Performance of Levees and Floodwalls in Hurricane Katrina - Lessons Learned

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Abstract: In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina struck just east of New Orleans, Louisiana, causing at least 1245 deaths and property damage estimated at over $100 billion. The storm is currently ranked as the third most intense storm to hit the US. Most of New Orleans lies below sea level. Flood protection has evolved over 300 years, with government funded hurricane protection under construction over a span of about 40 years prior to the event. Nevertheless, there were numerous failures of the flood defenses, for a variety of reasons.

Dr. Wolff served on an ASCE reconnaissance team that was on the ground about five weeks after the event, served on the Interagency Project Evaluation Team (IPET), that prepared a comprehensive report, and also served as an expert witness for the US Department of Justice on a large class action lawsuit related to the failures. His presentation will focus on his time with the reconnaissance team, and lessons learned.

4:00 pm April 5, 2017 Room 2029 GGB

***** Everyone is invited – refreshments will be served *****

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