



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

May 12, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Repay,

The Chicago District performed an inspection of the Hammond Forest Ave and Highland Levee on April 13 and 14, 2022, respectively. 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 Forest Ave Levee protects about 365 people and almost \$50 million worth of property and the Highland Levee protects about 7,125 people and over \$683 million 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 Hammond Forest Ave Levee is considered low, and the overall risk of the Highland Levee is considered moderate.

The enclosed inspection reports provide a condition rating for each of the levee system's features. The inspection reports consist 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 previous rating of **Minimally Acceptable** for the levee systems will not change. 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.

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