Phoebe Percell
Chief of Dam and Levee Safety

Tammy Conforti
Special Assistant for Levee Safety

March 4, 2020
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 Provide an overview of the draft guidance – Engineer Circular 1165-2-218, USACE Levee Safety Program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
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
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
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
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
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
How often, deep, and widespread flooding is expected and past levee performance.

People and property in the leveed area.

HAZARDS
What are the hazards and how likely are they to occur?

CONSEQUENCE
Who and what are in harm’s way?
How susceptible to harm are they?
How much harm is caused?

PERFORMANCE
How will the levee perform in the face of these hazards?
MANAGING LEVEE-RELATED FLOOD RISK

HAZARDS
- Reservoir Operations
- Channel Conveyance Modifications
- Bridge Enlargement
- Clearing Snagging & Debris
- Interior Drainage Features

PERFORMANCE
- Improve O&M
- Monitor Levee Performance
- Erosion Protection
- Overtopping Resilience

CONSEQUENCE
- Elevating Structures
- Relocation
- Buyout/Aquisition
- Flood Proofing
- Flood Warning System
- Flood Insurance

Levee sponsor
Local Gov’t
Local EM
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
ENGINEER CIRCULAR OVERVIEW: Implementing the USACE Levee Safety Program
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
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
ACTIONS TAKEN BEFORE A FLOOD

- 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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparedness Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Routine Maintenance</td>
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<tr>
<td>USACE Inspections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Levee Sponsor Inspections</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site Visits</td>
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<td>USACE Risk Assessments</td>
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<td>Data Management</td>
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<td>Risk Awareness</td>
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<td>Emergency Planning</td>
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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
ACTIONS TAKEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER A FLOOD

- 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
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:
  o Program oversight
  o Basic program implementation requirements
  o References existing guidance
VOLUME IV: SHARED INFORMATION AND HOW IT CAN BE USED FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

• Audience: All
• Content includes:
  o How USACE uses program information and its responsibilities
  o How program information can be used by others
NEXT STEPS:
Continuing the Dialogue
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](http://www.regulations.gov).

• Review focused on:
  o Implementation
  o Clarity of the guidance
  o Additional resources or tools needed
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?
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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 19</th>
<th>March 24</th>
<th>March 26</th>
<th>March 31</th>
<th>April 7</th>
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<td>Sacramento, CA</td>
<td>Kansas City, MO</td>
<td>Albany, NY</td>
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<td>Sheraton New Orleans</td>
<td>Residence Inn Downtown-Pearl District</td>
<td>Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento</td>
<td>Marriott Kansas City Downtown</td>
<td>Hilton Albany</td>
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<tr>
<td>500 Canal Street</td>
<td>1150 NW 9th Avenue</td>
<td>2001 Point West Way</td>
<td>200 West 12th Street</td>
<td>40 Lodge Street</td>
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REGISTERING THROUGH EVENTBRITE
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:
  o Welcome, Introductions, Overview Presentation (~45 Min)
  o Q&A on First Session (~15 Min)
  o Small Group Discussions (~90 Min)
  o Break (~15 Min)
  o Q&A/ Brief Report Out on What Was Heard (~ 20 Min)
  o Closing Session (~10 Min)
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
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.
Questions?
Email:
EC218@usace.army.mil