

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR  
SECTION 219, WRDA 1992  
ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT  
SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS FOR  
LAKE STATION, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Planning Branch  
231 South LaSalle Street Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

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## **SECTION 1 PURPOSE AND NEED**

### **PURPOSE**

The proposed project would reline 7,600 linear feet of existing deteriorated sanitary sewer lines within the City of Lake Station in Lake County, Indiana. Sanitary sewer system construction improvements would alleviate the commonly occurring leakage and cases of sewer backup affecting a number of areas within residential and commercial areas of the city.

### **NEED FOR ACTION**

The deteriorating condition of the Lake Station sanitary sewer system makes sanitary sewer flow unreliable. Leakage along the lines is a common occurrence. The resulting inability to handle even moderate increases in sewer flow results in sewer backup in residential areas.

### **AUTHORITY**

The study was authorized under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, as amended by Section 504 WRDA of 1996; Section 502 WRDA of 1999; Section 145 of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2004; and Section 5075 of WRDA of 2007. Section 219 (F)(12) Calumet Region 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 Lake Station Sanitary District.

## **SECTION 2 ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE RECOMMENDED PLAN**

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

1. **No Action Plan-** Under this alternative, no changes would be made to repair the sanitary sewer system in Lake Station. The deteriorating pipes will continue to leak, and the commonly reoccurring cases of sanitary sewer backup will continue in the city. As a result of the groundwater penetrating the deteriorated pipe there is greater than anticipated water flows which will continue to increase costs and could overwhelm existing water treatment facilities.
2. **Limited Relining of Sanitary Sewers-** A total of 4,100 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines in 3 locations would be relined in place. The work would be done in 3 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Lake Station. Relining locations are detailed as items A, B, & C in Table 1. This would address some of the commonly occurring leaking and sanitary sewer backup in Lake Station but these problems would continue in some locales, particularly in the Viking Village neighborhood (Map 21)

- 3. Relining of Sanitary Sewers-** 7,600 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 7 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Lake Station including the Viking Village neighborhood. Relining locations are detailed as items A-G in Table 1. This would alleviate both the commonly occurring sanitary sewer leaking and backup in these residential areas including the Viking Village neighborhood.

**Table 1**

<b>Lake Station Sanitary Sewer Relining Location</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>MAP</b>
A. Easement from 21 <sup>st</sup> Ct. north to 18 <sup>th</sup> Street	1,500 ft	pg. 21
B. 21 <sup>st</sup> Street from west of Rush Street east to Marquette	1,200 ft	pg. 23
C. De Kalb Street north from 25 <sup>th</sup> street	1,400 ft	pg. 22
D. Viking Village neighborhood La Porte Street from 31 <sup>st</sup> Ave. south	1,000 ft	pg. 21
E. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Easement from La Porte Street west	1,400 ft	pg. 21
F. 33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Easement from La Porte Street east	600 ft	pg. 21
G. Easement from 33 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. south to 34 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	500 ft	pg. 21

## RECOMMENDED PLAN

**Relining of Sanitary Sewers-** 7,600 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 7 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Lake Station including the Viking Village neighborhood. Relining locations are detailed in Table 1. This would alleviate both the commonly occurring sanitary sewer leaking and backup in these residential areas.

Benefits of the recommended alternative include a reduction of potential groundwater pollution from the leaking sanitary sewer system, a reduction of the recurring cases of sanitary sewer backups, and a reduction in costs of operating water treatment facilities. The recommended plan is also currently the most cost effective plan to prevent sanitary sewer leaking and sewer backup

Work would begin in 2014 with completion anticipated in approximately 12 months.

## COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STATUTES

The proposed action is in full compliance with appropriate statues, 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, as amended, Clean Air Act, as amended, Indiana 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 areas (Appendix 1, Maps 1-4) lie approximately 2 to 3 miles south of Lake Michigan, at S1/2 of Sec 7, T 36N & R 7W of the 2<sup>nd</sup> principal meridian, and is shown on the Gary (Indiana) USGS 7.5" topographic quadrangle map.

The proposed project will line approximately 7,600 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines. Sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 7 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Lake Station.

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 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, northern Indiana metropolitan area. Water quality within the project area does not meet applicable water quality standards because of the continued combination of sanitary sewer leaks and overflows, and agricultural run-off.

