### CORS911: Real-Time Subsidence Monitoring of the Napoleonville Salt Dome Sinkhole Using GPS

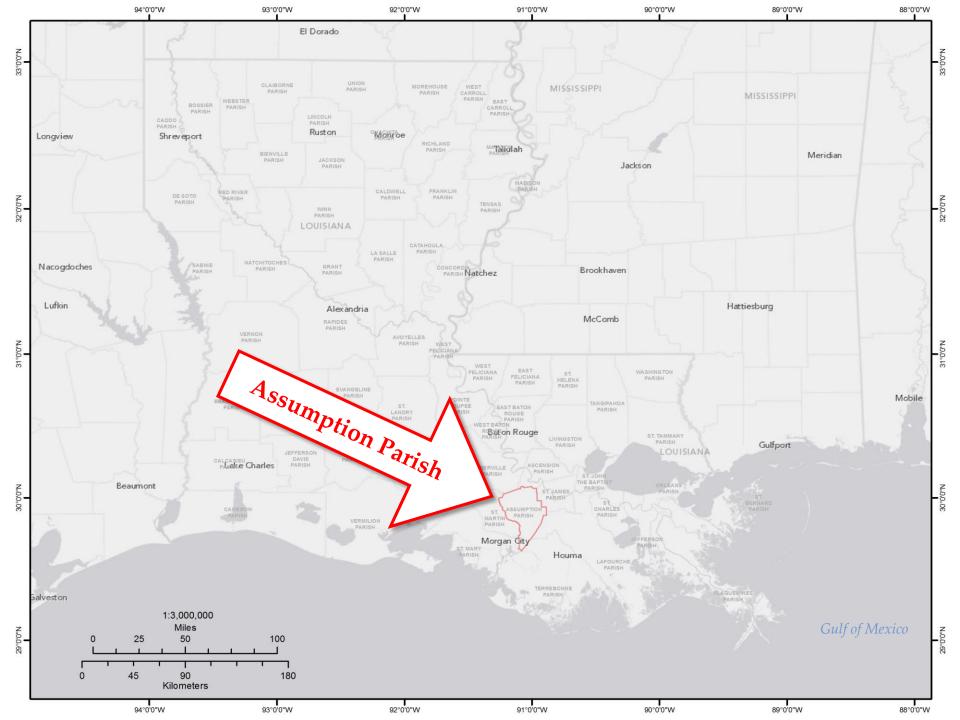
LSU Center for GeoInformatics Joshua D. Kent, Larry E. Dunaway, Randy Osborne, & Cliff Mugnier

NGS Height Modernization Coordination Meeting July, 12, 2013

### Presentation Overview

- The Situation
- A Timeline
- Nature of the Sinkhole
- Efforts by the C4G
- Current Status
- Long-term Plans
- Conclusion







#### Assumption Parish, Louisiana Community of Bayou Corne

70



Bayou

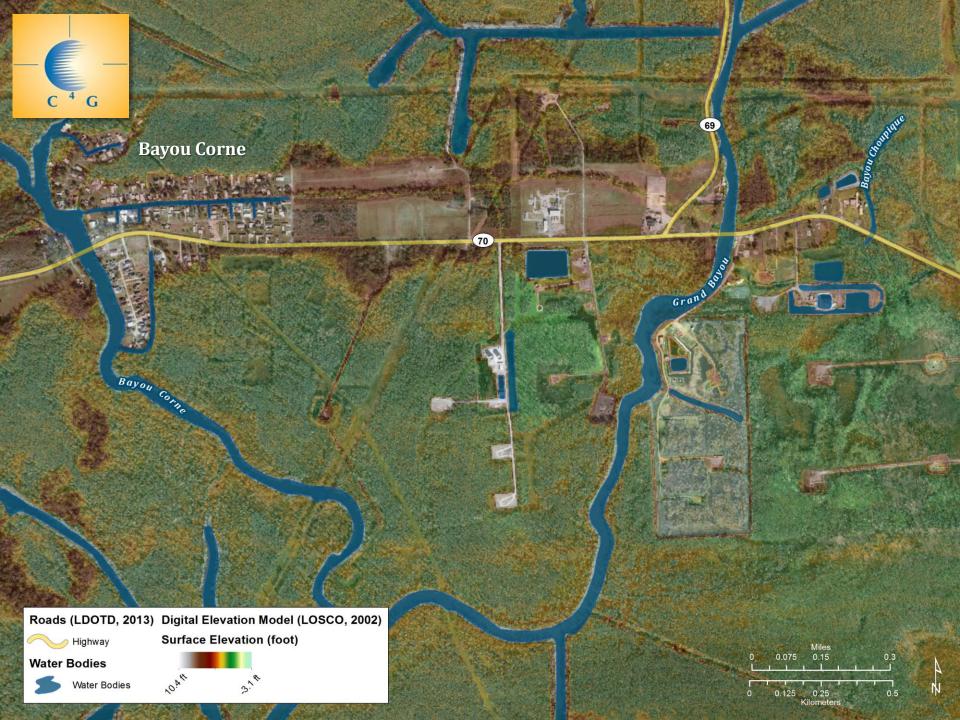
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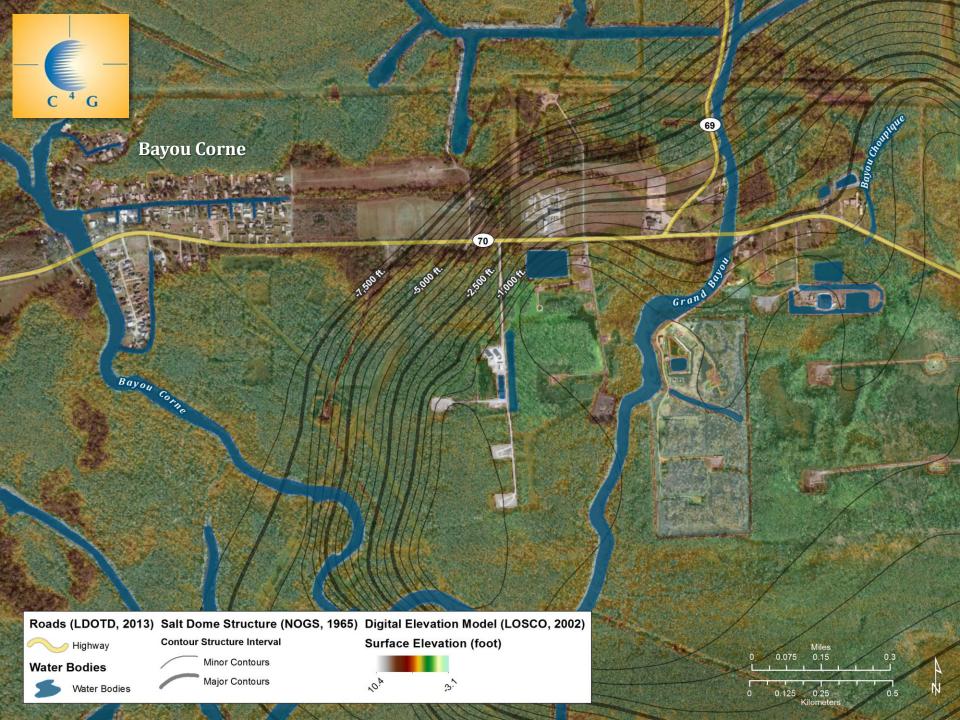


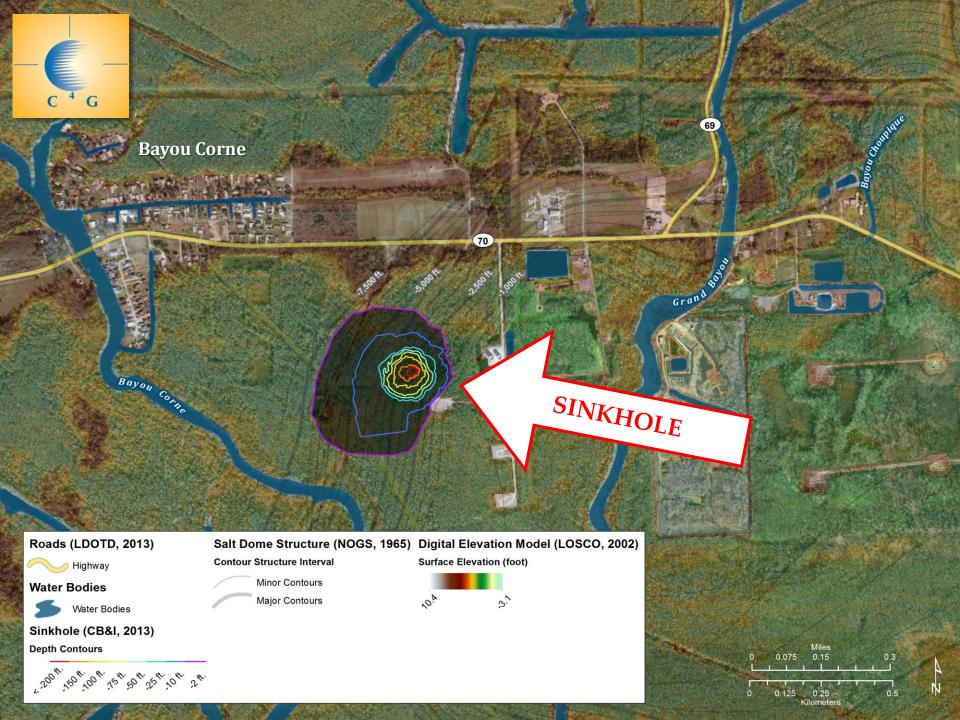
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Grav









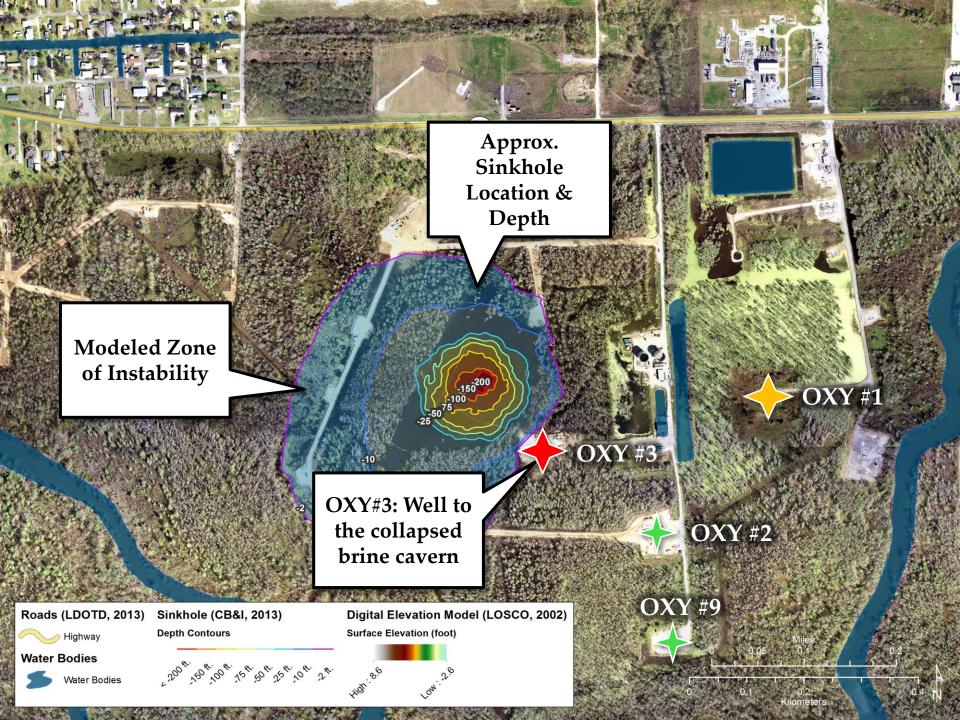


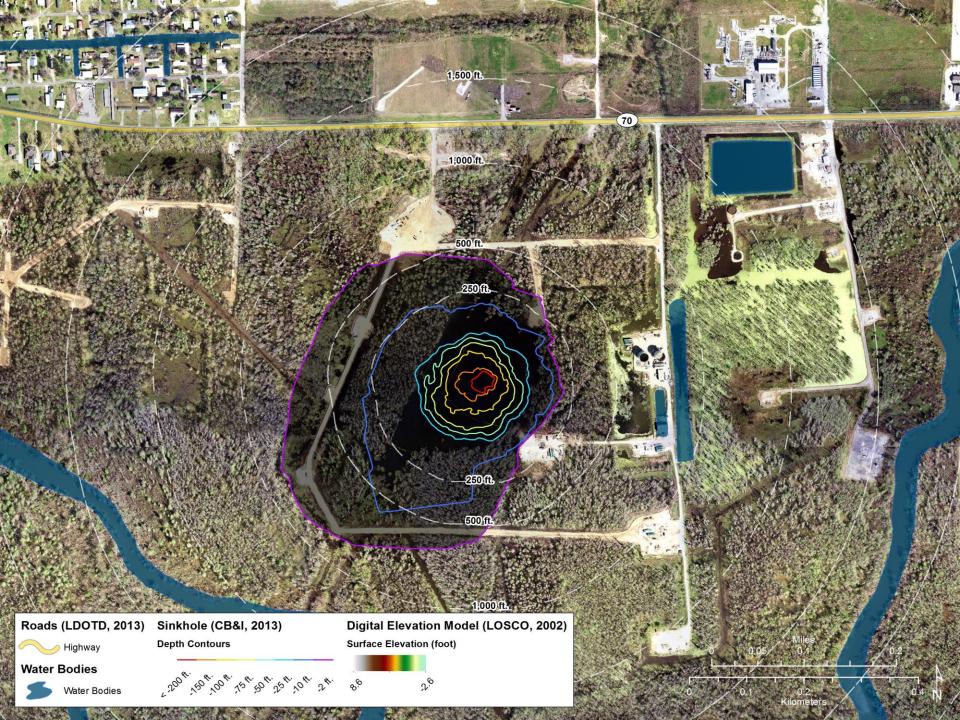


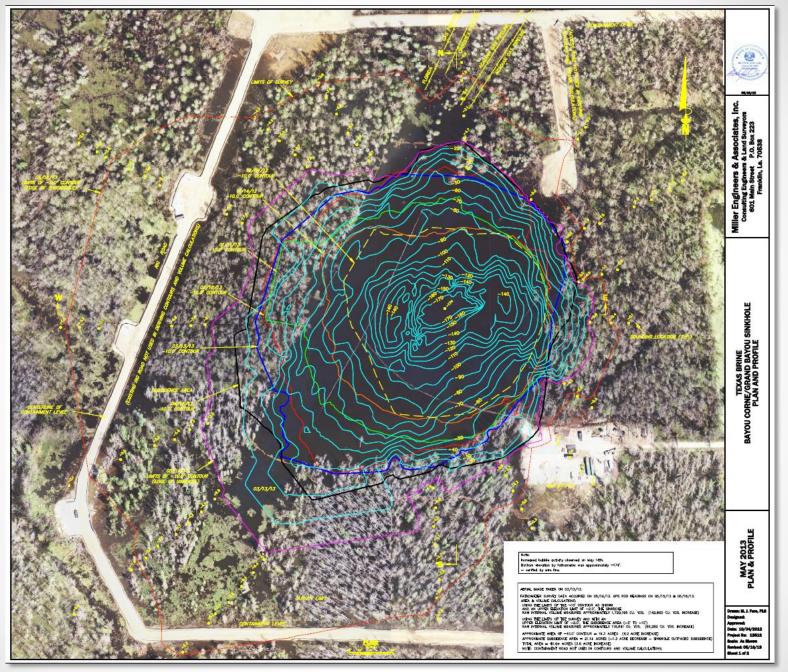


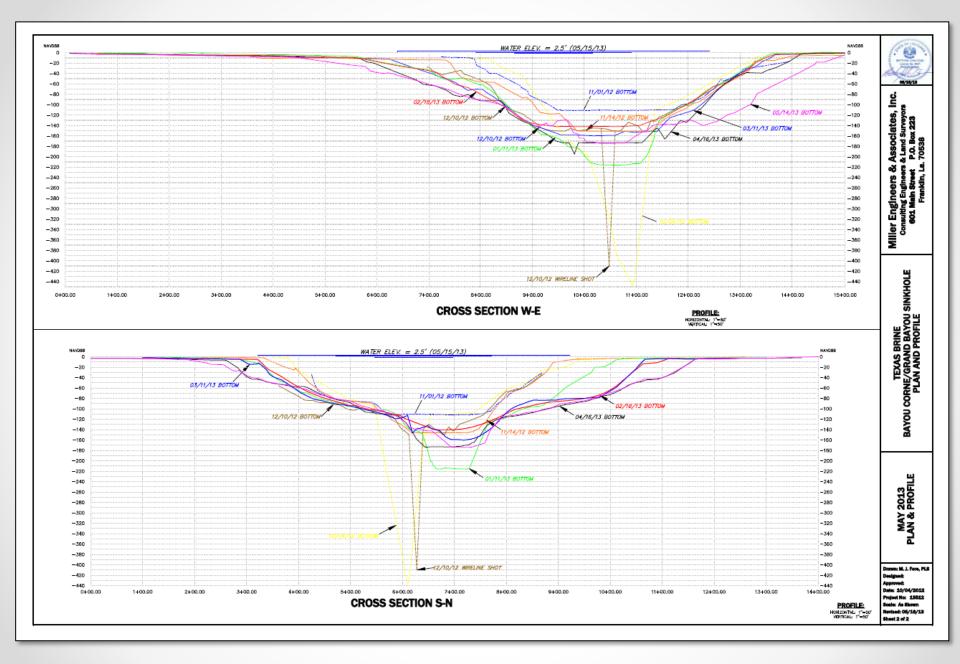












### Assumption Parish



Bayou Corne/Grand Bayou Sinkhole	Ы
Home	
Parish Blog	
Tropical Storm/Hurricane Updates	
About Assumption Parish	N
Community	N
Parish Government	N
Tourism	
Police Jury Meeting Agendas	
Police Jury Meeting Minutes	
Homeland Security/Emerg Preparednes	s
Parish Permit Office	N
Business Guide	Ľ
Parish Forms	
Assumption Parish Community Center	
Links	
Assumption Flood Risk Maps	
Calendar of Events	
Assumption Parish Recovery	N
Hurricane Preparedness	
Local Emergency Planning Committee	
Photo Gallery	
Contact Us	

News & Updates

Upcoming Events

Assumption Parish Police Jury

#### Bayou Corne/Grand Bayou Sinkhole

Home



On May 31, 2012, parish officials were notified of areas of bubbling spots in the Bayou Corne and Grand Bayou waterways. Early on, it was determined that the bubbling was caused by a release of natural gas and not "swamp gas". Monitoring for carbon monoxide, H2Sm and Lower Explosive Levels (LEL) at the bubbling spots began on June 22, 2012. During this monitoring, no dangerous levels were detected. Residents within the community experienced and reported tremors and the parish requested the assistance of USGS in determining the locations and probable cause(s) for this seismic activity. USGS immediately detected seismic activity through their monitors and began recording this data; however, no probable cause was able to be detected.

Early in the morning on Friday, August 3, 2012, Assumption Parish Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness Director John Boudreaux was notified by local industry that a sinkhole had formed overnight in the swamp in the area. The hole was discovered after a strong diesel smell was experienced

### Bayou Corne Sinkhole: Current Situation (06/13)

- Sinkhole area is ~12 acres and ~200' deep.
- Subsidence Zone is ~20 acres.
- Salt cavern breached approx. 1 mile beneath surface
- 45 million cubic ft. of natural gas seeping up into the water table.
- 19 wells venting natural gas from beneath the aquifer.
- Cavern remains unstable.
- Various monitoring strategies in place and planned.
- **Earthen berm** built around sinkhole to avoid environmental contamination.



7/22/2013 • 19

# **Brief** Timeline

### Oxy Geismar Well No. 3 Timeline

- 1982: Oxy Geismar Well No. 3 permitted for solutionmining of brine.
- 1995: Texas brine received permission from Louisiana Department of Natural Resources to store Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (NORM) in the well.
- 2010: DNR issues permit to mine a section of salt above the existing cavern roof (~3,400 feet deep).
- June 2011: Texas Brine notifies DNR that integrity of the well had been lost. Wellbore above the cavern was plugged with cement.

# **Brief** Timeline

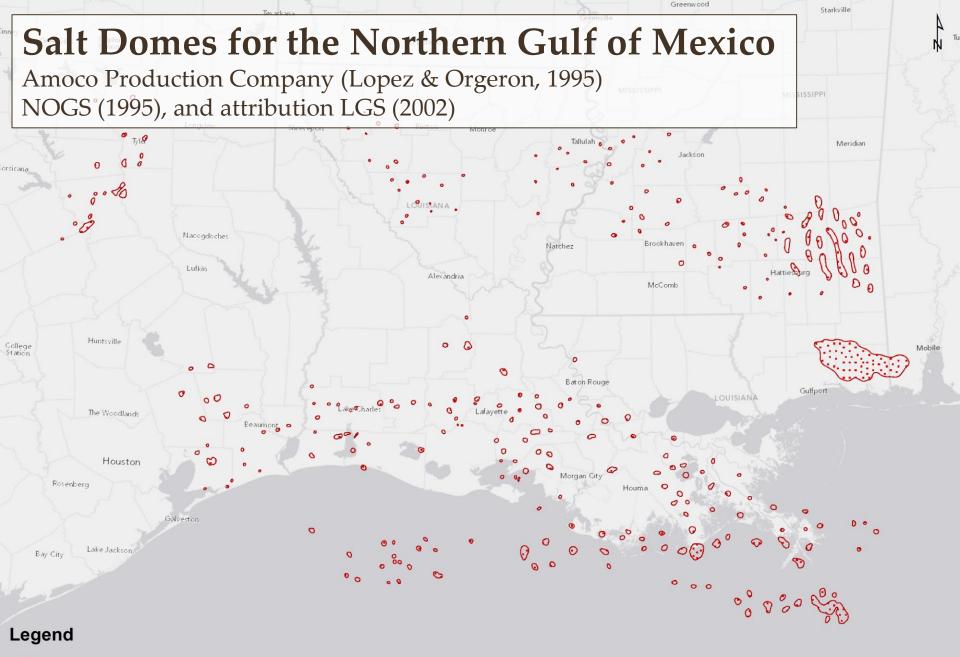
### Oxy Geismar Well No. 3 Sinkhole Timeline

- May 2012: Parish officials were notified of areas of bubbling spots in the Bayou Corne and Grand Bayou waterways.
- June 2012: Parish Emergency Declared.
- Aug. 2012: 372' diameter sinkhole forms overnight. State Emergency Declared.
- Aug. 2012: "Mandatory" Evacuation Ordered for >150 Residents.
- Dec. 2012: Sinkhole expands to 8.4 acres. Gas venting underway.
- March 2013: Gov. Jindal visits sinkhole.
- April 2013: 'Blue Ribbon' Commission convenes to provide science-based recommendations for public safety.
- May 2013: Containment levee built around the sinkhole to prevent further environmental contamination.
- June 2013: Cavern instability persists.

