



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

22 AUG 2023

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

Dear Mr. Repay,

The Chicago District performed a formal inspection of the Highland Levee system on June 8, 2023. 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 Highland Levee System protects 7,127 people and \$683 million worth of property. The annual damages prevented reported for fiscal year 2022 was over \$107 million for the Little Calumet River Project. The entire project has prevented cumulative flood damages of \$1.2 billion since construction. The overall risk of the Highland Levee is considered moderate.

A formal inspection is performed approximately every 5 year and provides ratings for each of the project features. The enclosed deliverables include the standard Inspection Checklist with photos taken during the inspection and a map showing the locations of areas for your attention; the Levee Risk Management Summary which highlights the risks to focus your efforts on for maintenance, and the Levee Factsheet which summarizes the results from the last risk assessment. The inspection report 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 system 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 within 30 days so that the Corps may evaluate required repair reimbursement eligibility under the P.L. 84-99 Rehabilitation Program.

Camera inspections are required to be performed every 5 years. The last visual inspection was performed in 2022. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-2-2902, Conduits, Pipes, and Culverts Associated with Dams and Levee Systems 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 can be found at: <https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Users/182/86/2486/EM%201110-2-%202902a.pdf?ver=6N64KR0IND2ImoG3X1LFhg%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.

Deficiencies noted in the report should be addressed to ensure significant performance problems do not develop. 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.

It is important that the community be continually informed that the levee is only part of an overall plan to manage their risks from flooding from the Little Calumet River. Please continue to engage the community about the purpose of the levee and the project. Please reach out if you need assistance with outreach.

We recognize and appreciate your ongoing efforts to operate, maintain and improve the Little Cal Project. Your commitment to ensuring the levee system continues to perform as designed for your community reflects highly upon you and your staff. We appreciate the time and courtesy extended to our representatives during the inspection. 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 2024. Please contact the Levee Safety Program Manager, Yuki Galisanao (312-846-5458), or myself if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Paluch

Robert G. Paluch, P.E.
Chief of Emergency Management
Chicago District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures