

From: [Westlake, Kenneth](#)
To: [Eddleman, Christina X CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Johnson, Ryan A CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#); [Davis, Susanne J CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#); [Kowal, Kathleen](#); [Pelloso, Elizabeth](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: USACE Requests Review of Scoping Letter for Interceptor Rehabilitation in Portage, IN
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 2:11:37 PM

Christina, Ryan, and Sue,

Thanks for this invitation. Due to the press of other business, we generally lack the staff time to engage municipal sewer projects. We respectfully decline to participate in this one.

Ken

Kenneth A. Westlake
Deputy Director, Tribal and Multimedia Programs Office
Office of the Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604
westlake.kenneth@epa.gov
312-886-2910

From: Eddleman, Christina X CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Christina.Eddleman@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Westlake, Kenneth <westlake.kenneth@epa.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Ryan A CIV USARMY CELRC (USA) <Ryan.A.Johnson@usace.army.mil>
Subject: USACE Requests Review of Scoping Letter for Interceptor Rehabilitation in Portage, IN

Dear Mr. Westlake,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District will be preparing a National Environmental Policy Act document on the impacts associated with a proposed Interceptor Rehabilitation Project in Portage, Porter County, Indiana. As part of the NEPA scoping process, we would appreciate any questions, comments, and concerns you may have. I have attached the scoping letter with 2 enclosures for your review.

Please provide any questions, comments, and concerns to Mr. Ryan Johnson by emailing ryan.a.johnson@usace.army.mil or calling (312) 846-5559.

Thank you in advance!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Christina Eddleman
Environmental Engineer

Planning Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
231 S. LaSalle Street
Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60604
W: (312) 846-5349
C: (847) 217-9291

Division of Nature Preserves
402 W. Washington St., Rm W267
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739

February 8, 2021

Andrew Utz
Commonwealth Engineers, Inc.
7256 Company Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46237

Dear Andrew Utz:

I am responding to your request for information on the threatened or endangered (T&E) species, high quality natural communities, and natural areas for the City of Portage Interceptor Rehabilitation Project located in Porter County, Indiana. The Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center has been checked and there are no T&E species or significant areas documented within 0.5 mile of the project area.

If you need a general environmental review of the project from DNR, you can submit the project information to Christie Stanifer, DNR Environmental Coordinator, at environmentalreview@dnr.in.gov (preferred) or send to the street address below. For more help or guidance contact Christie Stanifer at cstanifer@dnr.in.gov.

Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Review
Division of Fish and Wildlife
402 W. Washington Street, Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The information I am providing does not preclude the requirement for further consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. If you have concerns about potential Endangered Species Act issues you should contact the Service at their Bloomington, Indiana office.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
620 South Walker St.
Bloomington, Indiana 47403-2121
(812)334-4261

Please note that the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center relies on the observations of many individuals for our data. In most cases, the information is not the result of comprehensive field surveys conducted at particular sites. Therefore, our statement that there are no documented significant natural features at a site should not be interpreted to mean that the site does not support special plants or animals.

Due to the dynamic nature and sensitivity of the data, this information should not be used for any project other than that for which it was originally intended. It may be necessary for you to request updated material from us in order to base your planning decisions on the most current information.

Thank you for contacting the Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center. You may reach me at (317)233-2558 you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Taylor Davis". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Taylor Davis
Indiana Natural Heritage Data Center

From: [Mueller, Ryan](#)
To: [Eddleman, Christina X CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)
Cc: [Water Inquiry; Johnson, Ryan A CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: USACE Requests Review of Scoping Letter for Interceptor Rehabilitation in Portage, IN
Date: Tuesday, November 24, 2020 2:37:39 PM

Thank you Christina - Our agency will review and respond as necessary. Ryan

Sent from my iPhone

> On Nov 24, 2020, at 2:12 PM, Eddleman, Christina X CIV USARMY CELRC (USA)
<Christina.Eddleman@usace.army.mil> wrote:
>
> **** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown
senders or unexpected email. ****
>
> _____
> Dear Mr. Mueller,
>
> The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District will be preparing a National Environmental Policy Act
document on the impacts associated with a proposed Interceptor Rehabilitation Project in Portage, Porter County,
Indiana. As part of the NEPA scoping process, we would appreciate any questions, comments, and concerns you
may have. I have attached the scoping letter with 2 enclosures for your review.
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> Please provide any questions, comments, and concerns to Mr. Ryan Johnson by emailing
ryan.a.johnson@usace.army.mil<<mailto:ryan.a.johnson@usace.army.mil>> or calling (312) 846-5559.
>
> Thank you in advance!
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> Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!
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> Christina Eddleman
> Environmental Engineer
> Planning Section
> U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
> 231 S. LaSalle Street
> Suite 1500
> Chicago, IL 60604
> W: (312) 846-5349
> C: (847) 217-9291
>

