

CORP CORRESPONDENCE

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C.
20013

SEP 28 1993

SUBJECT: Henderson County Drainage District No. 3

TO: Stuart Kasdin

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has not completed drafting the rules to implement the wetland reserve option which was made a part of our Midwest flood recovery effort. We plan to have these rules drafted and in review within the next two weeks.

Your question about the Henderson County Drainage District No. 3's being eligible for the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program cannot be answered in detail at this time. I would suggest that the Corps's decision to label the area ineligible for disaster assistance would probably have the effect of removing the justification for using the Emergency Wetland Reserve at this location. We are currently proposing that eligibility for the Emergency Wetland Reserve Program be tied to saving significant agriculture land restoration costs that would otherwise be eligible for Federal assistance.

We propose to target the Emergency Wetland Reserve program to areas which will have high wetland values and where the cost of acquisition is largely offset by foregone Federal restoration payments.

KARL F. OTTE
Assistant Director
Watershed Projects Division



HENDERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 3 ILLINOIS

ISSUE:

What federal program or programs are immediately available to buy out landowners in the Henderson County Drainage District No. 3?

PROBLEM:

Henderson County Drainage District No. 3 is a small federal levee, protecting 2,191 acres, that will not be repaired by the Corps of Engineers. In the past the district failed to properly maintain the levee and received an unsatisfactory rating from the Corps thereby disqualifying it from future PL 84-99 assistance. The cost of repairing the levee break and the pumping station is estimated to be \$700,000. Because there is no government aid for this expense, the landowners want to be bought out. Although no field examination has been made, it is believed the land can be inexpensively restored to wetlands and waterfowl habitat and managed as part of the adjacent Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge. No appraisals have been made, but the land would have been worth on the order of \$4 million before the flood.

LOCATION:

On the left bank of Mississippi River between Lock and Dam 18 and Oquawka.

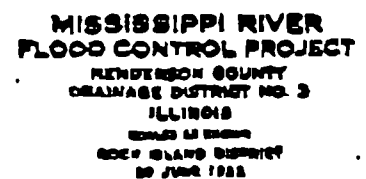
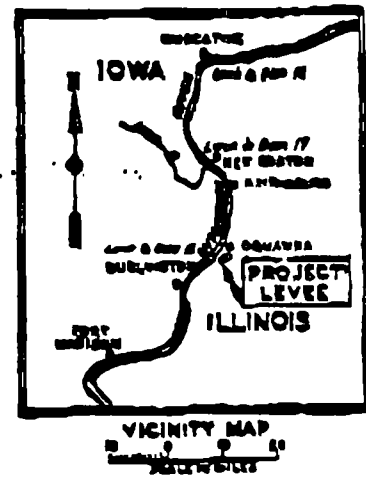
OWNERSHIP:

According to John Robb, one of the owners, there are four owners. Mr. Robb's address is R.R. #1, Gladstone, IL 61437, phone 309-627-2027. Another owner is Howard Pruett, Gladstone, 309-867-3359.

CONTACTS MADE SEEKING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE:

The levee district has formally requested "options" in lieu of repair according to the Rock Island District office of the Corps of Engineers.

Illinois DOT, Division of Water Resources, also made inquiries on federal assistance for buyout to Rock Island District. Rock Island District called the DFO. The DFO recommended calling Harry Slawter in the SCS state office in Champaign, Illinois (217-398-5272). Slawter was only familiar with the emergency wetlands program which requires that the cost of repairs exceed the value of the land. The contact in the SCS Washington office is reported to be Karl Otte, 202-720-9574.





STATE OF ILLINOIS
WASHINGTON OFFICE
444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W.
SUITE 210
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

JIM EGGAN
Governor

202-624-7760

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

NAME: BRIAN BURKE

DEPARTMENT: DPC

PHONE & FAX#: _____

FROM: MAURICE COOPER

DATE: _____ # OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 4

NOTES:



STATE OF ILLINOIS
WASHINGTON OFFICE
444 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.W.
SUITE 240
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

JIM EDGAR
GOVERNOR

TO: Brian Burke
FROM: Maureen Crocker
DATE: September 22, 1993
RE: Levee Buyout

As requested, following is the summary of activity regarding a proposed levee buyout in Illinois. The State is working with the landowners and DFO staff to try to develop a buyout package for the levee district in lieu of repairs. Since the buyout policy is new, Illinois officials have been unable to determine how to proceed. Any assistance you can provide in this matter will be appreciated.

