

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
SECTION 219, WRDA 1992, As Amended
ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS FOR
CROWN POINT, LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

May 28, 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 reline up to 7,400 linear feet of existing deteriorated sanitary sewer lines within the City of Crown Point in Lake County, Indiana. In addition, up to 222 manholes within the relined sanitary sewers will be inspected and relined as needed. Sanitary sewer system relining improvements would alleviate the commonly occurring leakage, allow unimpeded flows, and alleviate cases of sewer backup affecting a number of residential areas within the city.

NEED FOR ACTION

The deteriorating condition of the Crown Point 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 into residential areas.

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 City of Crown Point.

SECTION 2 ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE RECOMMENDED PLAN

There are 3 alternative plans considered to address the sanitary system problems in Crown Point, Indiana.

1. **No Action Plan**-Under this alternative, no changes would be made to repair the sanitary sewer system in Crown Point. The deteriorating pipes will continue to leak, and the commonly reoccurring cases of sanitary sewer backup will continue in this portion of the city.
2. **Limited Lining of Sanitary Sewers Plan**- A total of 4,630 linear feet of existing 8 inch to 30 inch sanitary sewer lines in 18 locations would be relined in place. The work would be done in utility right-of-way and easement locations across Crown Point (relining locations are B & C entries on Table 1). This would address some of the commonly occurring leaking and sanitary sewer backup in Crown Point but these problems would continue in some locales.

3. **Lining of Sanitary Sewers Plan-** 7,400 linear feet of existing 8 inch to 30 inch sanitary sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 28 utility right-of-way and easement locations across this portion of Crown Point. Relineing locations are B, C, J, & S entries on Table 1. Additionally up to 222 manholes in the relined sanitary sewers would be inspected and relined as needed. This would alleviate both the commonly occurring sanitary sewer leaking and backup in residential areas.

Table 1

Crown Point Sanitary Sewer Relineing Location	Pipe Size	Length
B-1 Easement North of Farragut St & West of East St	30"	300ft
B-2 Main St & Greenwood Ave.	8"	200ft
B-3 Main St west of Jackson St	8"	230ft
N/A 146 manholes		
B-5 Easement between Court St & West St	30"	350ft
B-6 North St between East St & West St	8" & 10"	450ft
B-7 South St between East St & Cardinal St	8"	650ft
B-8 Court St & School Court	10"	200ft
B-9 Main & Joliet St	8"	150ft
B-10 341 S. Main St	8"	100ft
B-11 417 S. Main St	8"	50ft
B-12 Main St & Greenwood St	8" & 12"	250ft
B-13 215 Crestview	12"	100ft
C-1 South St & Pettibone Ave	8"	220ft
C-2 South St east of Pettibone Ave	12"	300ft
C-3 515 North St	12"	400ft
C-4 North St east from East St to Indiana Ave	8" & 12"	350ft
C-5 701 Joliet St	8"	100ft
C-6 South St from Pettibone Ave to Indiana Ave	8"	230ft
J-1 601 W. Farragut St	10"	350ft
J-2 339 Goldsborough St	10"	320ft
J-3 209 N. Sheridan St	8"	200ft
J-4 East St & Farragut St	8"	300ft
J-5 604 N. Sherman St	10"	300ft
J-6 Jackson St & Farragut St	12"	450ft
J-7 Monitor St & Indiana Ave	12"	500ft
S-2 Sherman St	12"	100ft
S-3 229 Elizabeth Dr	12"	250ft
N/A Various Manholes 76 manholes		

Note: Manholes are not shown on project map.

Please note gaps in the numbering sequence due to changes in prioritization and dropping of projects by the City of Crown Point

RECOMMENDED PLAN

Lining of Sanitary Sewers Plan- 7,400 linear feet of existing 8 inch to 30 inch sanitary sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 28 utility right-of-way and easement locations across this portion of Crown Point. Relining locations are B, C, J, & S entries on Table 1. Additionally up to 222 manholes in the relined sanitary sewers would be inspected and relined as needed. This would alleviate both the commonly occurring sanitary sewer leaking and backup in residential areas.

Benefits of the recommended alternative include a reduction of potential groundwater pollution from the leaking sanitary sewer system, as well as a reduction of the recurring cases of sanitary sewer backups into residences. The recommended plan is also currently the most cost effective plan to prevent sanitary sewer leaking and sewer backup in residential areas.

