



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

November 14, 2025

Environmental & Cultural Resources Section
Planning Branch

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

Dear Mr. Otto:

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (USACE) is preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document on the impacts associated with the proposal to replace the two underground electrical duct banks at the Chicago Harbor Lock on the Chicago River, Chicago, Illinois. Electrical duct bank replacement would require the lock gate blocks to be isolated with temporary bulk heads to facilitate dewatering. The existing duct banks would be excavated and removed and replaced with new duct banks constructed from reinforced concrete. All electrical conduits within the duct banks would be replaced along with the associated conductors. The work would be performed during the winter lock closure from 15 November through 15 April 2026. The project limits for the effort are entirely within the Chicago Harbor Lock 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.

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 _____ or by phone at _____.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alex Hoxsie", is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

Alex Hoxsie
Chief, Environmental & Cultural Resources
Planning Branch

Enclosure

Enclosure - Project Map and Photos

Chicago Harbor Lock Power Distribution Upgrades

Chicago, Illinois



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District**

November 2025

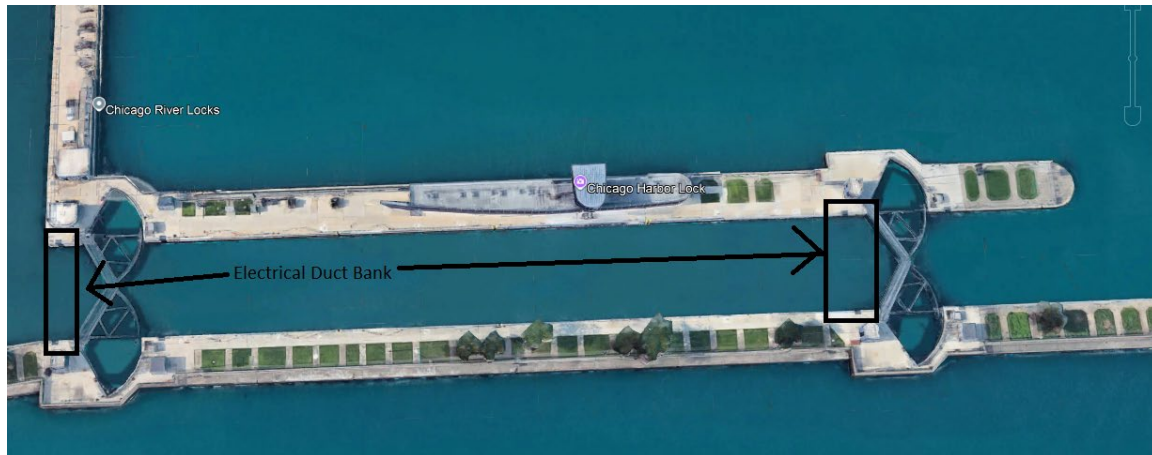


Figure 1: Locations of electrical duct banks at the Chicago Harbor Lock.



Figure 2: Dewatered gate block with temporary bulk heads in place at Chicago Harbor Lock.



Figure 3: Temporary bulk head placement at Chicago Harbor Lock.