MORGAN CITY — The general program of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway should be completed in 10 years, the Corps of Engineers said here Wednesday.

However, the Engineers pointed out the Atchafalaya project will continue to change from year-to-year as individual and area needs arise. The corps will continue “to review each year what are the needs and what is to be changed,” said Col. Thomas J. Bowen, commander of the corps’ New Orleans district.

Bowen, in a open meeting at the Morgan City courthouse before an overflow audience of more than 150 persons, outlined the corps’ proposal to preserve and protect wildlife, fish and recreational resources of the vast wilderness area that comprises the Atchafalaya Basin. After the meeting, he said he felt the four major features of the proposal met with acceptance by those present, “but the lesser needs indicated here means additional study and evaluation” is required.

When asked what was the next step in the program of flood control and meeting the needs of the basin for access and wildlife and fish, Bowen replied it would be “for me to get approval of funds for construction and execution for the four major aspects.”

First Program Altered

Jerome C. Baehr, project engineer for the Atchafalaya Basin work, told the meeting the

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ATCHAFALAYA HEARING - Paul Burnett extreme right, vice president of the Atchafalaya Basin project engineers; and Brent Johnson, chief of the channels branch of the New Orleans district.

ATCHAFALAYA VALLEY - Take from Angelina County, a program was originally contemplated to be the first project when the Corps had its hearing in the Missouri Valley. But improvements in the Missouri area and the need for additional water to be available in the Atchafalaya Basin were the reasons why the original program was delayed.

The first improvement mentioned was for sport and commercial fish and wildlife and to obtain additional water distribution systems necessary for economic development of the area. The Atchafalaya Basin project engineer, Mr. C. J. Bowen, said it would be necessary to build a system of dykes to insulate spoil areas from adjacent land and deposits and more than 32,000,000 feet of channel improvements in the Memphis district and other parts of the state.

The Corps' proposal, but not the one that was originally made, would be to build a system of dykes to prevent barges from moving into the backside lakes. But the Corps also suggested that a recommendation at the Atchafalaya Basin hearing be considered for the development of the Atchafalaya Basin.

Although the Corps said it would not be far from the levees, they did suggest that a recommendation be considered for the development of the Atchafalaya Basin.

The Corps also suggested that a recommendation be considered for the development of the Atchafalaya Basin, and that the Corps would consider the development of the Atchafalaya Basin.