



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

February 19, 2026

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 temporarily stabilize the northwestern sheet pile guide wall at Thomas J. O'Brien Lock and Dam in Chicago, Illinois. A barge struck the sheet pile guide wall and caused structural damage in January 2026. The proposed temporary stabilization measure would involve placing clean rip rap stone on the riverbed at the base of the sheet pile wall at a 1:1.12 slope as shown in the plans included in the enclosure. The work would occur as soon as possible, likely in spring 2026. 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 ryan.a.johnson@usace.army.mil or by phone at (312) 846-5559.

Sincerely,

Jason Zylka acting for
Alex Hoxsie
Chief, Environmental & Cultural Resources
Planning Branch

Enclosure

Enclosure - Project Map, Plans, and Photos

Thomas O'Brien Lock and Dam

Temporary Guide Wall Repairs

Chicago, Illinois



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

February 2026

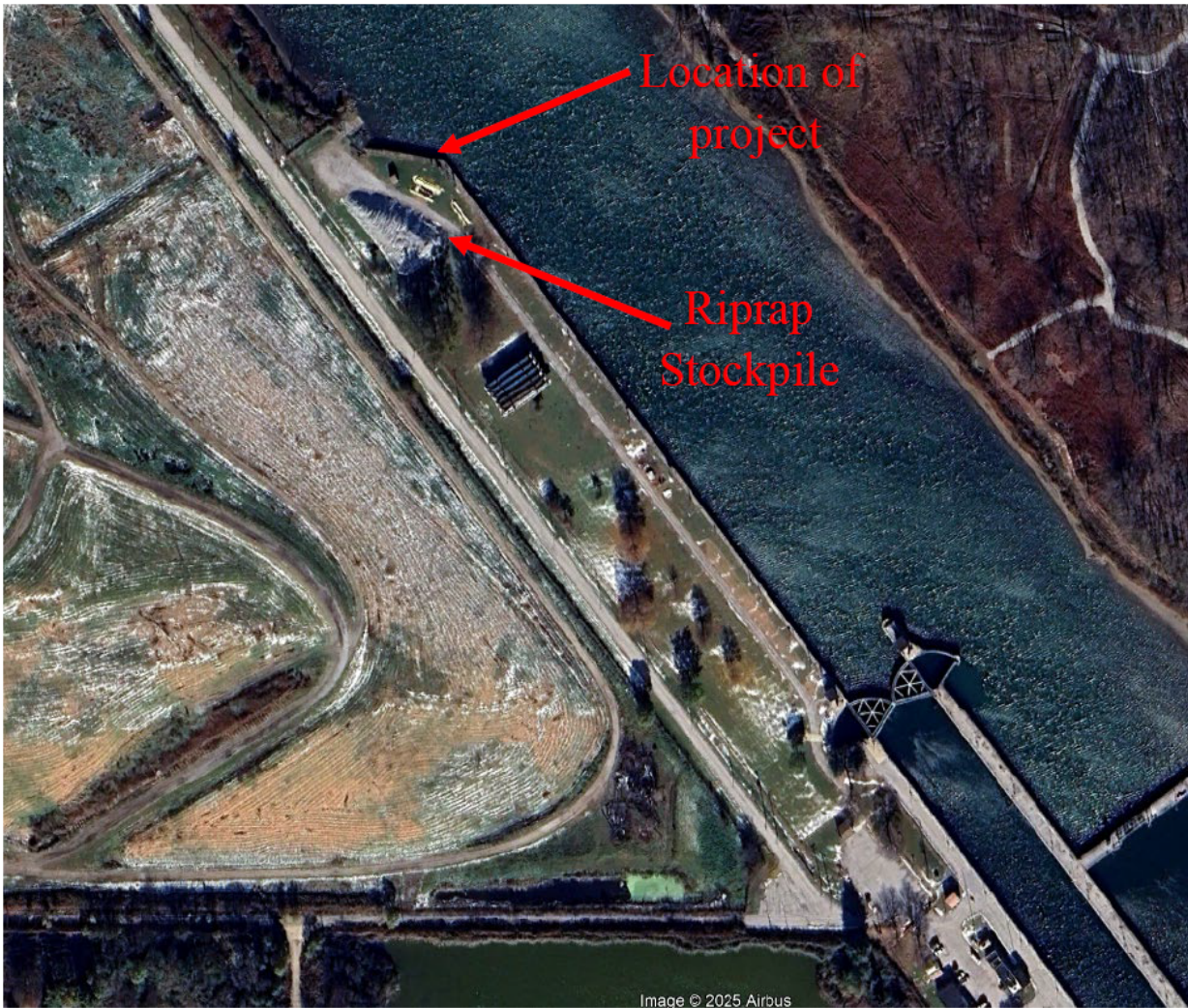


Figure 1: Locations of guide wall damage and stone stockpile.



Figure 2: Damage to guide wall caused by barge impact.

