Dr. Mary C. Barber  
Chair, Environmental Advisory Board  
RTI International  
2839 Chesterfield Pl., NW  
Washington, DC 20008  

Dear Dr. Barber:

On behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), I wish to thank the Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) for its letter on June 11, 2019 with recommendations related to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regional Strategic Assessments. The EAB’s participation and feedback to our South Atlantic Division (SAD) on their Strategic Assessment has been invaluable. We have shared your input on the SAD Strategic Assessments with all USACE Divisions and are using it as we develop a template for the Divisions to use as they revise/prepare their Strategic Assessments.

We concur in and continue to embrace your recommendations, not only on development of the Strategic Assessments but also how USACE goes about our everyday business processes. Your comments as they relate to partnerships, for example, emphasized not just the need for individual Districts and Divisions to seek opportunities to improve partnerships and promote a common understanding of challenges and predictions about the future, but also the importance of considering the opportunities on a national scale.

As you may be aware, the entirety of USACE has a significant focus on “Revolutionizing.” USACE is taking bold actions to improve its performance and engineer solutions for the Nation’s toughest challenges through the Revolutionize USACE Civil Works initiative. Traditional delivery of the annual Civil Works program is being overhauled by using innovative tools, modernizing internal processes, and pursuing alternative financing approaches. USACE is streamlining permit processes and eliminating duplicative reviews to expedite permit decisions for infrastructure projects while protecting the environment. Speeding up how USACE does business will save millions of dollars and complete projects sooner. All these actions are not only informed by our workforce but also by our partners, from whom we continue to seek input while working to identify opportunities to improve at both a national and local scale. Additional information on this initiative can be found at https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Infrastructure/revolutionize/.
As demonstrated by your report, the EAB provides USACE significant value through your independent perspective, and your support to USACE is of upmost importance to us. I appreciate the EAB's service, and we look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely,

Todd T. Semonite
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding