



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT  
231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, SUITE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 60604

July 12, 2022

Mr. Dan Repay  
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission  
900 Ridge Road, Suite H  
Munster, IN 46321

Dear Mr. Repay,

This letter is to transmit to you our findings from the Formal Inspection of the Hammond Levee System. The Chicago District performed an inspection on April 11-13, 2022. The purpose of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Levee Safety Program is to make sure levee systems are reliable and do not present unacceptable risks to the public, property, or the environment, with the emphasis on public safety. Two important principles that guide our program are the shared responsibility among partners at all levels for levee safety and the need for continuous and periodic project inspections and assessments. More information about the Levee Safety Program can be found in EC 1165-2-218.

This project has demonstrated its importance in reducing flood risk to the area. The Hammond Levee protects about 16,890 people and over \$2.38 billion worth of property. The annual damages prevented reported for fiscal year 2021 was over \$104 million for the Little Calumet River Project. The overall risk of the project is considered moderate.

The enclosed inspection report provides a condition rating for each of the levee system's features. The inspection report consists of the standard Inspection Checklist, photos taken during the inspection, and a map showing the locations of areas for your attention. The inspection rating will be posted to the National Levee Database (NLD) at <https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil/> and available to the public.

Based on our findings, the levee system received a rating of **Minimally Acceptable**. The project will continue to remain **Active** in the P.L. 84-99 Rehabilitation Program and eligible for federal rehabilitation assistance for items rated M or A. Eligibility determination is based on the USACE *Interim Policy for Determining Eligibility Status of Flood Risk Management Projects for the Rehabilitation Program Pursuant to P.L. 84-99*. It is the Local Sponsor's responsibility to monitor the Project during high water storm events to assess project performance and inspect after storm subsidence to record any storm-related project damage. The Local Sponsor must immediately report storm-related project damage to the Corps so that the Corps may evaluate required repair reimbursement eligibility under the P.L. 84-99 Rehabilitation Program.

Deficiencies noted in the report should be addressed to ensure significant performance problems do not develop. The Local Sponsor is reminded that deferred maintenance may affect eligibility for rehabilitation assistance, and they should immediately prioritize, and address any serious maintenance recommendations included in this report. We remain available to discuss the deficiencies and appropriate repairs measures or other technical questions that you may have. Please be sure to coordinate with our office to have any work near the levee reviewed and approved before allowing any work to proceed. Our reviews are to ensure the integrity of the levee is not compromised by the proposed work and the levees will continue to function as designed. Alterations will be reviewed under the Section 408 program.

The new Levee Safety Engineer Circular (EC 1165-2-218) has been published. This document establishes the policies for implementing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Levee Safety Program, and describes USACE activities, roles, and responsibilities for federally authorized levees. This document also describes activities that sponsors are required to conduct or participate in consistent with their project agreements. There are changes to some of the terminology and processes so please reach out if you have any questions. The guidance was finalized on 22 April 2021 and can be found at:

[https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Users/182/86/2486/EC%201165-2-218.pdf?ver=Gm\\_2vTnybm3P4xgmb5vUbw%3d%3d](https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Users/182/86/2486/EC%201165-2-218.pdf?ver=Gm_2vTnybm3P4xgmb5vUbw%3d%3d).

The Project Cooperation Agreement requires that the communities be informed of the limitations of protection provided by the project and that the levee is only part of an overall plan to manage their flood risks. It is requested that you provide us documentation of your outreach and notifications for our records.

Camera inspections were required to be performed every 5 years. Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) updated Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-2-2902, Conduits, Pipes, and Culverts Associated with Dams and Levee Systems. This manual provides guidance for many aspects of culverts and pipes through levees, especially: Inspections (frequency, methods [CCTV, sonar], and third-party pipes); and Repair and Rehabilitation (routine maintenance, slip-lining, etc). The manual was finalized on 31 December 2020 and can be found at:

<https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Users/182/86/2486/EM%201110-2-%202902a.pdf?ver=6N64KR0IND2lmoG3X1LFhg%3d%3d>. The frequency for future inspections will be determined by the pipe's condition assessment rating. The sponsor's method for visual inspection will be required to follow the updated guidance.

We look forward to continuing to work together in ensuring this project continues to provide protection. We are available to discuss any technical questions about the operation and maintenance and inspection requirements.

We will coordinate with you regarding the next site visit planned for spring 2023. Please contact Chris Schall (773-372-2925) or myself if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kozak, PhD  
Chief of Emergency Management  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures