

**17th Street Canal Flood Control
Structure
New Orleans, LA**

L.B. Foster Provides Steel Sheet Piles for Post-Katrina Emergency Interim Flood Protection System

A failure of 450 ft. of floodwall lining the east side of the 17th Street Canal in New Orleans caused extensive damage when Hurricane Katrina made landfall on August 29, 2005. The immediate need was to provide an interim flood protection system that would prevent any reoccurrence of the storm surge from moving into the canal.

Contractor Boh Bros Construction Co., L.L.C. along with numerous local construction / engineering related companies, and government agencies were awarded the project to construct the temporary pump station.

The foundation had to be designed to transmit very high lateral loads into extremely poor soil. Construction consisted of 2,530 tons of PZCTM-18, PZ-35 and PZ-40 steel sheet piles manufactured by strategic supply partner Gerdau Ameristeel.

Steel Sheet Piles

Steel sheet piling is a manufactured construction product with a mechanical connection "interlock" at both ends of the section. These mechanical connections interlock with one another to form a continuous wall of sheet piling. Steel sheet pile applications are typically designed to create a rigid barrier for earth and water, while resisting the lateral pressures of those bending forces. The shape or geometry of a section lends to the structural strength.

(PZCTM is a trademark of Gerdau Ameristeel.)



Aerial view of 17th Street Canal during construction shows the 425-ft sheet pile-closed cell flood wall.



Sheet piles driven around perimeter of foundation. The sheet pile functioned as a cutoff wall and as a cofferdam.