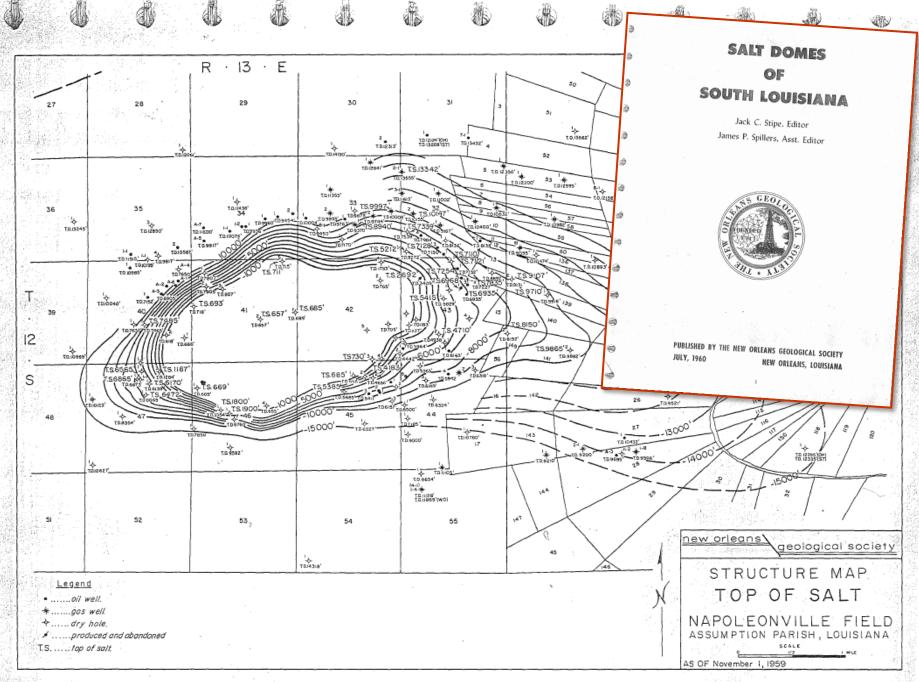
### Nature of the Sinkhole

The Sinkhole is associated with the Napoleonville Salt Dome Structure

- Background on Salt Domes in Louisiana
- **3D Model** of the Napoleonville Salt Dome
- Location of the Sinkhole and the Oxy3 Cavern
- Cartoon Depicting the Current Hypothesis of the Sinkhole's Formation.