Also, we are very interested in clarification of the Corps' policy regarding dewatering. In cases where dewatering must be completed prior to repairs, Illinois believes that costs associated with dewatering activities should be considered part of the levee repair cost. Please let me know when you are able to clarify this issue with the Corps.

Thanks for your help, Brian!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maureen", written over the typed name.

HENDERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 3 ILLINOIS

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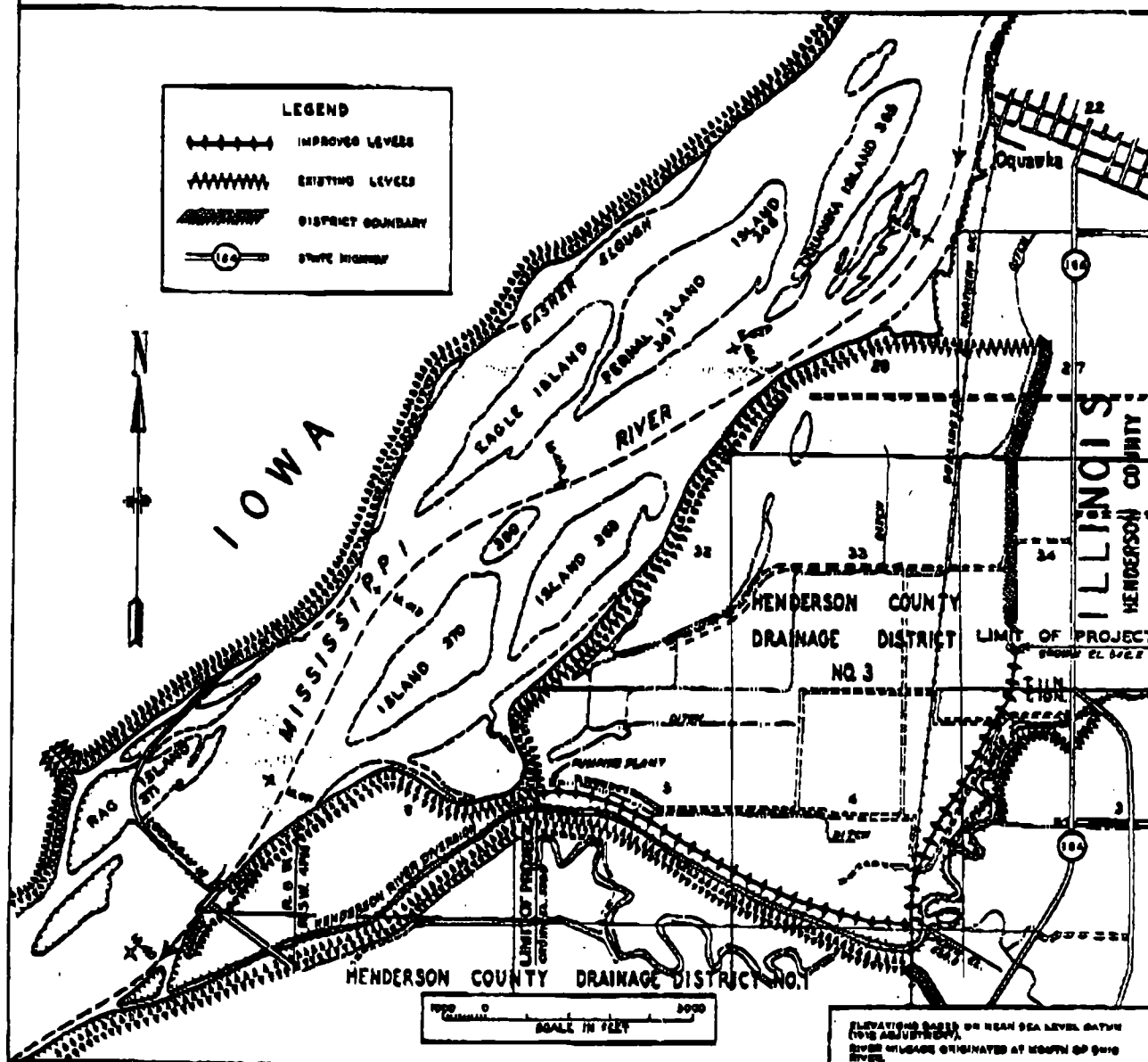
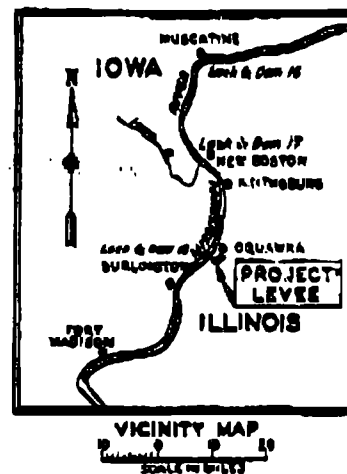
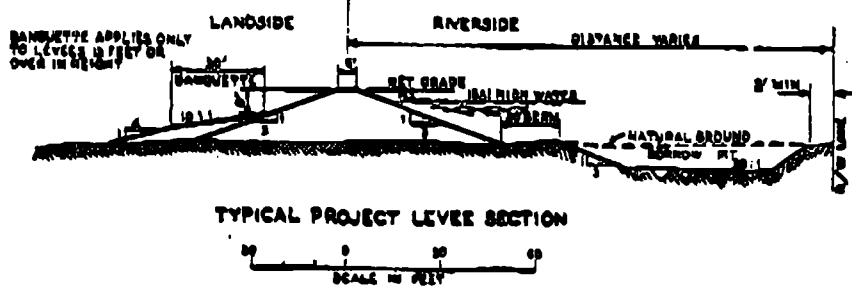
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**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT
HENDERSON COUNTY
DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 3
ILLINOIS
SCALES AS SHOWN
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT
30 JUNE 1935**

