

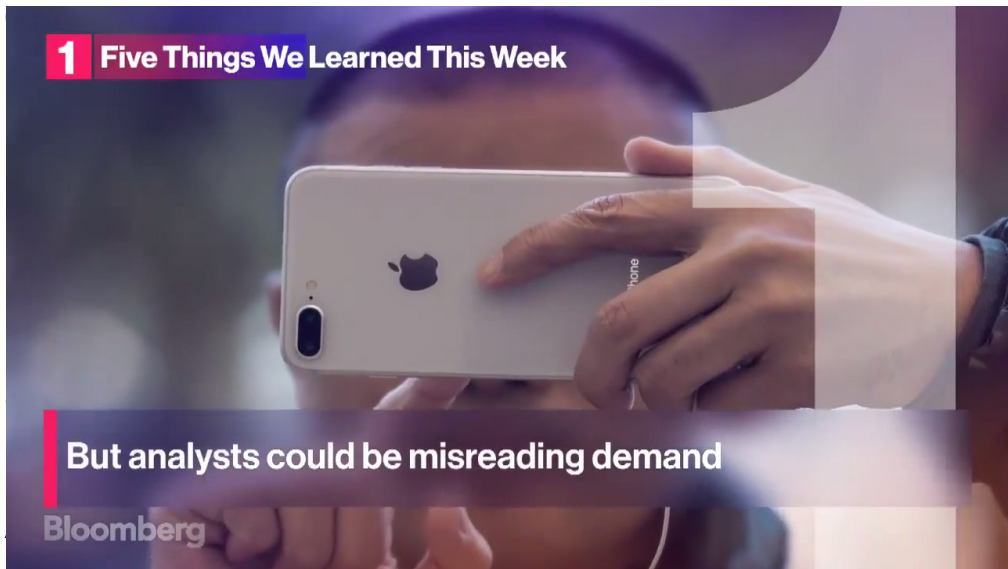
Feds: Outside experts to review seeping La. levee

JANET McCONNAUGHEY Published 7:00 pm CDT, Wednesday, May 28, 2008
Associated Press Writer

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Outside experts will review work at a canal occurred through the corps of



priorities as well view, to put to Durham-restoring

re said.

Outside experts have told The Associated Press that the type of

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The repairs included driving interlocking sheets of metal 60 feet into the ground, 43 feet deeper than before the storm. However, there is evidence that canal water is seeping through the joints.

The corps has defended its work, but also has been digging a trench to find the precise source of wet spots inside the levees.

"Bringing in what we hope is a truly independent review to look at the leaks at the 17th Street Canal _ that is commendable," said Sandy Rosenthal, founder of Levees.org, a group that has lobbied for overhauling the Corps.

Aside from that, Rosenthal said in an interview, "I'm not aware of anything that was presented that would give the citizens of this area any reason to feel safe."

Aguilera spoke during a half-hour teleconference with General Douglas O'Dell, the federal coordinator for Gulf Coast rebuilding, and

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better than it has ever been, but that parish or neighborhood risk estimates are not available.

"This is a very complex system, so to be able to talk in specific terms of neighborhood protection versus parish protection versus the entire system, probably defies the amount of time we have left on this call," O'Dell said.

The corps' goal, set by Congress, is protection by 2011 from a 100-year storm _ one with a 1 percent chance of hitting in any given year.