

## HOW TO APPLY FOR A LEVEE DISTRICT PERMIT

A levee board permit must be obtained from the Plaquemines Parish Government, West Bank or Grand Prairie Levee Districts, for performance of any subsurface work, such as soil borings, groundwater monitoring wells and for any type of drillings, pile driving, deep excavations, or foundations within 1500 feet of the Mississippi River Levee centerline or within 300 feet of the Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Levee, and for any other structures to be constructed across the levee and the adjacent batture. Performance of all subsurface work within 1500' of the river levee is usually restricted when the stage of the Mississippi River is above +11.0 feet on the Carrollton gage, at New Orleans, Louisiana. As a consequence, subsurface work should be scheduled for performance during the low-water period (typically June through November) to avoid delays in performance of the proposed work. However, the applicant can request a waiver of that +11.0' restriction up to +15.0' on the Carrollton gage which will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

A simple letter request with adequate drawings should be submitted to the Plaquemines Parish Levee District, with a copy sent to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) office, and a copy to the Corps of Engineers, Operations Division, Completed Works (OD-W).

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Plaquemines Parish Government  
Coastal Restoration Director  
Coastal Resources and Protection Department  
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Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority  
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225-342-4511  
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Ms. Amy Powell  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District  
Operations Division, Completed Works  
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New Orleans, Louisiana 70118  
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[MVNLeveePermits@usace.army.mil](mailto:MVNLeveePermits@usace.army.mil)

The letter request should include the DATE, WHAT facilities you plan to install or construct, WHERE you plan to install or construct the facilities, a SCHEDULE of when you intend to begin and complete the work, and the NAME and TELEPHONE NUMBER of the project manager or responsible agent.

The applicant should include the following drawings with the request:

- a. A vicinity map showing the location of the project.
- b. A plan view drawing show all existing and proposed facilities at the site. This drawing should show levee access ramps, batture roads and parking areas, utilities, all new facilities within 1500 of the river levee or 300' from the hurricane protection system, distances from the facilities to the levee toe, etc., and the actual levee station at each end of the project. Levee stations are generally marked on wooden stakes on the levee crown at 1000-foot intervals (ex: 2820+00).
- c. For proposed work to cross the levee, cross sections of the levee and adjacent area, drawn to a scale of 1-inch equals 20 feet both horizontal and vertical and plotted to 0.0 feet North American Vertical Datum 88 (NAVD88), with the facilities improvements superimposed on this section. The cross

section must be taken perpendicular to the levee centerline and extend to a point that will allow for adequate technical review (50 feet beyond the project limit, if practical).

- d. Drawings showing specific details of the proposed work.

**The applicant should be aware that adequate review of a permit request may take as little as two days or as long as several months, depending upon the nature of the request, the volume of requests being reviewed at the time, and possible delays for modifications to the original proposal. Therefore, providing complete and accurate information and clear drawings for the proposed project is highly important. Usually, 3 to 6 weeks are required for the Corps' internal review and approval of major projects.**

Standard Criteria:

1. If the permit request is for construction of a building landward of the levee, the drawings required are a survey plan, plot plan, and foundation plan. If there is any excavation required, an excavation plan should accompany the request.
2. The proposed work must not restrict the Levee District's maintenance operations or any potential flood fight activities at the levee, nor shall it obstruct or impede inspection access along the levee crown.
3. If power poles, guys, or other appurtenant structures are to be placed, they must not be on the levee or within 10 feet of the landside levee toe or 40 feet of the riverside levee toe.

4. Pipeline Crossing Criteria:

- a. No piles are allowed in the authorized design levee section. Footings do not penetrate the authorized design levee section.

- b. Details of the proposed pipelines crossing the Mississippi River levee must be submitted for review and approval. The pipelines must be constructed in accordance with our standard drawing, "Standard Details for Pipeline Crossings Over Levees", copy enclosed. The details must include a recent cross section of the Mississippi River levee taken by a registered Louisiana Land Surveyor. The section must extend from the low water reference plane in the river to the landside ditch along River Road. All distances must be referenced to the Corps of Engineers (USCE) levee baseline and all elevations referenced to 0.0 NAVD88 datum. The section must be plotted to a natural scale of 1 inch equals 10 feet, horizontally and vertically, with the proposed pipeline superimposed on it. A levee baseline station for the pipeline crossing must also be submitted. **Please be advised that the installation of a discharge pipeline into the Mississippi River will require a Department of the Army permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.**

- c. The work on the riverside levee slope must be completed prior to the batture becoming inundated at the site.

- d. The levee crown ramp over the pipeline crossing is surfaced with 7-inches of crushed limestone for the full width and length of the ramp.

- e. All disturbed areas on the levee crown and slopes are restored to its original condition and to the satisfaction of your Board.

- f. The fill material used for cover over the pipeline is a semi-compacted clay material.

5. Ramps across the levee must be constructed in accordance with our standard drawing, "Ramp Crossings over Levee", File No. H-18-24854, copy enclosed. **Note, the applicant must contact the Plaquemines Parish Government prior to commencement of work, so that arrangements can be made to have a representative from your office periodically inspect the site to ensure that the**

**ramp is being constructed in accordance with the above referenced standard drawing.**

a. The ramp crossing used by the applicant is maintained in accordance with standard criteria and to the satisfaction of PPG, CPRA, and the Corps of Engineers.

b. The earthen material placed on the levee slope is fertilized and seeded to promote new grass growth. In addition, all other disturbed areas on the levee crown and slope resulting from the ramp construction must be restored to its original condition and to the satisfaction of your Board.

c. The installation of the fill material and culvert used to construct the earthen levee access ramp does not impede drainage and cause water to pond against the levee for prolonged periods of time. If drainage becomes a problem, the applicant must make modifications to improve the drainage, including but not limited to re-sizing and re-configuring the culvert to ensure that water does not pond against the levee.

6. If barges are to be moored:

a. Riprap is placed around all piles that penetrate through the revetment in accordance with the Corps of Engineers standard drawing, "Repair Procedures Required When Penetrating Revetments With Piles, Caissons and/or Pile Clusters", file No. H-18-30350.

b. The barges must maintain a minimum of three feet of clearance over the underwater revetment during any riverstage.

c. The applicant does not spud or anchor into the existing revetment. Any damage to the existing revetment is limited to only driving those piles necessary to complete the work.

d. The barges are moored in such a manner as not to damage the existing batture tree screen, revetment, or encroach within 100 feet of the riverside levee toe, under any river conditions.

e. Anchor chains are connected to the anchor piles within 10 feet of the mud line.

7. If parking area is to be installed adjacent to the levee:

a. The parking area is sloped to drain away from the levee to ensure that water is not ponded against the levee.

b. Wheel stops are placed a minimum of 10 feet from the levee toe to ensure that there is no parking on the levee.

c. That there is no parking of vehicles or equipment on the levee or within 10 feet of the levee toe.

8. Any damage to the levee, floodwall, concrete slope pavement, or revetment resulting from the applicant's activities is repaired at the applicant's expense.

9. That should changes in the location or section of the existing levee and/or river, or in the generally prevailing conditions in the vicinity, be required in the future in the public interest, the applicant shall make changes in the project concerned, or in the arrangement thereof, as may be necessary to satisfactorily meet the situation and shall bear the cost thereof.

Please keep in mind that for work on and adjacent to the levee, we may require a stability analysis to be performed to prove to us that the proposed work will not impact the integrity of the federal flood protection system.