



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

APR 22 2013

Ms. Sandy Rosenthal
Levees.Org
1421 Sonait Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70115

Dear Ms. Rosenthal:

This is in response to your letter of February 7, 2013, co-signed with Mr. H. J. Bosworth, Jr., and your subsequent letter dated March 26, 2013, requesting the location of projects that have performance concerns. I am sending an identical letter to Mr. Bosworth. Also, a courtesy copy will be sent to Mr. Mark C. Surprenant, who forwarded your March 26, 2013 letter. I apologize for the delay in responding.

With respect to specific concerns regarding I-wall performance, in May 2006, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) began a multi-phased approach to evaluating existing I-walls under the Corps jurisdiction in order to identify I-walls of potential concern. The first phase included identification of the I-walls, performing visual inspections, and gathering existing physical information. The next phase used the initially-collected information to perform a screening level evaluation. Most of the I-walls identified were confirmed to have no performance concerns. Some I-walls were identified as needing further evaluation in order to confirm whether or not there are performance issues.

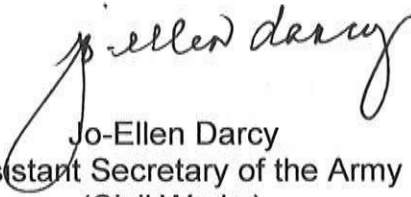
Corps districts have communicated the best available information about these I-walls, including their identification, to the respective levee sponsors. Residents who would like to know more about levee systems in their communities should contact their local levee sponsor. These I-walls are currently being assessed, in many cases in the context of larger levee systems. For example, some of these I-walls are currently part of an ongoing study that will confirm their condition, while the performance of others is being assessed during a risk assessment. The conditions of levee systems are dynamic, meaning that often there are ongoing evaluations and that levee sponsors are continuously taking corrective actions.

The Corps has a responsibility to balance the release of critical infrastructure information that will assist the public with making risk-informed decisions with safeguarding information that could be used to do harm. As a result, the Corps does not publish or provide unrestricted access to lists of the location of specific deficiencies for levee systems. Non-federal project sponsors do have this information and are committed to informing affected interests at least once each year of the extent of flood risk reduction afforded by the project.

I appreciate and share your view that concerns with levee systems need to be communicated in a timely manner with those who could be affected, so that informed decisions can be made and appropriate actions can be taken.

Thank you for your interest in the Army Civil Works Program.

Very truly yours,



Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

CF: Mr. Mark C. Surprenant