



Memo to: Board of Directors

From: Chuck Etwert

Subject: Program Status Report for February 2015

Date: February 13, 2015

We continue to work on the acquisition of easements needed to complete the projects that have been awarded. Husch Blackwell continues to work with the attorneys for Union Pacific, regarding the 3 parcels needed on the BP #3 construction project. It does appear that we are making some progress on the obtainment. As previously mention, the delay in obtaining these easements and others on the BP #7B project will have an effect on completion times and possible costs of these projects

Approximately 47% of the \$56.0 million of construction, involved in the nine construction bid packages, has been completed thru January 31st. With 3.1 million dollars' worth of construction completed in January, the total amount of construction completed is now \$26.4 million.

We have three change orders on this month's agenda, involving Under Seepage & Seepage Control Improvements on Bid Packages #3, and #6. Amec Foster Wheeler (formerly AMEC) will be explaining these at the meeting.

On January 26th, I received from Senator Durbin's office, the Corps of Engineers' timeline regarding the Melvin Price Design Deficiency Correction Project. I copy is provided to you today. It is disappointing to see that the permanent solution design will continue into the FY18 fiscal year with construction also awarded in FY18. Of course, both the continued design and construction are dependent on receipt of funds. It appears to be a lengthy schedule for a project that was declared an emergency need six years ago.

On January 30th, President Obama issued Executive Order No. 11988, establishing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard. The new standard allows agencies to choose from among three options for establishing the flood elevation and the consequent horizontal floodplain:

- 1) data and methods "informed by best-available, actionable climate science",
- 2) building to two feet above the 100-year flood elevation for standard projects, and three feet above for critical buildings like hospitals and evacuation centers, or
- 3) build to the 500-year flood elevation

Both Husch Blackwell and Amec Foster Wheeler are reviewing the Order to determine if there are any effects on FPD projects. A copy of the Order (previously e-mailed) and a corresponding news release will be provided at the meeting.

As reported last month, there still hasn't been any response to Senator Durbin's November 17, 2014 letter to President Obama requesting the override of the Corps' decision to not require Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on contracts pertaining to federal levee improvement projects in the East St. Louis, Prairie Du Pont/Fish Lake, and Wood River areas of Illinois.

The FPD continues to wait for responses to our requests to the Corps for consolidation of the separately authorized levee projects located in Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair counties and the consideration that the levee projects within these Counties be considered for the Water Infrastructure Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program. Decisions on these requests are dependent on the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014 implementation guidelines that are currently being developed.

On the agenda, I have a resolution expressing the official intent to restore the federally authorized level of Mississippi Flood River Protection in the Metro-East for the Board to consider.

There may be, if necessary, an executive session on pending litigation at the end of the meeting.

I am in the process of renewing our lease to occupy office space with the Metro-East Park and Recreation District at 104 United Drive. Our arrangement continues to work out very well for the Council and contributes to the very low administrative costs for the project. There is no cost to the Council, other than the cost for internet service and maintaining liability insurance on the space.

I have included in your Board packet a copy of Amec Foster Wheeler's Monthly Progress Report for January.