

July 15, 2019

Activating West Closure Complex Facility Had Minimal Effects

- Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West (SLFPA-W) is concerned about fellow citizens in Lafitte and wants to do everything possible to protect their lives and property.
- SLFPA-W has a responsibility to protect all residents and businesses within its jurisdiction.
- The activation of the West Closure Complex sector gates on Friday, July 12 and the West Closure Complex pumps on Saturday, July 13 had minimal impact on lower Jefferson Parish. (Please refer to gauge reports.)
 - Dates of Activation: Turned on pumps from 3:45 p.m. till 4:30 p.m.
 - Duration of Pumps on Saturday, July 13: 45 minutes (with 15 cool down period)
 - Gauge Reports: Gauge Readings at Barataria waterway in Lafitte (82875)
 - 7/13/19 2:00 PM 3.89'
 - 7/13/19 3:00 PM 3.93'
 - 7/13/19 4:00 PM 3.97'
 - 7/13/19 5:00 PM 3.95'
 - 7/13/19 6:00 PM 3.94'

(As you can see the water levels actually dropped between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.)
- This is an issue that has been studied at length since Hurricane Isaac, when the West Closure Complex was activated for the first time. The Corps of Engineers conducted a study at that time, verifying the West Closure Complex has very little impact on rising waters and lower Jefferson Parish.
- According to the Master Water Control Manual for the West Closure Complex, SLFPA-W met the first criteria, allowing them to close the gate after navigation was cleared. The pumps were clear to turn on immediately following the closure of the gate, with clearance to draw the canal down to 0.0. The decision was made to wait 24 hours to monitor rainfall. As Tropical Storm Barry drew closer, SLFPA-W chose to turn the pumps on and only draw the interior canal down to 1.0.
- All decisions made during the operation of the West Closure Complex were within the standing instructions.