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## DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### Lansing and Calumet City Levees, IL Continuing Authorities Program Section 205 Small Flood Risk Management

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) dated \_\_\_\_\_, for the CAP Section 205 Lansing and Calumet City Levees, IL study addresses flood risk management opportunities and feasibility in the Village of Lansing and City of Calumet City, Illinois. The final recommendation is contained in the Detailed Project Report, dated \_\_\_\_\_.

The Final IFR/EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would reduce flood risk posed by the Little Calumet River in the study area. The recommended plan is the National Economic Development (NED) Plan and includes:

- Rehabilitation of the levee system with the existing alignment to the original design elevation of 597.7 ft-NAVD88 and have a 10-foot-wide crest with side slopes of 2.5:1
- Rehabilitation of approximately 5,600 feet of earthen levee and 400 feet of sheetpile wall for Lansing and approximately 8,500 feet of earthen levee and 900 feet of sheetpile wall for Calumet City.
- Placement of approximately 500 cubic yards of clean clay fill below the ordinary high water mark on the western Calumet City levee segment
- Removal of existing levee encroachments such as trees, swimming pools, fences, decks, sheds, railroad ties, yard waste, and placing compacted fill where roots, animal burrows, unmaintained concrete structures, or other encroachments have compromised the integrity of the levee.
- Clearing of trees within the 15-ft levee buffer zone to allow for construction and maintenance access. Approximately 9 acres of vegetation in would be cleared and re-seeded with grass.
- Painting, concrete crack repairs, spall repair, grounding pump station generators, roof repairs, wire brush and painting trash racks, adding arc flash warning signs to pump stations, and completing Megger Testing at five pump stations.
- Replacement of three pumps at two pump stations.
- Development of an Emergency Action Plan that details flood preparedness and response actions and a complete Operations and Maintenance manual for the project.

In addition to a “no action” plan, four alternatives were evaluated. Refer to Section 2 of the Detailed Project Report for more detailed information on the plan formulation, evaluation, and comparison process. The alternatives considered included:

- Alternative 1A – Relocation: This alternative consists of physically moving 1,781 existing at-risk structures away from the flood hazard area to a location which is completely



outside of the 100-year floodplain. The land where the structure had originally been located would be purchased by the non-federal sponsors, becoming deed restricted to prevent development from occurring in the future.

- **Alternative 1B – Buyouts:** This alternative consists of the acquisition of 1,781 at-risk structures and land that the structures sit upon within the 100-year floodplain. Structures would be demolished. The land where the structure had originally been located would be purchased by the non-federal sponsors, becoming deed restricted to prevent development from occurring in the future.
  
- **Alternative 2 – Levee Rehabilitation:** This alternative consists of measures that would rehabilitate the levee system within the existing alignment, development of an Emergency Action Plan that details flood preparedness and response actions, and a complete Operations and Maintenance manual for the project. To bring the Lansing and Calumet City levees into compliance with current USACE design standards, several construction measures, including:
  - Clear unwanted vegetation and ensure sod covers levees
  - Clear unwanted encroachments
  - Repair eroded embankments and seepage areas
  - Repair system to original design elevation (597.7 ft-NAVD88)
  - Replace failed sheet pile walls
  - Repair sluice gates, flap gates, and gravity drains
  - Repair masonry at pump houses
  - Replace-in-kind all major components of pump stations
  - Replace pump station generators
  
- **Alternative 3 – Levee Rehabilitation with Modified Floodwall:** This alternative consists of all the same elements as Alternative 2 – Levee Rehabilitation. However, the system alignment would be optimized to minimize real estate impacts to residential properties immediately adjacent to the system. Sections of earthen levee would be replaced by sheetpile floodwall that has a narrower crest width than earthen levee.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

**Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan**

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the IFR/EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts (refer to Section 4 of the Detailed Project Report). The Tentatively Selected Plan will remove all trees within the levee zone, which includes the levee and a 15-foot buffer zone on each side. Approximately 16 acres of low-quality woodland habitat would be modified. While clearing of trees and vegetation are normal maintenance activities in a levee operations and maintenance plan for a levee system, this activity has not been done for the Lansing and Calumet City levee system. If maintaining a clear levee and buffer zone had been properly implemented after initial construction in the 1980s, there currently would be no trees or shrubs on the levees. The levee zone will be planted with a short list of grasses and forbs that can be mowed once a year to ensure woody vegetation does not establish after completion of project construction. The Tentatively Selected Plan may remove various native trees within a larger footprint (25-feet from toe of the levee zone) for purposes of temporary construction access and associated activities. The general condition of this zone is a predominance of non-native species. Should any native trees over a DBH of 8 inches be removed from this zone, they will be replaced in-kind if deemed high quality; smaller trees will not be replaced. Any ground disturbance in this zone will be repaired and seeded with native mesic Woodland Edge grasses and forbs. Although hibernacula and roosting trees for Northern Long-eared Bats are not known within the study area, all tree clearing will be scheduled to minimize potential impacts to Northern Long-eared Bats. Tree clearing will be completed in the winter and avoid the season when bats are active, April 1 to November 15. The Tentatively Selected Plan avoids wetland impacts by a few feet. Instructions for contractors to use best management practices to reduce temporary impacts to wetlands, such as fencing, will be included in construction contract documents

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.



Public review of the draft IFR/EA and FONSI was completed on \_\_\_\_\_. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final IFR/EA and FONSI. A 30-day state and agency review of the Final IFR/EA was completed on \_\_\_\_\_. The final IFR/EA is to be completed after the public review period.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan has No Effect on the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: PipingPlover (*Charadrius melodus*), Rufa Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*), Hine's Emerald Dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*), Rattlesnake-master Borer Moth (*Papaipema eryngii*), Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*), Eastern PrairieFringed Orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), Prairie Bush Clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), Northern Long-Eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*). To avoid potential impacts to the Northern Long-eared Bat and migratory birds, tree removal would only occur between October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concurred with the Corps' determination on \_\_\_\_\_.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that historic properties would not be adversely affected by the recommended plan. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency concurred with the determination on **14 June 2021**.

Pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent a letter to the FWS on 21 May 2021. USACE will consider the incorporation of any recommendations made by USFWS in their anticipated response.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230) under Nationwide Permit 3 (NWP3). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Appendix I – Environmental Analyses Coordination of the IFR/EA.

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources prior to construction. In a letter dated \_\_\_\_\_, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources stated that the recommended plan appears to meet the requirements of the water quality certification, pending confirmation based on information to be developed during the pre-construction engineering and design phase. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

Technical, environmental, and economic criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse



VERSION: June 2021

effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

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Paul B. Culberson  
Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
District Commander