

## **INNER HARBOR NAVIGATION CANAL (IHNC) LOCK REPLACEMENT PROJECT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA.**

The IHNC Lock Replacement Project has a long history of public concern since the original authorization was established in 1956 and the first public meeting was held in 1960. Historic and current public concerns focus around the potential neighborhood disruption associated with the long duration of the project. These concerns include noise from pile driving activities, traffic delays associated with the replacement of two bridges across the IHNC, and the construction of new floodwalls for flood risk reduction. Dredging activities, with particular emphasis on the disposal of dredged material not suitable for open water disposal, are also ongoing public concerns. In 1997, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District that evaluated a replacement lock located within the existing IHNC, north of the Claiborne Avenue Bridge. In 2007, the Federal District Court, Eastern Louisiana District, enjoined the project and required preparation of a Supplemental EIS to describe the changes in existing conditions after Hurricane Katrina and analyze impacts to the post-Hurricane Katrina human and natural environment. GSRC was tasked by the New Orleans District to prepare the Supplemental EIS, which addressed several alternatives including cast-in-place and float-in-place construction methods for the IHNC Lock. The proposed action also included disposal of over 2 million cubic yards of dredged material; the replacement of the Claiborne Avenue Bridge and St. Claude Avenue Bridge; the construction of a temporary St. Claude Avenue Bridge; the construction of new floodwalls along the IHNC from the River to the new lock to provide Mississippi River flood level risk reduction; and the restoration of a wetland area near the project site for mitigation to project-related wetland impacts. GSRC participated in weekly project delivery team meetings, assisted the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the preparation of the Wetlands Value Assessment to determine the impacts of the construction of a graving site and a confined disposal facility, prepared a wetland mitigation and monitoring plan for impacts to wetlands due to the construction of a dredged material confined disposal facility, updated the noise and traffic analysis, and performed the post-Katrina socioeconomic condition evaluation. GSRC also peer reviewed the updated economic analysis which estimated the Remaining Benefit Remaining Cost Ratio. GSRC prepared and distributed over 100 bound copies and 100 electronic copies of the six volume report, and addressed all public and agency comments on the draft and final versions of the Supplemental EIS. GSRC completed the final Supplemental EIS for CEMVN in May 2009, which was 9 months after receiving the final alternatives descriptions.

