

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
SECTION 219, WRDA 1992, AS AMENDED
ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
SANITARY SEWER AND WATER LINE
IMPROVEMENTS FOR
HOBART, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

May 26, 2015

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District Planning Branch
231 South LaSalle Street Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

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SECTION 1 PURPOSE AND NEED

PURPOSE

The proposed project would provide a new sanitary sewer system to three areas within the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana that rely on septic systems. The sanitary sewer system improvements would be on portions of 6th Street, 60th Avenue and County Line Road and would result in 50 residents abandoning the use of their septic systems and use the new sanitary sewer system. The waterline improvement on County Line Road will extend the water main system to areas that are currently dependent on private wells with no guarantee of a reliable source of safe clean water.

NEED FOR ACTION

Private septic systems are leaking and contaminating the groundwater in the Hobart area. Homes still dependent on private wells are particularly susceptible to groundwater contamination making their access to safe water unreliable.

AUTHORITY

The study was authorized under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended by Section 504 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Section 502 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Section 108 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001, Section 145 of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2004, and Sections 5075 and 5158 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, which allows the Army Corps of Engineers to provide planning, design, and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure projects.

LOCAL SPONSOR

The project's non-Federal sponsor is the Hobart Sanitary District.

SECTION 2 ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE RECOMMENDED PLAN

There are 3 alternative measures considered to address the sanitary system problems in Hobart, Indiana.

1. No Action Plan-Under this alternative, no changes would be made to improve the removal and processing of sanitary waste or the supply of potable water in select portions of Hobart, Indiana. The private septic systems will continue to leak contaminating the groundwater in select Hobart areas. Homes still dependent on private wells will remain susceptible to groundwater contamination making their access to safe water unreliable.

2. Installation of Sanitary Sewers Plan- A total of 5,300 linear feet of new sanitary sewer lines would be installed in three locations along County Line Road, 60th Avenue, and 6th Street (Map). The sewer lines to be installed vary in size from 8-inch to 12inch. Sewer line

locations are detailed in Appendix 1. This would address some of the commonly occurring groundwater contamination issues in Hobart. The problem of access to a reliable safe water supply would continue for the Hobart neighborhood on County Line Road that is still dependent on private wells.

- 3. Installation of Sanitary Sewers and Water Line Plan-** A total of 5,300 linear feet of new sanitary sewer lines in 3 locations would be installed. The sewer lines to be installed vary in size from 8-inch to 12-inch. The work would be done in 3 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Hobart County Line Road, 60th Avenue, and 6th Street (Map). Sewer Line locations are detailed as in Appendix 1. This would address some of the commonly occurring groundwater contamination issues in Hobart. Additionally, 2,725 linear feet of new water main would be installed adjacent to the sewer line on County Line Road. This would address availability of reliable safe water to one area of Hobart. Additionally manholes, gate valves, service laterals, and fire hydrant assemblies in these areas would be replaced as needed.

RECOMMENDED PLAN

Installation of Sanitary Sewers and Water Line Plan- A total of 5,300 linear feet of new sanitary sewer lines in 3 locations would be installed. The sewer lines to be installed vary in size from 8-inch to 12-inch. The work would be done in 3 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Hobart County Line Road, 60th Avenue, and 6th Street (Map). Sewer Line locations are detailed as in Appendix 1. This would address some of the commonly occurring groundwater contamination issues in Hobart. Additionally, 2,725 linear feet of new water main would be installed adjacent to the sewer line on County Line Road. This would address availability of reliable safe water to one area of Hobart. Additionally manholes, gate valves, service laterals, and fire hydrant assemblies in these areas would be replaced as needed.

Benefits of the recommended alternative include a reduction of groundwater pollution from the leaking septic systems. The recommended plan also would also ensure reliable access to safe water for one Hobart neighborhood along County Line Road. The recommended plan is also currently the most cost effective plan to prevent groundwater contamination.

Work would begin in 2015 with completion anticipated in approximately 12 months.

COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

The proposed action is in full compliance with appropriate statutes, executive orders and regulations, including the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, Section 10 of Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, Clean Air Act, as amended, Indiana's Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act (IC 14-22-34), Endangered Species, National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), and the Clean Water Act, as amended.

SECTION 3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

PROJECT AREA

The project area (Appendix 1) lies approximately 8 miles south of Lake Michigan, in NW ¼ of Section 6, T35N R7W of the 2nd principal meridian, and is shown on the Gary (Indiana) USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle map.

