



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Galveston District

News Release

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Corps of Engineers provides Addicks and Barker project update

HOUSTON - Because of their close proximity to the Houston metropolitan area, as well as potential consequences of a dam failure, Addicks and Barker reservoirs have been designated as extremely high risk by the Army Corps of Engineers. The assessment, a result of a recent Corps of Engineers evaluation of its dams nationwide, identified several issues with the far west side dams, according to Colonel David C. Weston, Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District commander.

“First and foremost, these dams are not in imminent danger of failing,” Weston said. “Addicks and Barker are dry reservoirs about 90 percent of the time, and they undergo daily, weekly, and annual inspection and monitoring. The fact that they protect and are a part of the nation’s fourth largest metropolitan area makes the consequences in the event of a dam failure unacceptable. The Corps’ primary objective is to maintain public safety by ensuring that the dams we own and operate are safe and risks to the public are minimized.”

Weston also noted that this designation gives Addicks and Barker priority funding for any repairs and studies.

“The Corps of Engineers assessment actually moves Addicks and Barker to the front of the line for funding for any necessary repairs and studies,” he said. “We are looking at two areas of concern, the outlet structure and the ends of the dams, and have already begun short term solutions. We will also be looking at long term solutions under a Dam Safety Modification Study.

“We feel that it is important to inform those living and working near the reservoirs, and we will be holding public meetings in Houston in the very near future to present more information to the public,” he added.

The public meetings will also address flooding issues upstream of Addicks and Barker, which were constructed in the 1940s to protect downtown Houston from flooding in response to devastating floods that hit Houston earlier in the century.

“Addicks and Barker have been protecting the Houston metropolitan area for more than 60 years, and the Corps of Engineers is working with our local Flood Control and Emergency Management partners to ensure that they continue to do so,” Weston said.