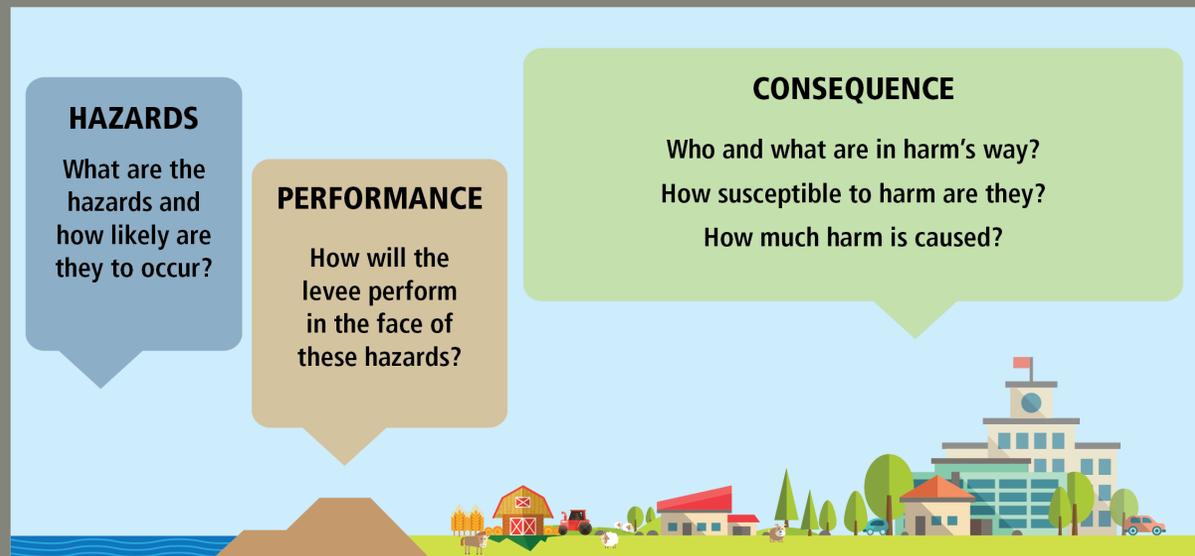


US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM ENGINEER CIRCULAR

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Chief of Dam and Levee Safety

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Special Assistant for Levee Safety

March 4, 2020



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PURPOSE OF THIS WEBINAR

1. Provide an overview of the draft guidance – Engineer Circular 1165-2-218, USACE Levee Safety Program
2. Highlight key Levee Safety Program changes
3. Describe the open comment period and review questions
4. Share information on the upcoming stakeholder sessions
5. Review plans for publishing and implementing the guidance



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WEBINAR BASICS

- Global mute will be turned on
- This webinar is not being recorded
- Slides will be posted on the Levee Safety Program
Website: <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Levee-Safety-Program/>
- For more information or questions:
EC218@usace.army.mil



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USACE LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM INTENT

Understand, monitor, and manage flood risk associated with levees over time; and adapt activities and actions based on the dynamic nature of flood risk.

LEVEE SAFETY ENGINEER CIRCULAR 1165-2-218

- Title: USACE Levee Safety Program
- Provides guidance for USACE and Sponsors/Stakeholders
- Guidance formalizes and consolidates ongoing USACE Levee Safety Program activities
- USACE Levee Safety Program uses risk as the guiding factor in managing levee systems

EC 1165-2-218
[PUB. DATE] 20

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington, DC 20314-1000

EC 1165-2-218

CECW-EC
Engineer Circular
No. 1165-2-218

EXPIRES [PUB. DATE] 2022

Water Resource Policies and Authorities
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM

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VALUES OF THE LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM

- **Partnerships** – levee sponsors are our partners in implementation
- **Relationships** – trust based on open communication and commitment to fulfilling responsibilities
- **Transparency** – coordinating, talking about what is or is not working, and adapting



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CHANGES YOU WILL SEE

1. A reinforced commitment to transparency and partnering
2. A change in the type and frequency of USACE levee inspections
3. USACE is no longer assigning levee system and segment overall inspection ratings
4. Using the Levee Risk Management Summary to benchmark and track changes in individual levee risk over time



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BENEFITS OF USING RISK

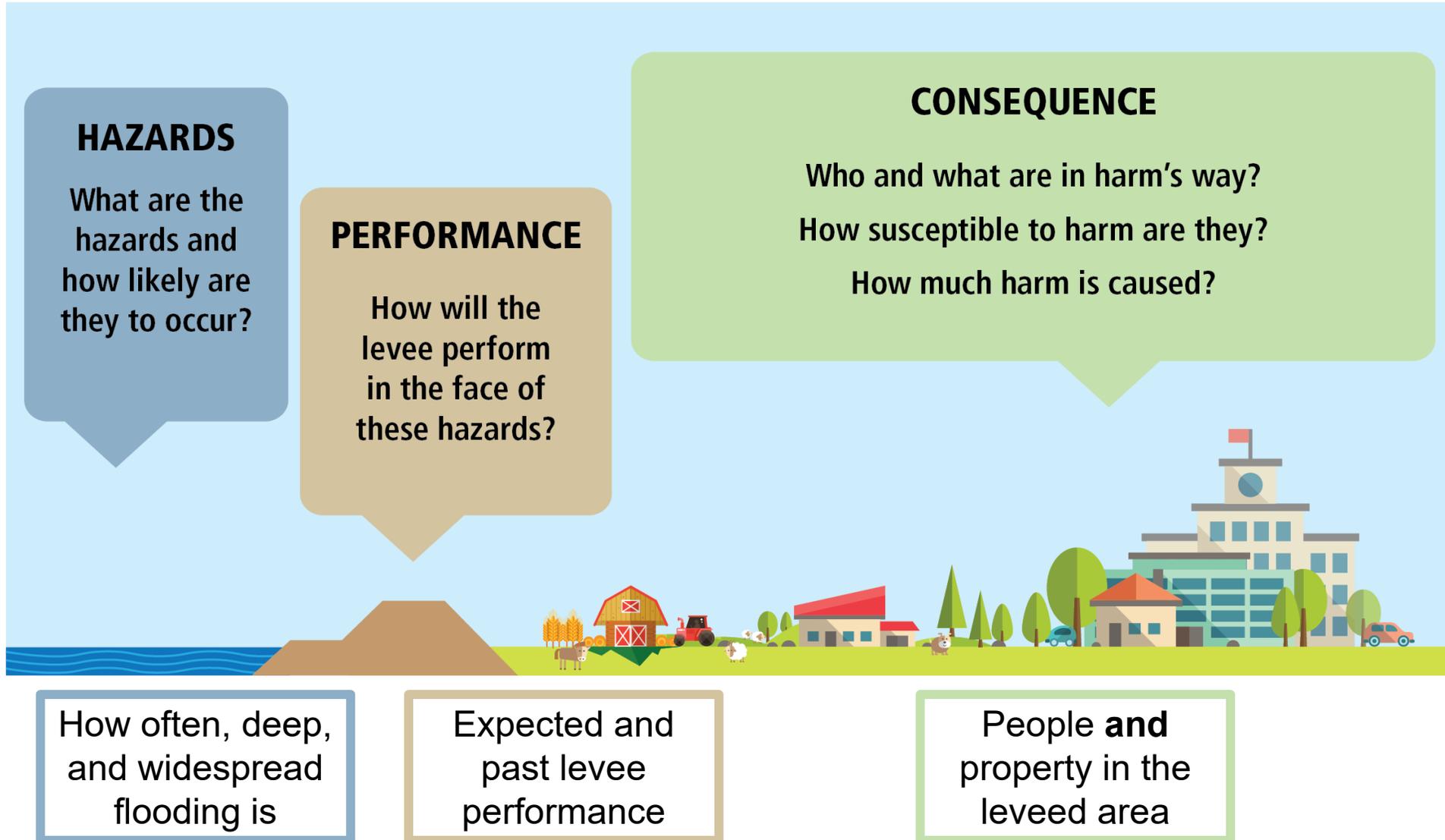
- Using risk allows sponsors and USACE to prioritize highest-risk things first
- Common understanding of risk supports the case for action and investment with elected officials and other risk managers



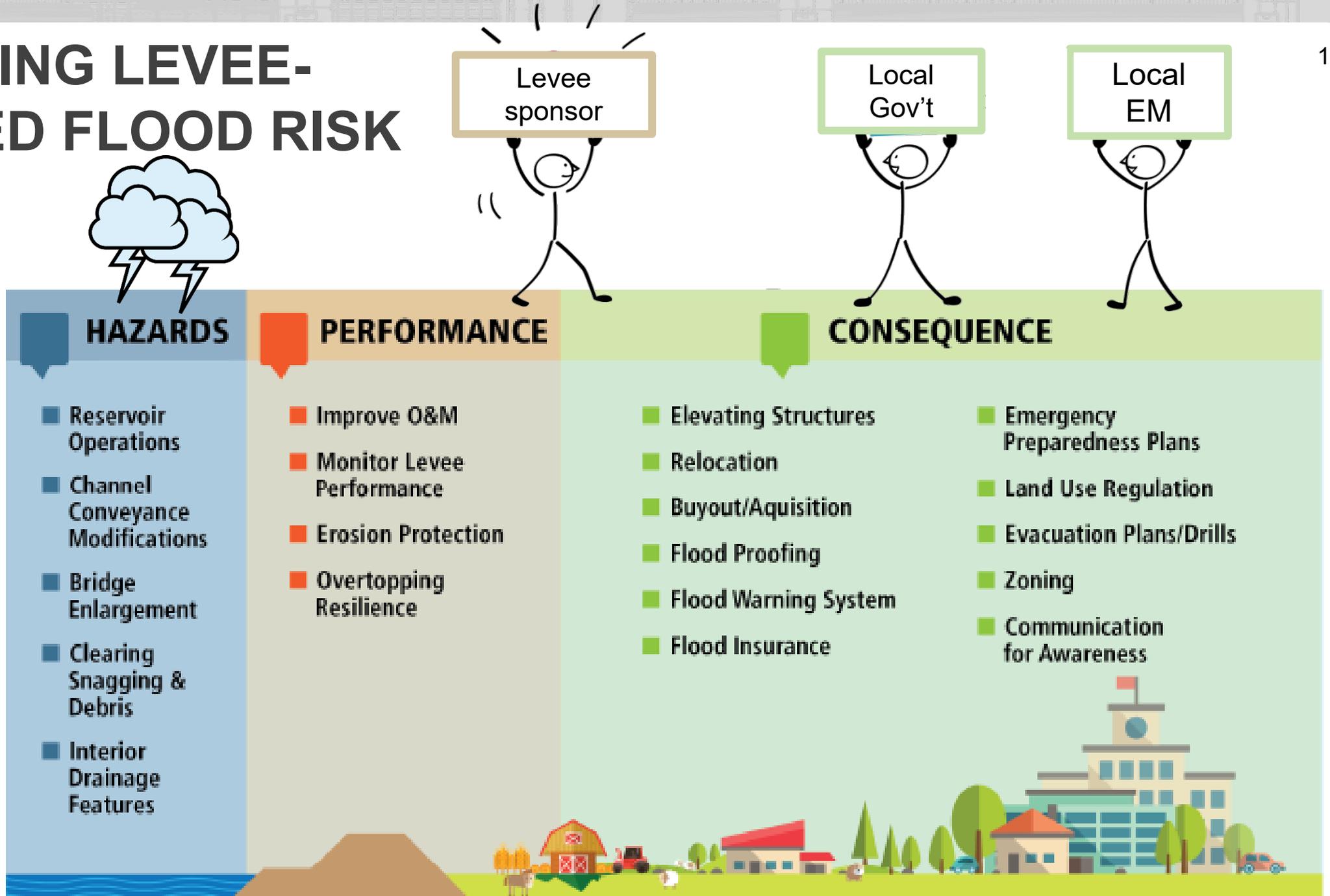
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CUSTOMIZED LEVEE MANAGEMENT APPROACH



MANAGING LEVEL-RELATED FLOOD RISK



CONTINUED COORDINATION

- USACE Levee Safety Program and sponsors will continue to share information and coordinate
- USACE Rehabilitation Program (PL-84-99)
- Section 408 permissions (alteration of federal projects)
- FEMA National Flood Insurance Program