### **AQUATIC COMMUNITIES**

There are no aquatic communities present in the planned project area. Burns Ditch (Deep River) winds through Lake Station but is not near any of the actual project locales. This waterway supports a number of species typical of rivers in northern Indiana such as catfish, common carp, blue gills, and various amphibians.

### **TERRESTRIAL COMMUNITIES**

Lake Station 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 Lake Station project area contains mowed grass lawns, shrubs, and a variety of tree species including maple, green ash, mulberry, box elder, honey locust, crabapple, and cottonwood, as well as some remaining agricultural land.

### **NATURAL AREAS**

The project areas are near Burns Ditch (Deep River). Indiana National Lakeshore is located approximately 1 mile to the north. These open space areas provide 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 residential and commercial. It is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalist*), 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, as existing right-of-way, the project area itself contains no habitat likely to be used by threatened or endangered species with the possible exception of migratory avian species.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The City of Lake Station is located approximately 5 miles south and east of Chicago, Illinois in Lake County, Indiana. Surrounding communities include the towns of Gary, Hobart, and Portage

No structures within the City of Lake Station are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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 Lake Station area was first platted as a town in 1852 by the Michigan Central Railroad. The community became a shipping hub for agricultural products. The area became a residential suburb of Gary and was incorporated in 1907 as the town of East Gary. The name was changed to Lake Station in 1977. The town has since developed into more of a commuter community for people employed in Chicago and the other surrounding towns.

## SOCIAL SETTING

Lake Station has a ethnically and racially diverse population of approximately 14,000 (2014). Median household income is \$36,984.00 (2014). Median home value is \$49,900.00 (2014).

## RECREATION

There are 10 parks in the Lake Station park system. These parks provide baseball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball and tennis courts. Picnic shelters, jogging and hiking trails, and fishing areas are also provided by the Lake Station park system.

## HAZARDOUS, TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE WASTE (HTRW) INVESTIGATION

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

## **SECTION 4 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

### IMPACTS OF "NO ACTION" PLAN

The “no action” plan would have no impact on natural resources in Lake Station. However the sanitary sewer would remain inadequate, and the continuation of sanitary sewer leaks and backups 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, or desirable regional growth. No farms or people, businesses, or industry 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 or services. 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. In regard to 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 Conformity Rule.

### 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 significant beneficial long-term impact on the quality of water in the community. Sewer lining will significantly reduce leakage in the system, thereby protecting area groundwater from contamination. Reduction in inflow to the system will also significantly reduce sanitary sewer backups and basement flooding in residential areas. The reduction in hydraulic inflow will also decrease the number of wastewater treatment plant bypasses to receiving streams in the area. In summary, the project will significantly benefit water quality.

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 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 is not located within the floodplain, and will not promote development in the floodplain

The project will have no significant long-term impact on the quality of water in any of the tributaries to Lake Michigan. The project would comply will 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 (January 23, 2014) 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 Lake Station.

## AQUATIC IMPACTS

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act - The project will have no impact on aquatic wildlife or habitat. Both the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has concurred with this determination (letter dated July 8, 2014).The Indiana DNR have been contacted (letters dated June 19, 2014) and is expected to concur with this determination.

Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands) -The project area is not within wetlands.

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

## TERRESTRIAL IMPACTS

The project would not have an adverse impact on any valuable fish and wildlife or its habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have concurred with this determination (letter dated July 8, 2014). The Indiana DNR has been contacted (letters dated June 19, 2014) and is expected to concur with this determination

## 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 (letter dated June 19, 2014) and is expected to concur with this determination.

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 July 8, 2014).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC IMPACTS

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 - The proposed construction would have no impact on archaeological or historic properties. The Indiana SHPO has been contacted (letter dated June 19, 2014) and is expected to concur with this determination.

Native American groups having an interest in northwestern Indiana have been consulted (letters dated January 31, 2014). The Pokegon Band of Potawatomi Indians have replied, stating that they have no objections to the project (letter of July 3, 2014).

## HTRW IMPACTS

A Phase I HTRW investigation has been conducted by the sponsor and has revealed that no known potential environmental issues or recognized concerns exist within the project area.

## 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

In this environmental assessment, the cumulative effects issues and assessment goals are established, 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-1851, when settlement and development of the area began.
2. Present-2014, when the selection plan was being developed.

### 3. Future-2064, 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 and increased sanitary sewer discharge.
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 Burns Ditch or Deep River or any of their 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 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 1 –Environmental Impact Summary

<b>Potential Impact Area</b>	<b>Past Actions</b>	<b>Proposed Direct Impacts</b>		<b>Cumulative Impact</b>
		<b>Construction</b>	<b>Operation</b>	
Geology & Soils	adverse	no impact	no impact	no impact
Hydrology	adverse	no impact	Beneficial	Beneficial
Water Quality	major adverse	no impact	Beneficial	Beneficial
Sediment Quality	major adverse	no impact	no impact	no impact
Aquatic Resources	major adverse	no impact	no impact	Beneficial
Terrestrial Resources	adverse	Minor temporary negative impact	no impact	no impact
Land Use	adverse	no impact	no impact	beneficial
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  
U.S. EPA ME-19J  
77 West Jackson  
Chicago, IL 60604

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: 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 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: James Glass

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

#### LIBRARIES

Lake Station Public Library  
2007 Central Ave  
Lake Station, IN 46405  
Gov. publications

**SCOPING CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

Planning Branch  
Environmental Formulation Section

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

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 Lake Station, Lake County, Indiana. The sanitary sewers will be lined with a resin-impregnated flexible tube that will be cured in place. 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). Four maps of the project areas are attached (enclosure 2a-2b).

The project includes the relining in place of up to 7,600 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines. The work would be done in up to 7 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Lake Station. A list of the relining locations is attached (enclosure 3).

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](mailto:peter.y.bullock@usace.army.mil). Questions should be directed to Mr. Bullock at 312/846-5587.

Sincerely,

Enclosures as stated

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



Pokégnek Bodéwadmik • Pokagon Band of Potawatomi  
Department of Language and Culture

32142 Edwards Street • Dowagiac, MI 49047 • [www.PokagonBand-nsn.gov](http://www.PokagonBand-nsn.gov)  
(269) 462-4325 • (269) 783-0452 fax

July 3, 2014

Peter Bullock  
Planning Branch  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
South La Salle Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60604

**RE: Lake Station, Indiana Sanitary Sewer Relining  
Section 106 Consultation**

Dear Mr. Bullock:

My name is Marcus Winchester and I am the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. My position is responsible for handling Section 106 consultation on behalf of the tribe. I am writing to inform you that after reviewing the Lake Station, Indiana Sanitary Sewer Relining project details, we determined that we are unaware of any historical, religious, or culturally significant resources to the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians in the vicinity of the project area. However, if any archaeological resources are uncovered during this undertaking, please contact me immediately. Should you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Marcus Winchester  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians  
Office: (269) 462-4224  
Cell: (269) 783-9269  
[marcus.winchester@pokagonband-nsn.gov](mailto:marcus.winchester@pokagonband-nsn.gov)

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A progressive community focused on culture and the most innovative opportunities for all of our citizens.



United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service



Bloomington Field Office (ES)  
620 South Walker Street  
Bloomington, IN 47403-2121  
Phone: (812) 334-4261 Fax: (812) 334-4273

July 8, 2014

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

Attn: Mr. Peter Bullock, Environmental Formulation Section

Dear Mrs. Davis:

This responds to your letter dated June 19, 2014, requesting our comments on a proposed infrastructure improvement project in Lake Station, Lake County, Indiana. The proposed project consists of the lining of approximately 7,600 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer pipes at 7 locations.

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 existing sanitary sewers are leaking or otherwise deteriorating. It is proposed to line the pipes with resin-impregnated flexible tubes that will be cured in place. All of the sewers are within existing easements/rights-of-way. The proposed project will have no effect on wetlands or other significant habitat types. Project impacts are expected to be minor in nature. Based on a review of the information you provided, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no objections to the project as currently proposed.

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES

The proposed project is within the range of the Federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*), the proposed endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and the threatened Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*) and

Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*). There is no habitat for any of these species within the proposed project area. Therefore, we agree that this proposed project is not likely to adversely affect, or to enhance, these endangered, proposed 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. However, should new information arise pertaining to project plans or a revised species list be published, it will be necessary for the Federal agency to reinitiate consultation.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment at this early stage of project planning. For further discussion, please contact Elizabeth McCloskey at (219) 983-9753 or [elizabeth\\_mccloskey@fws.gov](mailto:elizabeth_mccloskey@fws.gov).

