Basin users reminded of flood possibility

Landowners, residents and lessees in the West Atchafalaya Floodway, the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway, and the Bayou des Glaises Loop, the landowners, trailer owners or lessee-operators in the Morganza Floodway have been sent letters by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, reminding them that they are located, operating or doing business in a floodway.

The floodways, authorized by Congress and constructed, maintained, and operated by the Corps of Engineers, are vital parts of the overall project designed to cope with floodwaters generated by the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

District Engineer Col. Thomas A. Sands warned residents and users of the floodways that floodway operation could flood homes, personal property, and livestock grazing land.

Owners of trailers in the Morganza Floodway were also reminded that they were there under Corps permit, and are required to hold the government harmless from any and all claims, and to keep their trailers mobile and capable of being moved on short notice.

The letter stated that, in the event the floodways must be used, sufficiently advance notice will be given through local civil defense officials and the news media. Floodway residents and users must then expedite removal of personal property and evacuation of people and livestock.

Current river levels do not indicate that floodways will have to be used this year, nor do they rule out their use.