

This project will alter the basic dimensions of these three bayous and the Intracoastal Canal. These three bayous would be improved to be 400 feet wide and 20 feet deep.

Why do we need 400 feet width? Because Morgan City is in the heart of the offshore or tidelands operations in Louisiana and in my congressional district.

These drilling rigs are known technically, actually—and I am telling you the correctness of it—as floating islands.

Some of these rigs, of which there are hundreds, the latest now are producing oil in water depth of over 400 feet. Some of these drilling rigs, the latest type, are actually 80 feet taller than the Washington Monument. Terrific.

Now, in order to repair these rigs, from year to year after hurricanes and normal use, wear and tear, you need these huge width streams to bring the rigs to port to be repaired, to maneuver them around. That is why engineers recommend a dimension of 400 feet width by a bottom depth, a depth of 20 feet. And, as I say, I filed my statement, and Mr. Graf has filed his.

Mr. Calvin Watts, is he here?

STATEMENT OF CALVIN WATTS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LA.

Mr. WATTS. I filed my statement with the committee.

Mr. WILLIS. He is with the department of public works.

Mr. BLATNIK. Thank you for your consideration.

Mr. Calvin Watts, assistant director of public works, State of Louisiana, Baton Rouge—his statement will appear at this point in its entirety.

(The statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF CALVIN T. WATTS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, STATE OF LOUISIANA,
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

ATCHAFALAYA RIVER AND BAYOUS CHENE, BOEUF, AND BLACK, LOUISIANA

Introduction

My name is Calvin T. Watts. I am Assistant Director of the Louisiana Department of Public Works. This Department is the planning agency of the State government and has the responsibility for progressive and orderly development of water resource projects in the State of Louisiana. In accordance with its duties, the Department of Public Works is pleased to submit this statement supporting and requesting authorization of the project, *Atchafalaya River and Bayous Chene, Boeuf and Black, Louisiana*, to provide a 20'x400' channel.

Description

The Louisiana Department of Public Works is vitally interested in facilitating the development of all phases of the economy of the State. At this time, Louisiana is particularly interested in developing a navigation channel suited to the needs of the Morgan City and Lower Atchafalaya area which will permit and quicken the pace of much of the potential industrial growth connected with offshore oil activities off the central Louisiana coast. Tremendous revenues to be realized by the Federal government from increased mineral production beyond the historic gulfward boundary of the State of Louisiana makes this project of particular national interest as well as local significance.

The project area is the geographical center of enormous industrial activities in coastal Louisiana. To support the needs of the oil and gas industry, certain industrial services are required, such as fabricating yards for offshore drilling rigs, ship and barge building yards, marine tow and transportation firms, heavy con-