08/26/93

14:38

202 456 4150

CECW-02 & 05-D

0902/004

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-02-D

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1022fax to Brian
Burke
#456-7025

26 AUG 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR Deputy Director of Civil Works for the Upper
Mississippi Basin

SUBJECT: Dewatering Policy

1. Reference: ER 800-1-1, 11 Mar 91.
2. The enclosed dewatering policy is to be used for all PL 84-99 rehabilitation projects.
3. My point of contact on this action is Mr. Ed Hacker, Chief, Readiness Branch (2020 272-0281).

Encl


John A. Limore, P.E.
Chief, Operations, Construction
and Readiness Division
Directorate of Civil Works

13 14:30 2202 504 4180

CECW-02 & 0

0001/1 1

CECW-02

25 August 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR Director of Civil Works**SUBJECT: Procedural Guidelines for Eligible Dewatering Operations -- FACT SHEET**

1. **PURPOSE.** To outline the agreed FEMA/Corps dewatering policy.
2. **RECOMMENDED USE:** Guidance and direction to field.
3. **INFORMATION:**

a. For Corps levee projects requiring dewatering work, a DSR should be prepared by the Corps for FEMA under existing Corps DSR mission assignment. Preparation of this DSR should be coordinated with the FEMA PA Officer in the DFO prior to initiation.

b. If an applicant requests that dewatering work be performed by the Corps, FEMA will issue a mission assignment for this work. Reimbursement for this work is at 75% Federal cost share. Any additional dewatering taskings can be handled through expansion of the initial mission assignment.

4. **DISCUSSION:**

a. The Corps will offer three options to applicants for dewatering:

(1) Applicant to perform work eligible in DSR and receive reimbursement by FEMA at 75% Federal cost.

(2) Option 4.a.(1), and in addition, the Corps will provide technical assistance (at 100% Federal-FEMA) for local contracting and/or force account accomplishment of dewatering.

