

this type of industry generates substantial traffic on the public water transportation facilities.

This company has met the requirements of the public sponsor in that a site has been reserved for public wharf facilities and an easement or servitude has been granted to the public sponsor and to the U.S. Corps of Engineers on both the fairway and turning basin areas in the Michoud Canal.

We feel that the District Engineer's report is most comprehensive in nature and states fairly what can be expected should this project be consummated. We believe that the completed project presents an excellent opportunity for a much higher degree of use of the presently existing Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER OUTLETS—VENICE, LA.

Mr. HÉBERT. The next project, Venice project.

Mr. Chairman, the additional navigation outlets in the vicinity of Venice, La., is the most worthwhile navigational project to be proposed in south Louisiana for many years. The project calls for deepening and widening parts of Tiger Pass to the west and Main Pass of Baptiste Collette to the east of Venice and to dredge and eventually to rock jetty, if necessary, the mouths of these streams as they enter the open waters. Presently these channels cannot be used for navigation to outside waters because the mouths of these streams are very shallow, caused by silting from the Mississippi River.

The report submitted by the U.S. Army Engineer district of New Orleans, dated December 29, 1967, reveals that the combined benefit-cost ratio is 2.5 and that this project will meet the needs of the oilfield and fishing industries and is well justified for Federal construction and maintenance.

State and local authorities plan the construction of a four-lane highway from New Orleans to Venice which will increase the flow of vehicular traffic to this area. Eight miles of this highway project are now under construction; contracts for the construction of 24 miles will be let this calendar year, and it is anticipated that the remainder of this four-lane highway will be under construction within a 3-year period. The improvement of vehicular traffic will facilitate the movement of oilfield pipe and supplies and will open up use of this area for sport and commercial fisheries—probably the finest fishing area in the United States. Virtually every species of salt water fish are found in the coastal areas near Venice, including blue and white marlin, sailfish, tuna, dolphin, and other types offshore fish; and redfish, speckled trout, red snapper, pompano, mackerel, tarpon, jackfish, and many other varieties of fish which will make this area the greatest fishing paradise in the United States. The multimillion-dollar shrimp, oyster, and menhaden fishing industries will utilize these new facilities; and probably new fish processing and canning factories will be constructed near this new channel.

Fishing vessels from Florida to Texas traveling in an east-west direction along the coast would utilize these channels to avoid having to navigate the extra distance around the mouth of the Mississippi River and to provide them a protected water passage. During inclement weather and in times of storms and hurricanes, a ready and safe harbor would be afforded to vessels in these channels.

The old adage that one picture is worth a thousand words was never truer than in this case where reference to the attached U.S. Department of Interior oil and gas development map shows the evident saving in millions of dollars in transportation costs yearly if this proj-