

# Dike Failures: Risks, Causes and Costs

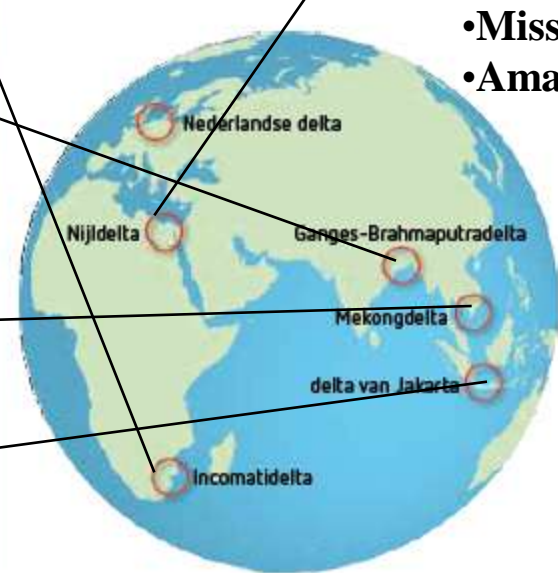
Juni 2010

**Prof. Dr. ir. S. van Baars**

Delft University of Technology  
&  
University of Luxembourg



# Delta's



- Mississippi
- Amazon





Room for  
the Rhine branches



**Massive floods in the Netherlands**

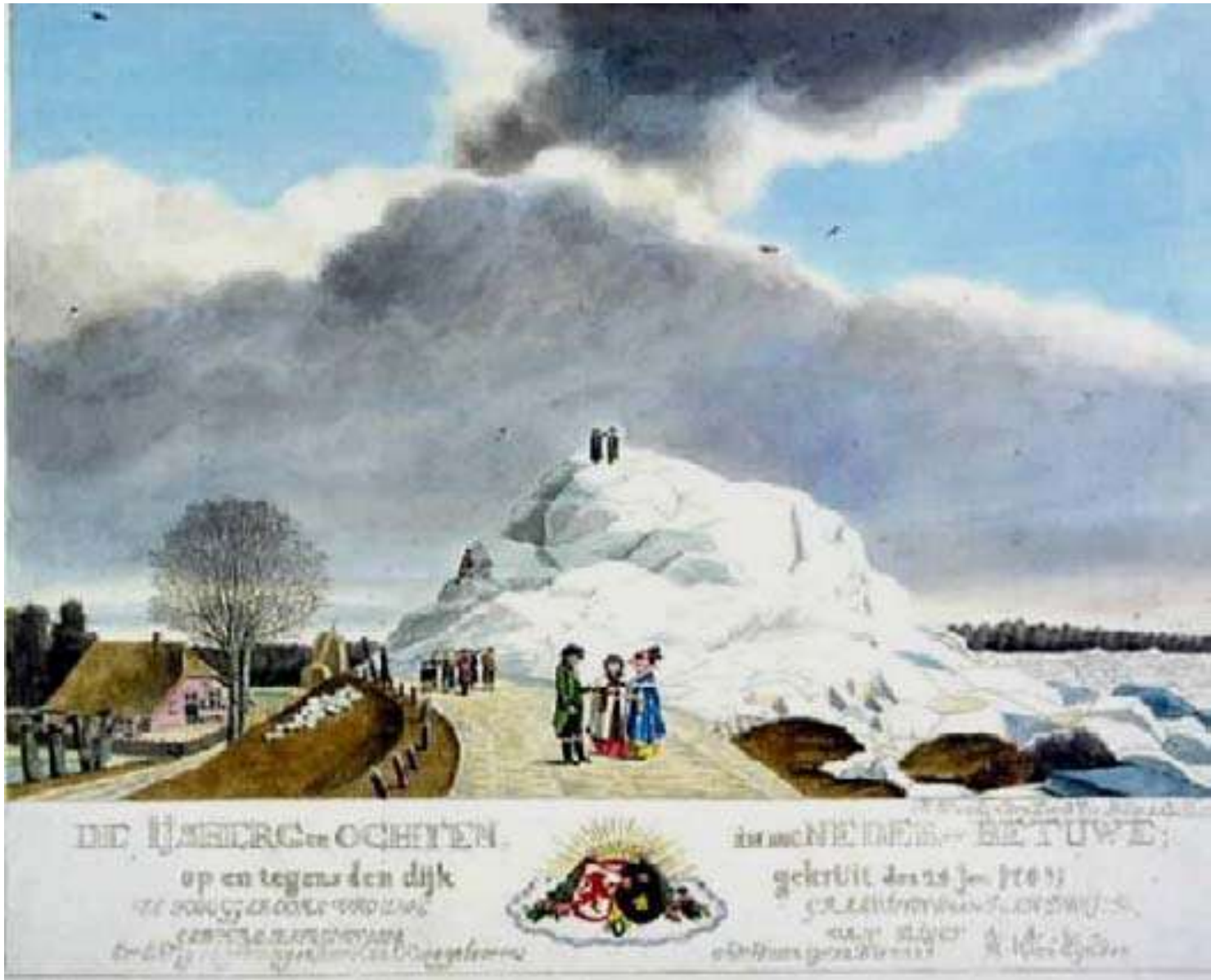
Flood	Location	Date	Casualties
St. Stephen's flood	Friesland, Groningen	26 December, 838	2437
St. Michael's flood	Zeeland and Flanders	29 September, 1014	thousands
Seaquake flood	Zeeland	October, 1134	unknown
St. Juliana's flood	North coast	17 February, 1164	thousands
St. Lucia's flood	Friesland, Groningen	14 December, 1287	50,000
2 <sup>nd</sup> St. Elizabeth's flood	Zeeland, Holland and Flanders	18 November, 1421	2000
All Saints' flood	Zeeland	1 November, 1570	20,000
River Delta flood	Central + East Rivers	5 – 15 March, 1595	3000
St. Marten's flood	Northeast coast	12 November, 1686	(Dutch) 3000
Christmas flood	Northeast coast	25 December, 1717	(Dutch) 2500
1953 Flood	Zeeland and Flanders	1 February, 1953	(Dutch) 1836



**St. Anthonis dike failure during St. Peter's flood, P. Nolpe, 4-5 March, 1651**



**Zierikzee, Netherlands, 1770**



“The iceberg of Ochten (a village along the river Rhine) ... detonated on 24 January, 1789”



wheel  
barrow

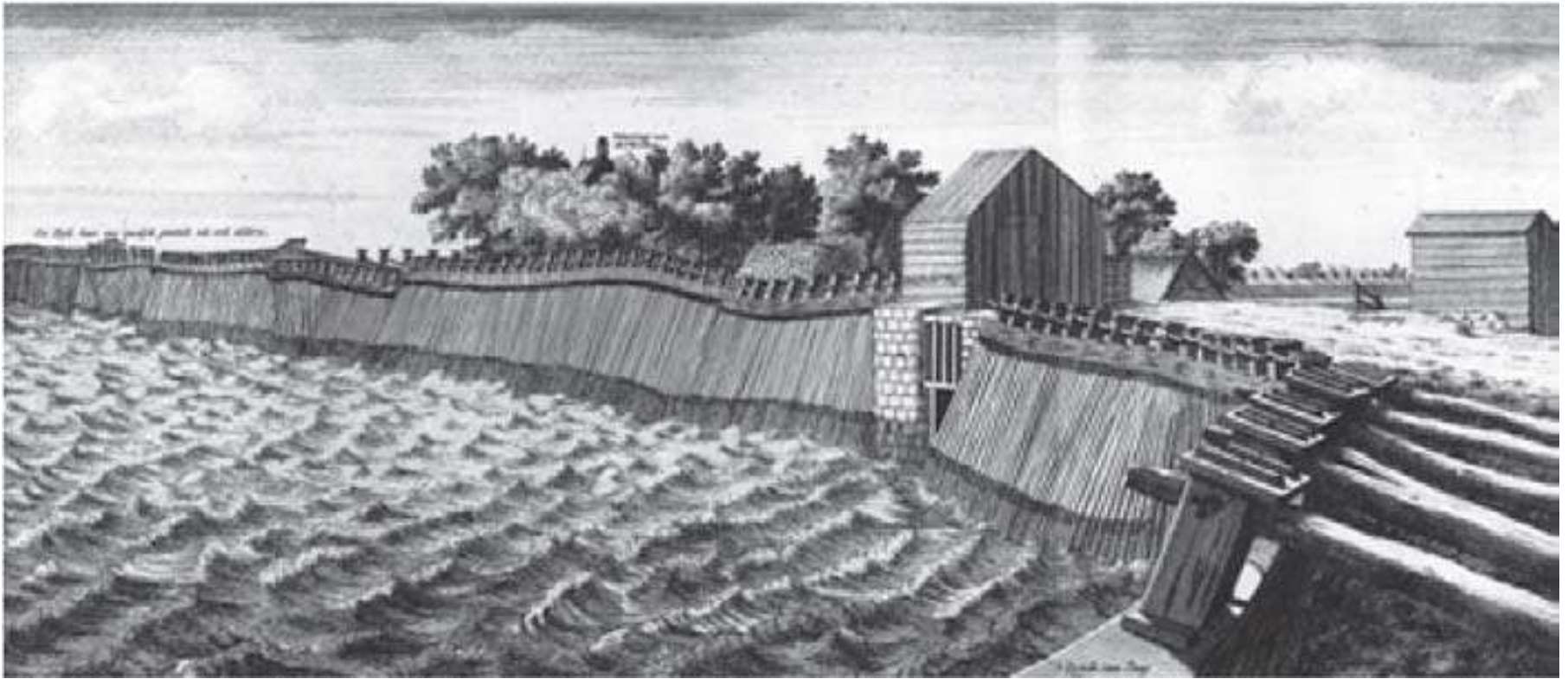


**Dike failure cause by ice in 1799**

*“The government asked the preachers to change the common preaching service on Wednesday evening to a prayer service. Early on the morning of Thursday, February 3rd, 1729 at 3:30 AM, everybody was startled by a loud distant thump: the ice dam had broken loose. In minutes the water level had decreased by nine inches and the joy of the people was incredible.”*



**2010!!!**



**Wooden piles protecting the Diemer sea dike near Amsterdam (N. Listingh, 1702)**

*“... a Dutch complaint over God’s coming judgments, clearly being recognized in the gnawing of the worms at the piles of the Dutch sea dikes - for the occasion of the thank, fast and prayer day - ...”*



**Overflow of dike along the river Maas after heavy rain, Nederasselt, 8 January, 1925**



**Zeeland, The Netherlands, 1953**



**Rotterdam, Delft, Den Haag and Leiden nearly inundated.**

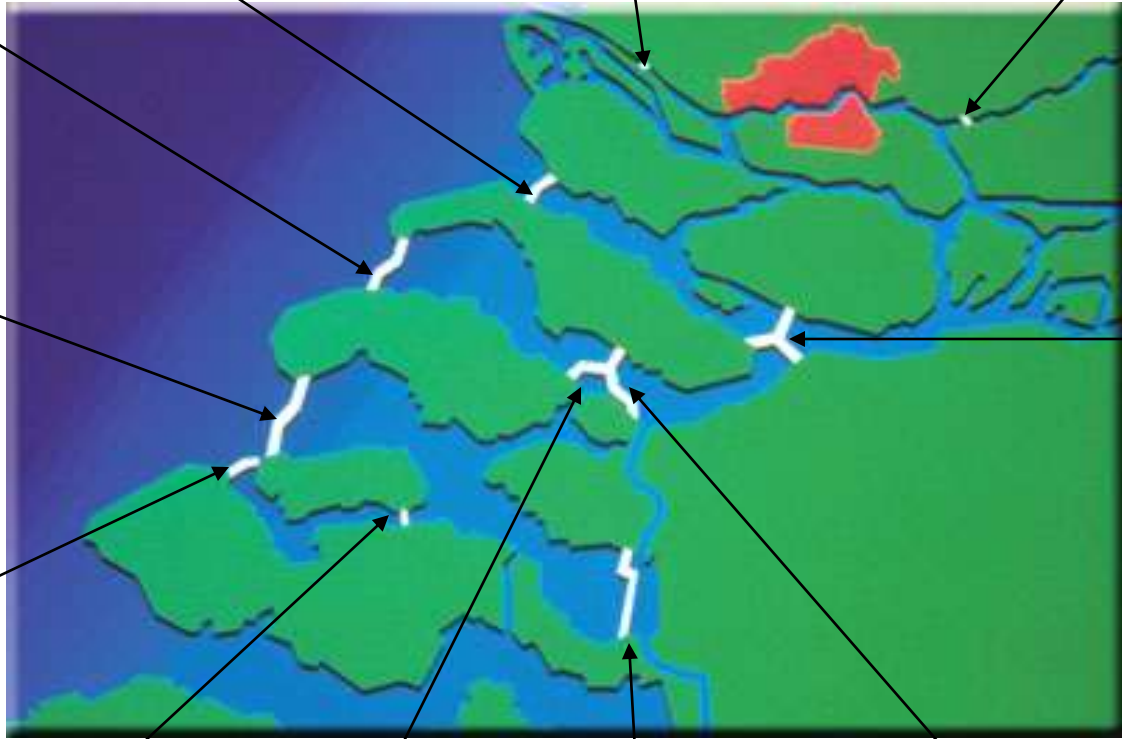
# DeltaWorks

Haringvlietdam  
+  
Uitwateringsluizen  
1971

Maeslantkering 1997

SVK Hollandse IJssel 1958

Brouwersdam  
1971



SVK  
Oosterschelde  
1986

Volkerakdam  
+  
Sluizen 1969

Veerse Gatdam  
1961

Grevelingendam 1965

Philipsdam 1987

Zandkreekdam 1960

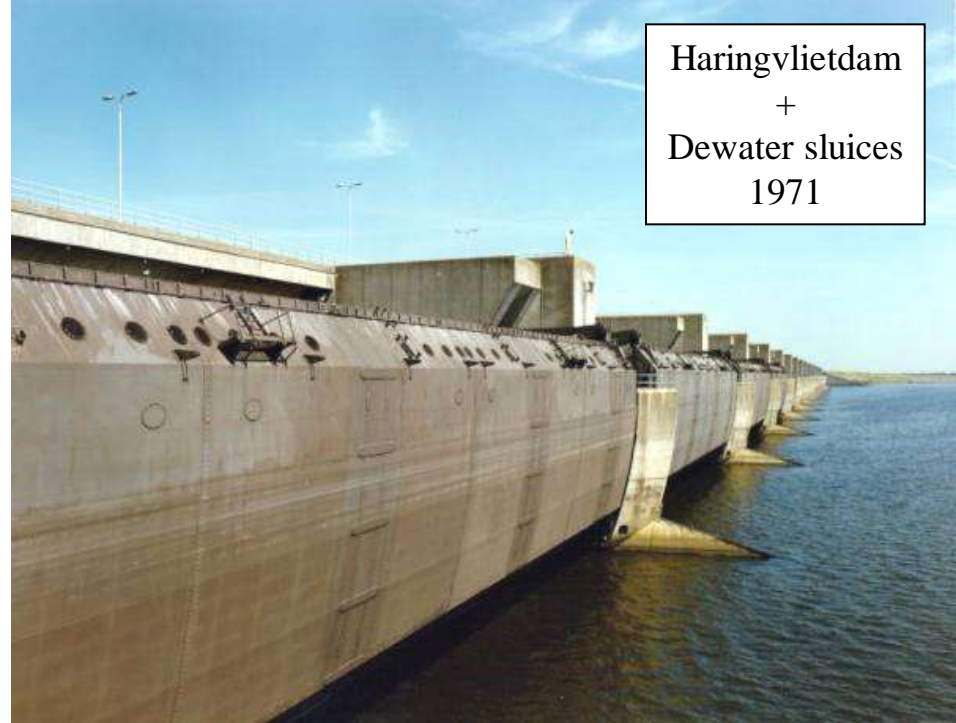
Oesterdam 1986





1958

Dutch IJssel Storm Surge Barrier



Haringvlietdam  
+  
Dewater sluices  
1971



1986

Eastern Scheldt Storm Surge Barrier



Maeslant barrier 1997

**Probability: 1/250 years → 1/10.000 years**

**Deaths: 1836**

**€ 1 = fl. 2.20**

**Costs: DeltaWorks: fl 11 billion**

**(of which fl. 8 billion for Easternscheldtbarrier  
and fl. 1 billion for Measlandtbarrier)**

**Other repairs: ???**

**Houses citizens: ???**

**Etc...???**

**(I pay € 135,- per year for my house for dike-, canal- and polder maintenance)**

## Failing mechanisms:

1. Run-over (dike too low for water level);
2. Wave overflow (waves too high or too much run up);
3. Instability of outer slope protection or erosion (damage to masonry pitching or rock fill);
4. Erosion of inner slope protection (or dike crest, often by wave overflow infiltration);
5. Micro-instability (washing out of the dike core sediment, such as piping below the dike);
6. Piping (local groundwater flow, sediment transport and erosion below/behind dike);
7. Heave (lifting of and liquefaction of inner sand layer by vertical groundwater up-flow);
8. Bursting (forcing up of polder top clay layer by high pore water pressure in sand layer below);
9. Liquefaction of shore line (loose sand layer in front of dike becomes unstable through wave action);
10. Sliding outer slope (macro instability of steep outer slope);
11. Sliding inner slope (macro instability of steep inner slope);
12. Horizontal sliding (complete dike pushed aside by water pressure);
13. Ice drift (both thrusting water load and direct ice load through current or wind);
14. External factors (Human: piercing, bombing, ship collision. Animal: worms, rats).



**run over**



**piping**

## Failure mechanisms in the Netherlands between 1134 and 2006

Mechanism	Distribution
Erosion of inner slope protection + crest	67%
Ice drift	11%
Erosion or instability of outer slope protection	6%
Sliding inner slope	5%
External (human and animal)	4%
Sliding outer slope	3%
Liquefaction of shore line	2%
Piping	1%
Micro instability	0.5%
Horizontal shear	0.5%
Bursting of inner clay layer	0.0%
Heave	0.0%
<i>Total</i>	<i>1735</i>

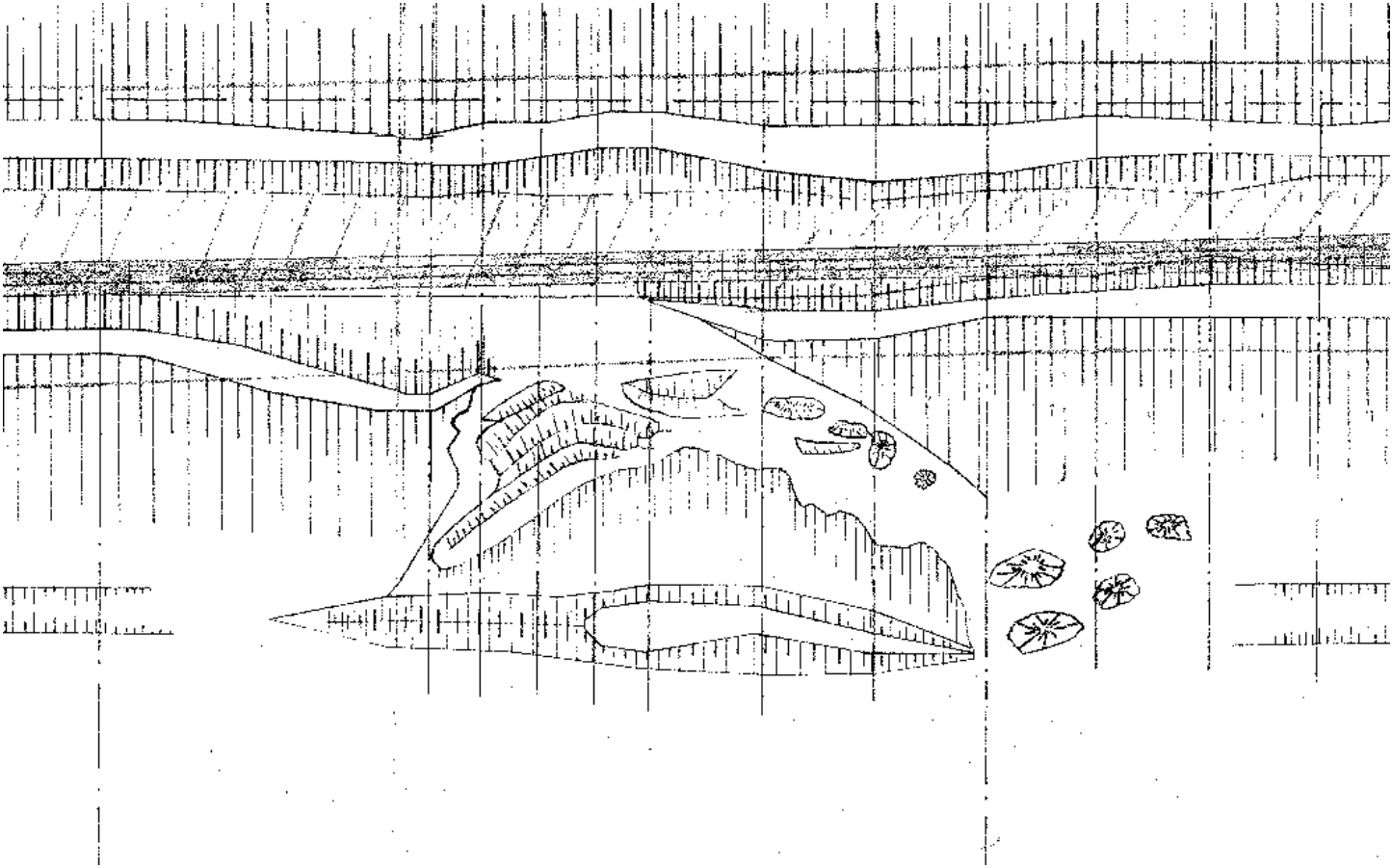
# **Horizontal sliding / peat dike failure**

## **Dike failure Edenderry Jan. 1989:**





# Dike failure Zoetermeer summer 1947:





**Wilnis, The Netherlands, Summer 2003**





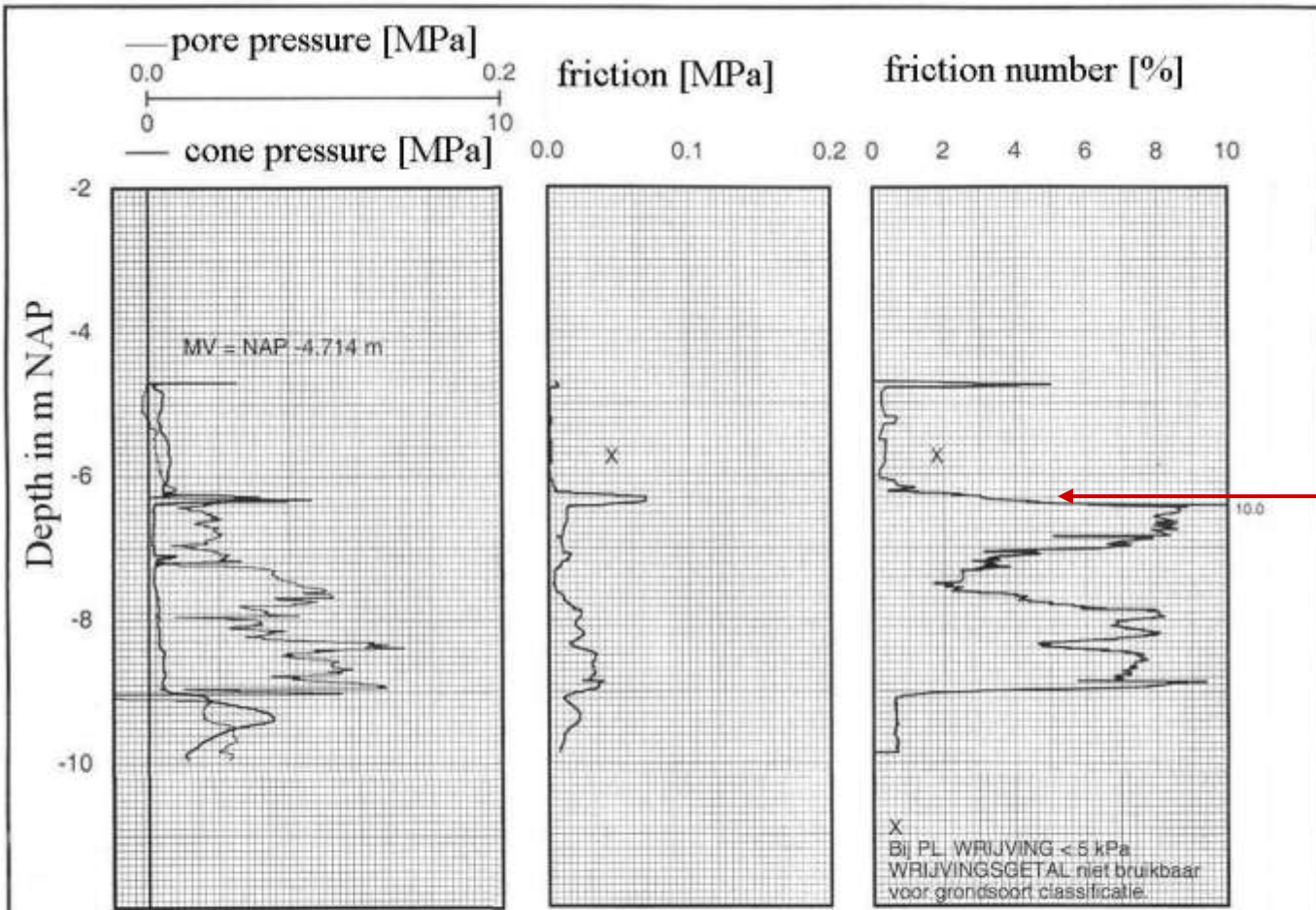
**Canal of Wilnis in open connection  
with 10 km<sup>2</sup> Finch Peat Lakes!!**







toe shears higher than bottom ditch

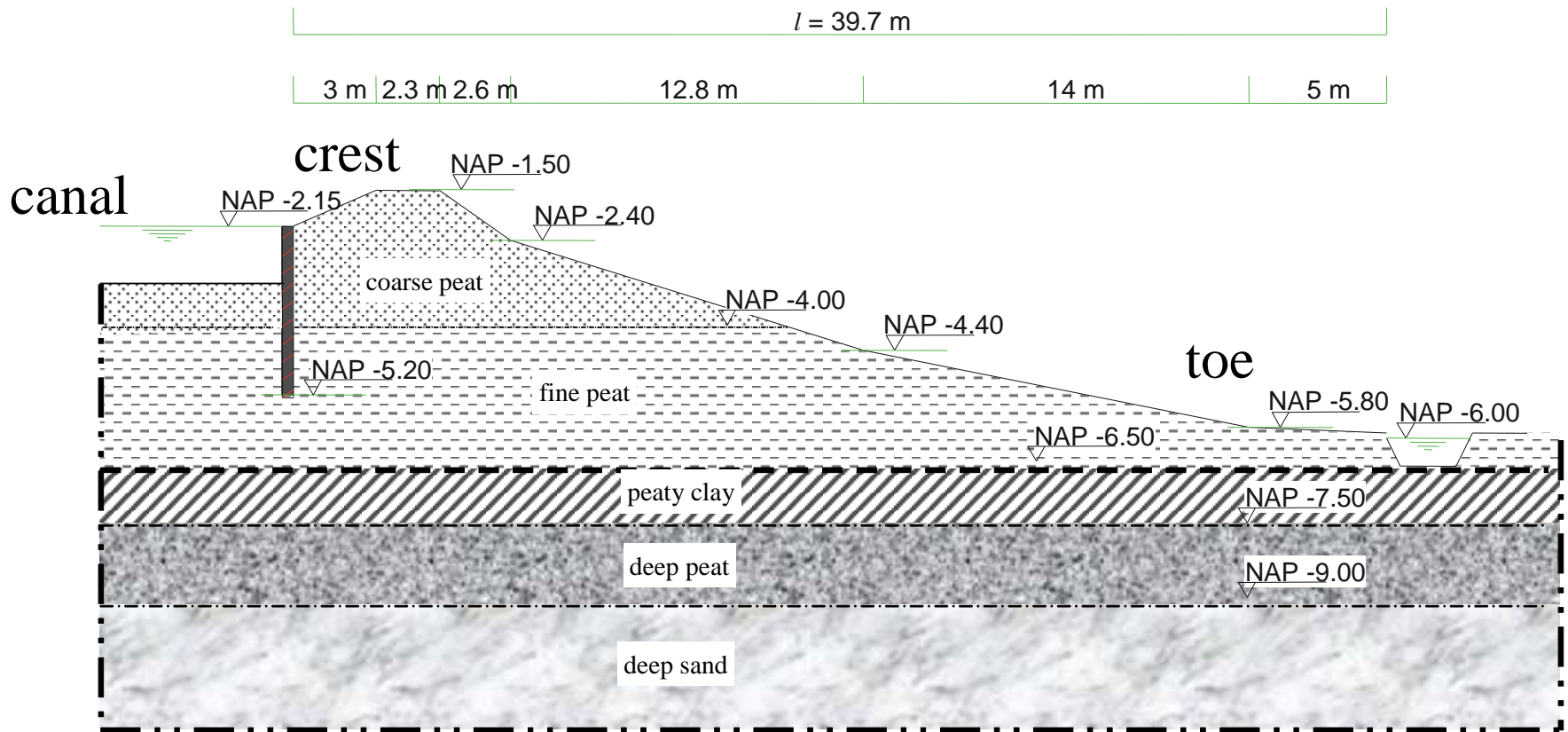


348

	datum 2003-11-05	get. Lws	Piezosondering uitgevoerd volgens NEN5140 klasse 2 Conus nr. CKR10/1-266, voorzien van elektrische opnemers voor conusweerstand, plaatselijke wrijving, waterspanning en conushelling.		
	Bres achter damwand Wilnis	CO-411243-310	gez. 	Geodetische bijzonderheden: MV = NAP -4.714 m X = 121682.955 m Y = 467750.358 m	Meetbereiken: Conusweerstand: 50 MPa Plaatselijke wrijving: 0.7 MPa Waterspanning: 1 MPa Conushelling: 350 mRad
SONDERING 10	BIJL. C10	form. A3			

dike shears above NAP -6,5 m = bottom ditch

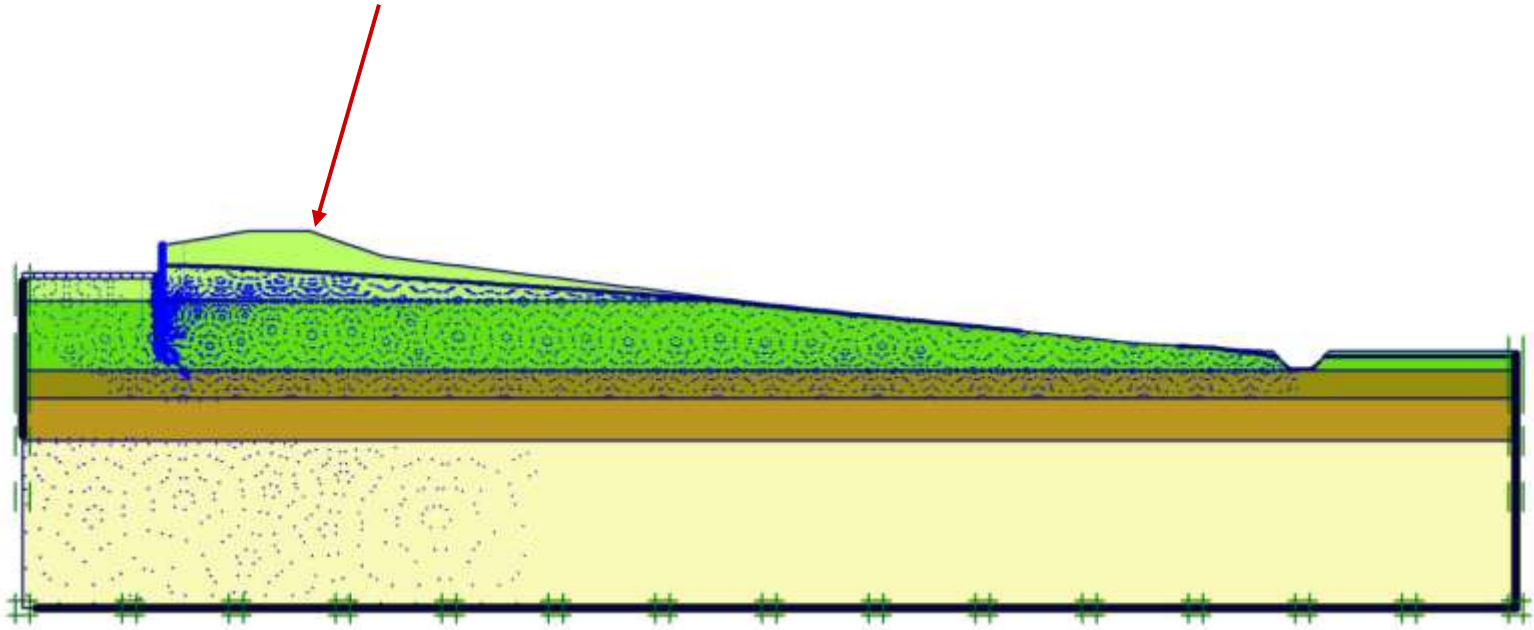




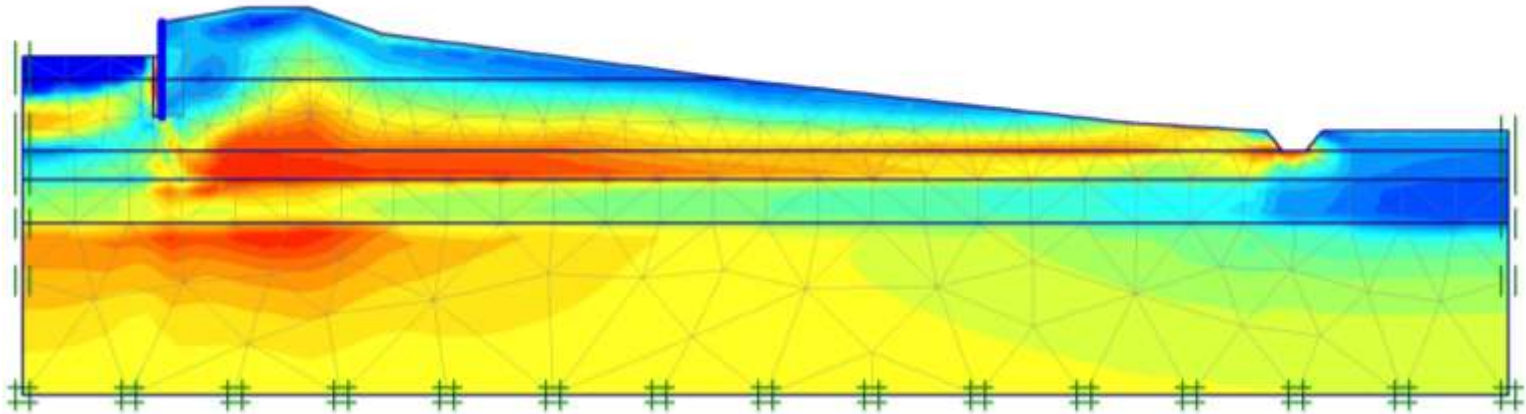
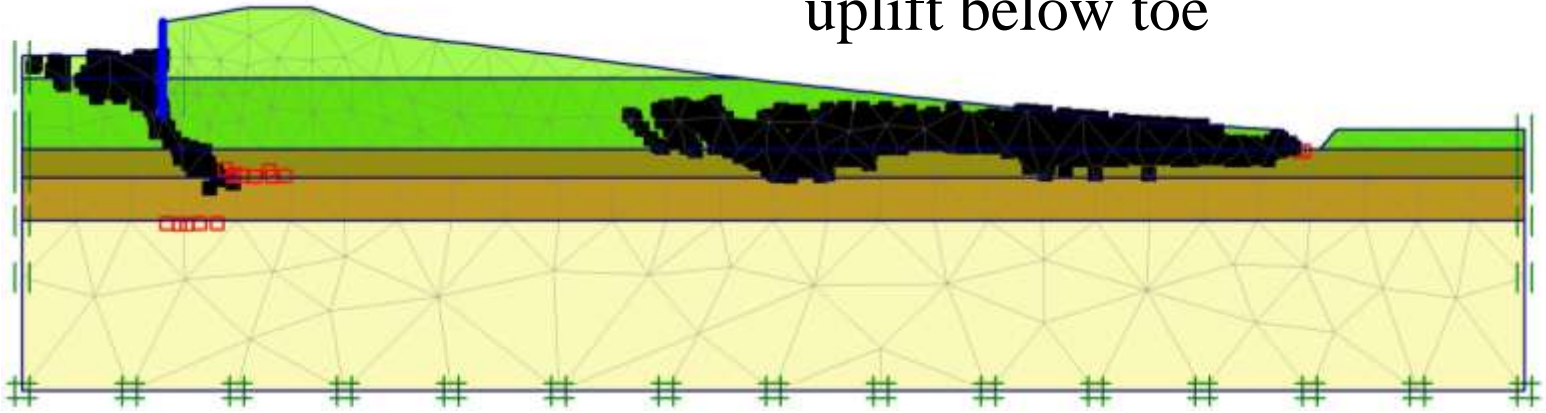
sheet pile not deep enough for stopping sliding at NAP -6.5 m  
 (but deep enough to let the crest dry out)

# Finite Element Computer Simulation (Plaxis)

drying out until  $7,5 \text{ kN/m}^3$  above freatic line = failure!



uplift below toe



shear failure below crest

## **90 procent schade Wilnis vergoed / 90% damage Wilnis refunded**

90 procent schade Wilnis vergoed

DEN HAAG - Inwoners van Wilnis die getroffen zijn door de dijkdoorbraak van augustus, krijgen de schade aan hun woning voor 90 procent vergoed. Ondernemers kunnen voor schade aan hun bedrijfspanden en de inboedel een vergoeding van 65 procent verwachten.

Dat heeft het ministerie van binnenlandse zaken bekendgemaakt. Het kabinet besloot al eerder dat de getroffen een beroep kunnen doen op de Wet tegemoetkoming schade bij rampen en zware ongevallen.

Beschadigde inboedel tot 9100 euro krijgen particulieren voor 90 procent vergoed. Boven dit bedrag loopt het percentage af. Voor inboedelschade boven de 27200 euro krijgen de bewoners niets terug. Aangetaste tuinhuisjes en ondergelopen tuinen zijn geheel voor eigen rekening. Opruimen en voorkomen van verder onheil betaalt het rijk voor 65 procent.



Cases	Requests	Damage
Company	11	€ 387.237
Foundation	5	€ 54.215
Gouvernement	2	€ 2.297.452
Citizens	278	€ 419.509
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>€ 3.158.413</b>

Cases	Requests	Rejected	Accepted	Payed
Company	11	4	7	€ 431.367
Foundation	5	1	4	€ 17.051
Gouvernement	2	0	2	€ 1.830.136
Citizens	278	190	88	€ 351.633
<b>Totaal</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>€ 2.630.187</b>

Damage category	Foundation	Companies	Gouvernement	Citizens	Total
House	€ 9.499			€ 236.565	<b>€246.064</b>
Furniture	€ 5.732			€ 96.569	<b>€ 102.301</b>
Rescue			€ 793.053		<b>€ 793.053</b>
Cleaning	€ 975		€ 53.204	€ 17.627	<b>€ 71.806</b>
Evacuation				€ 872	<b>€ 872</b>
Infrastructur			€ 983.878		<b>€ 983.878</b>
Other	€ 845	€ 431.367			<b>€ 432.212</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 17.051</b>	<b>€ 431.367</b>	<b>€ 1.830.135</b>	<b>€ 351.633</b>	<b>€ 2.630.186</b>

### Real Costs:

- Waterboard € 8 million
- Municipality € 7 million
- Citizens € 2 million

??????



WILNIS

You know

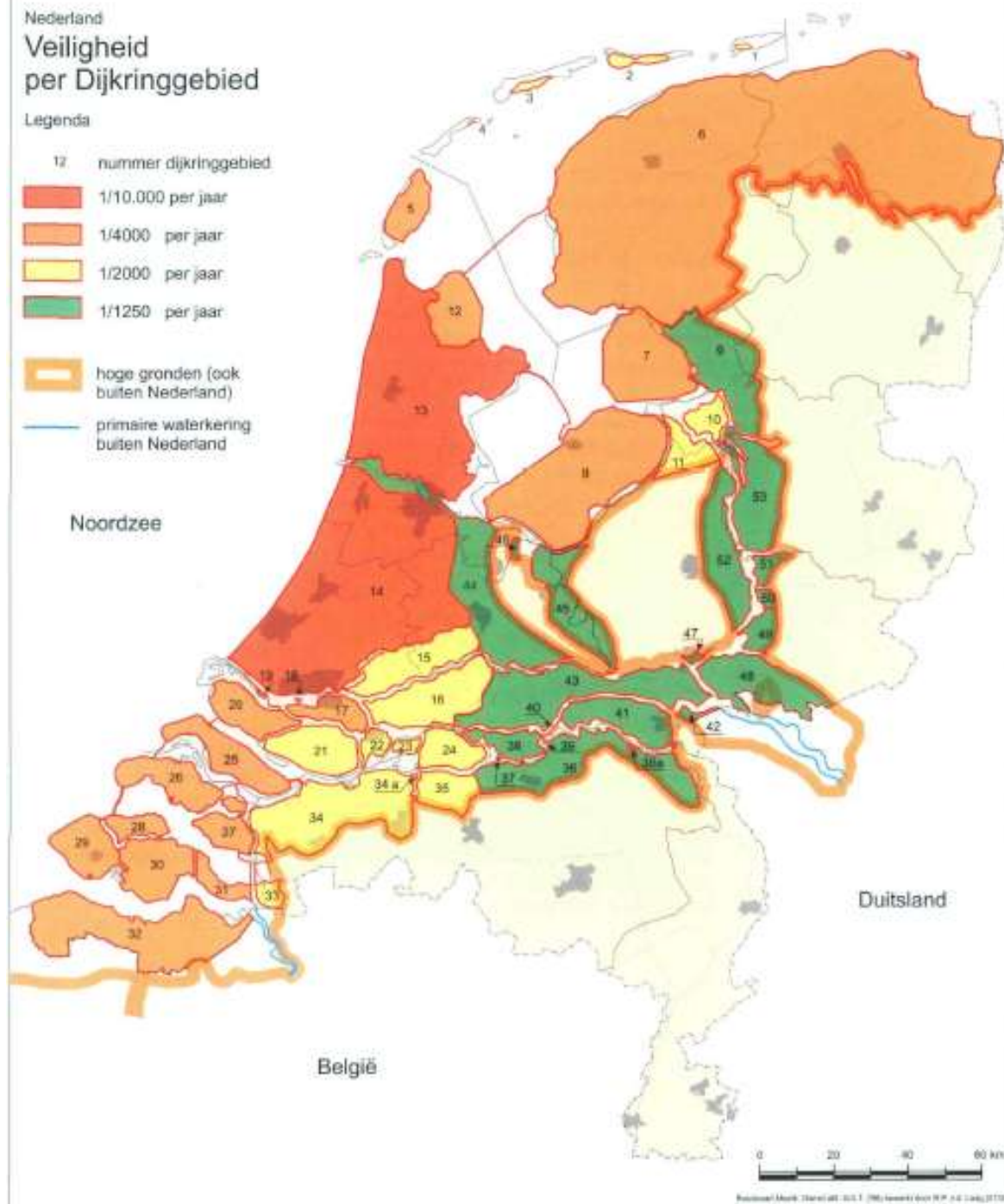
I'd some other ideas about a once in a fifty year drought...

