



US Army Corps of Engineers®

CHICAGO DISTRICT

MCCOOK LEVEE

MCCOOK, IL

Appendix I: Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

March 2018

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

SECTION 205 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT FOR McCook LEVEE, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PURPOSE

This study has been initiated to investigate measures that can address flood risks in the communities of McCook, Lyons, and Summit, Illinois. While two existing levees, locally named the “McCook Levee” and the “West Lyons Levee,” are providing some level of protection for these communities, residual risk remains due to overtopping risk, seepage concerns, and a lack of maintenance and repair of the existing structures. Significant flooding was experienced behind the McCook Levee portion of the project area during a record flood event in April 2013. The source of flooding was identified as levee overtopping. Levee assessments conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have identified stability and seepage issues with both structures in their current conditions and the associated risk of levee failure is considered to be high.

AUTHORITY

The study was authorized under Section 205, Flood Control Act of 1948 (P.L. 80-858), as amended. Projects implemented under this authority are formulated for structural or non-structural measures for the purpose of flood damage reduction in accordance with current policies and procedures governing projects of this type that are specifically authorized by Congress.

PROJECT AREA

The McCook and West Lyons Levees are located on the west bank of the Des Plaines River in western Cook County, about 10 miles southwest of Downtown Chicago. The area at risk of flooding includes industrial and residential areas within the Villages of McCook, Lyons, and Summit, Illinois. The surrounding area is highly urbanized, with a strong residential and industrial base.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

There were 4 alternatives considered to address flooding problems for the McCook Levee Problem Area:

Alternatives 0A - No Action: For this alternative, no improvements would be made to the McCook Levee and no new flood risk management measures would be implemented

Alternative 1A- McCook Non-structural: This alternative includes the non-structural protection of 19 industrial buildings identified as at risk of flooding behind the existing McCook Levee.

Alternative 2A – McCook Levee Repair: This alternative includes bringing the existing levee into compliance with current USACE design standards through the removal of trees and stumps, placement of compacted fill and rip-rap, regrading of portions of the levee to its intended elevation, and replacement of the existing gravel maintenance road/footpath. This alternative would also require the modification of the drainage of the McCook Ditch. The existing culvert at Lawndale will remain partially open, allowing the McCook ditch to continue draining through the Summit conduit. A closure structure will be installed to keep flows at a level that can be drained through the

Summit conduit without causing interior flooding. A new concrete headwall will be constructed at the south entrance to the culvert under Lawndale and a sluice gate will be installed to restrict the flow through Lawndale Ave.

Alternative 3A – McCook Levee Segmented Repair: This alternative is to repair and improve segments of the existing McCook Levee and install 3 tie-back levees to form complete levee segments as well as to repair the existing West Lyons Levee. Repair and improvement activities include removal of existing levee encroachments such as trees and placing compacted fill where roots, animal burrows, or other encroachments have compromised the integrity of the levee. The alternative would also require the modification of the drainage of the McCook Ditch. The existing culvert at Lawndale will remain partially open, allowing the McCook ditch to continue draining through Summit conduit. A closure structure will be installed to keep flows at a level that can be drained through the Summit conduit without causing interior flooding. A new concrete headwall will be constructed at the south entrance to the culvert under Lawndale and a sluice gate will be installed to restrict the flow through Lawndale Avenue.

Additionally, there were 3 alternatives considered to address flooding problems for the West Lyons Levee problem area:

Alternatives 0A - No Action. For this alternative, no improvements would be made to the West Lyons Levee and no new flood risk management measures would be implemented.

Alternative 1B- Lyons Non-structural: This alternative includes the non-structural protection of 17 residential structures including 16 single family homes and 1 multi-unit condominium building.

Alternative 2B – West Lyons Levee Repair: This alternative includes bringing the existing levee into compliance with current USACE design standards through removal of existing levee encroachments such as trees and placing compacted fill where roots, animal burrows, or other encroachments have compromised the integrity of the levee.

RECOMMENDED PLAN

Based on the separable elements analysis conducted and the assessment of environmental impacts, segmented levee repair of the McCook Levee (Alternative 3A) and repair of the existing West Lyons Levee (Alternative 2B) were selected to form the recommended plan. This is the plan that best meets the study objectives, avoids constraints and provides the highest net benefits.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

An integrated Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed and is herein incorporated by reference for the proposed flood risk management project in McCook, Lyons and Summit, Illinois. A 30-day Public Review period for the DPR/EA was held from **MONTH DAY, YEAR** to **MONTH DAY, YEAR**. 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 205 project, when compared to cumulative effects of past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions is considered to be 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, herein incorporated by reference, associated with the proposed infrastructure improvements in McCook, Lyons and Summit Illinois. The assessment process indicates that this project would not cause any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, I have determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date: _____

Aaron W. Reisinger
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander