



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

MAR 05 2010

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Madam Speaker:

Section 216 of the 1970 Flood Control Act provides authority to the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to review projects constructed by the Corps of Engineers and to report back to Congress with recommendations on the advisability of modifying these projects in the overall public interest. In response to this authority, and direction provided in the conference report of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-126), the Secretary of the Army recommends authorization of the proposed Topeka, Kansas, Flood Risk Management project. The proposed project is described in the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated August 24, 2009, which includes other pertinent reports and documents. The views of the Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior, and Department of Transportation, as well as those of the State of Kansas and City of Topeka, are set forth in the enclosed feasibility report and communications.

Federal involvement in Topeka levees was established by the Flood Control Act of 1936 and the first Federal units of the system were constructed in 1938-1939. Following the flood of 1951, work to expand the existing units along with construction of additional units was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1954. Construction of the expanded system started in the mid 1960's and was completed in 1974. In 1992, hydraulic studies prepared by a consultant working for the Kansas Department of Transportation as part of a new highway bridge design questioned the capacity of the levees to provide the expected level of flood risk management. The City acted upon those concerns by requesting a study of the levees by the Corps of Engineers.

The levee system was analyzed for hydraulic (overtopping), structural, and geotechnical adequacy using the latest available data and modeling methods. The study found multiple structural and geotechnical features that do not meet currently acceptable levels of reliability to pass the design flood. The recommended improvements were reviewed as possible design deficiency corrections, but it was determined that they did not meet the applicable criteria. The need for reconstruction is based on the age of the project along with improvements to state of the art engineering practices since the project was originally constructed. The study area contains a population greater than 16,000;



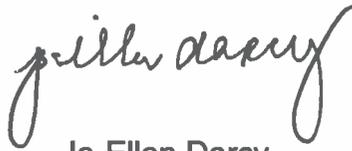
significant residential, commercial, and industrial development valued at over \$2.7 billion; and regionally and nationally significant utility and transportation infrastructure. Failure to implement reliability improvements will subject this area to a continued high risk of flooding in future years.

The recommended flood risk management project would modify the existing project to address levee under-seepage and improve the reliability of the system to provide increased flood risk management benefits to the City of Topeka, Kansas. The plan includes recommendations for modifications to four existing levee units within the Topeka Flood Risk management Project: the South Topeka Unit, the Oakland Unit, the North Topeka Unit and the Waterworks Unit. The construction features of the project include: addressing levee under-seepage concerns at the South Topeka Unit by installation of a control berm; modification of the Kansas Avenue Pump Station and three manholes; removal and replacement of approximately 2,000 linear feet of existing concrete floodwall on timber-pile foundations, and removal of 7.5 acres of woodland habitat and appropriate mitigation measures; control of an area of under-seepage at the Oakland Unit by installing a berm and a stability berm to improve the stability factor of safety of the existing floodwall, and structural modification of the East Oakland Pump Station to address uplift failure concerns; improvement of two areas of low under-seepage reliability at the North Topeka Unit by installing an under-seepage control berm and a series of pumped relief wells, and removal of a pump station that is no longer required and currently poses an uplift failure risk; and increases the reliability of an existing concrete floodwall at the Waterworks Unit by installing landside stability berms to protect the primary water source for the City of Topeka and surrounding communities. The levee improvements would provide greater than 90% reliability against damages from the base flood, which has a 1 percent chance of occurrence in any given year.

Based on October 2009 price levels, the total first cost for construction of these four measures as part of the recommended plan is estimated at \$21,446,000, all for flood risk management. Under cost sharing specified by Section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, Public Law 99-662, as amended by Section 202 of WRDA 1996, each measure would be cost shared 65 percent Federal and 35 percent non-Federal, resulting in an estimated Federal share of \$13,940,000 and an estimated non-Federal share of \$7,506,000, which includes a 5 percent cash contribution of \$1,072,300, a credit toward lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations and disposal areas (LERRD) of \$1,305,000, and an additional cash contribution of \$5,128,700. The total expected annual costs, based on a discount rate of 4.375 percent and a 50-year period of analysis, are \$1,135,000, including operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation. The expected annual benefits are estimated to be \$15,109,000 with net annual benefits of \$13,974,000. The benefit-cost ratio is approximately 13.3 to 1 for the new work. The proposed plan is the National Economic Development plan. The City of Topeka is legally capable of fulfilling the requirements for being the non-Federal sponsor.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) advises that there is no objection to the submission of the report to Congress and concludes that the report recommendation is consistent with the policy and programs of the President. A copy of its letter is enclosed. I am providing a copy of this transmittal and the OMB letter dated February 18, 2010 to the House Committee on Appropriations' Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo-Ellen Darcy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

Enclosures

9 Enclosures

1. Report of the Chief of Engineers, Aug 24, 2009
2. USDA letter, dated Mar 31, 2009
3. DOI letter, dated Apr 22, 2009
4. Kansas Dept. of Health and the Environment letter, dated Apr 13, 2009
5. City of Topeka letter, dated Dec 11, 2008
6. Finding of No Significant Impact, dated Dec 22, 2008
7. OMB Clearance letter, dated February 18, 2010
8. Supplemental Design Deficiency Decision Paper
9. Feasibility Report, Dec 2008



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U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-212
Washington, D.C. 20510-0012

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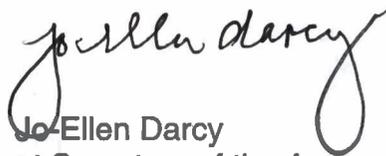
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