Project Description:
This levee is located on Lake Pontchartrain, New Orleans East. Designers had two concerns:
1) Levee being breached by Lake Pontchartrain due to overtopping and scour
2) Needed a solution to provide Amtrak & Norfolk Southern an all-weather road to access their rail. The USACE also considered the protection of 380,000 people from the potential storm surge of Lake Pontchartrain.

Problem:
Prior to this project, the area experienced many years of threatening storm surge similar to Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The levee performance issues seen during Katrina prompted many governing agencies to begin rethinking the levee protection system surrounding New Orleans. Using this project as a model, many similar projects are being proposed and designed in a cumulative effort to enhance the New Orleans and Plaquemines Parish Hurricane Risk Reduction System.

Solution:
The Corps of Engineers selected a 9" open cell articulating concrete block along with a HPTRM erosion control mat for the landslide slope to armor six miles of levee and provide: flexibility, protection against storm surge from Lake Pontchartrain, revegetation growth and a driveable/all-weather road for Amtrak and Norfolk Southern rail system.

The New Orleans USACE District Office provided leadership and coordination with the US Coast Guard and the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority for a successful resolution.