

Dear Colleague,

First of all, thank you for your continuing participation in the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) process to develop an Engineer Circular for the USACE Levee Safety Program. Your thoughts and feedback are contributing greatly to our progress.

I would like to solicit your help in one particular area. At the workshops in Washington, DC and Denver, we held a mock Levee Safety Senior Oversight Group (LSOG) to give participants insight on how a Levee Safety Action Classification (LSAC) is assigned. During the follow-on discussions you suggested that the process be changed to increase sponsor involvement after levee screening. Specifically, you asked for opportunities to provide input during the national roll-up and the Levee Senior Oversight Group (LSOG) meeting when an LSAC classification is recommended for approval by the USACE Levee Safety Officer.

The attached figure shows a diagram of the current levee screening and LSAC assignment process. This process calls for sponsor involvement through inspections up through the screening of a levee project. After the screening, there is no sponsor involvement until after the transmittal of the decision on the LSAC to the sponsor.

I would like your input on the best way to incorporate participation of sponsors of Federally Authorized-Locally Operated and Maintained levee systems and owners of non-Federal levee systems during the levee screening, national roll-up, and at the LSOG. Given that we don't know how long any one project will take at each step (district screening, national roll-up, and LSOG), it would be difficult to provide a definite schedule for a specific levee system. In light of this scheduling issue, here are a few questions that we would like your feedback on as it pertains to screening, national roll-up, and the LSOG meeting.

Would sponsors/owners want to participate in person or through a remote video process? What type of information do you see the sponsor/owner providing? What role do you see a sponsor/owner performing at each step of the process? What type of training, if any, should be provided to the sponsor/owner and to what level? How can we structure these activities to be the most useful and provide the maximum amount of involvement without it being an undue financial or resource burden?

The USACE Levee Safety Policy and Procedures team is drafting the Engineer Circular during the next few months, so I request that you provide your comments no later than 25 August 2011 by email to [levee\\_safety@abtassoc.com](mailto:levee_safety@abtassoc.com) so that we can consider them for inclusion.

Thank you again for your continued interest and excellent ideas about how we make this program reflect the shared responsibility and accountability for which we are striving.

Sincerely,

Eric Halpin, PE  
Special Assistant for Dam and Levee Safety US Army Corps of Engineers