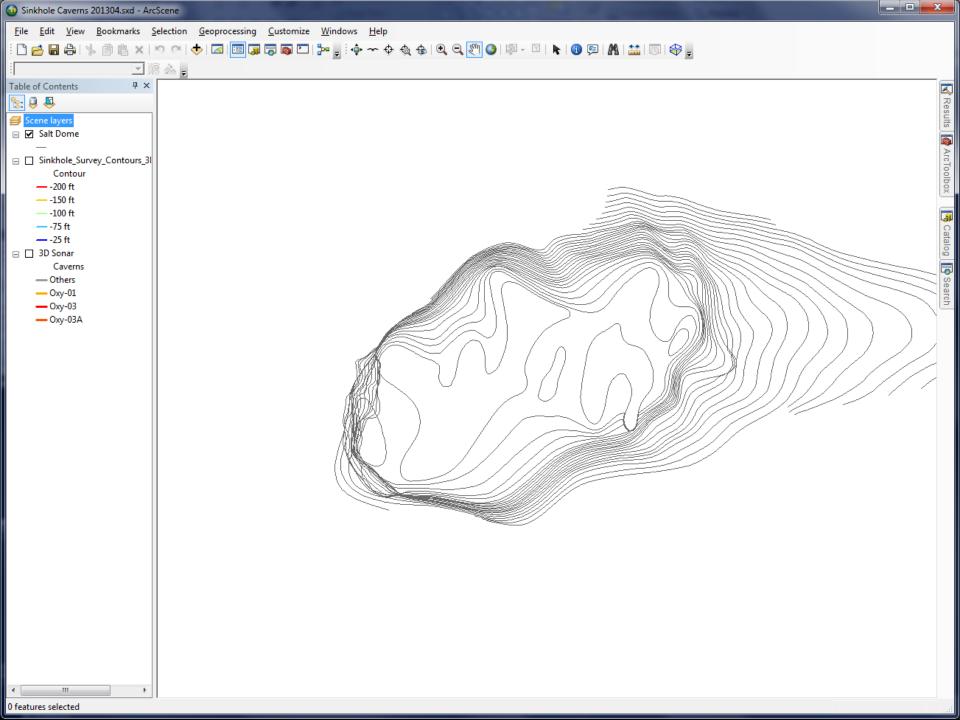


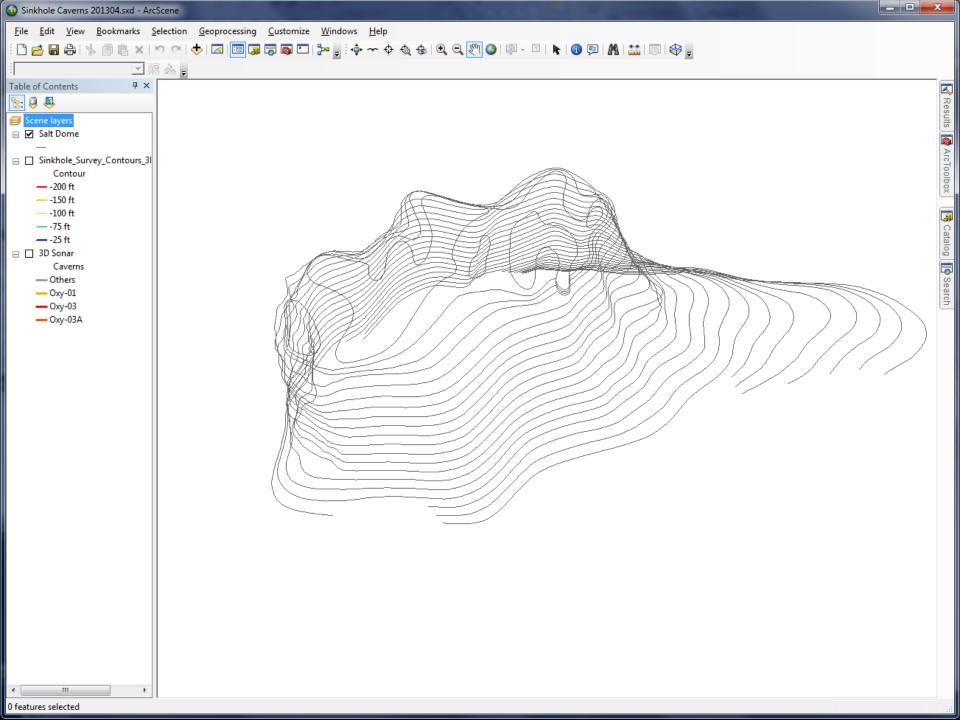


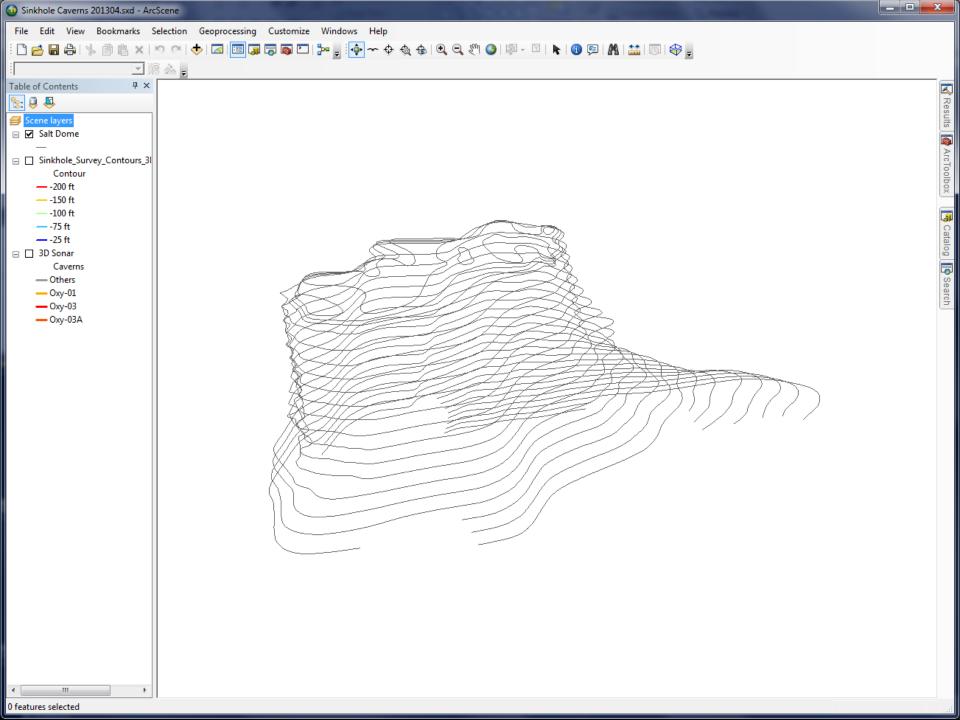


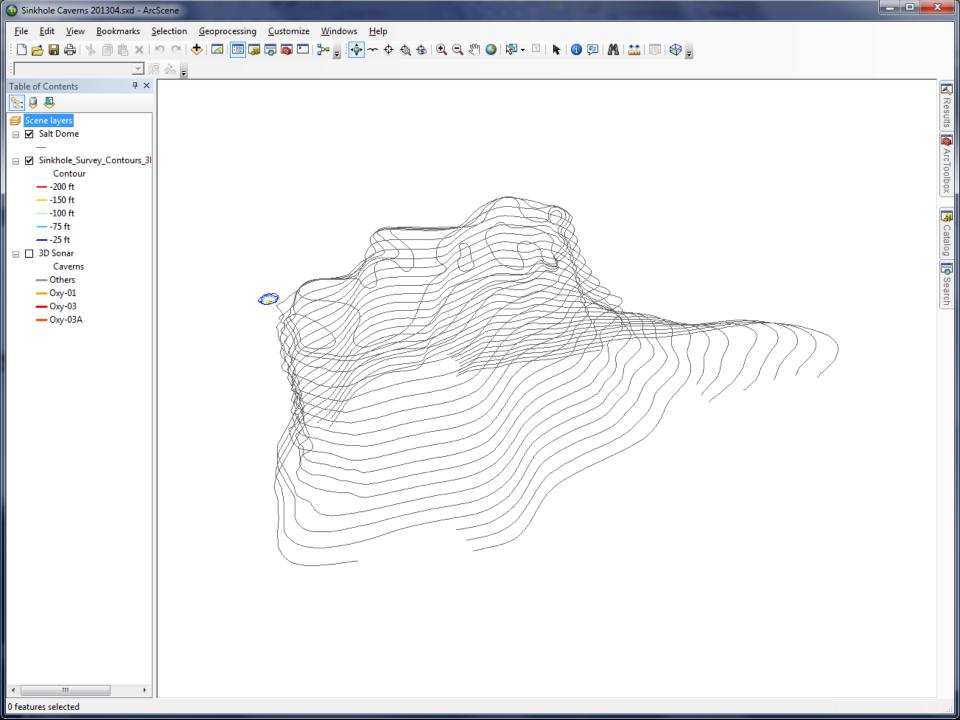
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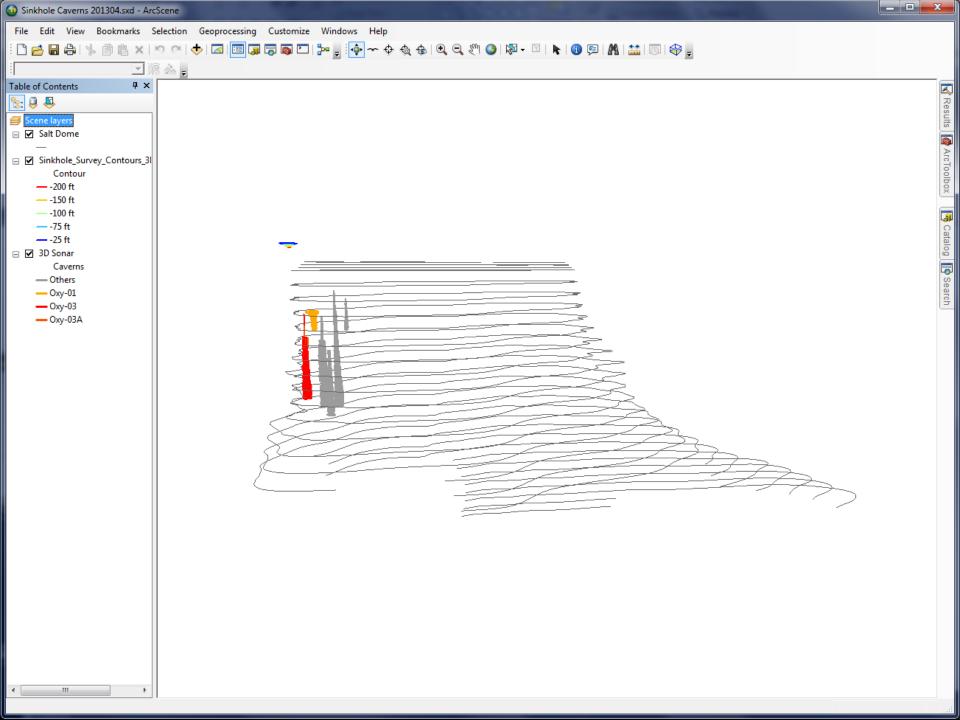
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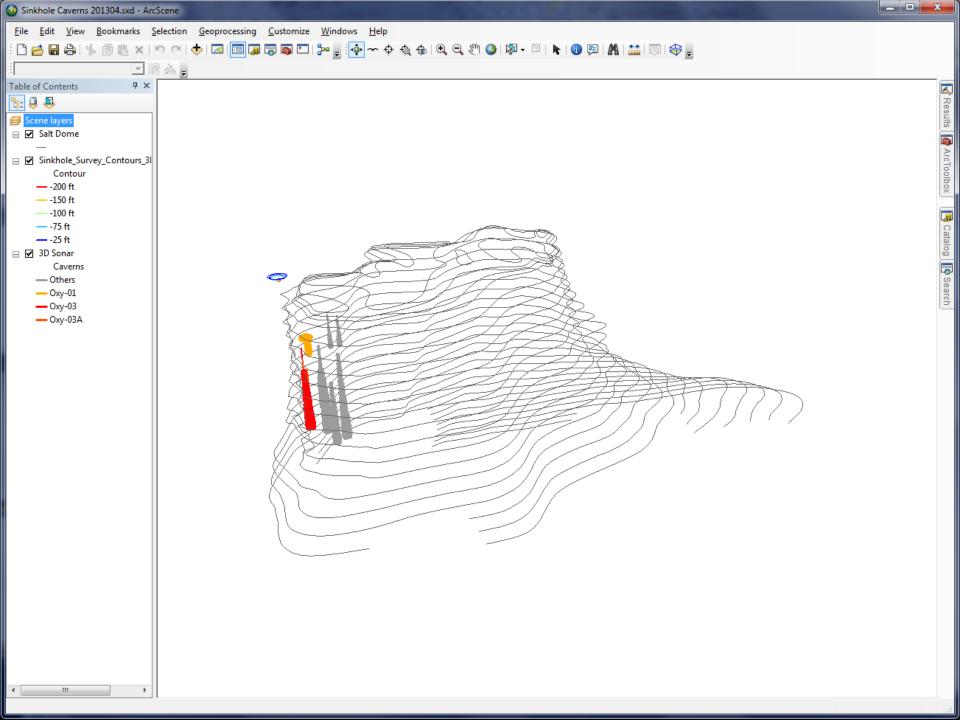