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ENGINEER CIRCULAR OVERVIEW: Implementing the USACE Levee Safety Program



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EC OVERVIEW: ONE DOCUMENT FOR TWO AUDIENCES

Volume I (All)

- Describes levee safety
- Defines key terms
- Describes types of levees in the Levee Safety Program

Volume II (Sponsor)

- Levee sponsor roles and activities overview
- How USACE integrates with those activities

Volume III (USACE)

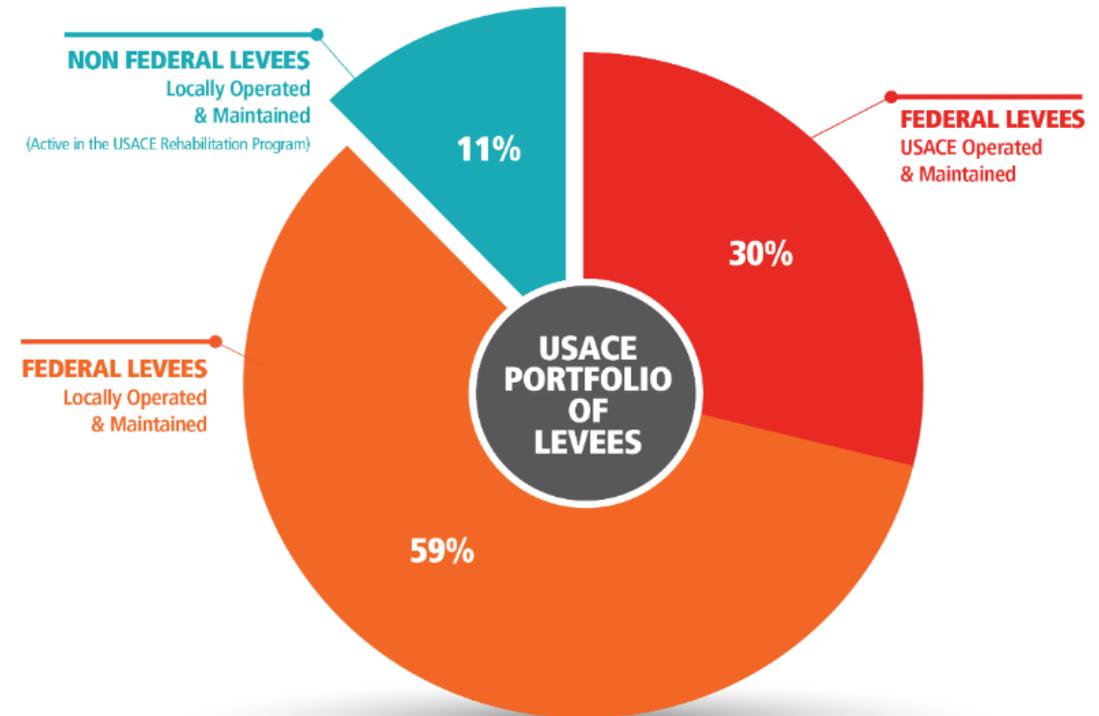
- Levee Safety Program oversight
- Basic Program implementation requirements and activities

Volume IV (All)

- How USACE uses Levee Safety Program information
- How Levee Safety Program information can be used by others

VOLUME I: LEVEE SAFETY OVERVIEW

- General overview
- Describes levee safety
- Defines key terms
- Defines types of levees in the USACE Levee Safety Program



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VOLUME II: LEVEE SPONSOR ACTIVITIES

- Single reference for sponsors
- Content includes:
 - Levee sponsor roles and activities
 - How USACE integrates with those activities
- Generally levee sponsor is the lead for most activities, but USACE is available to support



IMPORTANCE OF RISK INFORMATION



- Risk information helps:
 - Prioritize operations and maintenance activities
 - Improve Emergency Action Plans
 - Increase awareness of the levee condition, flooding probabilities, and related potential consequences
 - Encourage collaboration among multiple levee sponsors
 - Focus flood fight activities during response
 - Develop risk reduction measures



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PREPARE



ACTIONS TAKEN BEFORE A FLOOD

Preparedness Activities

Routine Maintenance

USACE Inspections

Levee Sponsor Inspections

Site Visits

USACE Risk Assessments

Data Management

Risk Awareness

Emergency Planning

- Actions taken by sponsors and by USACE to understand levee risk and benefits in order to be prepared for a potential flood
- Many of these activities involve USACE and sponsor coordination



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RESPOND



ACTIONS TAKEN DURING A FLOOD

- Actions taken immediately before and during a flood
- Phase I: Response activities completed before the river rises to bank-full condition
- Phase II: Response activities performed when the river has risen to a gage height beyond bank-full



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**RECOVER**

ACTIONS TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER A FLOOD

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- Short-term and long-term actions to return the levee system to its pre-flood condition
 - Document lessons learned about levee system performance to aid in future preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation
- Includes connection to USACE Rehabilitation Program (PL 84-99) assistance



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**MITIGATE**

LONGER TERM ACTIONS TAKEN BASED ON LESSONS LEARNED

- Longer term actions
 - Improve understanding of risk
 - Reduce potential life and property loss by lessening impacts of flood
- Mitigation aims to address the cause, reduce the occurrence, and minimize consequences of flooding

Develop a strategy to manage risk

Implement planned mitigation actions

Track progress

Assess how mitigation actions change risk over time

Coordinate with the broader community

VOLUME III: USACE LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM – POLICY & PROCEDURES

- Audience: USACE
- Content includes:
 - Program oversight
 - Basic program implementation requirements
 - References existing guidance

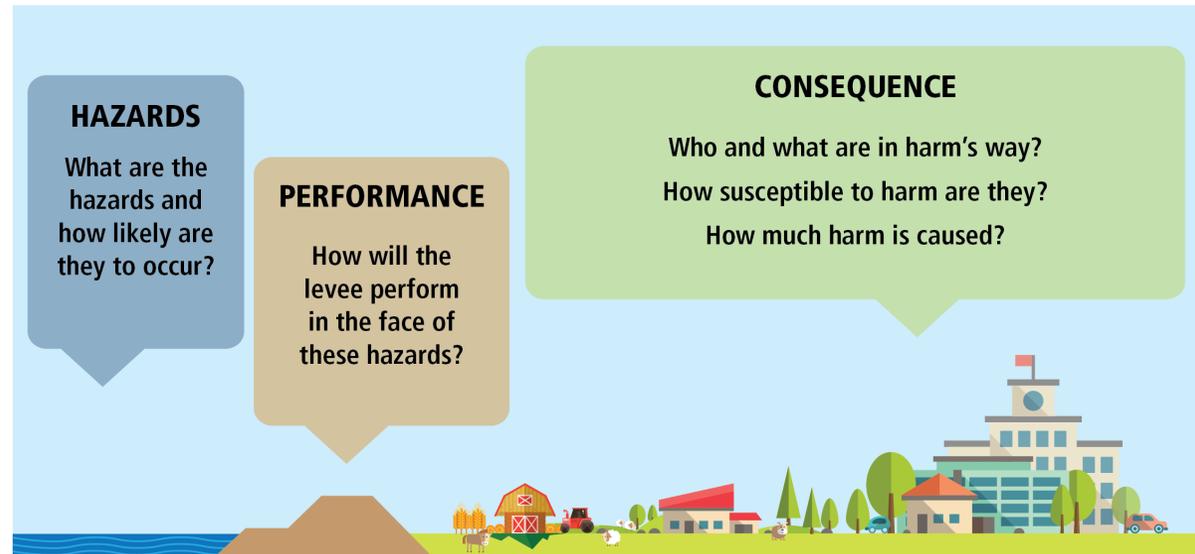


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VOLUME IV: SHARED INFORMATION AND HOW IT CAN BE USED FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

- Audience: All
- Content includes:
 - How USACE uses program information and its responsibilities
 - How program information can be used by others



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NEXT STEPS: Continuing the Dialogue



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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

- Opportunity to provide input
- Comment period closes April 27
- Federal Register, docket number COE-2020-0003 found at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- Review focused on:
 - Implementation
 - Clarity of the guidance
 - Additional resources or tools needed



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FEDERAL REGISTER – GUIDING REVIEW QUESTIONS

Are the goals and objectives of the USACE Levee Safety Program clearly stated?

