



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

July 26, 2024

Mr. Dan Repay  
Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission  
900 Ridge Road, Suite H  
Munster, IN 46321

Dear Mr. Repay,

The Chicago District performed a formal inspection of the Munster and Hammond Forest Ave Levee systems on April 29, 2024 to May 1, 2024. The purpose of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Levee Safety Program is to make sure levee systems are reliable and do not present unacceptable risks to the public, property, or the environment, with the emphasis on public safety. Two important principles that guide our program are the shared responsibility among partners at all levels for levee safety and the need for continuous and periodic project inspections and assessments. More information about the Levee Safety Program can be found in EC 1165-2-218.

This project has demonstrated its importance in reducing flood risk to the area. The Munster Levee System protects 4,668 people and \$751 million worth of property and the Hammond Forest Ave Levee System protects 367 people and over \$49.8 million worth of property. The annual damages prevented reported for fiscal year 2023 was over \$103,965,700 for the Little Calumet River Project. The entire project has prevented cumulative flood damages of \$1,422,984,400 since construction. The overall risk of the Munster and Hammond Forest Ave Levee is considered low.

A formal inspection is performed approximately every 5 year and provides ratings for each of the project features. The enclosed deliverables include the standard Inspection Checklist with photos taken during the inspection and a map showing the locations of areas for your attention; the Levee Risk Management Summary which highlights the risks to focus your efforts on for maintenance, and the Levee Factsheet which summarizes the results from the last risk assessment. The inspection report will be posted to the National Levee Database (NLD) at <https://levees.sec.usace.army.mil/> and available to the public.

Based on our findings, the previous rating of **Minimally Acceptable** for the levee segments will not change. The project will continue to remain **Active** in the P.L. 84-99 Rehabilitation Program and eligible for federal rehabilitation assistance for items rated M or A. Eligibility determination is based on the USACE *Interim Policy for Determining Eligibility Status of Flood Risk*

*Management Projects for the Rehabilitation Program Pursuant to P.L. 84-99.* It is the Local Sponsor's responsibility to monitor the Project during high water storm events to assess project performance and inspect after storm subsidence to record any storm-related project damage. The Local Sponsor must immediately report storm-related project damage to the Corps within 30 days so that the Corps may evaluate required repair reimbursement eligibility under the P.L. 84-99 Rehabilitation Program. The non-project segments are not included in this program.

Camera inspections are required to be performed every 5 years. The last visual inspection for Forest Ave was performed in 2018 and 2022 for Munster. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-2-2902, Conduits, Pipes, and Culverts Associated with Dams and Levee Systems provides guidance for many aspects of culverts and pipes through levees, especially: Inspections (frequency, methods [CCTV, sonar], and third-party pipes); and Repair and Rehabilitation (routine maintenance, slip-lining, etc). The manual can be found at:

<https://www.publications.usace.army.mil/Portals/76/Users/182/86/2486/EM%201110-2-%202902a.pdf?ver=6N64KR0IND2ImoG3X1LFhg%3d%3d>. The frequency for future inspections will be determined by the pipe's condition assessment rating. The sponsor's method for visual inspection will be required to follow the updated guidance.

Deficiencies noted in the report should be addressed to ensure significant performance problems do not develop. We remain available to discuss the deficiencies and appropriate repairs measures or other technical questions that you may have. Please be sure to coordinate with our office to have any work near the levee reviewed and approved before allowing any work to proceed. Our reviews are to ensure the integrity of the levee is not compromised by the proposed work and the levees will continue to function as designed. Alterations will be reviewed under the Section 408 program.

It is important that the community be continually informed that the levee is only part of an overall plan to manage their risks from flooding from the Little Calumet River. Please continue to engage the community about the purpose of the levee and the project. Please reach out if you need assistance with outreach.

We recognize and appreciate your ongoing efforts to operate, maintain and improve the Little Cal Project. Your commitment to ensuring the levee system continues to perform as designed for your community reflects highly upon you and your staff. We appreciate the time and courtesy extended to our representatives during the inspection. We look forward to continuing to work together in ensuring this project continues to provide protection. We are available to discuss any technical questions about the operation and maintenance and inspection requirements. We will coordinate with you

regarding the Risk Assessment planned for Hammond Forest Ave in 2026 and next site visit planned for Munster in 2027. Please contact the Levee Safety Program Manager, Yuki Galisanao (312-846-5458), or myself if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Robert Paluch*

Robert Paluch, PE  
Chief of Emergency Management  
Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Enclosures