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

COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STATUTES

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), 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 lies approximately 15 miles south of Lake Michigan, in the NW quarter of Section 8, T34N R8W and the SW quarter of Section 5, T34N R8W of the 2nd principal meridian, and is shown on the Crown Point (Indiana) USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle map.

The proposed project will line approximately 7,400 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines, and they would be relined in place. The work would be done in 28 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Crown Point. In addition manholes in these areas would be inspected and relined as needed.

Traffic disruption will be kept to a minimum however most of the construction is occurring within the existing street right-of-way or utility easements.

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. Ground water quality within the project area does not meet applicable water quality standards because of the continued combined sewer overflows, agricultural run-off, and municipal waste effluent.

AQUATIC COMMUNITIES

There are no aquatic communities present in the planned project area. The Beaver Dam Lateral of the Smith Ditch, at its closest point near Anderson Street, is approximate to north of the project area. Smith Ditch extends from Lake Seven southwest of the project area, and drains northward to Deep River. Both the Smith Ditch and the Beaver Dam Lateral support a number of aquatic species such as various types of crawfish, amphibians such as frogs and salamanders, and aquatic insects, which are typical to ditches in northern Indiana.

TERRESTRIAL COMMUNITIES

Crown Point 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 goose, mallard, pigeon, cardinal, chickadee, red winged blackbird, purple martin, grackle, and blue jay.

Vegetation within the Crown Point 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.

The proposed construction zone contains no particularly valuable wildlife habitat.

NATURAL AREAS

The project area lies directly east of Jerry Ross Park. This park includes a number of protected vegetation zones, and provides a resting and feeding area for a variety of wildlife, including a large number of birds during spring and fall migrations.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The project area is suburban residential. It is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalists*) the Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides Melissa samuelis*), the threatened Pitcher’s thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), and the candidate eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*). However, the project area contains no habitat likely to be used by threatened or endangered species with the possible exception of migratory avian species.

ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

The City of Crown Point is 45 miles southeast of Chicago and 30 minutes south of Lake Michigan in Lake County, Indiana. Communities surrounding Crown Point include Schererville, Merrillville and Cedar Lake, Indiana. Crown Point is primarily a residential community of about 16.6 square miles and approximately 24,500 residents. There are 5 historic structures and one historic district within the City of Crown Point currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These are the Wellington Clark House (listed 2001), the Lake County Courthouse (listed 1973, the Lake County Sanitarium Nurses House (listed 2005), the Lake County Sheriffs’ House and Jail (listed 1989), the William Whitaker House (listed 1999),and the Crown Point Courthouse Square Historic District (listed 2004). All of the listed properties are west of the project area.

The proposed project is within existing highway and utility right-of-way. It has been disturbed by filling, grading, and utility construction. It contains no intact archaeological material or deposits.

LAND USE HISTORY

The first settlers to the Crown Point area arrived in 1834. By 1837 Lake County had been established by the State of Indiana with Crown Point as the county seat. The community was incorporated in 1868 as the City of Crown Point. Crown Point remains an agricultural and manufacturing center.

SOCIAL SETTING

Crown Point has recently been listed as one of the 100 best communities in the United States. The City of Crown Point has a racially and ethnically mixed population. Agriculture and county government are still the economic mainstays of Crown Point, although the city has also become a center for light industry. In recent years this portion of northern Indiana has become more integrated into the greater Chicago metropolitan area. In 2009 the median home value for Crown Point was \$217,450.00 and the median household income was approximately \$74,000.00.

RECREATION

Within Crown Point there are 18 parks that provide a variety of baseball diamonds, soccer fields and tennis courts for public use. Several of these are designated “passive” parks designed for bird watching, hiking, and picnicking. The 86 acre Crown Point Sportsplex provides a skate park, pavilion, gymnasiums, and both softball and soccer fields. Saverman Park located within the City of Crown Point is another popular picnic, hiking, and nature area.

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 Crown Point. 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 or 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. 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 from 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. 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 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 9, 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 Crown Point.