Is it clear what assistance and support USACE can provide non-federal levee sponsors in the long-term management of flood risk?

Are the roles and responsibilities of non-federal levee sponsors clearly described?

Are there any other materials or resources that would be helpful for non-federal levee sponsors or communities related to managing levees?

Are the activities and services provided by USACE understood?

Are there any opportunities to improve the USACE Levee Safety Program to further support public awareness of the risks and benefits of levees?

Is how and when USACE engages with non-federal levee sponsors and other stakeholders throughout program activities clearly described?

Are there any specific changes you would recommend to improve the USACE Levee Safety Program?



N Guidance To Establish Policies for the Agency Levee Safety Program Entitled Engineer Circular 1165-2-218

This Notice document was issued by the **Corps of Engineers** (COE)

For related information, [Open Docket Folder](#)

[Comment Now!](#)

Due Apr 27 2020, at 11:59 PM ET

Action

Notice.

Summary

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has developed draft agency guidance, entitled Engineer Circular 1165-2-218, to consolidate and formalize policies and procedures for its Levee Safety Program. The intent of the Levee Safety Program is to understand, monitor, and manage flood risk associated with levees over time, provide a framework to sustain long term benefits, and adapt activities and actions based on the dynamic nature of flood risk. USACE is seeking feedback from non-federal levee sponsors, interested associations, Tribes, other federal agencies, and any other interested individuals on this proposed draft guidance document. This notice announces the availability of the draft Engineer Circular for comment. The comment period on the draft document starts with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register and will last for 60 days. The draft Engineer Circular is available for review on the USACE Levee Safety Program website (<https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Levee-Safety-Program/>) and at (<http://www.regulations.gov>) reference docket number COE-2020-0003.

Dates

Comments must be submitted on or before April 27, 2020.

Addresses

You may submit comments identified by docket number COE-2020-0003 by any of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> (<http://www.regulations.gov>). Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

ID: COE_FRDOC_0001-0864

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Document Information

Date Posted:

Feb 25, 2020

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Not Assigned

Federal Register Number:

2020-03726

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Comments

0

Comments Received*

STAKEHOLDER INFORMATION SESSIONS

March 19	March 24	March 26	March 31	April 7
New Orleans, LA	Portland, OR	Sacramento, CA	Kansas City, MO	Albany, NY
Sheraton New Orleans	Residence Inn Downtown-Pearl District	Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento	Marriott Kansas City Downtown	Hilton Albany
500 Canal Street	1150 NW 9th Avenue	2001 Point West Way	200 West 12th Street	40 Lodge Street

REGISTERING THROUGH EVENTBRITE

eventbrite.com/e/usace-public-meeting-on-the-levee-safety-program-engineer-circular-tickets-95642237507

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM

- FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITY
- USACE LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM OVERVIEW
- NEW GUIDANCE
- IMPLEMENTATION
- BEING BETTER PARTNERS



MAR 19

USACE Public Meeting on the Levee Safety Program Engineer Circular

by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Safety Program

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The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Levee Safety Program is seeking input from our partners and stakeholders on our draft program guidance.

About this Event

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is developing an Engineer Circular, which is an agency policy document that will outline policies and procedures for its Levee Safety Program. Prior to publication, the Engineer Circular is available for a 60-day public comment period through the Federal Register.

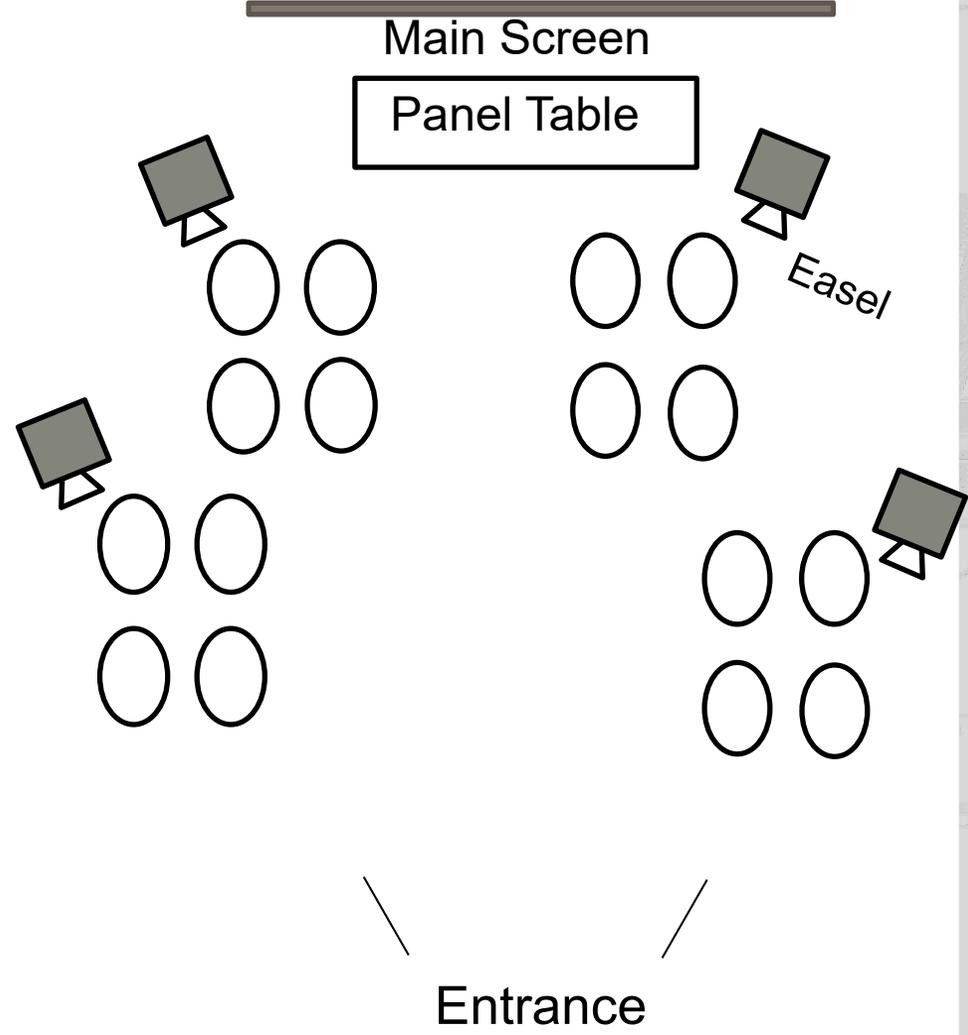
Date And Time
Thu, March 19, 2020
1:00 PM - 4:30 PM CDT
[Add to Calendar](#)

Location
Sheraton New Orleans
500 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130

STAKEHOLDER SESSION OBJECTIVES

The objectives of these sessions are to:

1. Provide key background information on the guidance and Levee Safety Program
2. Cover the open comment period and way to submit comments
3. Listen to your initial input on the direction of the Levee Safety Program and key pieces of the Engineer Circular



BASIC STAKEHOLDER SESSION AGENDA

- 100 spots – RSVP on USACE Levee Safety Program webpage
- Meetings start at 1:00 PM and end by 4:30 PM local time
- Structure:
 - Welcome, Introductions, Overview Presentation (~45 Min)
 - Q&A on First Session (~15 Min)
 - Small Group Discussions (~90 Min)
 - Break (~15 Min)
 - Q&A/ Brief Report Out on What Was Heard (~ 20 Min)
 - Closing Session (~10 Min)



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IMPLEMENTATION AND LEARNING-BY-DOING

- Publish document – July 2020
- Engineer Circular – two-year implementation period
- During this two-year period, levee sponsors and stakeholders are encouraged to share feedback on:
 - Implementation experiences and lessons learned
 - Additional guidance, resources, or other tools needed
- Input will inform more permanent agency guidance



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Submit comments through the Federal Register, docket number COE-2020-0003 found at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- RSVP for information sessions, or download relevant documents such as the Engineer Circular, using the USACE Levee Safety Program Website <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Levee-Safety-Program/>.
- For more information or questions: EC218@usace.army.mil.



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**Questions?
Email:**

EC218@usace.army.mil



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