

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

RECONSTRUCTION OF FLOOD PROTECTION SYSTEM WOOD RIVER DRAINAGE AND LEVEE DISTRICT

MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

I. I have reviewed and evaluated the documents concerning the reconstruction project for the flood protection system located in the Wood River Drainage and Levee District, Madison County, Illinois.

II. As part of this evaluation, I have considered:

- a. Existing resources and the no-action alternative.
- b. Impact to existing resources with all formulated plans, including the Recommended Plan.

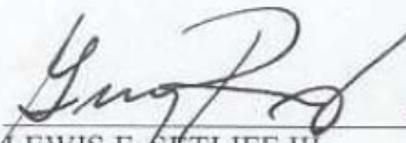
III. The possible consequences of these alternatives have been studied for physical, environmental, cultural, social and economic effects, and engineering feasibility. My evaluation of significant factors have contributed to my finding:

- a. The reconstruction project will correct design deficiencies in the original design of the city's flood protection system, will maintain the original level of protection, and will be accomplished by replacement of existing relief wells, installation of new relief wells, reconstruction or replacement of existing drains and closure gates, closure of unneeded gates, and reconstruction at existing pump stations.
- b. There would be no significant effects to the geology or topography of the project area.
- c. Inducement of development in the flood plain would not result from this project.
- d. Federally and state listed endangered and threatened species would not be adversely impacted. A survey for the presence of the decurrent false aster, a Federally endangered plant, will be necessary prior to initiation of the installation of the 223 new wells.
- e. No significant impacts are anticipated on natural resources, including fish and wildlife and forest resources. Since some existing relief wells are located in or adjacent to wetlands subject to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, replacement of some of these existing wells may involve placement of fill materials. If placement of work pads or drilling materials in wetlands is needed, these actions would be temporary, and fill materials would be removed and affected sites restored to pre-project conditions. Adverse effects to wetlands would be temporary and not significant.

- f. Although it is unlikely that potentially significant archaeological remains are situated within previously disturbed ground surfaces, archaeological monitoring will be performed during construction activities. Should any potentially significant remains be identified during the monitoring activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find will cease and the State Historic Preservation Officer will be notified. The conduct of any additional archaeological investigations surrounding any potential finds will be coordinated in advance with the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- g. There would be no effect to farmland, nor any conversions of land to nonagricultural use.
- h. There would be no appreciable degradation to the physical environment (e.g., noise, air quality, and water quality) due directly to the reconstruction project.
- i. No significant adverse impacts to the aesthetic value, social, or recreational resources would result. Some developed properties would be affected by installation of new relief wells.
- j. No adverse effects to health and safety of the public are expected from potentially contaminated groundwater generated by construction activities.
- k. The "no action" alternative was evaluated and determined to be unacceptable as there is a public health and safety issue unless the design deficiencies are corrected.

IV. Based on the disclosure of impacts contained within the Environmental Assessment, I find no significant impacts to the human environment are likely to occur as a result of the proposed project. The proposed action has been coordinated with the appropriate resource agencies and the public, and there are no significant unresolved issues. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared prior to proceeding with the proposed reconstruction project for the Wood River Drainage and Levee District's flood protection system, Illinois.

23 Mar 06
Date

for  LTC, EN
LEWIS F. SETLIFF III
COL, EN
Commanding