P

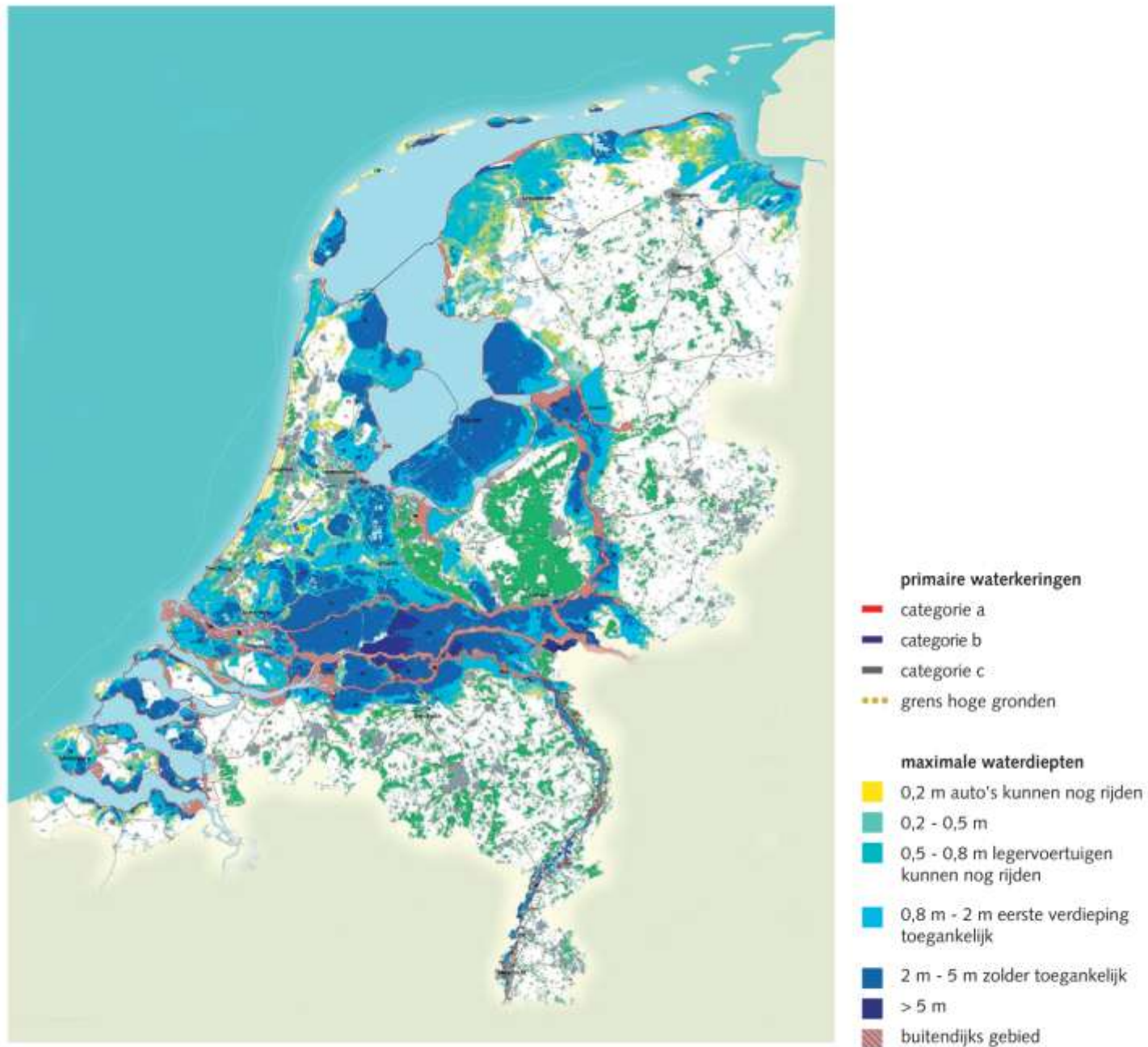
# Nederland Veiligheid per Dijkkringgebied

## Legenda

- 12 nummer dijkkringgebied
-  1/10.000 per jaar
  -  1/4000 per jaar
  -  1/2000 per jaar
  -  1/1250 per jaar
  -  hoge gronden (ook buiten Nederland)
  -  primaire waterkering buiten Nederland



**Figuur 3.1** Landelijke overstromingsrisicokaart





Hurricane Katrina

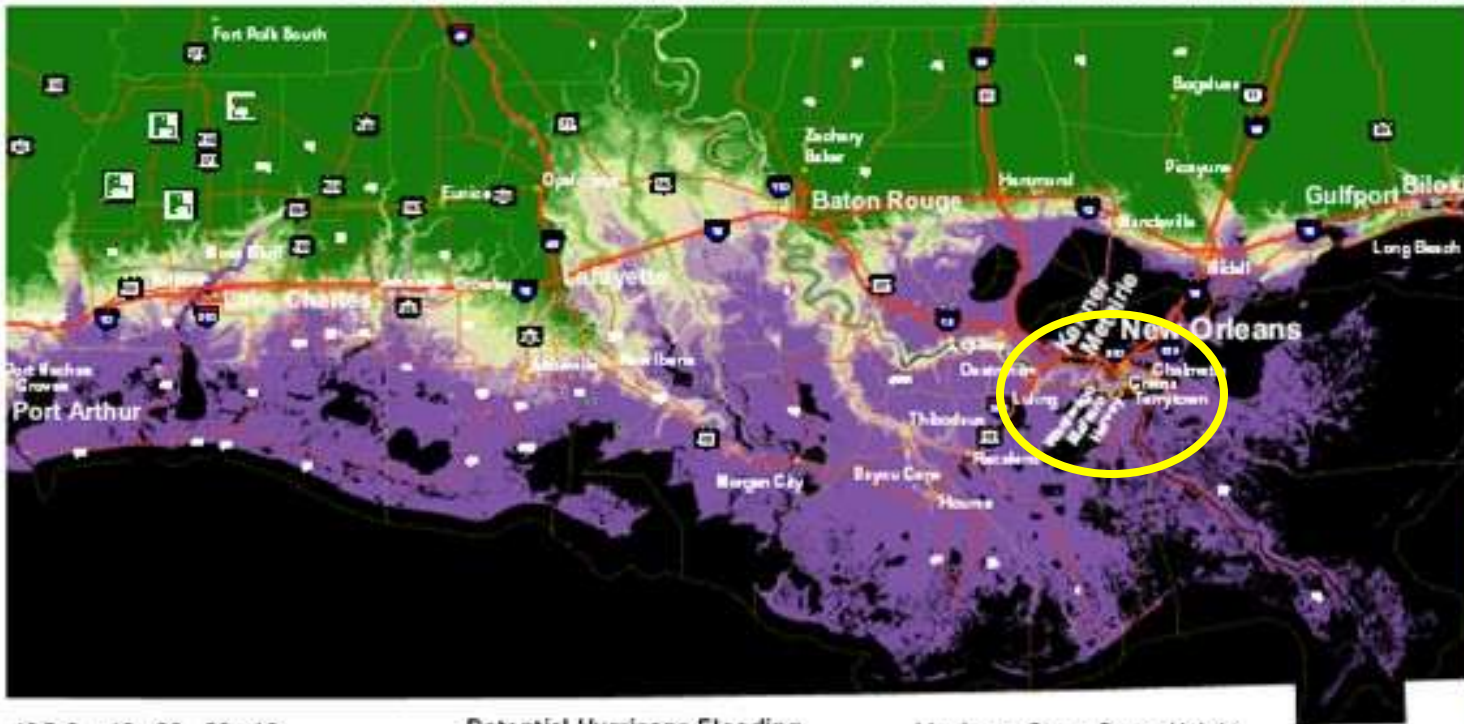
New Orleans

August 2005

# Coastal Louisiana Land Surface Elevation



By Aaron E. Whittall  
Information Technology Section



**Legend**

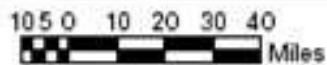
**Cities**  
2000 Census Population

- 10,000 - 50,000
- 50,000 - 250,000
- 250,000 - 800,000

**Elevation**  
Mean Sea Level

- Above 30 Feet
- 26 - 30 Feet
- 21 - 25 Feet
- 16 - 20 Feet
- 11 - 15 Feet
- 6 - 10 Feet
- 1 - 5 Feet
- 0 or Lower

- Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- LA Route
- Pontchartrain Causeway
- Parish Boundary



**Potential Hurricane Flooding**

- Category 5
- Category 4 - Category 5
- Category 3 - Category 4
- Category 2 - Category 3
- Category 1 - Category 2

**Hurricane Storm Surge Height**

Category	Wind Speed	Storm Surge
5	> 155 mph	> 18 feet
4	130 - 155 mph	12 - 18 feet
3	110 - 130 mph	9 - 12 feet
2	95 - 110 mph	6 - 9 feet
1	74 - 95 mph	4 - 6 feet

(Based on Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale)

Without levees / dykes, a cat. 1 hurricane can flood the city

# Katrina



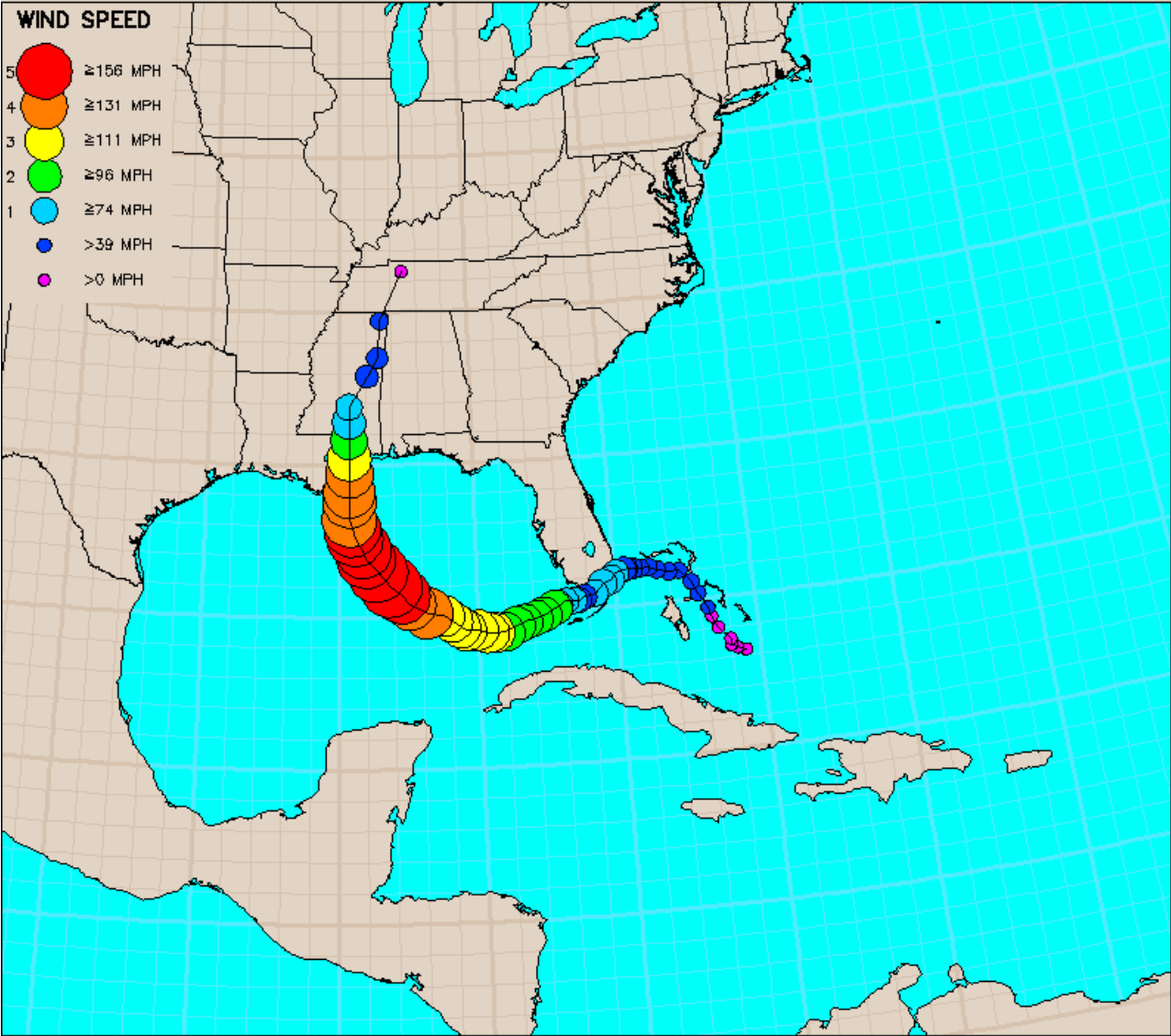
August, 29th



Evacuation

# Hurricane Katrina

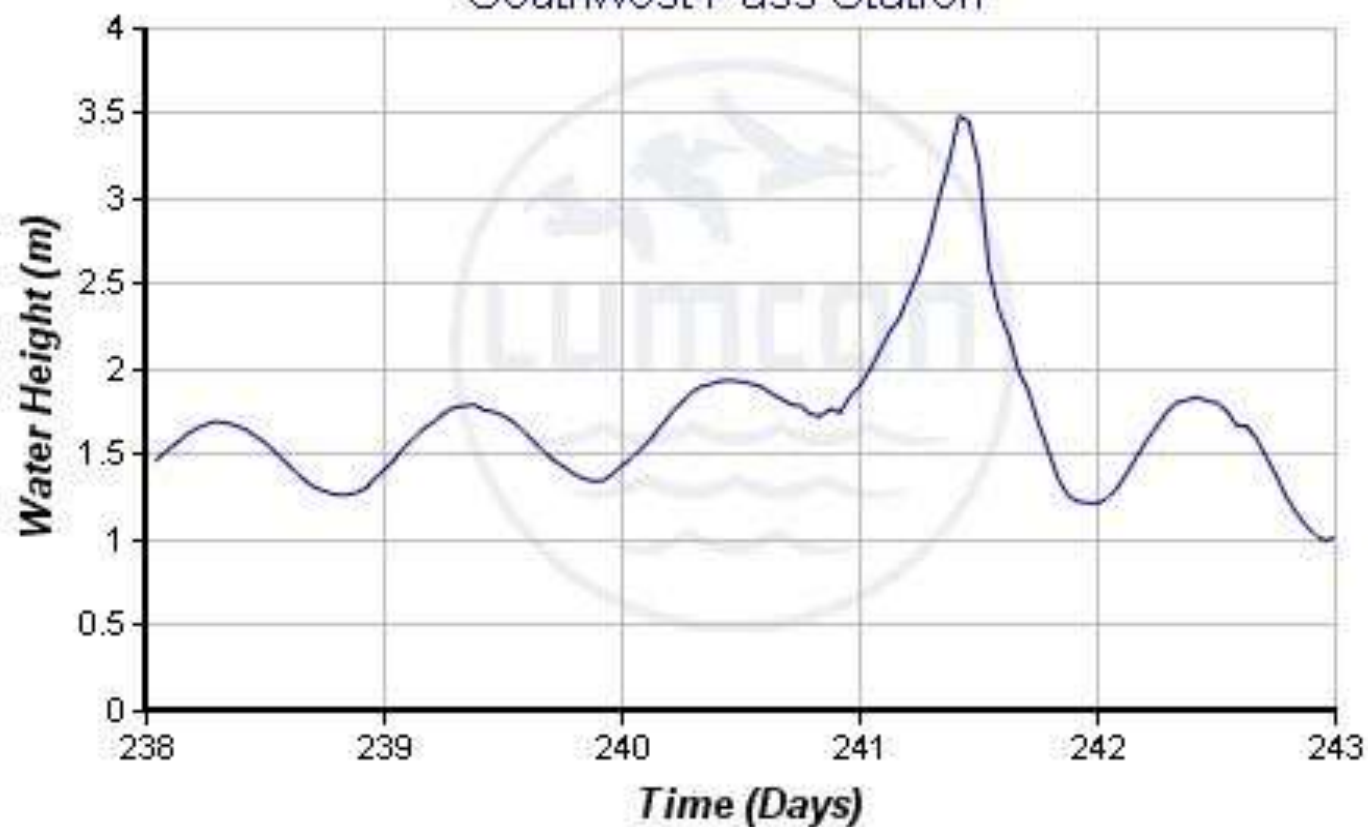
21:00 Tue August 23, 2005 to 15:00 Tue August 30, 2005 UTC



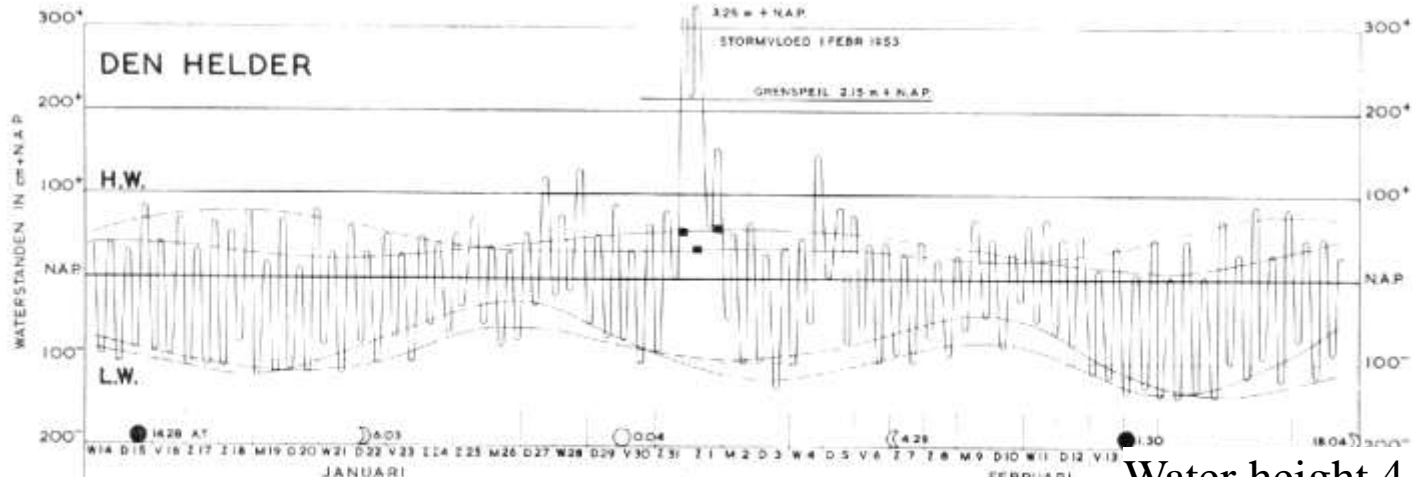


# *Average Hourly Water Height 5 Days*

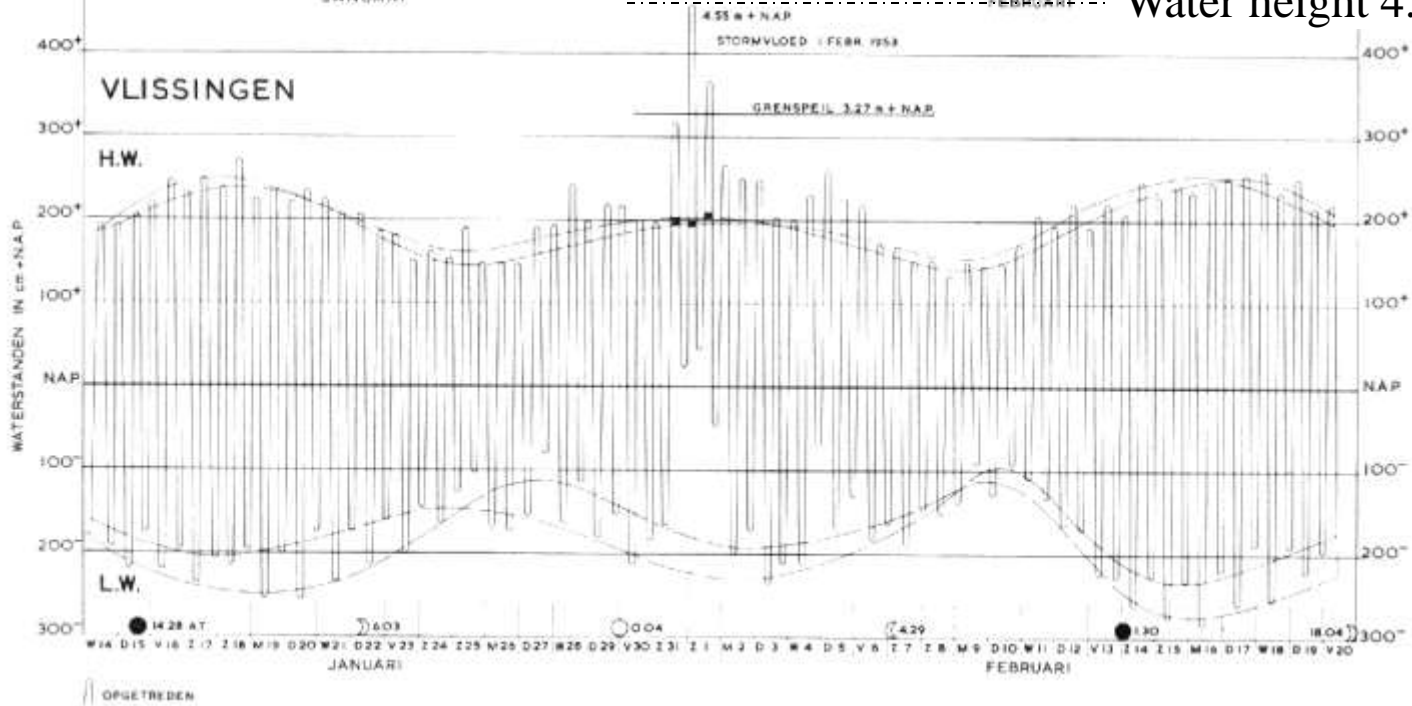
Southwest Pass Station



# Dutch Flood 1953

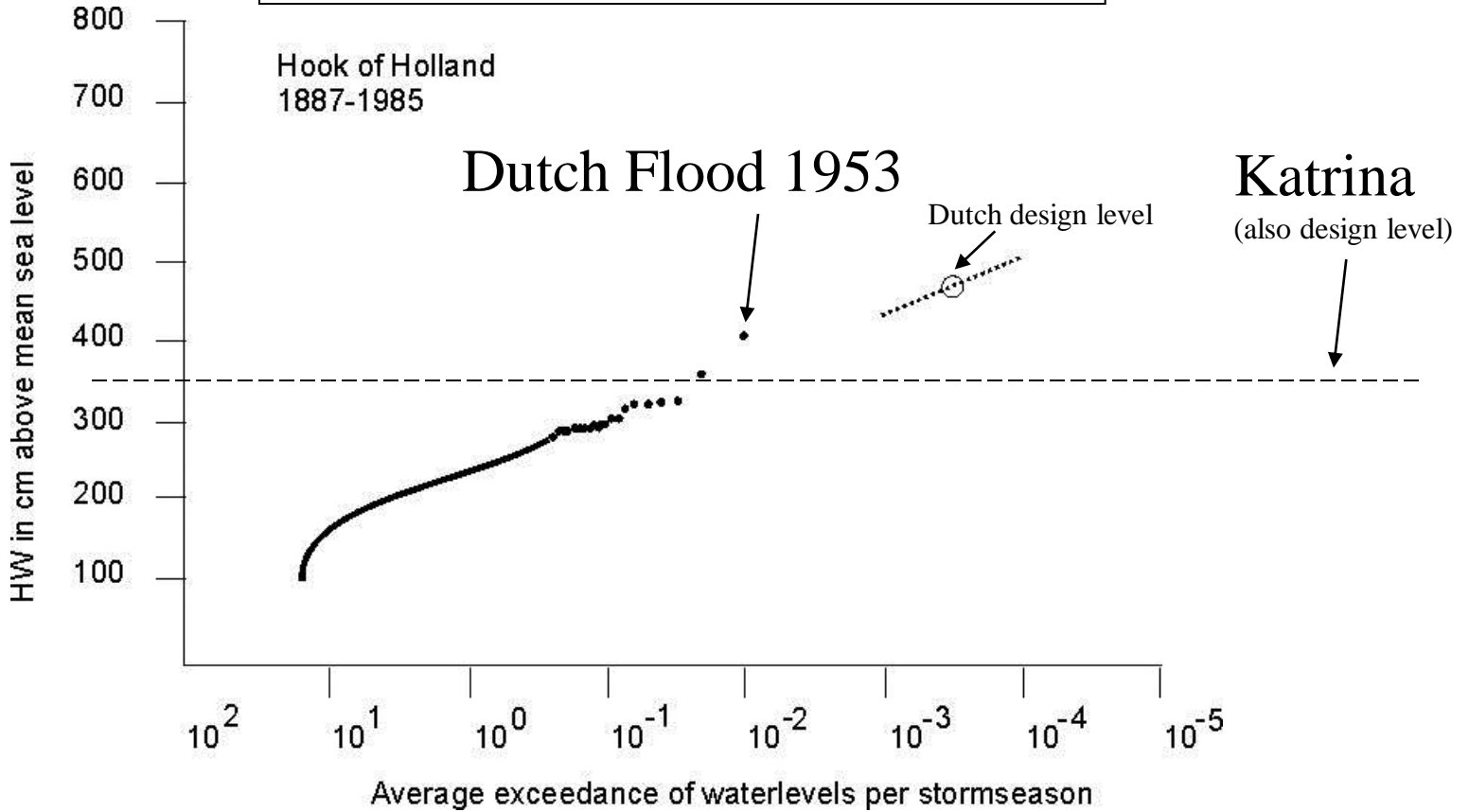


Water height 4.55 m





# Katrina versus Dutch Flood 1953



HW/year	Delfzijl	Den Helder	Scheveningen	Vlissingen	Bath
$10^{-1}$	4.10 m	2.75 m	3.05 m	3.85 m	4.75 m
$10^{-2}$	4.95 m	3.40 m	3.70 m	4.40 m	5.45 m
$10^{-3}$	5.60 m	3.95 m	4.40 m	4.95 m	6.10 m
$10^{-4}$	6.20 m	4.45 m	5.15 m	5.50 m	6.75 m
1 Feb. 1953	-	3.25 m	3.97 m	4.55 m	5.60 m











David J. Phillip / Pool via Reuters











Source: [http://www.usace.army.mil/katrina-images/NO-A-09-04-05\\_0072.jpg](http://www.usace.army.mil/katrina-images/NO-A-09-04-05_0072.jpg)







New Orleans East: Lower 9<sup>th</sup> Ward





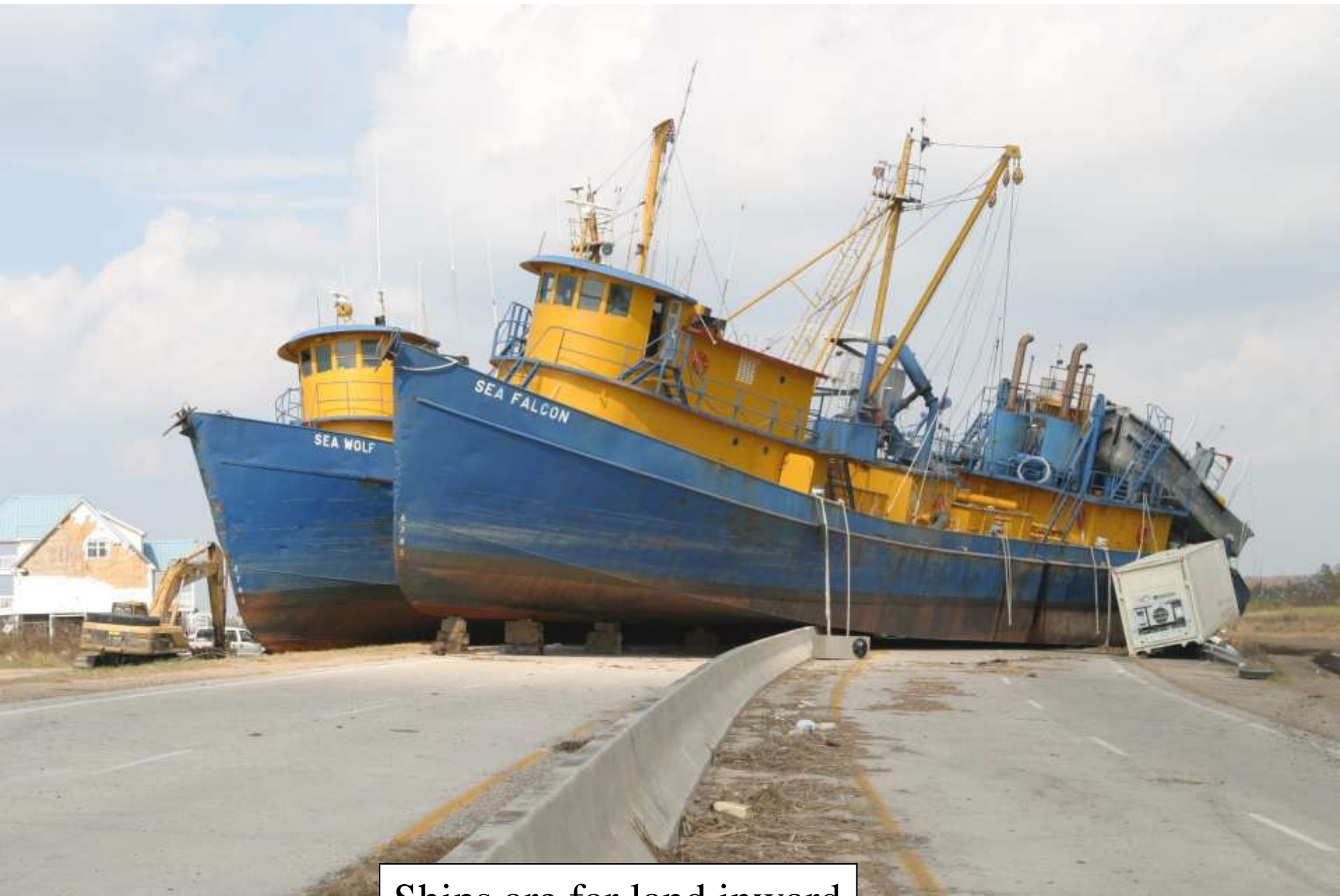












Ships are far land inward





Senator, Colonel, Coordinator, Sen. wife, Senator, Van Gelder, Kok, Kanning, Van Baars, Wagemaker, Klaver, Sen. Wife

# **Mistakes New Orleans**

1.

