



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - P.O. BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

October 1, 2009

Engineering and Construction Division
Emergency Management Division

Local Flood Protection Project
Address
Address
Address

Dear (Name):

On August 29, 2005, one of the worst disasters in American history occurred in New Orleans Louisiana. The disaster has been categorized by the number of lives lost and the amount of money spent on response and recovery. Subsequent to that event, Congress enacted the National Levee Safety Program with passage of the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, Title IX.

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 levee system inspections and assessments.

As you know, the Corps conducts annual routine inspections to verify proper operation and maintenance of levee systems in its program. The provisions of the new National Levee Safety Program require a more detailed inspection program. This program requires a five-year rotational Periodic Inspection, to verify proper operation and maintenance; evaluate operational adequacy and structural stability; identify features to monitor over time; identify changes in design criteria; and improve the ability to communicate the overall levee condition.

Appropriations from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) provide the opportunity to accelerate a national effort to perform the Periodic Inspections. This effort is underway and we plan to complete these ARRA-funded inspections by the end of September 2011. Architect Engineering (AE) firms currently under contract with the Corps will conduct most of the work, to include the field inspections. The final report results will be discussed with you, and the Corps will then provide copies to you and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. If there are recommendations for future actions, we will work with you to identify potential temporary and long-term measures to reduce risk.

The Periodic Inspections are comprised of three key steps:

1. Existing and available data will be compiled in a pre-inspection packet. No new data, surveys, etc., will be performed; rather the AE will assess the available information. This

includes information such as design documents, operation and maintenance manuals, previous annual inspection reports, emergency action plans, flood fight records, and any other relevant information.

2. A field inspection, similar to a routine annual inspection, will be performed by a multidisciplinary team led by a licensed professional engineer.
3. A final report will be issued that includes the information collected for the pre-inspection; the field inspection results; and the final report. The final report will include a routine annual inspection rating for continued PL84-99 eligibility and conclusions and recommendations about findings or other areas of concern.

We will contact you and coordinate the planned inspection date so you can participate in the field inspection and for us to obtain levee system access. Your participation will allow a greater understanding of the condition and historical performance of your project.

If you have any questions concerning this Periodic Inspection effort, please contact Alan Tamm, Levee Safety Program Manager at 309-794-5165. For more information on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 please visit www.recovery.gov.

Sincerely,

Rodney L Delp
Chief, Emergency Management Division

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1. Levee Safety Program – Inspection
2. Periodic Inspections Under the ARRA