From: [Joe Exl](#)
To: [Johnson, Ryan A CIV USARMY CELRC \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] USACE Requests Review of Scoping Letter for Interceptor Rehabilitation in Portage, IN
Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 10:51:01 AM

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission supports the proposed project. NIRPC partnered with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management to complete a TMDL study and watershed management plan that includes the Willow Creek subwatershed. Water quality data collected at two Willow Creek monitoring stations during the baseline assessment showed *E. coli* consistently exceeded state water quality standards. Monitoring occurred on a monthly basis over a one year period. Exceedances were observed across multiple flow regimes including dry weather/base flow conditions indicating potential point or riparian sources. This would be consistent with seepage from structurally compromised sewer lines.

Currently our only concern would be structural vulnerability of the sewer line due to erosion depending on its proximity to the Willow Creek stream channel. Willow Creek is unstable in certain reaches given its generally incised nature.

The TMDL report and watershed management plans are available at the following links.

TMDL <https://www.in.gov/idem/nps/3893.htm>

WMP <https://www.in.gov/idem/nps/4018.htm>

JOE EXL | SENIOR WATER RESOURCE PLANNER
NORTHWESTERN INDIANA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
(219) 254-2511 | JEXL@NIRPC.ORG | WWW.NIRPC.ORG



United States Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service



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

December 4, 2020

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: Ryan Johnson, Project Manager

Dear Mrs. Davis:

This responds to your November 24, 2020 letter requesting our comments on the proposed Section 219 infrastructure improvement project for the rehabilitation of an existing sanitary interceptor sewer within Portage, Porter County, Indiana.

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 consists of cured-in-place lining of approximately 4,600 linear feet of existing 30- and 36-inch sanitary interceptor sewer between Stone Avenue and Central Avenue within Portage. It also includes installing a third barrel to 2 existing 20-inch diameter siphon pipes under Willow Creek between Stations MH74-38 and MH74-36, which is about 1,150 feet north of Stone Avenue. In addition, about 25 manholes will be rehabilitated, including 5 that will have their rims extended above the 100-year flood elevation of Willow Creek.

Between Stone Avenue and the Willow Creek siphon, the sewer is within residential backyards. North from there to the end of the project at Central Avenue, the interceptor is near or within the Willow Creek floodplain. The floodplain contains a wooded riparian corridor, which varies in width from a few trees to 100 feet or more.

Tree clearing to access the siphon construction site and the manholes needing rehabilitation should be limited to the minimum necessary, with tree planting in other portions of the floodplain to serve as any needed mitigation. It is our understanding that cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining generally does not require excavation and is accomplished through a manhole, but some tree clearing or other site disturbance may be necessary for equipment access, which will need to be addressed in the environmental document.

Willow Creek is a tributary of Burns Ditch, which enters Lake Michigan via Burns Waterway at the Portage Lakefront Park, a component of the Indiana Dunes National Park. Willow Creek is also a salmonid stream. The EA will need to address any possible pollution that could occur during the CIPP process, including possible oil product spills from the equipment used for the work. A spill avoidance/remediation plan should be developed, utilizing the most effective prevention and remediation practices to prevent hazardous materials from entering Willow Creek, Burns Ditch, and Lake Michigan or from contaminating soils or waters within the project area. Such measures should include stationing of emergency response equipment at the project site and the designation of contained fueling and fuel storage areas at least 150 feet away from Willow Creek.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The proposed project is within the range of the Federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and Karner blue butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*), and the threatened northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), eastern massasauga rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*), and Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*). There is no known habitat for any of these species within the proposed project area. Therefore, we agree that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect these endangered and threatened species.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposed project. For further discussion, please contact Elizabeth McCloskey at elizabeth_mccloskey@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Elizabeth S. McCloskey*

for Scott E. Pruitt
Supervisor

Sent via email December 4, 2020; no hard copy to follow.

cc: Liz Pelloso, USEPA, NEPA Implementation Section, Chicago, IL
Christie Stanifer, Environmental Coordinator, IDNR Fish & Wildlife, Indianapolis, IN
Marty Maupin, IDEM, Office of Water Quality, Indianapolis, IN