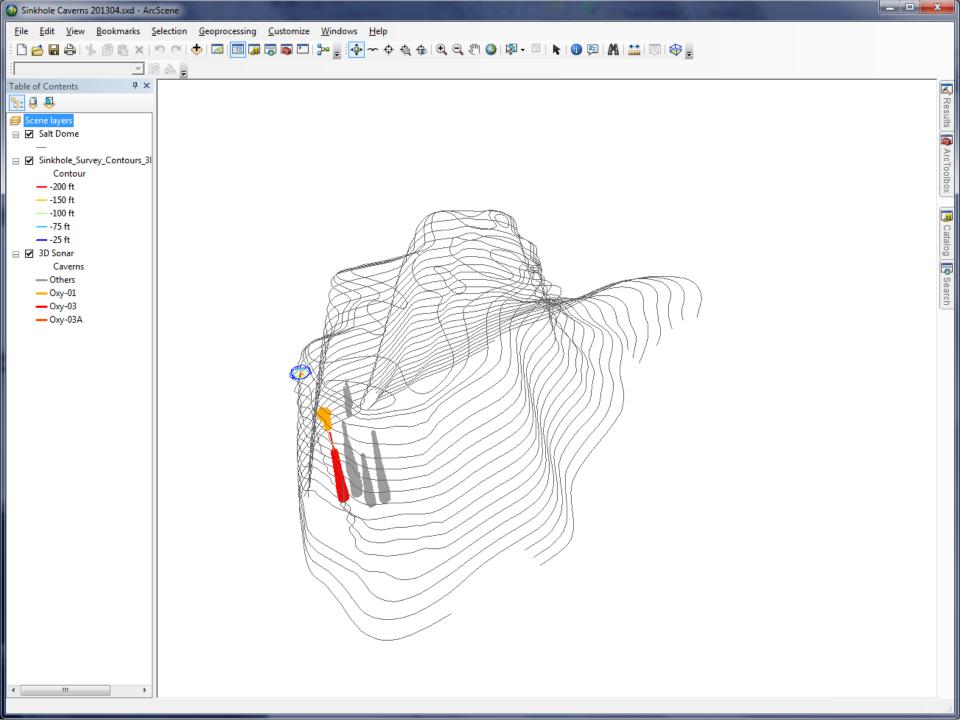


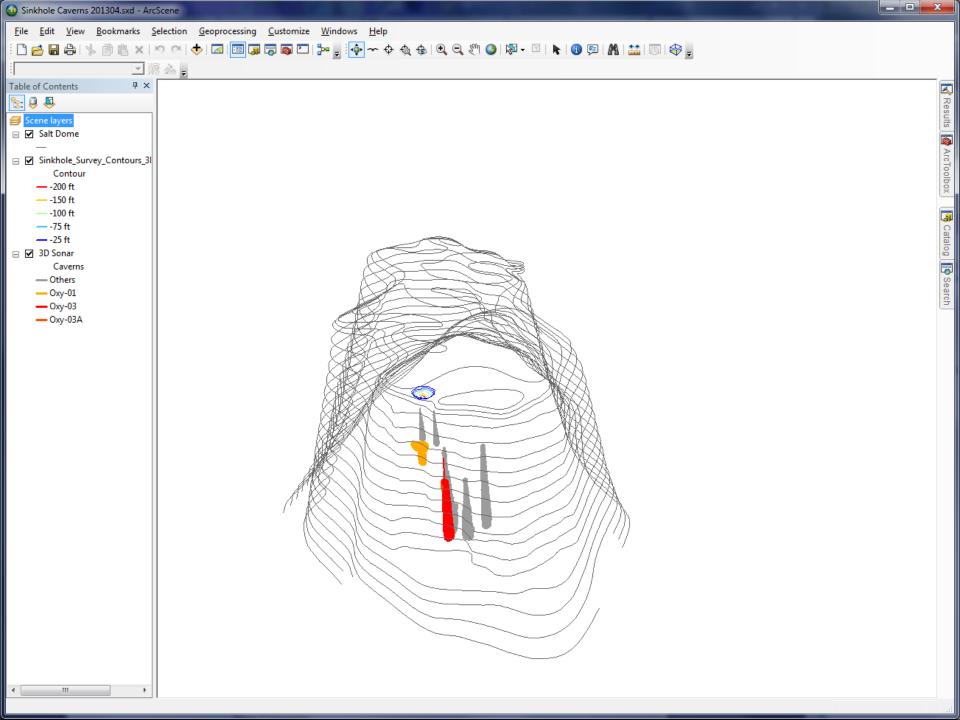


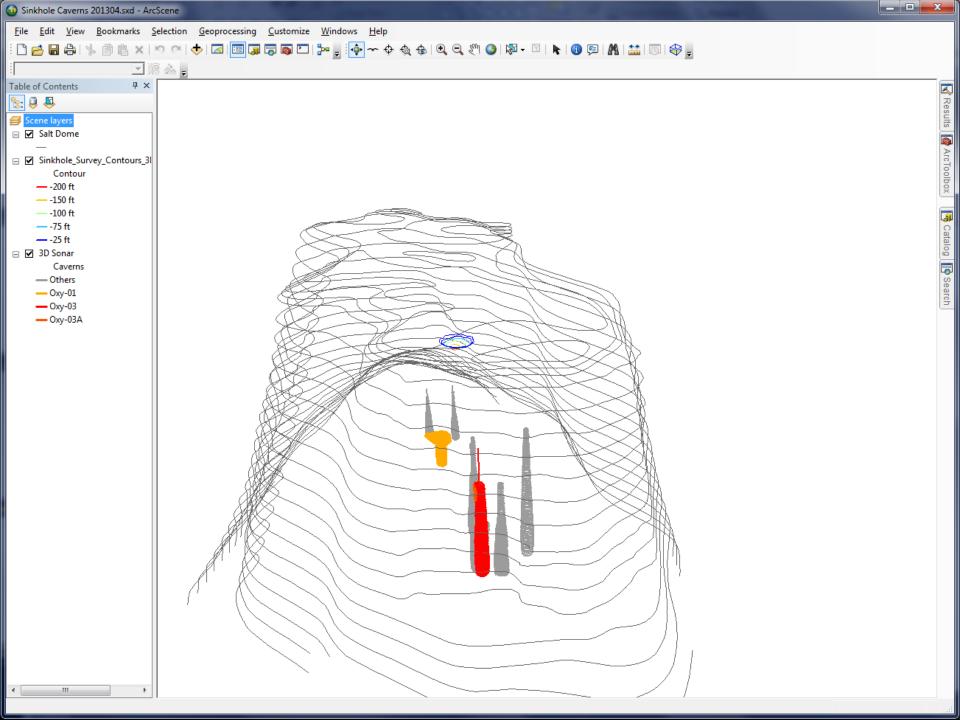


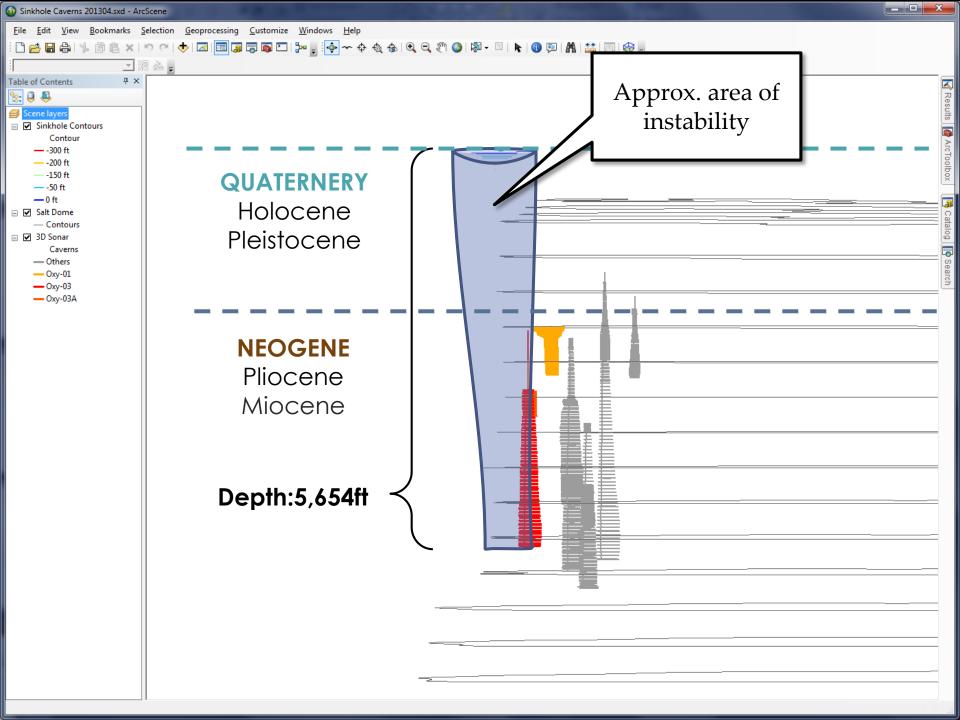












### **Research Awarded**

LA Transportation Research Center Awards Two Grants to the Center for GeoInformatics to Monitor and Assess the Stability of Highway 70

- September 2012: C4G to Measure the Horizontal and Vertical Positions of Control Points Along Highway 70
- April 2013: C4G to Install and Maintain Five Continuous GPS Monitoring Stations to Measure Positions 24-7-365

# Control Point Project

### Workflow Consisting of 3 Tasks Executed Over 9 Months:

- 1. Collect and measure horizontal and vertical positions at select control points located along Highway 70 in Assumption Parish.
- 2. Process the data for use in a GIS.
- 3. Distribute the data via FTP.

#### 4,000 ft. Project Area:

Assumption Parish, Louisiana LA Highway 70 | District 61 3,000 ft. **Control Section: 232-01** 

521

500

523

525

526

Highway 70 Measurements Sinkhole (CB&I, 2013)

GPS Control Points

**Depth Contours** 

150 T,00 T.

15 50 25 NOT

**Digital Elevation Model (LOSCO, 2002)** Surface Elevation (foot)

506

505

504

507

513

2.000 ft.

1,500 ft.

1,000 ft.

500 ft. 250 ft.

HIGT 10.4

502

501

**7**(70)

503

Roads (LDOTD, 2013)

Highway

Water Bodies

Water Bodies



G

520

519

516

515

514

Gran

# Control Point Methodology

#### Survey & Capture Point Measurements Along Highway 70 Using GPS:

- Points on Hwy 70 along north shoulder.
- Points on bridges at Grand Bayou and Bayou Corne.
- Hwy measurements on the captured at 5-minute occupations (300 epochs).
- Bridge measurements captured in 10minute occupations (600 epochs).
- All GPS measures enhanced using C4Gnet Real-Time Network:
  - Horizontal: ~10-mm (0.39 inches)
  - Vertical: ~20-mm (0.79 inches)



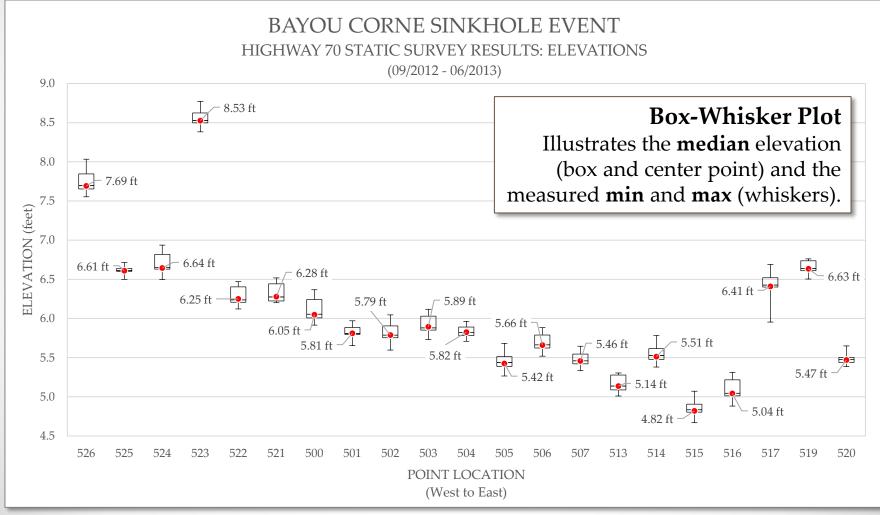
# Control Point Work Schedule

# Time Period of Observations:

- **Biweekly Observations:** 9/12-10/12
- Weekly Observations: 11/12 12/12
- Monthly Observations: 01/13 – 07/13



## Control Point Tentative Results: Road



Size of the points are proportional to the variance of the measurements over time.

501

•

 $\mu = 5.81 \text{ ft.}$  $\sigma = 0.05$ 

500

 $\mu = 6.04$  $\sigma = 0.07$ 

502 • • • • • •

503

 $\mu = 5.89 \text{ ft.}$  $\sigma = 0.07$ 

504

•

 $\mu = 5.82 \text{ ft.}$  $\sigma = 0.05$ 

505

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 $\mu = 5.42 \text{ fm}$  $\sigma = 0.06$ 



519

 $\mu = 6.63 \text{ ft.}$  $\sigma = 0.05$ 

520

 $\mu = 5.46 \text{ ft}$  $\sigma = 0.03$ 

516

515

514

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 $\mu = 5.51 \text{ ft.}$  $\sigma = 0.05$ 

Gran

513

 $\mu = 5.13 \text{ ft.}$  $\sigma = 0.07$ 

506

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µ = 5.65

σ = 0.05

507

σ = 0.05

Highway 70 Measurements Sinkhole (CB&I, 2013)

 $(\cdot)$ Position Variability **Depth Contours** 

521

Roads (LDOTD, 2013)

Highway

Water Bodies

525

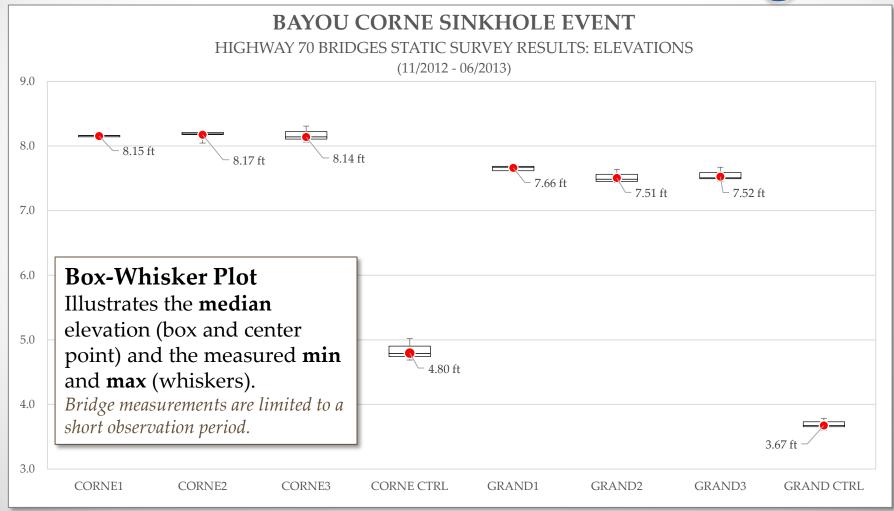
526

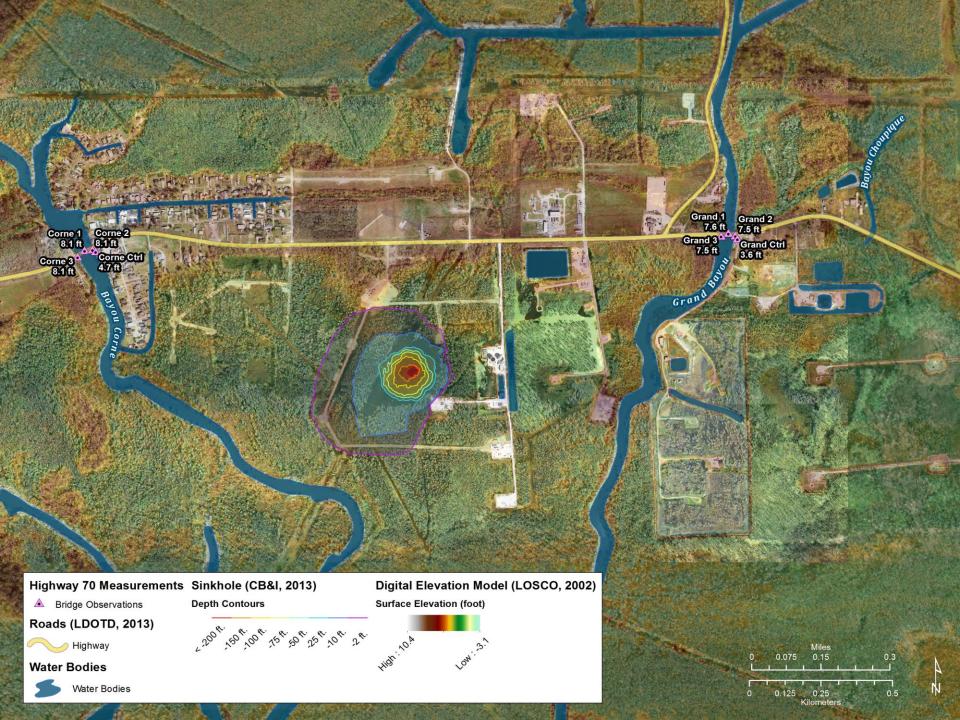


Digital Elevation Model (LOSCO, 2002) Surface Elevation (foot) 10°,0°,15°, 50°,25°,0° 2° High to A