The proposed project includes the construction of approximately 5,300 linear feet of new sanitary sewer lines, and 2,725 linear feet of water main. The work would be done in 3 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Hobart. In addition manholes gate valves, service laterals, and fire hydrant assemblies in these areas would be inspected and replaced as needed.

Traffic disruption should be minimal with most construction occurring within the existing street right-of-way or utility easements, allowing most area roads to remain open to local traffic.

AIR AND WATER QUALITY

Air and water quality in the project area are typical of what would be expected in a densely populated urban area. Air quality is categorized as moderate to good. Most of the impacts to air quality in this area are due to the large number of cars and trucks driven on the extensive road system in the Chicago and northwest Indiana metropolitan area. Ground water quality within the project area does not meet applicable water quality standards because of agricultural run-off.

AQUATIC COMMUNITIES

There are no aquatic communities present in the planned project locations. Deep River is directly to the south of the project area and Lake George is located to the west. The Sprout Ditch runs south to north between the two project locales. These waterways support a number of species typical of rivers in northern Indiana.

TERRESTRIAL COMMUNITIES

Hobart provides suitable habitat for common “urban” wildlife species, including fox and gray squirrel, opossum, cottontail rabbit, striped skunk, mice, red fox, bats, and eastern moles. Typical resident birds include English sparrow, starling, robin, herring gull, Canada geese, mallard, pigeon, cardinal, chickadee, red winged blackbird, purple martin, grackle, and blue jay.

Vegetation within the Hobart project area contains mowed grass lawns, shrubs, and a variety of tree species include maple, green ash, mulberry, box elder, honey locust, crabapple, and cottonwood, as well as some remaining agricultural land.

The proposed construction zone contains no particularly valuable wildlife habitat.

NATURAL AREAS

Hobart is surrounded by a number of natural areas. Deep River County Park is located southeast of Hobart. The Lake George recreational area is located near the center of Hobart. These open spaces provides a range of vegetation zones, along with resting and feeding areas for a variety of wildlife, including a large number of migratory birds during spring and fall migrations.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The project area is suburban commercial. It is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalists*), the proposed endangered northern long-eared bat (*myotis septentrionalis*) the Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides Melissa samuelis*), the threatened Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), and Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*). However, the project area contains no habitat likely to be used by threatened or endangered species.

ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The City of Hobart is located about 38 miles southeast of Chicago in Lake County, Indiana. Communities surrounding Hobart include Ainsworth, Lake Station, Merrillville, and Gary, Indiana. Hobart is primarily a residential community of about 25 square miles and approximately 29,519 (2014) residents. There are three historic structures within the Town of Hobart listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These are the First Unitarian Church (listed 1999), the Hobart Carnegie library (listed 1982), and the Pennsylvania Railroad Station (listed 1984). All three structures are outside of the project area.

The proposed project is within existing utility easements. It has been disturbed by filling, grading, and utility construction. It contains no intact archaeological material.

LAND USE HISTORY

The Hobart area was first settled by George Earle in 1845. He dammed the Deep River to provide power for his gristmill and saw mill. The mill pond became Lake George. A post office was established in 1849 and the community named Hobart. The construction of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad (later the Pennsylvania Railroad) in 1858 transformed the small settlement into a center for shipping lumber, bricks, milk, and agricultural products to the Chicago market. In 1882 the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railway (now the Norfolk Southern) and in 1888, the Elgin, Joliet & Eastern were built through Hobart, enhancing its position as a railroad hub. Hobart was incorporated as a town in 1889 and as a city in 1923. From the 1850s until the 1920s brickworks were Hobart's main local industry. With the decline of the brick industry the town turned into a residential community for nearby Gary, Indiana. Since the 1990s light industry has been attracted to the Hobart area.

SOCIAL SETTING

Hobart has a racially and ethnically mixed population. Railroads and light industry dominate the local economy of the Hobart area, although the town remains a bedroom community for the surrounding communities and the greater Chicago metropolitan area. In 2009 the median home value for Hobart was \$141,737.00 and the median household income was approximately \$54,000.00.

Recreation

Within Hobart there are 21 parks that provide baseball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts for public use. Picnic shelters, jogging and hiking trails, fishing areas and a canoe launch are also provided by the Hobart Park system. A community center is located in Festival Park.

HAZARDOUS, TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE (HTRW) INVESTIGATION

An HTRW Phase I investigation has been conducted, and has revealed that no known potential environmental issues exist within the project areas.

SECTION 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

IMPACTS OF “NO ACTION” PLAN

The “no action” plan would have a negative impact on natural resources in Hobart. The sanitary sewer system would remain inadequate, and the continuation of sanitary sewer backups and leakage would be detrimental to the local quality of life.

GENERAL IMPACTS (SECTION 122 OF PUBLIC LAW 91-611) OF THE PROPOSED PLAN

Section 122 of Public Law 91-611 identified 17 potential areas of impact that are required to be considered as part of an impact analysis of proposed projects. The proposed plan would not adversely affect community cohesion, desirable community growth, tax revenues, property values, public services, or desirable regional growth. No farms, people, industry, or businesses would be displaced. Impacts of the remaining areas follow:

Social Impacts

Project impacts on natural resources, man-made resources, and employment will be temporary. Employment could increase slightly during construction, and the region's labor force should be sufficient to provide the necessary workers. There will be no significant adverse effect to public facilities. During construction, increased traffic congestion would be localized and intermittent. Any aesthetic degradation would be temporary. The project would have no significant adverse impact on human health or welfare or to municipal or private water supplies.

Air Quality Impacts

The proposed action would cause temporary increases in exhaust emissions from machinery and equipment during construction. These impacts would be minimal because of emission and dust controls required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and local restrictions. The Corps of Engineers specifications (CW-04130 Construction Specifications for Environmental Protection, July 1978) are included in contracts to provide protection for the local environment. Regarding the Clean Air Act, construction and operation of the project would not result in significant or long-term adverse impacts to air quality. The project would involve only a de minimis discharge of airborne pollutants, and is therefore in compliance with the Clean Air Act.

Noise Impacts

The proposed action will cause temporary increases in noise from machinery and equipment during construction. These impacts will be temporary and will not result in significant or long-term adverse impacts.

Water Quality Impacts

The project will have a beneficial long-term impact on the quality of water in the community. Replacing leaking septic systems will significantly reduce leakage, thereby protecting area groundwater from contamination in residential areas.

Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 does not apply since there is no construction or placement of fill within navigable waters. The project will not involve any new discharge to the waters of the United States, therefore Section 401 water quality certification is not required and no Section 404(b)(1) evaluation has not been prepared pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management)-The project will not promote development in the floodplain.

The project will have no significant long-term adverse impacts on the quality of water in any of the tributaries to Lake Michigan. The project would comply with all applicable water quality standards.

Although this project is located within the boundaries of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program (LMCP), it is exempt from Federal Consistency (FC) review under Section D, Exempt Activities as defined by the Indiana LMCP FC Nonrule Policy Document.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice) - An investigation of the Environmental Protection Agency website (March 18, 2015) indicates that although minority and low-income populations are near the project area, this project will not have an adverse effect on any low-income populations or minority populations in Hobart.

AQUATIC IMPACTS

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act- The project will have no negative impact on aquatic wildlife or habitat. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service have concurred with this determination in a letter dated April 2, 2015. The Indiana DNR has also concurred with this determination in a letter dated March 27, 2015.

Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands)-The project will have no impact on wetlands.

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management)- The project area is not in the flood plain and therefore the project will not promote development in the floodplain.

TERRESTRIAL IMPACTS

The project would not have an adverse impact on any valuable wildlife or habitat. The Indiana DNR has concurred with this determination (letter dated March 27, 2015). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has also concurred with this determination (letter dated April 2, 2015).

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IMPACTS

Indiana Endangered Species-The project would not affect state-listed threatened or endangered species, or habitat likely to be used by such species. The State of Indiana has been contacted and has concurred with this determination in a letter dated March 27, 2015.

Endangered Species Act of 1973-The project will not affect Federal-listed, threatened, or endangered species, or habitat likely to be used by such species; the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with this determination (letter dated April 2, 2015).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC IMPACTS

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966-The proposed construction would have no adverse affect on archaeological or historic properties. The Indiana SHPO has concurred with this determination (letter dated April 24, 2015).

Native American groups having an interest in northwestern Indiana have been consulted (letters dated March 27, 2015).

HTRW IMPACTS

A Phase I HTRW investigation has been conducted, and has revealed that no known potential environmental issues exist within the project areas.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

ASSESSMENT OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Consideration of cumulative effects requires a broader perspective than examining just the direct and indirect effects of a proposed action. It requires that reasonably foreseeable future impacts be assessed in the context of the past and present effects to importance resources. Often it requires consideration of a larger geographic area than just the immediate “project” area. One of the most important aspects of cumulative effects assessment is that it requires consideration of how actions by others (including those actions completely unrelated to the proposed action) have and will affect the same resources. In assessing cumulative effects, the key determinate of importance or significance is whether the incremental effects of the proposed action will alter the sustainability of resources when added to other present and reasonably foreseeable future actions.

Cumulative environmental effects for the proposed infrastructure project were assessed in accordance with guidance provided by the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (USEPA, EPA 315-R-99-002, May 1999). This guidance provides an eleven-step process for identifying and evaluating cumulative effects in NEPA analysis.

The overall cumulative impact of the project is considered to be beneficial environmentally, socially, and economically.

SCOPING

The cumulative effects issues and assessment goals are established in this environmental assessment, the spatial and temporal boundaries are determined, and reasonably foreseeable future actions are identified. Cumulative effects are assessed to determine if the sustainability of any of the resources are adversely affected with the goal of determining the incremental impact to key resources that would occur should the proposal be permitted. The spatial boundary for the assessment encompasses the parkland and the associated facilities and surrounding streets served by the infrastructures to be improved.

The temporal boundaries are:

1. Past-1834, when settlement and development of the area began.
2. Present-2015, when the selection plan was being developed.
3. Future-2065, the year used for determining project life end

Projecting reasonably foreseeable future actions is difficult at best. Clearly, the proposed action is reasonably foreseeable, however, the actions by others that may affect the same resources are not as clear. Projections of those actions must rely on judgment as to what are reasonable based on existing trends and where available, projections from qualified sources. Reasonably foreseeable does not include unfounded or speculative projections. In this case, reasonably foreseeable future actions include:

1. Increased growth in water consumption.
2. Continued conversion of agricultural and natural land to urban land use.
3. Continued application of environmental requirements such as the Clean Water Act.

Cumulative Effects on geology and soils

The topography and soils of the area has been affected by filling, excavations, construction, and the burial of utilities. The proposed project would not alter soil chemistry.

Cumulative Effects on Water Quality and Aquatic Communities

The project would have no adverse effects on water quality or aquatic communities in Deep River or any of its tributaries. Long term adverse impacts to significant resources are not expected to occur.

Cumulative Effect of Terrestrial Resources

Relatively small modifications for this project will have no long-term adverse or cumulative effects to terrestrial resources, plants or animals.

Cumulative Effects on Land Use

The project will have no cumulative effect on land use.

Cumulative Effects on Aesthetic Values

The project will have no cumulative adverse effects on the visual setting of the project area.

Cumulative effects on Archaeological and Historical Resources

The project will have no adverse cumulative effects on archaeological or historical resources.

Cumulative effects on Public Facilities

The project will have no long-term adverse effects on public facilities.

Cumulative Effects Summary

Along with direct and indirect effects, cumulative effects of the proposed project were assessed following the guidance provided by the Presidents' Council on Environmental Quality (Table 1). There have been numerous effects to resources from past and present actions, and reasonably foreseeable future actions can also be expected to produce both beneficial and adverse effects. In this context, the effects of the proposed project are relatively minor.

Table 3 –Environmental Impact Summary

Potential Impact Area	Past Actions	Proposed Direct Impacts		Cumulative Impact
		Construction	Operation	
Geology & Soils	adverse	no impact	no impact	no impact
Hydrology	adverse	no impact	no impact	Beneficial
Water Quality	major adverse	no impact	no impact	Beneficial
Sediment Quality	major adverse	no impact	no impact	no impact
Aquatic Resources	major adverse	no impact	no impact	no impact
Terrestrial Resources	adverse	Minor temporary negative impact	no impact	no impact
Land Use	adverse	no impact	no impact	no impact
Aesthetics	no impact	no impact	no impact	no impact
Archaeology/Historic	no impact	no impact	no impact	no impact

SECTION 5 COORDINATION

During preparation of this environmental assessment the following Federal and state agencies were consulted: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and the Indiana Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Copies of coordination letters are attached to this assessment.

RECIPIENTS

The following agencies, groups, and individuals received a copy of this environmental assessment:

Senator Dan Coats
 United States Senate
 493 Russell Office Bldg
 Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Dan Coats
1650 Market Tower
10 West Market Street
Indianapolis, IN, 46204

Senator Joe Donnelly
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Joe Donnelly
5400 Federal Plaza, Suite 3200
Hammond, IN 46320

Congressman Peter Visclosky
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Congressman Peter Visclosky
7895 Broadway, Suite A
Merrillville, Indiana 46410

Governor Mike Pence
Office of the Governor
Statehouse
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2797

Kenneth Westlake, Chief
Environmental Review Branch
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77 West Jackson
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
620 S. Walker St.
Bloomington, IN 47403
ATTN: Scott Pruitt

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 2616
Chesterton, IN 46304-2616
ATTN: Elizabeth McCloskey

Federal Aviation Administration
Chicago Airports District Office, CHI-ADO-600
2300 East Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, Illinois 60018
ATTN: Ben Bobb A. Beauchamp
Environmental Program Manager

IDEM Northwest Regional Office
330 West US Highway 30, Suite F,
Valparaiso, IN 46385
ATTN: Hala Kuss

IDEM
100 N. Senate Ave.
Mail Code 61-50
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251
ATTN: Marty Maupin

Indiana DNR
Division of Water
100 N. Water St.
Michigan City, IN 46360
ATTN: Steve Davis

Indiana DNR
Division of Water
100 N. Water St.
Michigan City, IN 46360
ATTN: Brian Brieder

Indiana DNR
Division of Fish and Wildlife
402 W. Washington Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
ATTN: Christie Stanifer

Indiana DNR
Division of Historic Preservation and History
402 W. Washington, Room W274
Indianapolis, IN 46204
ATTN: Michell Zoll

Indiana DNR
Lake Michigan Coastal Program
402 W. Washington, Room W274
Indianapolis, IN 46204
ATTN: Mike Molnar

CORRESPONDENCE



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

REPLY TO
 ATTENTION OF

Planning Branch
 Environmental Formulation Section

Kenneth Westlake, Chief
 Environmental Review Branch
 U.S. EPA ME-19J
 77 West Jackson
 Chicago, IL 60604

27 MAR 2015

Dear Mr. Westlake:

The Chicago District is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document on the impacts of a number of leaking or deteriorating sanitary sewer projects in Hobart, Lake County, Indiana. As part of the scoping process the Chicago District would appreciate your comments on impacts or concerns associated with this project. Attached is a list of State and Federal Agencies and Tribal Nations receiving this request (enclosure 1). A map of the project area is attached (enclosure 2)

The project may include the replacement of up to 5,300 ft of existing sanitary sewer lines along County Line Road, 60th Avenue, and 6th Street. Additionally 2,725 ft of deteriorating waterline may also be replaced adjacent to the sewer line on County Line Road. The work would be done in up to three utility right-of-ways and easement locations across Hobart. A list of these replacement locations is attached (enclosure 3). Additionally manholes, gate valves, service laterals and fire hydrant assemblies in these areas would be replaced as needed.

Comments must be received within 30 days and should be sent to Peter Bullock, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 231 South La Salle Street Suite 1500, Chicago, Illinois 60604, or by email at peter.y.bullock@usace.army.mil. Questions should be directed to Mr. Bullock at 312/846-5587.

Sincerely,

3 Enclosures as stated

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 Susanne J. Davis, P. E.
 Chief of Planning Branch

Bullock PM-PL-E 3/25/15
 Fleming PM-PL-E 3/25/15

Samara PM

Davis PM-PL-E 3/27/15

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

State of Indiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Early Coordination/Environmental Assessment

DNR #: ER-18226

Request Received: March 27, 2015

Requestor: US Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago
District
Peter Bullock
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60604

Project: Replacement of up to 5,300 feet of existing sanitary sewer lines along County Line Road, 60th Avenue, and 8th Street, and 2,725 feet of possible waterline replacement adjacent to the sewer line on County Line Road, Hobart

County/Site info: Lake

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. Our agency offers the following comments for your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

If our agency has regulatory jurisdiction over the project, the recommendations contained in this letter may become requirements of any permit issued. If we do not have permitting authority, all recommendations are voluntary.

Regulatory Assessment: This proposal may require the formal approval of our agency pursuant to the Flood Control Act (IC 14-28-1) for any proposal to construct, excavate, or fill in or on the floodway of a stream or other flowing waterbody which has a drainage area greater than one square mile. Please submit more detailed plans to the Division of Water's Technical Services Section if you are unsure whether or not a permit will be required.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked. A wet-mesic sand prairie community appears to be located between the projects on 6th Street and County Line Road. If work is confined to the right-of-way, the Division of Nature Preserves does not anticipate any impacts to this high quality natural community resulting from the project.

Fish & Wildlife Comments: Avoid and minimize impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources to the greatest extent possible, and compensate for impacts. The following are recommendations that address potential impacts identified in the proposed project area:

1) Utility Line Placement:

The Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends placing utility lines on the side of the road containing the least amount of woody vegetation. If both sides of the road are forested, place the line within or as close to the existing cleared road right-of-way as possible to minimize forested habitat impacts, including forest fragmentation.

Temporary and permanent construction disturbance should be minimized by keeping the width of disturbance to install the line to 20 feet or less. If a larger right-of-way is necessary, then the cleared area should be replanted with container-grown native hardwood trees and shrubs to within 10 feet of the center of the line. We recommend that all creek, or wetland or forest habitat, crossings be done using a trenchless method.

2) Riparian Habitat:

We recommend a mitigation plan be developed (and submitted with the permit application, if required) if habitat impacts will occur. The DNR's Floodway Habitat Mitigation guidelines (and plant lists) can be found online at:

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

State of Indiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Early Coordination/Environmental Assessment

<http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20140806-IR-312140295NRA.xml.pdf>. Please contact Lori White, North Region Environmental Biologist, at (765) 567-2152 for guidance regarding development of the plans.

Impacts to non-wetland forest of one (1) acre or more should be mitigated at a minimum 2:1 ratio. If less than one acre of non-wetland forest is removed in a rural setting, replacement should be at a 1:1 ratio based on area. Impacts to non-wetland forest under one (1) acre in an urban setting should be mitigated by planting five trees, at least 2 inches in diameter-at-breast height (dbh), for each tree which is removed that is 10" dbh or greater (5:1 mitigation based on the number of large trees).

3) Wetland Habitat:

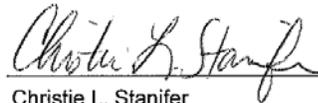
A formal wetland delineation should be conducted to determine the presence and extent of potential wetland habitat within the project limits. Due to the presence or potential presence of wetlands on site, we recommend contacting and coordinating with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) 401 program and also the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 404 program. Unavoidable impacts to wetlands should be mitigated at the appropriate ratio (see guidelines above).

The additional measures listed below should be implemented to avoid, minimize, or compensate for impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources:

1. Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue), legumes, and native shrub and hardwood tree species as soon as possible upon completion.
2. Minimize and contain within the project limits inchannel disturbance and the clearing of trees and brush.
3. Do not work in the waterway from April 1 through June 30 without the prior written approval of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
4. Do not cut any trees suitable for Indiana bat roosting (greater than 3 inches dbh, living or dead, with loose hanging bark) from April 1 through September 30.
5. Do not construct any temporary runarounds, causeways, cofferdams, or pump around systems.
6. Use minimum average 6 inch graded riprap stone extended below the normal water level to provide habitat for aquatic organisms in the voids.
7. Do not use broken concrete as riprap.
8. Minimize the movement of resuspended bottom sediment from the immediate project area.
9. Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.
10. Seed and protect all disturbed streambanks and slopes that are 3:1 or steeper with erosion control blankets (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.

Contact Staff:

Christie L. Stanifer, Environ. Coordinator, Fish & Wildlife
Our agency appreciates this opportunity to be of service. Please contact the above staff member at (317) 232-4080 if we can be of further assistance.



Christie L. Stanifer
Environ. Coordinator
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Date: April 28, 2015

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhp@dnr.IN.gov



April 24, 2015

Suzanne Davis
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Federal Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Re: Project information concerning the replacement of leaking or deteriorating sanitary sewer lines (DHPA #17497)

Dear Ms. Davis:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated March 27, 2015 and received on March 30, 2015 for the above indicated project in Hobart, Lake County, Indiana.

