

Feb. 6, 2020

RE: [Non-DoD Source] Discrepancies Found in the Evaluation of Storm Surge in Areas Outside the HSDRRS (UNCLASSIFIED)

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To: Thomas Thompson

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Feb 6, 2020 at 3:33 PM

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Mr. Thompson,

Thank you for providing feedback on the storm surge study. I understand your concern with the assumed reliability of the Southern Railway as it existed in the 1960s. **The 1962 report clearly describes how the Southern Railway embankment along the north side of the New Orleans East polder would not provide reliable flood protection. We agree with your assessment and have updated the model. In the latest simulations, we have assumed the railway embankment is reduced to natural ground elevations (full failure) for the entire duration of each of the 1965 simulations, including Katrina.** The lowering of this feature in the model seems to allow more water to pass through the polder from Lake Borgne and into Lake Pontchartrain during some surge events, increasing peak water levels slightly in the Slidell area for 1965 conditions. Please see the attached updated report showing the latest results.

Kind regards,
Max Agnew