# Control Point Tentative Results: Bridges





# Methodological Limitations

### Sporadic vs. Long-Term Occupation

**Individual** measurements exhibit both **random** and **systematic** error.

#### Random Errors:

Caused by unknown and unpredictable changes in environmental conditions:

- Signal multipath & tree canopy
- Atmospheric conditions
- Poor satellite geometry
- EM interference from nearby transmitters
- Environmental Disruptions (wind, aerodynamic drag, etc.)

#### Systematic Errors:

Caused by predictable changes in environmental conditions and procedures:

- o User & instrument error
- Tidal effects on the landscape
- Actual Movement of the surface...

# Methodological Limitations

### Sporadic vs. Long-Term Occupation

Long-term occupations are less susceptible to random and systematic error.

#### Random Errors:

Reduced by long-term occupations to provide more precise measurements:

- Isolate and mask signal multipath & tree canopy
- Atmospheric conditions less significant
- Poor satellite geometry less significant

#### • Systematic Errors:

Constrained when following best practices. Predictable environmental conditions can be removed using data models:

• Mitigates predictable errors to provide more accurate measurements of surface conditions.

# Continuous GPS Monitoring Project

CORS911: Continuously Operating Reference Stations for the Bayou Corne Sinkhole

Long-term monitoring and assessment of surface stability:

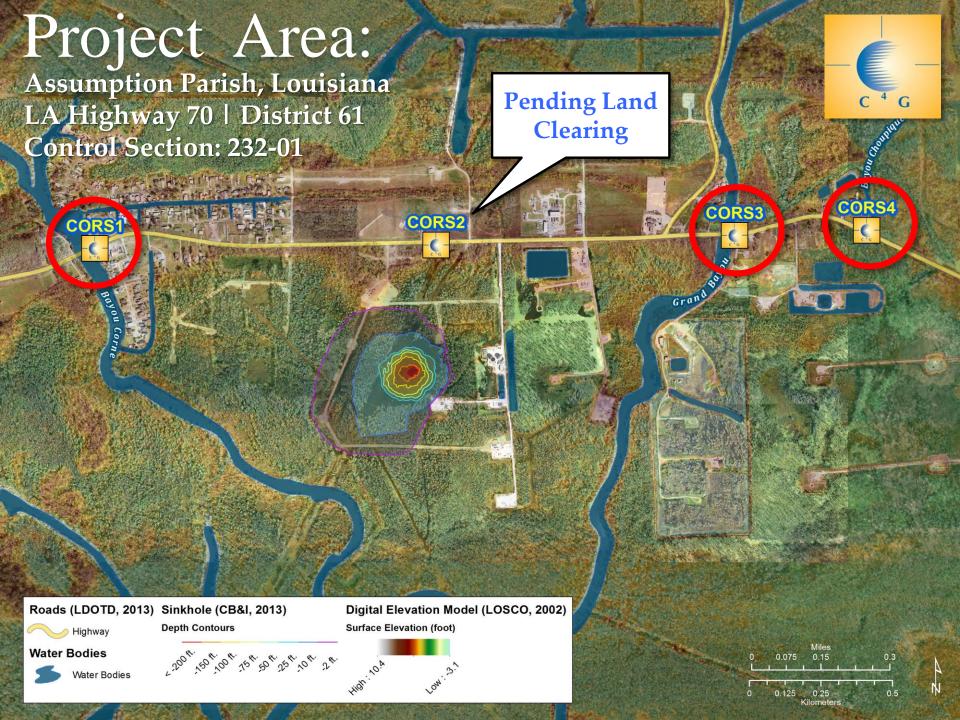
- **Monitor** horizontal and vertical positions 24-7-365 using Continuous GPS Reference Stations (CORS911)
- Quantify Differential and Network motions



### CORS911 Project Tasks Workflow Consisting of 7 Tasks Executed Over 12 Months:

- 1. Perform Site Assessments
- 2. Custom CORS Fabrication
- 3. Deploy CORS
- 4. Monitoring Implementation
- 5. Utilization & Client Support
- 6. Maintenance
- 7. Reporting





## Benefits of a CORS Network

#### Improve Monitoring of Highway Stability using CORS Technology

Software to Monitor the Locations of Individual CORS sites Relative to the Continent and to Each Other

- **Coordinate Monitoring:** real-time measurements relative to the North American continent.
- **<u>Rapid Motion Detection</u>**: measure rapid changes of an antenna's position.
- **Differential Motion Detection:** monitor short and long-term positional changes relative to a fixed location.
- **Data Storage Integrity:** local storage for fault tolerant recording of telemetry in the event of communication outages.
- **<u>Real-time and Web-based Monitoring</u>**: with user configured notification and alarms.

# CORS911 Methodology



- Install CORS911 Sites: Coordinate site prep with LADOTD
  - Clear site of debris and sources of GPS interference
  - Pour foundation slab: 4.5'x4.5'x2'
  - Utilities added to each location.
  - o Install CORS911 mast, enclosure, antenna, receiver, and cell
- Add CORS to the RTN: Add the CORS sites to the network synchronizers
- Establish Coordinate Precision: Allow CORS positions to "cook-down" for ~3-Days
  - Adjust positions to match Network Solution relative to Oakdale, LA
  - Validate positions with OPUS

#### • Monitor Position Integrity: Provide 24/7/365 Observations

- Coordinate Monitoring
- o Differential Network Motions
- Rapid Motion

### CORS1 – Bayou Corne

CORS

BRYON COTTLE

0.02

CORS911 - Monitoring Stations





### CORS1 – Bayou Corne

CORS911 - Monitoring Stations





### **CORS3 – Grand Bayou**

CORS3

CORS911 - Monitoring Stations

Site Location



### CORS3 – Grand Bayou

CORS911 - Monitoring Stations

Site Location





### CORS4 – Bayou Choupique

**CORS911 - Monitoring Stations** 





Miles 0.01 0.02 11.000

0.04

### CORS4 – Bayou Choupique

CORS911 - Monitoring Stations





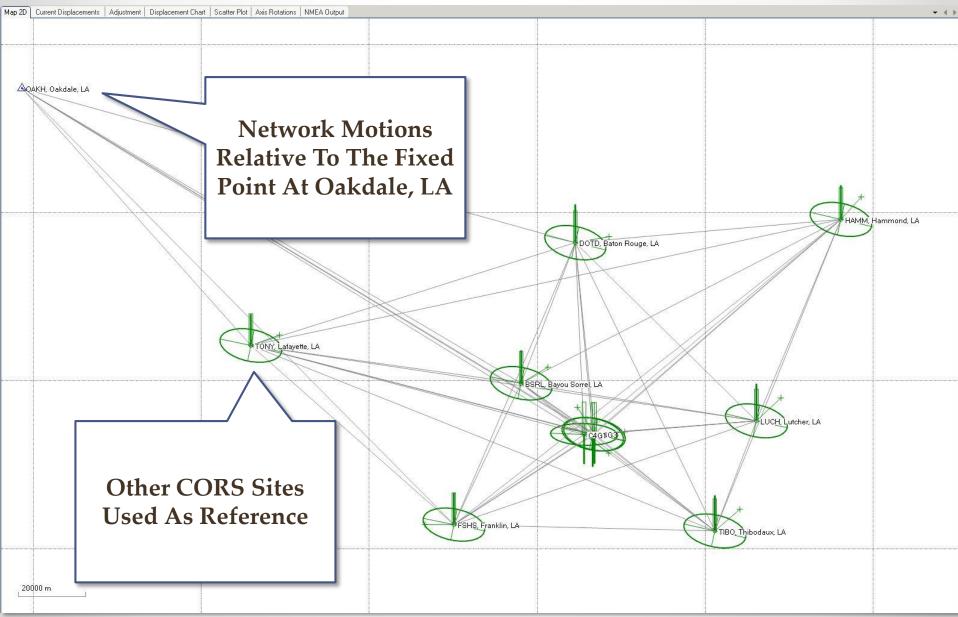


# **Detecting Motion**

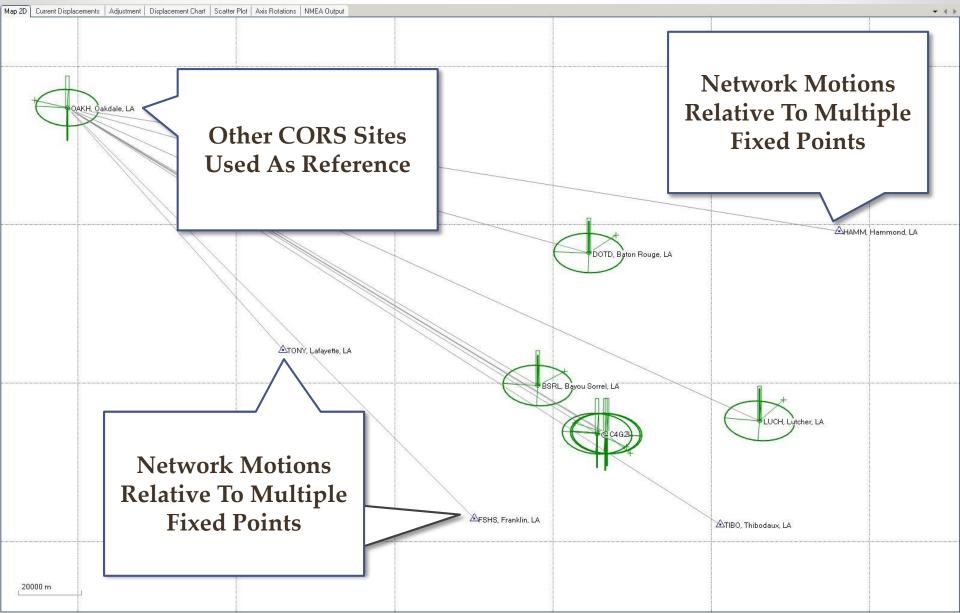
### C4GNet RTN Uses Integrity Monitoring Algorithms to Detect Motions

- Set integrity monitoring relative to other CORS within the network
- Anchor to a **single**, central location:
  - o Oakdale, LA (central LA)
- Anchor to **multiple**, surrounding locations:
  - Hammond, LA (NE), Thibodaux, LA (SE), Lafayette, LA (NW), and Franklin (SW)
- Use **floating reference** sites to aid interpretation

#### Synchronizing CORS911 Relative to the C4GNet RTN

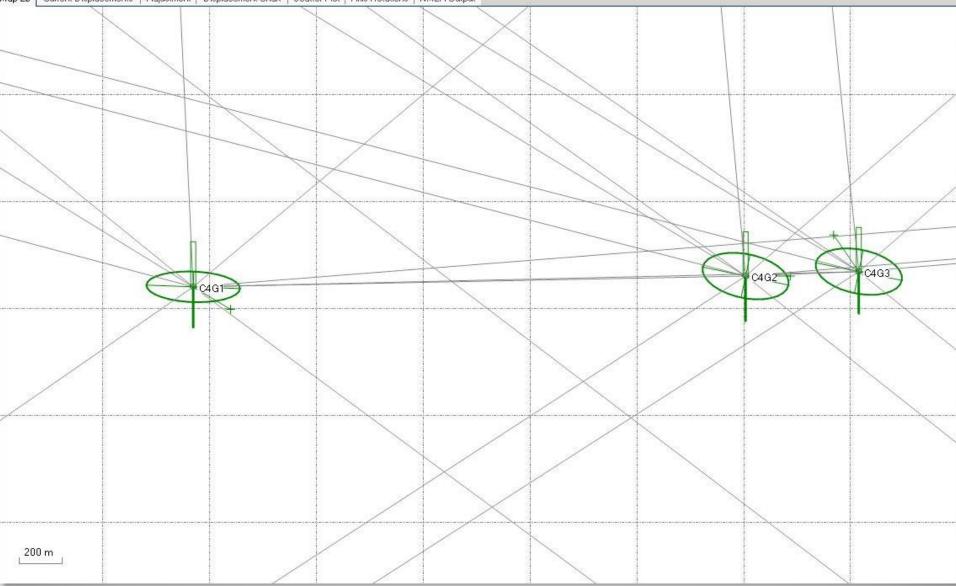


#### Synchronizing CORS911 Relative to the C4GNet RTN

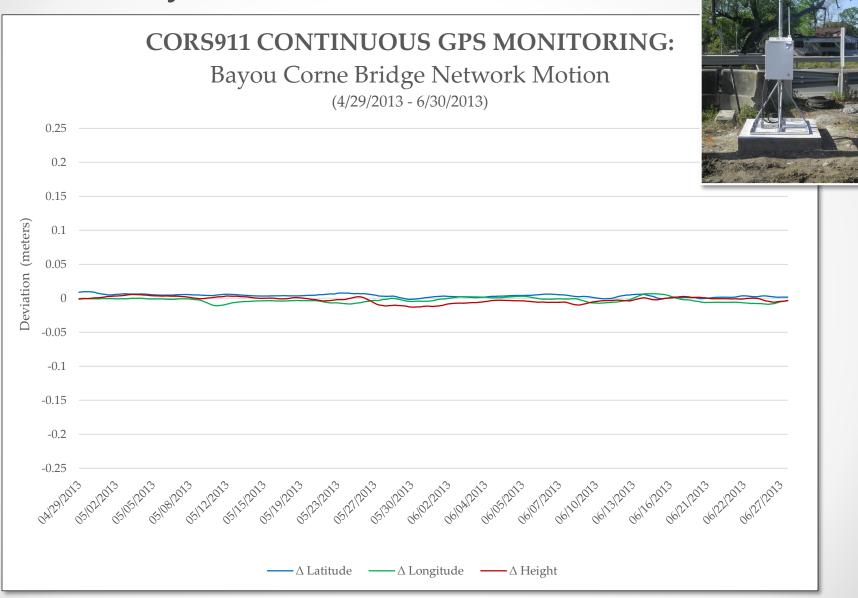


#### Synchronizing CORS911 Relative to the C4GNet RTN

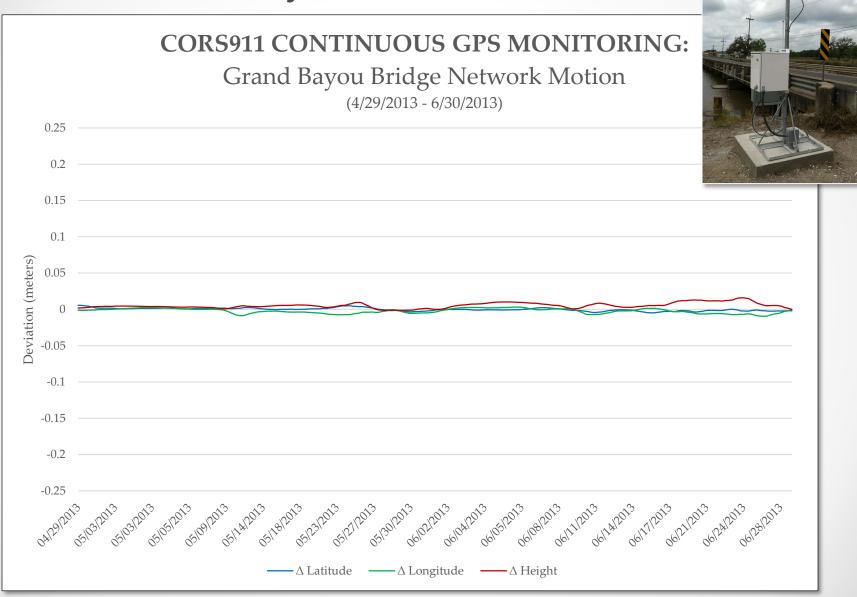
Map 2D Current Displacements Adjustment Displacement Chart Scatter Plot Axis Rotations NMEA Output



#### **CORS1 – Bayou Corne**

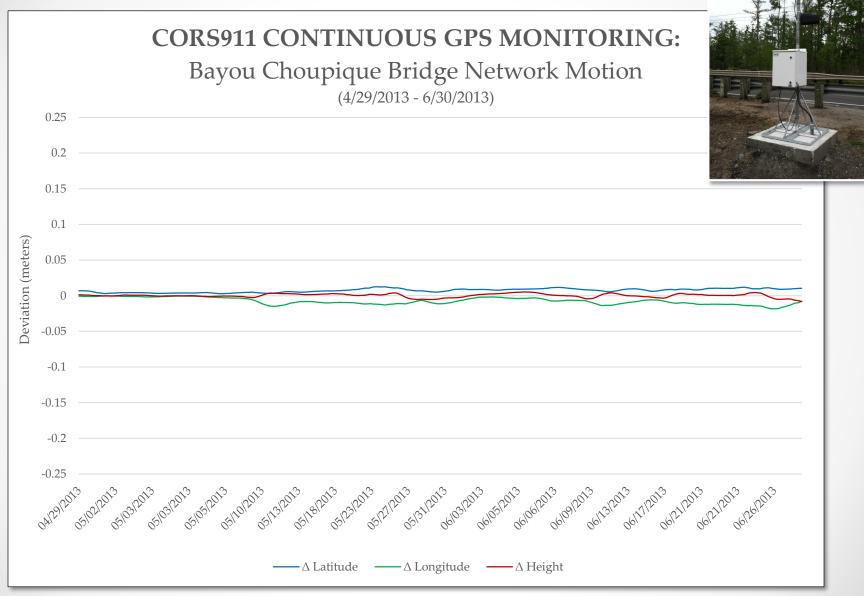


#### **CORS3 – Grand Bayou**



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#### **CORS4 – Bayou Choupique**



LSU Center for GeoInformatics

### Implementing a Notification System Monitoring & Alert System

- Provide Decision Support: the Integrity Monitoring
  System will Issue Daily Reports and Email Alerts
- **Daily Reports:** Monitor the positions of each CORS site relative to the Oakdale, LA, reference station
- Email Alerts: Establishes thresholds that, if crossed, will trigger an alert:
  - **WATCH ALERT:** threshold is briefly violated.
  - WARNING ALERT: threshold is violated for an extended period of time.
- Assessments: Develop a method for the interpreting the Alert

## Example of an Integrity Monitor Report



#### **Integrity Monitor Module**

Company: Operator: Address: Creation Date: Time System: Report Interval: Start Time: End Time: Duration: LTRC/LDOTD Sinkhole