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 March 26, 2015. The Indiana DNR has also concurred with this determination in a letter dated March 16, 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 16, 2015). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has also concurred with this determination (letter dated March 26, 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 16, 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 March 26, 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 in a letter dated April 14, 2015.

Native American groups having an interest in northwestern Indiana have been consulted (letters dated March 12, 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

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-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 Salt Creek 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 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 2 –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	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	Beneficial	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	Beneficial
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
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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: Mitchell Zoll

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

12 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 Crown Point, 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). A map of the project area is attached (enclosure 2)

The project includes the relining in place of up to 7,400 linear feet of existing sanitary sewer lines. The sewer lines to be relined vary in size from 8 inch to 30 inch. The work will be in up to 28 utility right-of-way and easement locations across Crown Point. Additionally manholes in these areas would be relined, and lateral joints sealed. 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. Questions should be directed to Mr. Bullock at 312/846-5587.

Sincerely,

3 Enclosures as stated

15/

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

3/12/15
 Bullock PM-PL-E
3/12/15
 Flepping PM-PL-E
 Samara PM *JK 3/12/15*
 Davis PM-PL *SD 3/12/15*

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

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

DNR #: ER-18204

Request Received: March 16, 2015

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

Project: Relining of up to 7400' of existing sanitary sewer lines, and several manholes, in Crown Point

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: Formal approval by the Department of Natural Resources under the regulatory programs administered by the Division of Water is not required for this project.

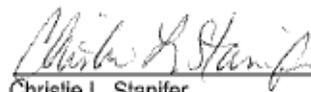
Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked. To date, no plant or animal species listed as state or federally threatened, endangered, or rare have been reported to occur in the project vicinity.

Fish & Wildlife Comments: During construction, lining the existing pipes should result in fewer impacts compared to a complete replacement; however, installing a liner generally reduces the size of the pipe, which can increase flow velocity as well as increased turbidity and potential scour in the surrounding area. Installing a liner is a practical option when surrounding habitat quality is low and fish and wildlife usage is limited.

The measures 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) and legumes as soon as possible upon completion; low endophyte tall fescue may be used in the ditch bottom and side slopes only.
2. 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.
3. 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: March 25, 2015



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

March 26, 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 12, 2015 letter requesting our comments on the proposed Section 219 infrastructure improvement project for relining in place of approximately 7,400 linear feet of existing sanitary sewers in Crown Point, Lake County, Indiana. The work would involve 28 different sewer segments plus various manholes, all within existing utility rights-of-way and easements.

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 Crown Point 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*), the proposed endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and the threatened 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, 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. 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 March 26, 2015; no hard copy to follow.

DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Michael R. Pence, Governor
Cameron F. Clark, Director

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



April 14, 2015

Suzanne Davis
Department of the Army
Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
231 South La Salle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Federal Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Re: Project information concerning relining of up to 7,400 linear feet of sanitary sewers (DHPA #17449)

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 12, 2015 and received on March 16, 2015 for the above indicated project in Crown Point, Lake County, Indiana.

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

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 Department of Natural Resources 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.

In regard to buildings and structures, we have identified the following properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places within the probable area of potential effects:

Crown Point Courthouse Square Historic District, Site #089-142-76001

However, based on the information provided to our office, we do not believe the characteristics that qualify the above identified historic property for inclusion in the National Register will be diminished as a result of this project.

Based upon the information provided to our office, we believe there may be effects on the above identified historic property qualifying it for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register (*see* 36 C.F.R. § 800.16[i]). In order for our office to determine any effects upon historic properties, please provide the following information:

Upon completing its own identification and evaluation efforts, it would be appropriate for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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:

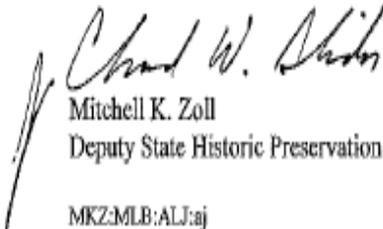
- 1) If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers believes that a determination of "no historic properties affected" accurately reflects its assessment, then it shall provide documentation of its finding as set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 800.11 to the Indiana SHPO, notify all consulting parties, and make the documentation available for public inspection (36 C.F.R. §§ 800.4[d][1] and 800.2[d][2]).

Suzanne Davis
April 14, 2015
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- 2) If, on the other hand, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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.

A copy of the revised 36 C.F.R. Part 800 that went into effect on August 5, 2004, may be found on the Internet at www.achp.gov for your reference. If you have questions about archaeological issues please contact Amy Johnson at (317) 232-6982 or ajohnson@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. Additionally, in all future correspondence regarding the above indicated project, please refer to DHPA #17449.

Very truly yours,


Mitchell K. Zoll
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
MKZ:MLB:ALJ:aj

enc: Peter Bullock, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District

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

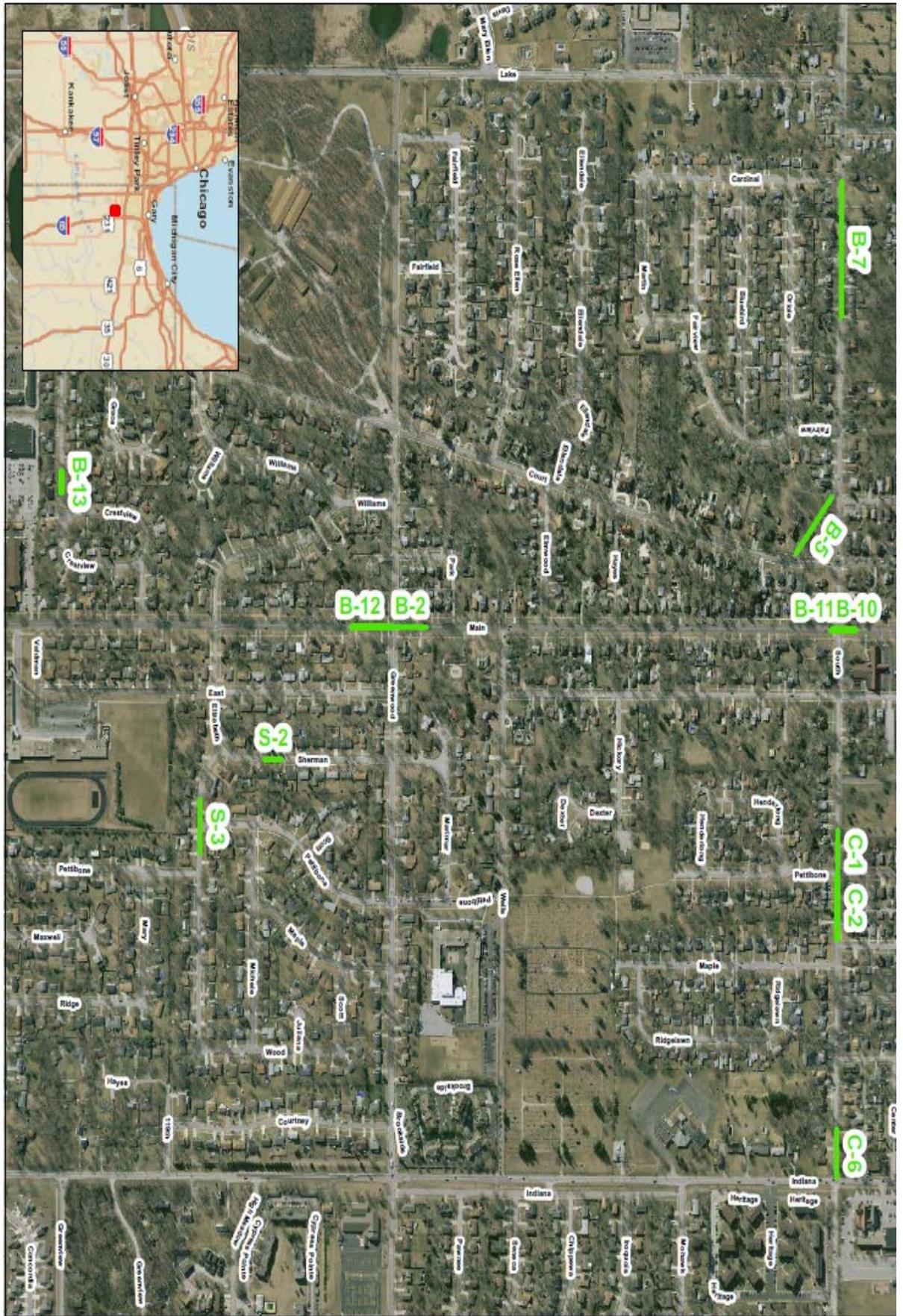
Nottawaseppi Huron Potawatomi Tribal Office
2221 One-and-a-half Mile Rd.
Fulton, MI 49052

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



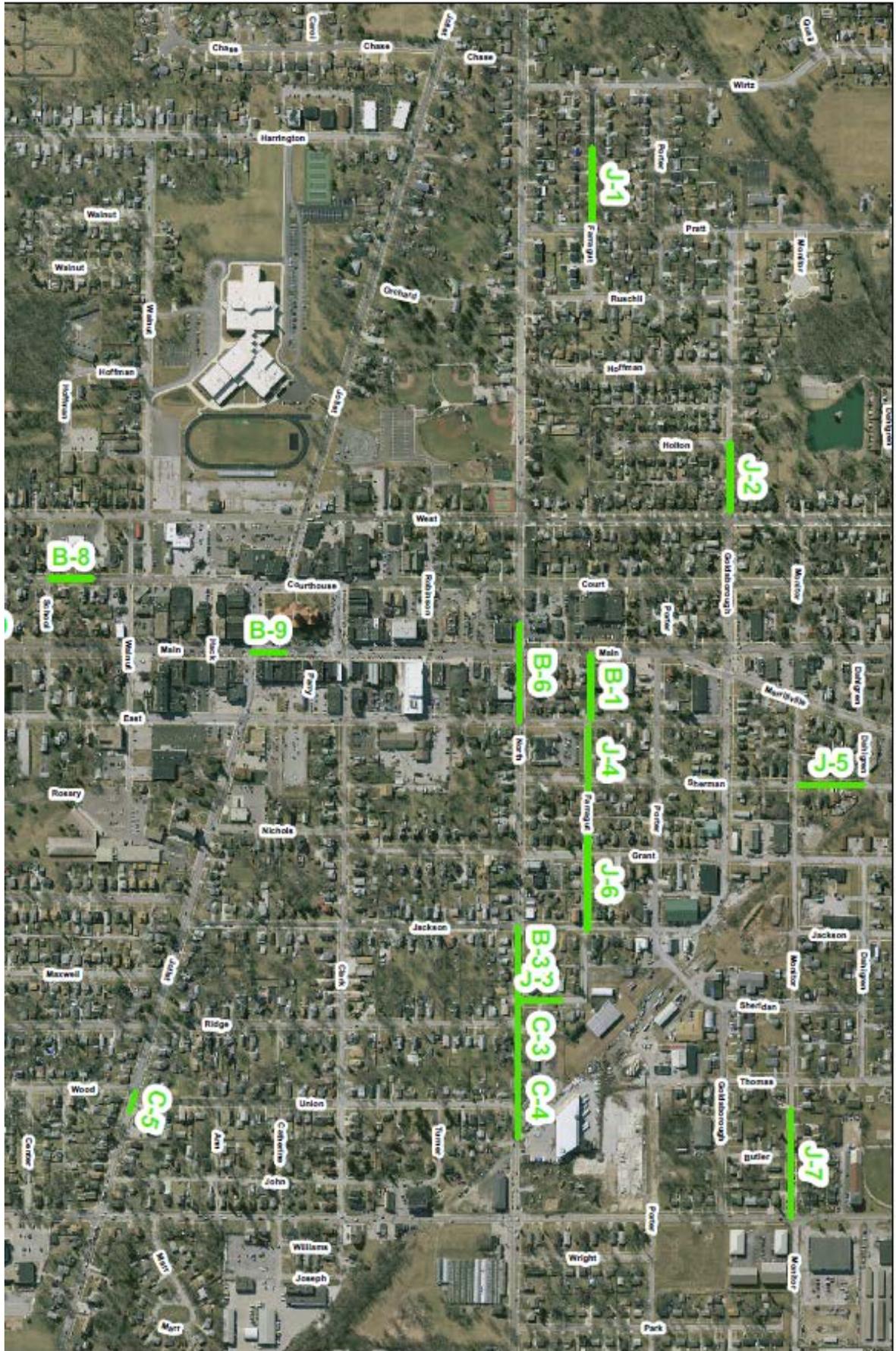
Legend
 Improvements Locations



Calumet Region
 Crown Point Sewer
 Rehabilitation Project

Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers





APPENDIX 2, DRAFT FONSI

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

PURPOSE

The proposed project would reline 7,400 linear feet of existing deteriorated sanitary sewer lines and up to 200 manholes within the City of Crown Point 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 areas within the city.