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Elizabeth S. McCloskey

for Scott E. Pruitt  
Supervisor

Sent via email July 8, 2014; no hard copy to follow.

cc: Christie Stanifer, Environmental Coordinator, Division of Water, Indianapolis, IN  
Marty Maupin, IDEM, Office of Water Management, Indianapolis, IN  
Liz Pelloso, USEPA, NEPA Implementation Section, Chicago, IL

## SCOPING DISTRIBUTION LIST

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ATTN: Steve Davis

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ATTN: Christie Stanifer

Indiana DNR  
Division of Historic Preservation and History  
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Indianapolis, IN 46204  
ATTN: Dr. James Glass

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission  
6100 Southport  
Portage, IN 46368  
ATTN: Steve Strains

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

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma                      **Tribal List**  
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  
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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

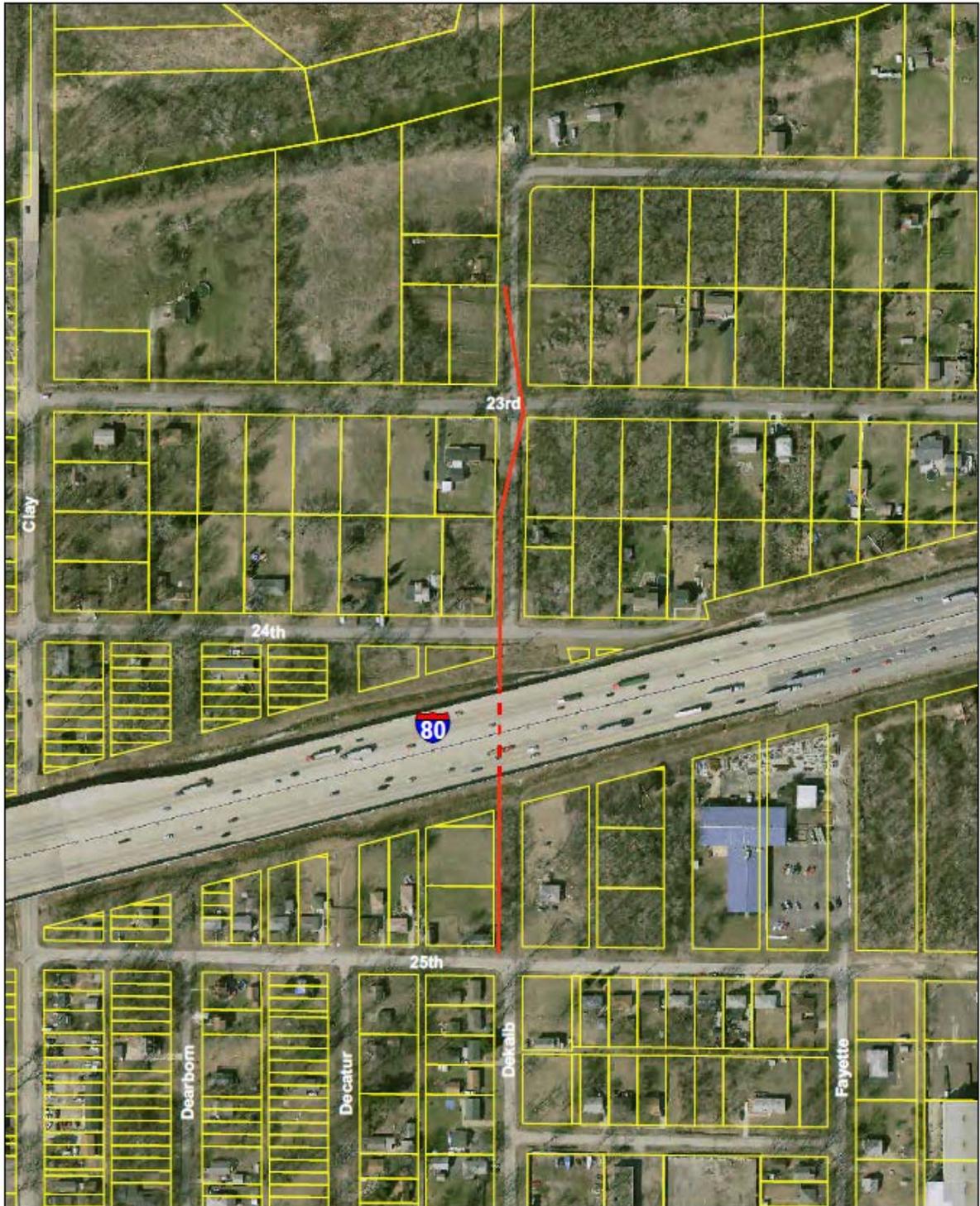
Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribal Council  
16281 Q RD  
Mayetta, KS 66509

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

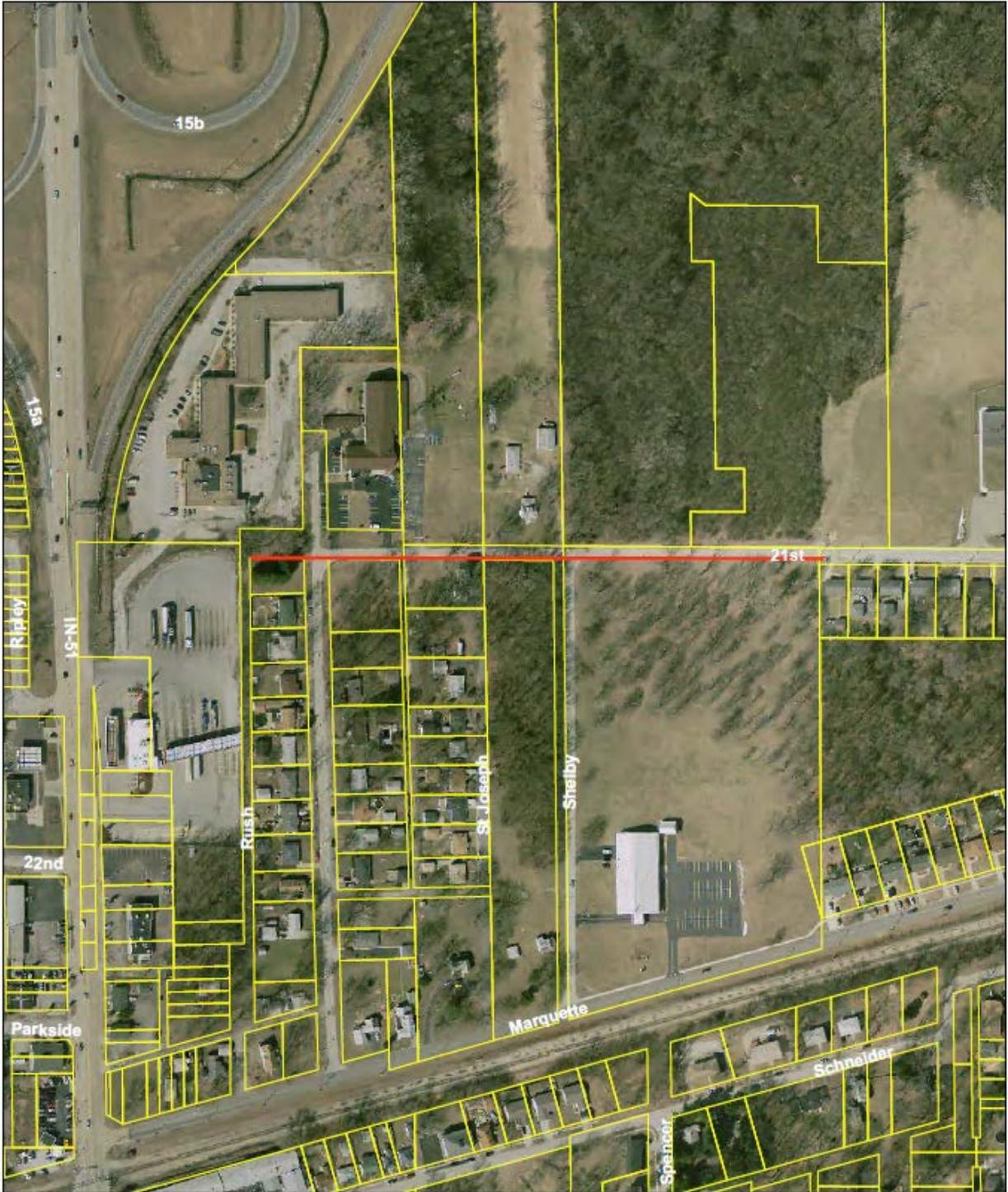
**APPENDIX 1**  
**Project Maps**



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p> Refined Sanitary Sewer Pipe</p> <p> Parcels</p>	 1 inch = 250 feet	<p><b>Lake Station</b> Viking Village</p> <p>For Official Use Only July, 2014</p> <p><b>Map 1</b> </p> <p>Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p>
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<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p> Re-lined Sanitary Sewer Pipe</p> <p> Parcels</p>	<p></p> <p>1 inch = 250 feet</p>	<p><b>Lake Station</b> 25th and DeKalb</p> <p>For Official Use Only July, 2014</p> <p><b>Map 2</b> </p> <p>Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p>
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<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p> Relined Sanitary Sewer Pipe</p> <p> Parcels</p>	<p></p> <p>1 inch = 250 feet</p>	<p><b>Lake Station</b> 21st and Bailey</p> <p>For Official Use Only July, 2014</p> <p><b>Map 3</b> </p> <p>Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p>
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<p><b>Legend</b></p> <p> Reline Sanitary Sewer Pipe</p> <p> Parcels</p>	<p></p> <p>1 Inch = 250 feet</p>	<p><b>Lake Station</b> 18th to 21st Crt</p> <p>For Official Use Only July, 2014</p> <p><b>Map 4</b> </p> <p>Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</p>
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## **APPENDIX 2, DRAFT FONSI**

**DRAFT**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**SECTION 219**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT SANITARY SEWER**  
**IMPROVEMENTS FOR**  
**LAKE STATION, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA.**

**PURPOSE**

The proposed project would reline 7,600 linear feet of existing deteriorated sanitary sewer lines within the City of Lake Station in Lake County, Indiana. Sanitary sewer system construction improvements would alleviate the commonly occurring leakage and cases of sewer backup affecting a number of residential and commercial areas within the city.

**AUTHORITY**

The study was authorized under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, as amended by Section 504 WRDA of 1996, Section 502 WRDA of 1999, Section 145 of the Energy and Water Appropriations Act of 2004, and Section 5075 WRDA of 2007. Section 219 (F)(12) Calumet Region allows the Army Corps of Engineers to provide planning, design, and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure projects.

**PROJECT AREA**

The project areas lie approximately 2 to 3 miles south of Lake Michigan, at S1/2 of Sec 7, T 36N & R 7W of the 2<sup>nd</sup> principal meridian, and is shown on the Gary (Indiana) USGS 7.5" topographic quadrangle map.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