Based upon the documentation available to the staff of the Indiana SHPO, we have not identified any historic buildings, structures, districts, or objects listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places within the probable area of potential effects.

In terms of archaeology, no currently known archaeological resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places have been recorded within the proposed project area. No archaeological investigations appear necessary provided that all project activities remain within areas disturbed by previous construction.

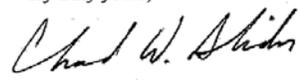
If any prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the IDNR within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised that adherence to Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to 36 C.F.R. 800.

At this time, it would be appropriate for the USACE to analyze the information that has been gathered from the Indiana SHPO, the general public, and any other consulting parties and make the necessary determinations and findings. Please refer to the following comments for guidance:

- 1) If the USACE believes that a determination of "no historic properties affected" accurately reflects its assessment, then it shall provide documentation of its finding as set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11 to the Indiana SHPO, notify all consulting parties, and make the documentation available for public inspection (36 C.F.R. §§ 800.4[d][1] and 800.2[d][2]).
- 2) If, on the other hand, the USACE finds that an historic property may be affected, then it shall notify the Indiana SHPO, the public and all consulting parties of its finding and seek views on effects in accordance with 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.4(d)(2) and 800.2(d)(2). Thereafter, the USACE may proceed to apply the criteria of adverse effect and determine whether the project will result in a "no adverse effect" or an "adverse effect" in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.5.

If you have questions about archaeological issues please contact Cathy Draeger-Williams at (317) 234-3791 or cdraeger-williams@dnr.IN.gov. If you have questions about buildings or structures please contact Miriam Burkett at (317) 233-3883 or m Burkett@dnr.IN.gov. In all future correspondence regarding the above indicated project, please refer to DHPA #17497.

Very truly yours,


Mitchell K. Zoll
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

MKZ:MLB:CDW:cdw

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April 2, 2015

Mrs. Susanne J. Davis
Chief of Planning Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Attn: Peter Bullock, Project Manager, Environmental Formulation Section

Dear Mrs. Davis:

This responds to your March 27, 2015 letter requesting our comments on the proposed Section 219 infrastructure improvement project for the replacement of approximately 5,300 linear feet of existing sanitary sewers in Hobart, Lake County, Indiana. The work would involve 3 different sewer segments plus various manholes, all within existing utility rights-of-way and easements. Also proposed is the replacement of 2,725 linear feet of water line along County Line Road, plus various service laterals and fire hydrants.

These comments have been prepared under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and are consistent with the intent of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mitigation Policy.

The proposed project would be constructed entirely within the urban developed area of Hobart and would not adversely impact any wetlands or other important habitats. Therefore, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no objections to the project as proposed.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The proposed project is within the range of the Federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*), and the threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), rufa red knot

(*Calidris canutus rufa*), Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*) and Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*). However, there is no habitat for any of these species within the proposed project area, so we concur that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect these endangered and threatened species.

This precludes the need for further consultation on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. If, however, new information on endangered species at the site becomes available or if project plans are changed significantly, please contact our office for further consultation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposed project. For further discussion, please contact Elizabeth McCloskey at (219) 983-9753 or elizabeth_mccloskey@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Elizabeth S. McCloskey

for Scott E. Pruitt
Supervisor

Sent via email April 2, 2015; no hard copy to follow.

TRIBAL LIST

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 70
McCloud, OK 74851

Kickapoo Of Kansas
1107 Goldfinch Rd.
Horton, KS 66434

Kickapoo Tribe of Texas
Box HC 1 9700
Eagle Pass, TX 78853

Miami Nation in Indiana
P.O. Box 41
Peru, IN 46970

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355
Attn: Mr. George Strack

Citizen Potawatomi Nation
1901 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, OK 74801

Forest County Potawatomi Exec. Council
P. O. Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520

Nottawaseppi Huron Potawatomi Tribal Office
2221 One-and-a-half Mile Rd.
Fulton, MI 49052

Hannahville Potawatomi Comm., Council
N 14911 Hannahville Road
Wilson, MI 49896-9728

Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council
16281 Q RD
Mayetta, KS 66509

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
P.O. Box 180
Dowagiac, MI 49047

APPENDIX 1
Project Map

APPENDIX 2, DRAFT FONSI

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SECTION 219
ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
SANITARY SEWER AND WATER LINE IMPROVEMENTS FOR
HOBART, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.**

PURPOSE

The proposed project would provide a new sanitary sewer system to three areas within the City of Hobart, Lake County, Indiana that rely on septic systems. The sanitary sewer system improvements would be on portions of 6th Street, 60th Avenue and County Line Road and would result in 50 residents abandoning the use of their septic systems and use the new sanitary sewer system. The waterline improvement on County Line Road will extend the water main system to areas that are dependent on private wells with no guarantee of a reliable source of safe clean water.

AUTHORITY

The study was authorized under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended by Section 504 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Section 502 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Section 108 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2001, Section 145 of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2004, and Sections 5075 and 5158 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, Section 219, as amended, allows the Army Corps of Engineers to provide planning, design, and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure projects.

PROJECT AREA

The project is located in 3 separate utility right-of-way and easement locations across Hobart. Traffic disruption should be minimal allowing most area roads to remain open to local traffic.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

There are 3 alternative measures considered to address the sanitary system and water availability problems in Hobart, Indiana.

1. **No Action Plan**-Under this alternative, no changes would be made to improve the removal and processing of sanitary waste or the supply of potable water in select portions of Hobart. The private septic systems will continue to leak contaminating the groundwater in select Hobart areas. Homes still dependent on private wells will remain susceptible to groundwater contamination making their access to safe water unreliable.

2. **Installation of Sanitary Sewers Plan**- A total of 5,300 linear feet of new sanitary sewer lines would be installed in three locations along County Line Road, 60th Avenue, and 6th Street (Map). The sewer lines to be installed vary in size from 8-inch to 12inch. Sewer line locations are detailed in Appendix 1. This would address some of the commonly occurring groundwater contamination issues in Hobart. The problem of access to a reliable safe water supply would continue for the Hobart neighborhood on County Line Road that is still dependent on private wells.

- 3. Installation of Sanitary Sewers and Water Line Plan-** A total of 5,300 linear feet of new sanitary sewer lines in 3 locations would be installed. The sewer lines to be installed vary in size from 8-inch to 12inch. The work would be done in 3 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Hobart County Line Road, 60th Avenue, and 6th Street.). Sewer Line locations are detailed as in Appendix 1. This would address some of the commonly occurring groundwater contamination issues in Hobart. Additionally 2,725 linear feet of new water main would be installed adjacent to the sewer line on County Line Road. This would address availability of reliable safe water to one area of Hobart. Additionally manholes, gate valves, service laterals, and fire hydrant assemblies in these areas would be replaced as needed.

RECOMMENDED PLAN

Installation of Sanitary Sewers and Water Line Plan- A total of 5,300 linear feet of new sanitary sewer lines in 3 locations would be installed. The sewer lines to be installed vary in size from 8-inch to 12inch. The work would be done in 3 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Hobart County Line Road, 60th Avenue, and 6th Street. Sewer Line locations are detailed as in Appendix 1. This would address some of the commonly occurring groundwater contamination issues in Hobart. Additionally 2,725 linear feet of new water main would be installed adjacent to the sewer line on County Line Road. This would address availability of reliable safe water to one area of Hobart. Additionally manholes, gate valves, service laterals, and fire hydrant assemblies in these areas would be replaced as needed.

Benefits of the recommended alternative include a reduction of groundwater pollution from the leaking septic systems. The recommended plan also would also ensure reliable access to safe water for one Hobart neighborhood along County Line Road. The recommended plan is also currently the most cost effective plan to prevent groundwater contamination.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

An Environmental Assessment was completed for the proposed environmental infrastructure project in Hobart. A 30-day Public Review period for the Environmental Assessment was held from ????? to ???. The proposed project is in full compliance with appropriate statutes and executive orders including the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, the Endangered Species Act, as amended, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, the Clean Air Act, as amended, Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and the Corps of Engineers Operational and Management regulations (33 CFR 335-338).

Along with direct and indirect effects, cumulative effects were assessed following the guidance provided by the Presidents' Council on Environmental Quality. The increment of effect from the proposed 219 project when compared to cumulative effects of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions is considered minor.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and Section 122 of the Rivers and Harbors and Flood Control Act of 1970, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District, has assessed the environmental impacts associated with the proposed infrastructure improvements in Hobart, Indiana. The assessment process indicates that this

project would not cause any significant effects on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Christopher T. Drew
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

DATE OF EXECUTION