



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DETROIT DISTRICT  
477 MICHIGAN AVE.  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2550**

**Finding of No Significant Impact  
North Branch Ecorse Creek, Flood Risk Management Study  
Wayne County, Michigan**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Public Notice (dated 13 February 2017) for the North Branch Ecorse Creek Flood Risk Management Study addresses the environmental consequences of reducing flood hazards and flood damage costs, and providing effective flood risk management measures, for communities along the North Branch Ecorse Creek (NBEC), Wayne County, Michigan. The final recommendation is contained in the General Reevaluation Report (GRR), an update to the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated 9 August 1989.

The EA and GRR, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would reduce flood risk in the study area. The recommended plan is the National Economic Development (NED) Plan and includes:

- Construction of a single, optimized detention basin (the Powers Basin) northeast of Inkster Road and Powers Avenue (the Powers Site) in Inkster, Michigan.

In addition to a “no action” plan, five alternatives were evaluated. The alternatives included 1) No Action Alternative, 2) Corps’ 1988 Retention Basin Alternative, 3) Wayne County 2008 Greenway Alternative, 4) Optimized Powers Basin Alternative, 5) Detention Basins with Limited Channel Improvements Alternative, and 6) Optimized Powers Basin with Channel Improvements Alternative. The recommended alternative presented in Section 2 of the EA is Alternative 6 — Optimized Powers Basin with Channel Improvements. However, further evaluation showed that the proposed channel improvements do not meet USACE planning criteria. Therefore, only the detention basin part of the recommended alternative is being pursued, which is the same as Alternative 4, Optimized Powers Basin. Under Alternative 4, the USACE proposes to construct a single, optimized detention basin (the Powers Basin) northeast of North Inkster Road and Powers Avenue (the Powers Site) in Inkster, Michigan. While flood damage reduction from the channel improvements would not be realized, Alternative 4 still provides substantial flood damage reduction compared to without project conditions.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1. The EA indicates that no significant cumulative or long-term adverse environmental effects would be expected from implementing the proposed action. Expected adverse project effects of the proposed Powers Basin include minor, temporary construction impacts on air quality, noise, soils, infrastructure, utilities, and traffic and transportation. Temporary and permanent changes would occur to land use and open space within the construction limits at the Powers Site. Positive effects of the proposed action include improvements to public health and safety, traffic and transportation, and socioeconomics through reduced flooding; increased infiltration of detained floodwater into the ground and reduced flows to the NBEC; and improvements in water quality. Alternative 4 also has less overall environmental effects than Alternative 6 because it eliminates the channel improvements and associated acquisition and demolition of many houses along the

NBEC, and reduces overall impacts of construction. Public review of the 2017 EA did not reveal any significant environmental effects, and the concerns expressed can be addressed in the basin design.

**Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan**

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the EA and GRR will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. The detention basin design will include measures, as necessary, to prevent downstream sedimentation during construction and operation. BMPs will also be utilized to avoid impacts to the local water table and to avoid wildlife attractants within five miles of a major airport. No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the EA and Preliminary FONSI was completed on 15 March 2017. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the GRR and FONSI.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: Indiana bat and northern long-eared bat with tree cutting restrictions that avoid potential for direct impacts to breeding female and juvenile bats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the Corps' NLAA determination on 22 December 2016.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan has no effect on historic properties. The State Historic Preservation Office concurred that the project would have no effect on historic properties on 12 January 2012.

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy prior to construction. In a letter dated 20 May 2016, the State of Michigan stated that the recommended plan appears to meet the requirements of the water quality certification, pending confirmation based on information to be developed during the pre-construction engineering and design phase. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

The proposed action is outside of the coastal zone as defined in the Michigan Coastal Management Plan and would have no effect on the coastal zone.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. The detention basin complies with Executive Order 11988, Flood Plain Management, because there is no practicable alternative to construction in the floodplain for the basin inlet/outlet structures on NBEC; the project would not promote floodplain development; and the project would not restrict floodplain capacity. The GRR's recommended alternative of Alternative 4 (construction of the Powers Basin) is entirely included in the scope of work of Alternative 6 (construction of the Powers Basin plus channel improvements). Alternative 6 was the preferred alternative in the 2017 EA. Therefore, the 2017 EA's evaluation of environmental effects adequately addresses the work included in the currently recommended alternative - Alternative 4.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date Signed

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Gregory E. Turner  
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander