



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT
231 SOUTH LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1500
CHICAGO IL 60604

July 22, 2024

Environmental & Cultural Resources Section
Planning Branch

Cody Eskew
IDNR Coastal Management Program
Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 703
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Cody.eskew@Illinois.gov

Dear Mr. Eskew:

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (USACE) is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document on the impacts associated with proposed rehabilitation efforts at the Thomas O'Brien (TJO) Lock and Dam in the City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Rehabilitation efforts include embankment repairs, culvert replacements, vegetation removal, and slope stabilization. The project limits for the effort are entirely within the TJO property (Enclosure). The proposed activity will not negatively impact coastal use or resources. The proposed activity complies with Illinois' approved coastal management program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such policies. The Chicago District is requesting concurrence from the IDNR/CMP.

The proposed project would involve the following (See enclosure for locations):

- A. Replace two existing corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culverts,
 - B. Regrade the west ditch along the northwest access road to improve drainage.
 - C. Replace existing CMP culvert that runs underneath the northwest access road and install backflow prevention such as a flap gate or flexible check valve.
 - D. Replace existing CMP culvert that runs north to south, install sluice gate, and remove vegetation.
 - E. Add riprap along riverside slope to stabilize the slope up to the crest elevation.
 - F. Raise crest of east access road to the design elevation, replace the broken asphalt with crushed stone, remove woody vegetation within the USACE property limits, establish native vegetation along slopes, evaluate the need for seepage mitigation like a filter or cutoff, and rehabilitate the guardrail.
 - G. Remove two fence gates and install a new fence at the farthest east alignment.
- Additionally, there are several soil mounds that may have been placed during development of adjacent sites or by fly dumping. These soils will be environmentally tested to determine the disposal options and will be removed from the site.

We request your concurrence with this determination within 60 days in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act. Concurrence will be assumed if its response is not received by USACE within 60 days plus any extension, as applicable pursuant to 15 CFR 940.41(b). Questions and communications can be submitted to Mr. Ryan Johnson by email at ryan.a.johnson@usace.army.mil or by phone at (312) 846-5559.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Hoxsie". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alex Hoxsie
Chief, Environmental & Cultural Resources
Planning Branch

Enclosure

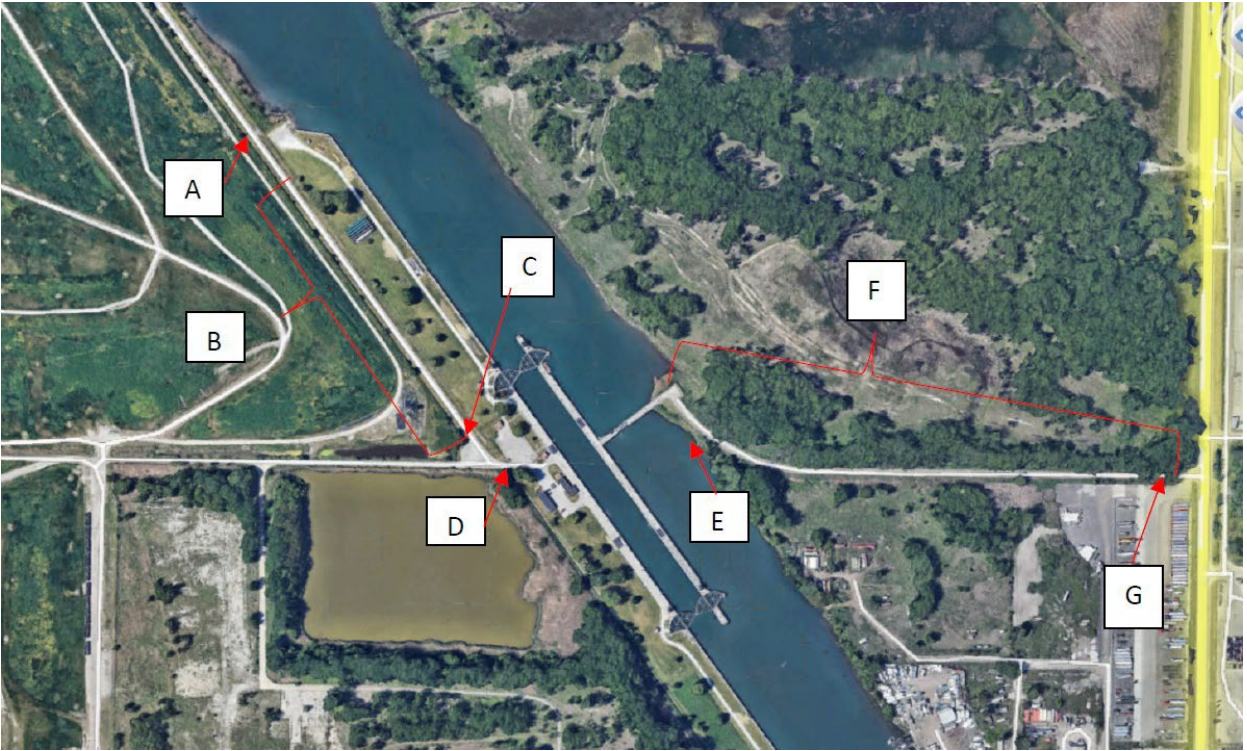


Figure 1: Proposed action component locations.