(3) Corps to perform dewatering work on behalf of applicant/sponsor at 75% Federal cost under mission assignment from FEMA.

b. Local sponsor has responsibility for undertaking debris removal, removal of flood fight measures, etc., using their own forces/contracts or ask the Corps to perform this work at 75% Federal cost (FEMA). DSRs are to be prepared by the Corps in this regard under the open mission assignment.

c. FEMA to review eligibility of private non-profit applicants (e.g., levee and drainage districts) prior to authorization of any dewatering work.

4/93 18:00 0301 504 4180

CECW-08 A 08-9

0004/004

CECW-08

25 August 1993

SUBJECT: FEMA Policy and Procedural Guidelines for Eligible
Dewatering Operations -- FACE SHEET

d. Dewatering projects to be coordinated through DFO
interagency levee coordination teams.

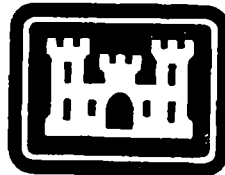
e. We have to factor in Public Assistance funding and
hazard mitigation options into levee repair/restoration projects.

f. Where the applicant requests that the Corps perform the
work associated with dewatering, the Corps' contract for these
services will identify dewatering and associated work in a
separate line item for costing and as a separate task in the
scope of work.

g. COORDINATION. None

h. APPROVAL. The Chief, Operations, Construction and Readiness
Division approved this paper.


EDWARD J. HECKER
Chief, CECW-08
X2-0281

FAX HEADER SHEET**US Army Corps
of Engineers****Date:** 24 SEP 93**From:** COL K.H. Clow

**Headquarters, US Army Corps of Engineers
Operations, Construction and Readiness Division
ATTN: CECW-O, Pulaski Building
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Room 6233
Washington, DC 20314-1000**

Telephone: 202-272-0196 **Facsimile:** 202-504-5095

This is page 1 **of** 4 **pages.****To:** MR. Brian Burke**Telephone:** _____ **Facsimile:** (202) 456-7028**Message:** Corps of Engineers Dewatering Policy Letter



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-OE-D

26 AUG 1993

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Mississippi Basin

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3. My point of contact on this action is Mr. Ed Hecker, Chief, Readiness Branch (2020 272-0251).

Encl


John P. Elmore, P.E.
Chief, Operations, Construction
and Readiness Division
Directorate of Civil Works

CECW-OE

25 August 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR Director of Civil Works

SUBJECT: Procedural Guidelines for Eligible Dewatering Operations -- FACT SHEET

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c. FEMA to review eligibility of private non-profit applicants (e.g., levee and drainage districts) prior to authorization of any dewatering work.

CECW-OE

25 August 1993

SUBJECT: FEMA Policy and Procedural Guidelines for Eligible
Dewatering Operations -- FACE SHEET

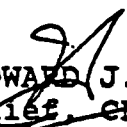
d. Dewatering projects to be coordinated through DFO interagency levee coordination teams.

e. We have to factor in Public Assistance funding and hazard mitigation options into levee repair/restoration projects.

f. Where the applicant requests that the Corps perform the work associated with dewatering, the Corps' contract for these services will identify dewatering and associated work in a separate line item for costing and as a separate task in the scope of work.

5. COORDINATION. None

6. APPROVAL. The Chief, Operations, Construction and Readiness Division approved this paper.


EDWARD J. HECKER
Chief, CECW-OE
X2-0251



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-OE-D

26 AUG 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR Deputy Director of Civil Works for the Upper
Mississippi Basin

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John P. Elmore, P.E.
Chief, Operations, Construction
and Readiness Division
Directorate of Civil Works

CECW-OE

25 August 1993

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CECW-OE

25 August 1993

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Dewatering Operations -- FACE SHEET

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EDWARD J. HECKER
Chief, CECW-OE
X2-0251

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(CIVIL WORKS)
Room 7126, Pulaski Bldg.
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20314-1000

FAX TO: Brian BurkeDATE: 9-30-93OFFICE: DPCPhone: (202) 456-2995Fax: 7028SUBJECT: Ltr to McGinty & GauthierPages to follow: 3

FROM: DR. ROBERT N. STEARNS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Phone: (202) 272-0126 Fax: (202) 504-4389

COMMENTS:

FYI



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0108



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

9 0 SEP 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR KATIE MCGINTY
T.J. GLAUTHIER

SUBJECT: Comments on Proposed "Unified Comprehensive Approach
to Long-Term Recovery..."

The Interagency Working Group on Environmental Flood Recovery has apparently decided that the best process for evaluating the effects of the 1993 flood and developing a more comprehensive long-term strategy is the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). I have reviewed this concept with a number of Army Corps of Engineers personnel with experience in NEPA compliance and have the following comments.

Most with whom I talked were surprised by the apparent conclusion that the PEIS approach offered the easiest way to get the job done quickly. The expectation in the Corps is that preparation of an environmental impact statement, with all necessary public involvement, normally takes two years. In their view, preparation of a PEIS formally requires public involvement which may impose unnecessary constraints on the working groups' progress. For example, since the public must be given 45 days to read and respond to a draft EIS and 30 days to respond to the final EIS, it becomes necessary to complete the draft EIS by February 15, 1994, which in turn, constrains the period for analysis to roughly the end of calendar year 1993.

Other concerns were expressed. It remains unclear as to what Federal actions this PEIS would apply--although this presumably could be fixed. Corps personnel also felt that it was inconsistent with the intent of NEPA to schedule Record of Decision signings for the final day of public comment. Because of the high visibility of this work within the Administration, it may be possible to take full advantage of the flexibility in the NEPA process that is not often used in the normal course of events. Nevertheless, based on my discussions with the Corps, I do not share EPA's optimism that the processes normally associated with EIS preparation can be reduced to the degree necessary to make defensible Records of Decision by June 15, 1994.

-2-

No matter what process is used for defining and conducting an evaluation of sound comprehensive floodplain management, it is important to have a realistic view of what can be accomplished by June 15, 1994. This, in fact, is my greatest concern. For example, if the analysis/modeling is to be completed by December 31, it must be done using currently available data and models, without the use of outside consulting firms. It is doubtful that a Request for Proposal could be prepared, advertised, responded to and subsequent contract awarded before December 31. This is an important limiting factor to the depth and breadth of the analytical process.

Even if you could dedicate enough people to this effort (it is not clear where they would come from) and had enough money to support this effort (the funding source is also unclear), the results would fall far short of the complete answers that the Interagency Working Group is seeking and would undermine the credibility of any proposed policy changes.

I recognize, however, that a long-term study with no interim outputs would not meet the needs and expectations of the Interagency Working Group. I propose that we determine realistic outputs which could be obtained by June 15, 1994, and seek the appropriate procedures to assure that they are obtained. The outputs I propose are:

- < identification of geographic areas (river reaches) where alternatives to levee repair "make the most sense," i.e., where wetlands restoration may yield the most beneficial environmental outputs and/or where additional flood storage capacity might have the most effect on other river reaches--so that the alternatives to levee repair could be more focused in areas with the highest payoff;
- < proposals for regulatory and legislative changes which would shift the costs of flood protection and rehabilitation which are now publicly assumed to users of the floodplain, thereby providing real economic incentives for behavior modification; for example, levees receiving P.L. 84-99 funds as a result of the 1993 Midwest floods might be ineligible for additional emergency support unless they paid into a actuarially sound trust fund, flood insurance requirements could be rigorously enforced;

-3-

- < creation of new programs and/or authorities whereby people living and working in the floodplain might have additional opportunities to protect against future events--this could include crop loss indemnification as an alternative to levee reconstruction, purchases of flowage easements, etc;
- < establishment of the necessary program authorities and processes for improved interagency coordination for future post-flood responses, so that the offer of alternatives to levee repair would be more substantive (programs, with funding, would exist and the interagency teams at Disaster Field Offices would be properly staffed);
- < enumeration of the resources--data, people, funds, time--needed to develop comprehensive answers for improved long-term floodplain management--an important component of this effort would be to describe clearly the questions that must be addressed in a comprehensive study so that the necessary data could be collected and analyzed.

The Army and the Corps are prepared to play whatever role in this study that is appropriate.



G. Edward Dickey
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

CF:

Brian Burke, Domestic Policy Council

Levee Meeting

- ① problem tracking report, updated
- ② long range problems (identify)
agency by agency
- ③ Wlhy reports on the work
- ④ FEMA to lead buy-out options



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JIM EDGAR
GOVERNOR

September 24, 1993

Mr. G. Edward Dickey
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0104

Dear Mr. Dickey:

I am writing to urge your immediate approval for an exception to the Corps of Engineers Dewatering Policy issued last month. Because of the special circumstances concerning the repair of federal levees in four drainage districts along the Illinois River, the Corps should fully and quickly fund the dewatering necessary to make essential levee repairs on a timely basis.

It is critical that dewatering be undertaken immediately, using numerous pumps, rather than waiting for natural drainage in the Nutwood, Eldred, Hartwell and Hillview drainage and levee districts. The Illinois River water level is not projected to drop to allow natural drainage to even begin for at least another month. This will not permit levee repairs to be completed before the winter. The Corps estimates that the districts would not be dewatered until next spring with levee repairs not completed until summer at the earliest, and possibly not until next winter. By contrast, expedited dewatering could be completed in 30-45 days, allowing levee repairs to be finished this winter. We realize that expedited dewatering is expensive, but it should save money in the long run by preventing additional damage to the levees from prolonged high water. Further, we believe the economic and human benefits far outweigh any extra cost.

Some 6,500 residents live within the four levee districts. We must make every effort to avoid prolonging through the winter the suffering of hundreds of residents already displaced from their homes and communities since July. Key highway access roads to connect communities along and across the Illinois River would also otherwise remain under water. In addition to our transportation concerns, without expedited dewatering, thousands of acres out of the 44,400 acres of farmland in the districts would be untillable this fall and probably unplatable next spring - a second devastating year for farm communities in that region of the state.

The continued high water levels on the land side of the levees would cause further damage from wave action. This could result in significantly higher ultimate repair costs for the Corps.

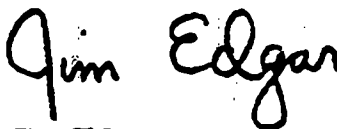
Full Corps funding of the dewatering necessary for making repairs to these federal levees is justified for numerous reasons. First, given the unprecedented magnitude of the flood, extraordinary state and local fiscal resources will be required for emergency response, interim living assistance and clean up, and permanent repairs and rebuilding. Frankly, the budgets of the state and the local governments in the flood region are going to be severely strained because of the demands noted above and because of reduced economic productivity.

Second, the unprecedented flood warrants both extraordinary federal funding assistance and numerous exceptions to normal federal requirements, procedures and cost sharing. Congress has provided initial supplemental funding to the Corps and other agencies to cover these extra costs. The White House Levee Task Force is working to facilitate extraordinary federal agency assistance for flood recovery needs. The exception to the dewatering policy which Illinois seeks is totally consistent with the broader Administration policy for responding to the 1993 flood.

Third, the Corps has funded dewatering associated with levee repair in previous major flood events. Given the record magnitude of this flood, the widespread damage to federal levees, and the need to act quickly before winter sets in, the Corps should cover these costs. This is no time to impose new restrictions.

We need an immediate approval for an exception to the Corps of Engineers Dewatering Policy to enable full federal funding of accelerated dewatering of the four drainage and levee districts along the Illinois River. This will allow prompt levee repairs and community rebuilding to begin now, so some measure of flood protection can be in place before the winter begins and so that the hardship of flooded properties and severed transportation links will not have to be endured for many more long months. I urge you to allow an exception to your policy for this extreme situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jim Edgar". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The "J" is large and loops around the "i". The "E" is also large and has a distinct loop. The "d" is connected to the "g", which has a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Jim Edgar
Governor



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0103



Fax From



G. Edward Dickey
Acting Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

(703) 697-4871
Fax: (703) 697-7401/3386

The Pentagon, Room 2E570
Washington, DC 20310-0108

TO: Brian Burke OFFICE: DPC

TELEPHONE: (202) 456-2995

PAGES: Header + 2

RELEASER: Denise

SUBJECT: Ltr from Governor Edgar

COMMENTS: FYI

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(CIVIL WORKS)
Room 7126, Pulaski Bldg.
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20314-1000