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

1. **No Action Plan-** Under this alternative, no changes would be made to repair the sanitary sewer system in Lake Station. The deteriorating pipes will continue to leak, and the commonly reoccurring cases of sanitary sewer backup will continue in the city. As a result of the groundwater penetrating the deteriorated pipe there is greater than anticipated water flows which will continue to increase costs and could overwhelm existing water treatment facilities.
2. **Limited Relining of Sanitary Sewers-** A total of 4,100 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines in 3 locations would be relined in place. The work would be done in 3 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Lake Station. This would address some of the commonly occurring leaking and sanitary sewer backup in Lake Station but these problems would continue in some locales, particularly in the Viking Village neighborhood (Map 21).
3. **Relining of Sanitary Sewers-** 7,600 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 7 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Lake Station including the Viking Village neighborhood.. This would

alleviate both the commonly occurring sanitary sewer leaking and backup in these residential areas including the Viking Village neighborhood.

## RECOMMENDED PLAN

**Relining of Sanitary Sewers-** 7,600 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 7 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Lake Station including the Viking Village neighborhood. This would alleviate both the commonly occurring sanitary sewer leaking and backup in these residential areas.

Benefits of the recommended alternative include a reduction of potential groundwater pollution from the leaking sanitary sewer system, a reduction of the recurring cases of sanitary sewer backups, and a reduction in costs of operating water treatment facilities. The recommended plan is also currently the most cost effective plan to prevent sanitary sewer leaking and sewer backup

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

An Environmental Assessment was completed for the proposed environmental infrastructure project in Lake Station. A 30-day Public Review period for the Environmental Assessment was held from July 21, 2014 to August 25, 2014. The proposed project is in full compliance with appropriate statutes and executive orders including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Clean Air Act, Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act, and the Corps of Engineers Operational and Management regulations (33CFR 200, 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 Lake Station, 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

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DATE OF EXECUTION