Water defence system too long by not using secondary dikes / canals





2.

# Dikes / Levees different heights



3.

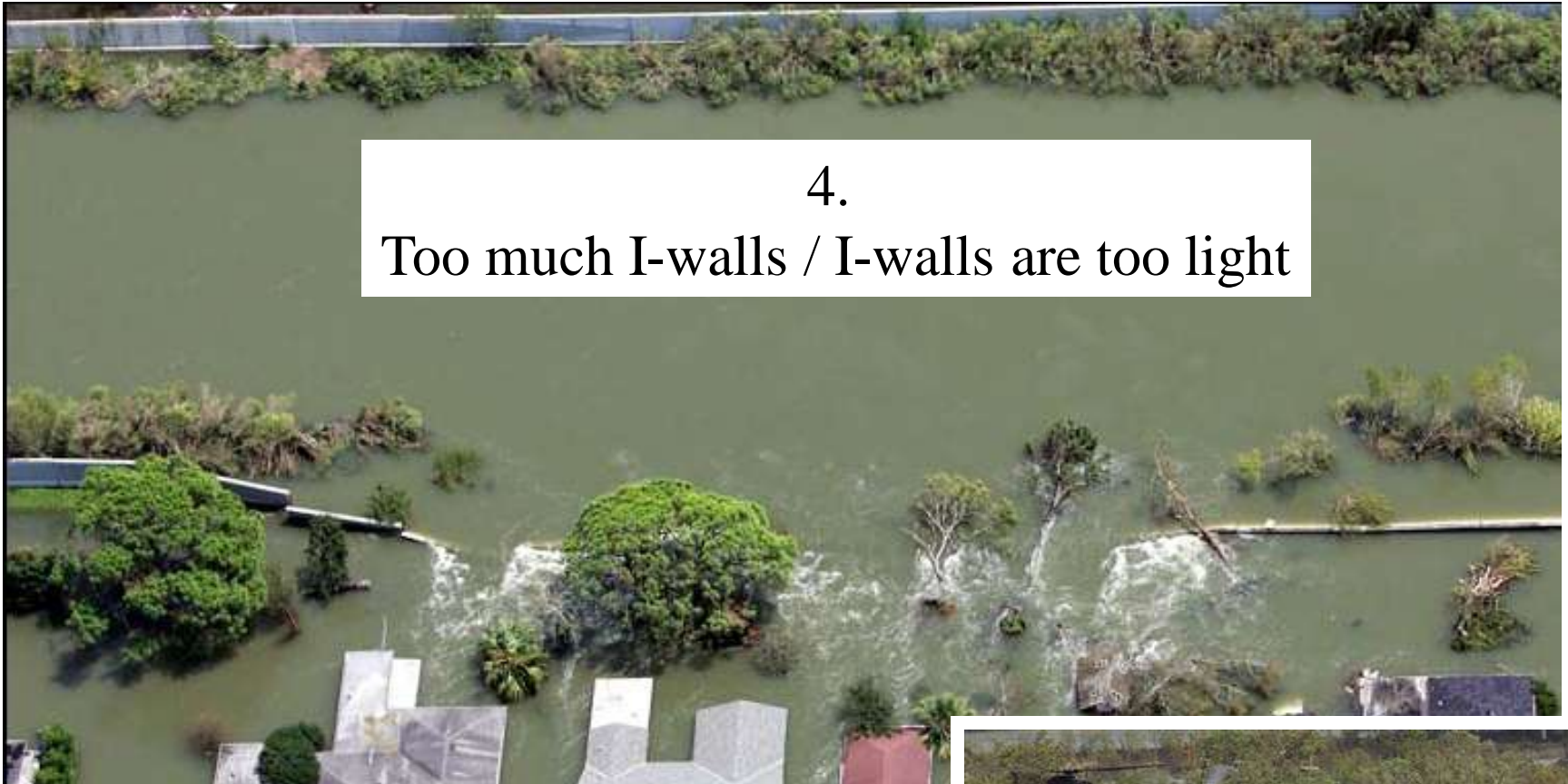
Water barrier very often too low

Water level  
river side

barrier level  
land side



4.  
Too much I-walls / I-walls are too light



5.  
Missing I-wall or dike





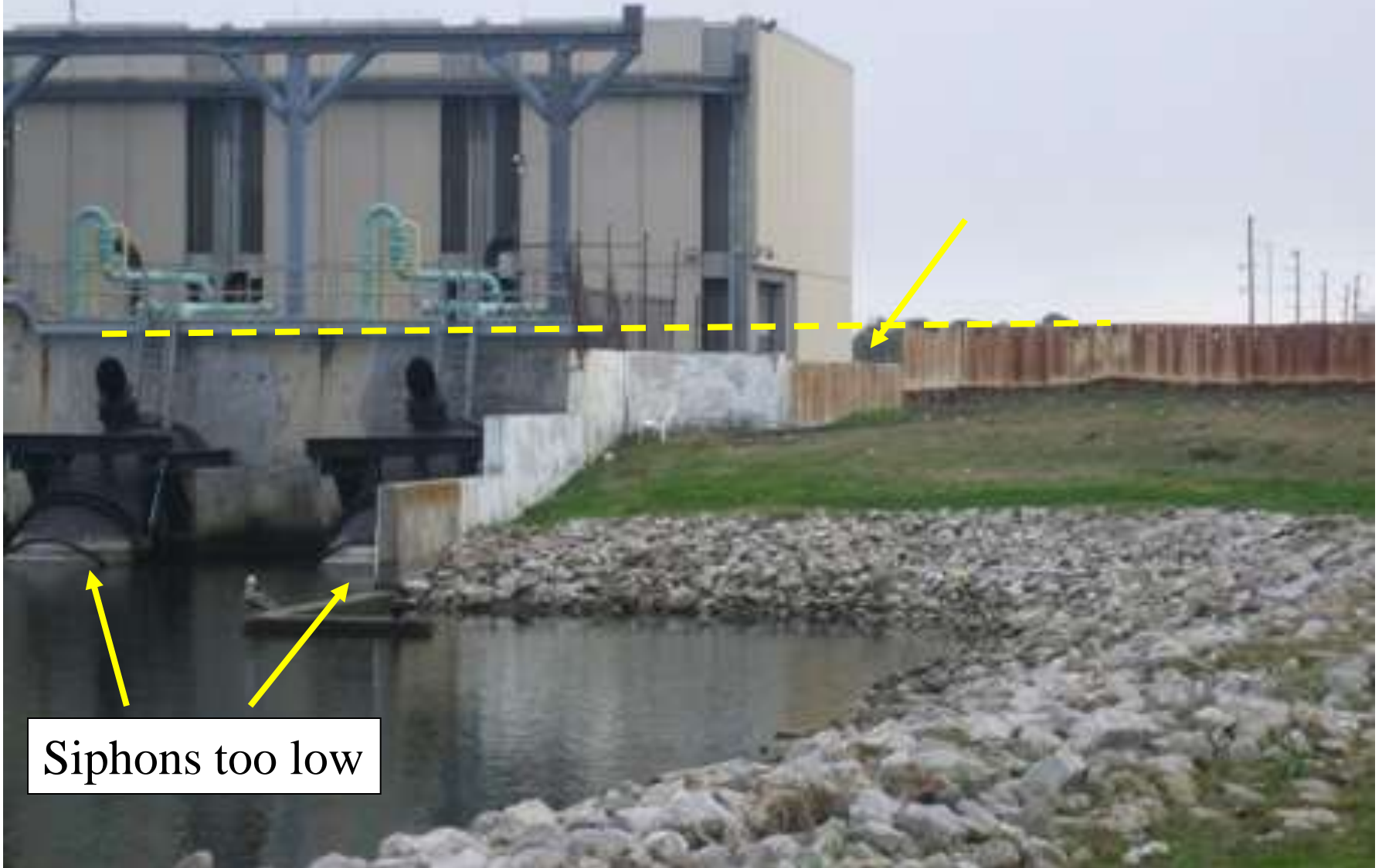
6.

### Hard-soft mistakes / piping



7.

Sifons must be over /not through dike



Siphons too low



8.  
Dikes must be more impermeable

# Xynthia, February 2010

Formed 26 February 2010

Dissipated 1 March 2010

Countries or regions affected Belgium, Denmark, France, England, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and South-East England.

Damage €1.3 - 3 billion[1]

Fatalities 62 and 12 missing



A car damaged by a falling tree is seen near Arianzon, Spain, on early Sunday. The two passengers of the car were killed. (AP Photo/I. Lopez)







Dauphiné 6 avril 2010

## URBANISME Après la tempête Xynthia

# L'État veut détruire près de 1500 maisons

Les autorités s'apprêtent à annoncer cette semaine un plan de destruction de 1300 à 1500 maisons en zones inondables après le passage de la tempête Xynthia qui a fait 53 morts les 27 et 28 février dans l'ouest de la France, a annoncé hier le *Journal du Dimanche*, citant "les préfets de Charente-Maritime et de Vendée. D'après la préfecture de Vendée, une réunion à huis clos est prévue avec les maires mercredi soir, et les habitants de La-Faute-sur-Mer et de l'Aiguillon-sur-Mer en seront informés jeudi.

### ■ Définir des "zones rouges"

Toujours selon le JDD, "les services des préfectures et de l'Équipement planchent encore sur les cartes côtières pour définir et délimiter les derniers

contours des zones rouges, territoires où plus aucune habitation ne pourra être construite".

Autre révélation du JDD : les indemnisations atteindraient au total 200 millions d'euros, soit environ 150 000 euros par maison en moyenne.

Par ailleurs, le président du conseil général de Charente-Maritime, Dominique Busseureau, va proposer une hausse exceptionnelle de la fiscalité de 6 % pour 2010 pour faire face au coût de la tempête, a-t-on appris hier auprès du premier vice-président, Jean-Louis Frot. Le coût estimé de la tempête pour les finances départementales serait de l'ordre de 27 millions d'euros. Et cette hausse apporterait huit millions d'euros supplémentaires au budget 2010... □

# Poland/Hungary, June 2010