FAX TO: Brian Burke DATE: September 29, 1993
OFFICE: DPC Phone: (202) 456-2995
Fax: 456-7028

SUBJECT: Levee Rehabilitation

Pages to follow: 2

FROM: DR. ROBERT N. STEARNS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Phone: (202) 272-0126 Fax: (202) 504-4389

COMMENTS:

Dr. Dickey wants to give you the
opportunity of reviewing the attached
DRAFT letter.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0108



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Honorable Bill Emerson
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Emerson:

Thank you for your letter of August 26, 1993, requesting waiver of the local cost-sharing requirements for the Army Corps of Engineers levee rehabilitation program and the expedited repair of damaged flood control systems.

Our goal, from the earliest point in the flood emergency, has been to provide a timely, coordinated Federal response to the devastation that has occurred. The Corps already has 21 projects either under construction or with contracts awarded. Many more requests are being processed and they will be processed with minimum delay. The Soil Conservation Service and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) also have emergency responsibilities for the repair of certain levees that are not eligible for the Corps program.

As you may be aware, there are some cases where communities and/or local sponsors of flood protection projects have asked the Federal Government to consider alternatives to the repair of the facilities. The Corps has been working with other Federal agencies and local officials in order to assure that these opportunities are fully explored. Where practical alternatives exist, with local sponsor concurrence, the Corps will defer repairs until the alternative can be fully explored. This process is not intended to delay needed repairs. We recognize the urgency of the situation and want to proceed with repairs as quickly as possible on eligible levees in all cases where there are no practical and locally acceptable alternatives.

Given the severity of the flood and the widespread geographic area affected, it is appropriate that the policy towards cost sharing be reviewed. Toward that end, we have been working within the Administration with other Federal agencies to develop cost-sharing policies that recognize the severity of the situation and assure consistency among Federal programs. As a result, it has been decided that FEMA's Public Assistance program would be cost shared on a 90-10 basis (Federal/non-Federal), once an economic threshold test was met (all nine States in the affected area meet this test). Other programs, including the Corps, would continue to be cost shared at the previous levels (80-20 for Corps eligible levees).

-2-

Accordingly, existing policies of the Corps will be applied to the current situation. I expect that a significant portion of the non-Federal contribution may be work in-kind, thus reducing the cash requirements. Where local resources may still not be enough to meet the local share, I would hope that State governments could participate in the cost sharing.

The current Federal budget crisis forces us to make hard choices. We have made every effort to assure that the policy decisions for the Corps levee repair program are consistent with the approaches of other Federal agencies and that the treatment received by those who have been disadvantaged in this national tragedy is equivalent to our response in previous events.

Identical letters are being sent to the other 17 Members of Congress who co-signed the August 26th letter.

Sincerely,

G. Edward Dickey
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(CIVIL WORKS)
Room 7126, Pulaski Bldg.
20 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20314-1000

FAX TO: Brian Burke DATE: 9-29-93

OFFICE: DPC Phone: 456-2995
Fax: 456-7028

SUBJECT: Draft Ltr to Gov. Edgar

Pages to follow: 3

FROM: DR. ROBERT N. STEARNS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Phone: (202) 272-0126 Fax: (202) 504-4389

COMMENTS:

For your review & comments.

Mr. Jim Edgar
Governor of Illinois
Springfield, Illinois 62706

Dear Governor Edgar:

Thank you for your letter of September 24, 1993, requesting an exception to the Army Corps of Engineers dewatering policy for certain Federal levees along the Illinois River.

Dewatering and/or drainage behind a levee has always been a non-Federal responsibility in connection with construction undertaken by the Corps to rehabilitate levees damaged due to flooding. Local sponsors are also expected to provide suitable lands, easements, and rights-of-way required for construction or repair of a flood control project. Such cost-sharing requirements increase the coverage of Federal programs by leveraging Federal resources with State and local contributions and help assure that the size and nature of the projects will meet true community needs, as perceived by the community.