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 28 separate utility right-of-way and easement locations across Crown Point. Traffic disruption should be minimal allowing most area roads to remain open to local traffic.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

There are 3 alternative plans considered to address the sanitary system problems in Crown Point, Indiana.

1. **No Action Plan**-Under this alternative, no changes would be made to repair the sanitary sewer system in Crown Point. The deteriorating pipes will continue to leak, and the commonly reoccurring cases of sanitary sewer backup will continue in this portion of the city.
2. **Limited Lining of Sanitary Sewers Plan**- A total of 4,630 linear feet of existing 8 inch to 30 inch sanitary sewer lines in 18 locations would be relined in place. The work would be done in utility right-of-way and easement locations across Crown Point (relining locations are B & C entries on Table 1). This would address some of the commonly occurring leaking and sanitary sewer backup in Crown Point but these problems would continue in some locales.

- 3. Lining of Sanitary Sewers Plan-** 7,400 linear feet of existing 8 inch to 30 inch sanitary sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 28 utility right-of-way and easement locations across this portion of Crown Point. Relining locations are B, C, J, & S entries on Table 1. Additionally up to 222 manholes in the relined sanitary sewers would be inspected and relined as needed. This would alleviate both the commonly occurring sanitary sewer leaking and backup in residential areas.

Table 1

Crown Point Sanitary Sewer Relining Location	Pipe Size	Length
B-1 Easement North of Farragut St & West of East St	30"	300ft
B-2 Main St & Greenwood Ave.	8"	200ft
B-3 Main St west of Jackson St	8"	230ft
BN/A Various Manholes		146 manholes
B-5 Easement between Court St & West St	30"	350ft
B-6 North St between East St & West St	8" & 10"	450ft
B-7 South St between East St & Cardinal St	8"	650ft
B-8 Court St & School Court	10"	200ft
B-9 Main & Joliet St	8"	150ft
B-10 341 S. Main St	8"	100ft
B-11 417 S. Main St	8"	50ft
B-12 Main St & Greenwood St	8" & 12"	250ft
B-13 215 Crestview	12"	100ft
C-1 South St & Pettibone Ave	8"	220ft
C-2 South St east of Pettibone Ave	12"	300ft
C-3 515 North St	12"	400ft
C-4 North St east from East St to Indiana Ave	8" & 12"	350ft
C-5 701 Joliet St	8"	100ft
C-6 South St from Pettibone Ave to Indiana Ave	8"	230ft
J-1 601 W. Farragut St	10"	350ft
J-2 339 Goldsborough St	10"	320ft
J-3 209 N. Sheridan St	8"	200ft
J-4 East St & Farragut St	8"	300ft
J-5 604 N. Sherman St	10"	300ft
J-6 Jackson St & Farragut St	12"	450ft
J-7 Monitor St & Indiana Ave	12"	500ft
S-2 Sherman St	12"	100ft
S-3 229 Elizabeth Dr	12"	250ft
N/A Various Manholes		76 manholes

RECOMMENDED PLAN

Lining of Sanitary Sewers Plan- 7,400 linear feet of existing 8 inch to 30 inch sanitary sewer lines would be relined in place. The work would be done in 28 utility right-of-way and easement locations across this portion of Crown Point. Relining locations are B, C, J, & S entries on Table 1. Additionally up to 222 manholes in the relined sanitary sewers would be inspected and relined as needed. This would alleviate both the commonly occurring sanitary sewer leaking and backup in residential areas.

Benefits of the recommended alternative include a reduction of potential groundwater pollution from the leaking sanitary sewer system, as well as a reduction of the recurring cases of sanitary sewer backups into residences. The recommended plan is also currently the most cost effective plan to prevent sanitary sewer leaking and sewer backup in residential areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

An Environmental Assessment was completed for the proposed environmental infrastructure project in Crown Point. 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 Crown Point, 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