



Army Corps Liable For Katrina Flooding

“Court Decision Confirms Urgent Reforms Needed to Right Army Corps’ Practices to Protect Communities, Taxpayer Dollars, and the Environment.”

**Statement by Larry Schweiger
President & CEO, National Wildlife Federation**

***On Federal District Court Ruling Army Corps of Engineers
Liable for Damages Caused in Katrina Flooding***

Washington, DC (November 19) – “We are just beginning to witness the fallout in New Orleans where a Federal District Judge ruled that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is not immune when its negligence results in a major flood disaster.

“The Court decision is yet another wake-up call for the Administration and Congress to make changes to federal water policies to better protect people, communities, and the environment as well as ensure that taxpayer dollars are wisely spent.

“The Court decision confirms what’s been known for some time: that an ill-conceived and poorly maintained navigation channel acted as a hurricane funnel – unleashing a storm surge that flooded the Lower 9th Ward and others parts of New Orleans and St. Bernard Parish. Congress and the Administration should immediately redouble their efforts to provide adequate flood protection to the people of Louisiana including restoring millions of acres of coastal wetlands that once provided the critical first line of defense against hurricanes.

“The Administration should also implement the post-Katrina reforms enacted by Congress in 2007 which would make the Corps of Engineers seek independent review of expensive or controversial projects, better off-set its projects’ wetlands impacts, and

bring its project planning into the 21st century by making environmental protection and restoration, and public safety driving objectives in all project planning.

“We need these urgent actions to prepare people in Louisiana and high-risk, flood-prone areas across America for stronger storms and sea-level rise driven by global warming.”

The National Wildlife Federation inspires Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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