in the working group including Phyllis Adams with Phlyway Construction, Tony Zelenka with Bertucci Contracting Corporation and Villere Cross with Manson Gulf.

About the Coast Builders Coalition

The Coast Builders Coalition is a group of companies active in coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects in Louisiana that are committed to constructing a fully functioning system that enables a sustainable coast for the future.

For additional information contact:

Scott Kirkpatrick
President
Coast Builders Coalition
225-754-4874
skirkpatrick@cypressgroupdc.com

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