Notwithstanding the above, the special circumstances of the Midwest floods of 1993 call for a special response by the Federal Government. As part of this response, Federal funding is made available for dewatering through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program. Under guidelines recently established by the Administration, FEMA funds are now available to the nine States affected by the 1993 Midwest flood on a 90-10 (Federal/non-Federal) cost-sharing basis. The four drainage districts cited in your letter can seek this substantial Federal support for dewatering through the Disaster Field Offices (DFO's) established by FEMA for this event.

I especially appreciate your concerns about getting the necessary repairs done quickly. We are prepared to work with you and with the local areas affected, to make this happen.

Sincerely,

G. Edward Dickey
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

SA 3092814

TO: Bruce Long
John Elmore

Fm: Ed Dickey

STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD 62706

JIM EDGAR
GOVERNOR

September 24, 1993

Mr. G. Edward Dickey
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Department of the Army
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310-0104

Dear Mr. Dickey:

I am writing to urge your immediate approval for an exception to the Corps of Engineers Dewatering Policy issued last month. Because of the special circumstances concerning the repair of federal levees in four drainage districts along the Illinois River, the Corps should fully and quickly fund the dewatering necessary to make essential levee repairs on a timely basis.

It is critical that dewatering be undertaken immediately, using numerous pumps, rather than waiting for natural drainage in the Nutwood, Eldred, Hartwell and Hillview drainage and levee districts. The Illinois River water level is not projected to drop to allow natural drainage to even begin for at least another month. This will not permit levee repairs to be completed before the winter. The Corps estimates that the districts would not be dewatered until next spring with levee repairs not completed until summer at the earliest, and possibly not until next winter. By contrast, expedited dewatering could be completed in 30-45 days, allowing levee repairs to be finished this winter. We realize that expedited dewatering is expensive, but it should save money in the long run by preventing additional damage to the levees from prolonged high water. Further, we believe the economic and human benefits far outweigh any extra cost.

Some 6,500 residents live within the four levee districts. We must make every effort to avoid prolonging through the winter the suffering of hundreds of residents already displaced from their homes and communities since July. Key highway access roads to connect communities along and across the Illinois River would also otherwise remain under water. In addition to our transportation concerns, without expedited dewatering, thousands of acres out of the 44,400 acres of farmland in the districts would be untillable this fall and probably unplatable next spring - a second devastating year for farm communities in that region of the state.

The continued high water levels on the land side of the levees would cause further damage from wave action. This could result in significantly higher ultimate repair costs for the Corps.

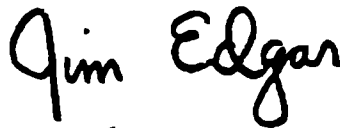
Full Corps funding of the dewatering necessary for making repairs to these federal levees is justified for numerous reasons. First, given the unprecedented magnitude of the flood, extraordinary state and local fiscal resources will be required for emergency response, interim living assistance and clean up, and permanent repairs and rebuilding. Frankly, the budgets of the state and the local governments in the flood region are going to be severely strained because of the demands noted above and because of reduced economic productivity.

Second, the unprecedented flood warrants both extraordinary federal funding assistance and numerous exceptions to normal federal requirements, procedures and cost sharing. Congress has provided initial supplemental funding to the Corps and other agencies to cover these extra costs. The White House Levee Task Force is working to facilitate extraordinary federal agency assistance for flood recovery needs. The exception to the dewatering policy which Illinois seeks is totally consistent with the broader Administration policy for responding to the 1993 flood.

Third, the Corps has funded dewatering associated with levee repair in previous major flood events. Given the record magnitude of this flood, the widespread damage to federal levees, and the need to act quickly before winter sets in, the Corps should cover these costs. This is no time to impose new restrictions.

We need an immediate approval for an exception to the Corps of Engineers Dewatering Policy to enable full federal funding of accelerated dewatering of the four drainage and levee districts along the Illinois River. This will allow prompt levee repairs and community rebuilding to begin now, so some measure of flood protection can be in place before the winter begins and so that the hardship of flooded properties and severed transportation links will not have to be endured for many more long months. I urge you to allow an exception to your policy for this extreme situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Edgar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Edgar
Governor