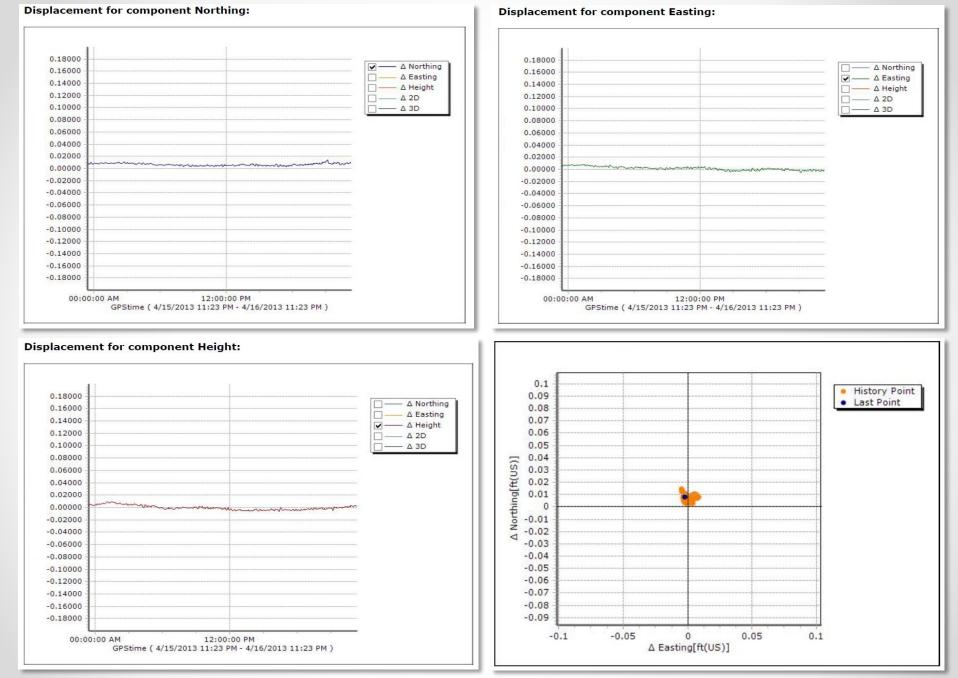
LSU C4G

4/17/2013 11:24:41 PM GPStime

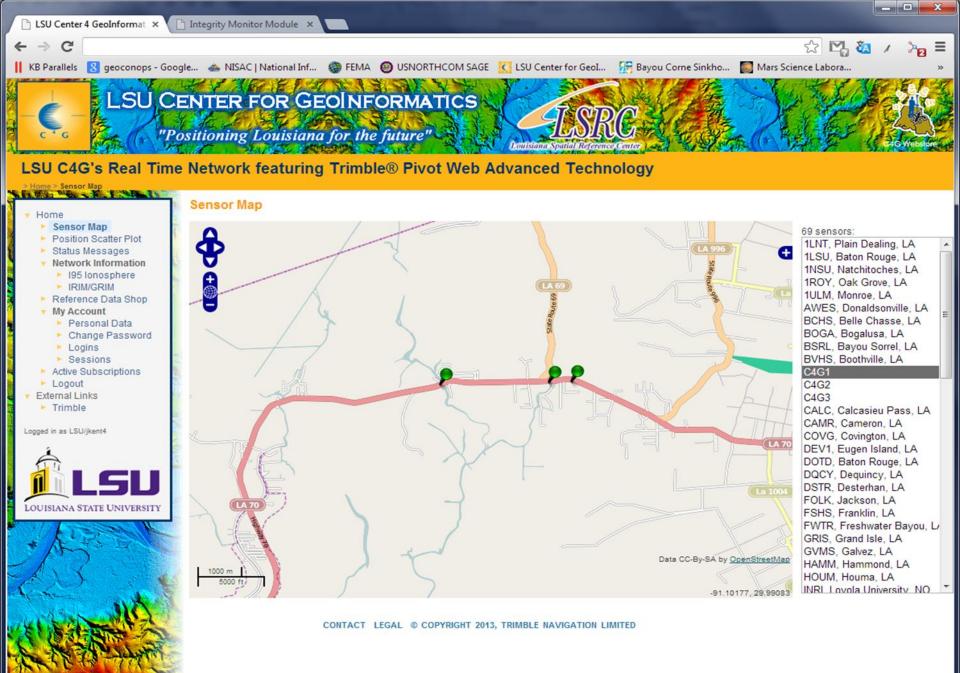
4/15/2013 11:23:01 PM 4/16/2013 11:23:01 PM 1 Day(s), 0 Hour(s)

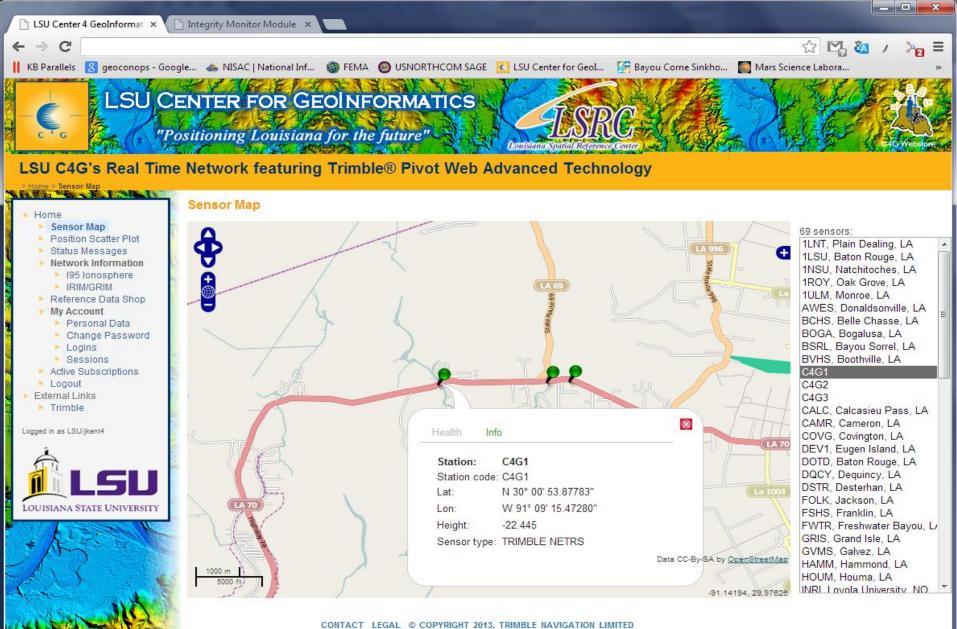
**Generate PDF Reports** 





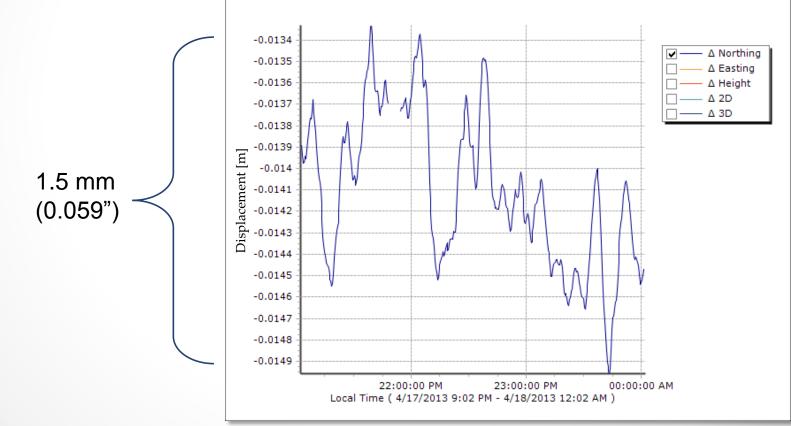
LSU Center for GeoInformatics





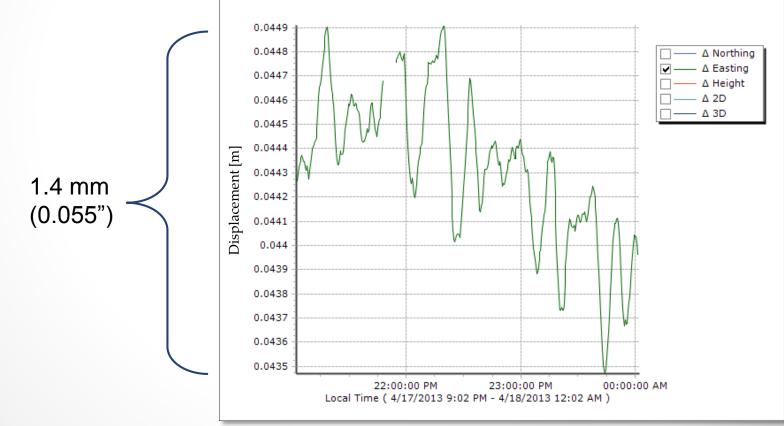
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	enter for GeoInformatics Afgnet I-Time Network	
	Integrity Monitor Module	
	Integrity Monitor Report of a given Module configuration	
Company:	<company name=""></company>	
Operator:	jkent4	
Address:	<company address=""></company>	
	<city, code="" postal=""></city,>	
	<country, state=""></country,>	
Creation Date:	4/18/2013 12:02:16 AM	
Time System:	Local Time	
Time Zone Name:		
Time Zone Offset:	Simplified Reporting via	
Report Interval: Start Time:	omplified reporting via	
End Time:		
Duration:	Secure Web Site	
Bulution.	Secure web site	
Configuration:		
Name:	CORS911NMEIM	
System:	NAD83	
Monitored Stations:		
Station Name: C4G1		
Station Code:		
Station ID:	911	
Reference Position X [m]:	-111349.2807	
Reference Position Y [m]:	-5526285.8274	
Poforance Position 7 (m)	9171700 1507	-

### Reporting Example Displacement in Northing:

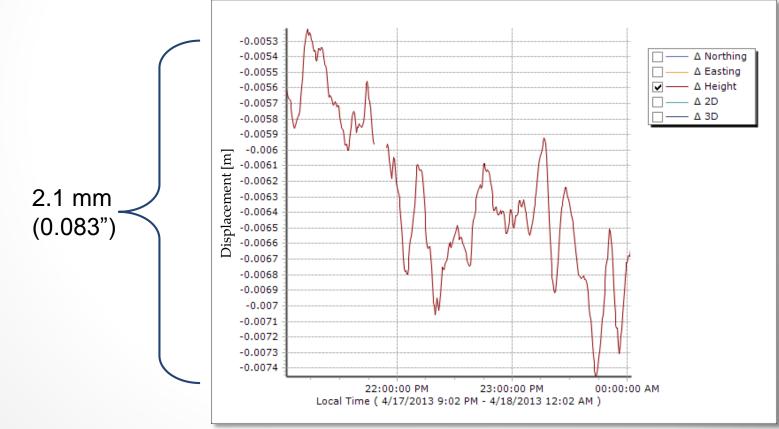


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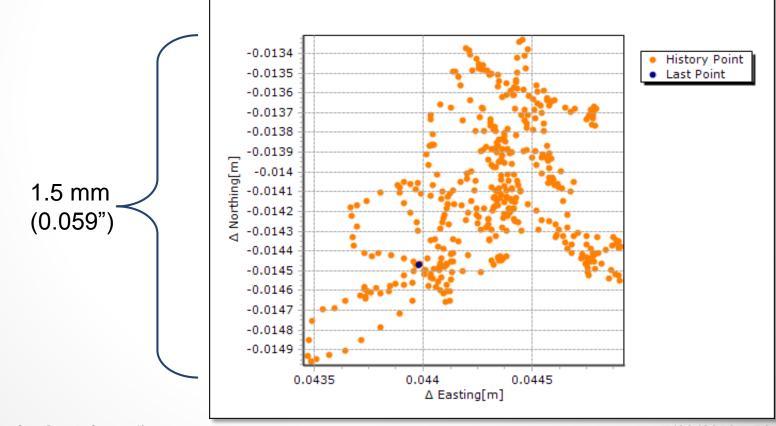
### Reporting Example Displacement in Easting:



### Reporting Example Displacement in Vertical:



### Reporting Example Scatter Plots:



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# Summary & Conclusions

#### Hazard mitigation of the Napoleonville Salt Dome Sinkhole:

- Oxy #3 Cavern Breach along the Western wall of the salt dome.
- Unstable Material Shifted, causing sinkhole to form in the Mississippi River alluvial plain.
- Modeled Output will be used to develop a long-term strategies for monitoring in the area.
- **Containment Berm Subsiding**  $\leq$  10' in some locations.
- Cavern Sill Unstable, dropping further into the salt dome.
- Sinkhole Depth stabilizing; Sinkhole Area increasing.
- Flaring the migrating Methane Gas trapped beneath the aquifer.

# Summary & Conclusions

#### Two Advanced Geodetic Monitoring Solutions Implemented by the C4G

- Static GPS Measurements of horizontal and vertical positions at control points along Hwy 70
- Continuous GPS Measurements using CORS911
  stations installed at select locations along Hwy 70

# Summary & Conclusions

### The Findings So Far...

- No Discernible Anomalous Movement of Hwy 70 relative to the sinkhole.
- Ad hoc GPS Readings Exhibit Variability associated with random and systematic error.
- Long-Term Occupation Using CORS technology was initiated to assess differential motions and provide more reliable measurements.
- **CORS Technologies Provide** a consistent, accurate, and comprehensive solution with direct access to telemetry in real-time.

# Questions & Contact Info



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