Part 4

POLICY ISSUES THAT WILL LIKELY BE ADDRESSED BY CONGRESS
Can we design structures with sufficient redundancy to withstand extreme events, like Category 4 or 5 hurricanes?

Wind-driven debris weighing upwards of 10 tons can be slammed into structures like destructive projectiles; smaller debris can shred structures like a massive sand blaster (e.g. New Orleans Superdome).

Highways and power lines will be taken out by fallen trees and structural debris.

High storm surges will wreak havoc on port facilities, wharves, warehouses, and tethered vessels; scattering or obliterating them.
Policy Issues: Should Interstate highways be constructed at a grade above the maximum probably flood level, wherever possible, to better ensure emergency vehicle access?
People living within dike-protected lands are not part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) because it is assumed that the levees will never fail. Fix NFIP to be more inclusive.

This seems altogether to be an outdated policy. Levees can be expected to fail under extreme events; they are not presently designed with the same level of redundancy as dams, with the same factor of safety and peer review. Create a National Levee Safety Protection Act.

Impractical to place floors of New Orleans above the 200-yr flood level, which could be as much as 38 ft above existing grade. Create polders in low portions of New Orleans.