



FEMA

March 25, 2021

Kevin Williams
Executive Director, Wood River Drainage & Levee District
543 West Madison Street
Wood River, IL 62095

Dear Mr. Williams:

This letter is written pursuant to the compliance review performed by U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of various levee certification documents received for the Wood River Flood Protection Project, Lower Wood River Levee System in the Madison County, Illinois. These documents were prepared by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. (Wood) and include submissions dated October 17, 2017, July 13, 2018, and December 15, 2020.

Documents submitted to FEMA included data and certifications to support accreditation of the Wood River Flood Protection Project, Lower Wood River Levee System.

FEMA performed a compliance review of all data and certifications submitted and a final Certification Submission Comments sheet is enclosed. Based on FEMA's compliance review, all applicable requirements to reflect full accreditation have been met for the Wood River Flood Protection Project, Lower Wood River Levee System. In response, FEMA plans to recognize the Wood River Flood Protection Project, Lower Wood River Levee System as accredited on the future *Preliminary* FIRM. The flood hazard areas landward of this system will be mapped as shaded Zone X and Special Flood Hazard Area for interior drainage areas. An updated levee system accreditation note will be placed in that area of the FIRM panel. FEMA accreditation of a levee system does not guarantee that the levee will provide flood hazard reduction to properties from flooding; therefore, FEMA has included a note on related FIRM panels that overtopping, or failure of an accredited levee system is possible.

FEMA retains the right to revise these designations upon indication of changing condition of the flood hazard or the infrastructure itself. Future map updates will require the levee system to be evaluated at such time; design, construction, operation, and/or maintenance documents may be requested at any time; and deviations from this documentation could result in the levee system no longer being mapped as accredited on a future FIRM.

It is important to note that levee systems are only designed to provide a specific level of flood risk reduction. They can be overtopped or fail in larger flood events. When levee systems do fail, the consequence of failure can be catastrophic. Also, levee systems require regular maintenance and periodic upgrades to retain their level of flood risk reduction. For these reasons, FEMA

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encourages communities that rely on levee infrastructure to be especially proactive in making property owners aware of residual risk and steps available for mitigation.

The NFIP was created to reduce flood damages by identifying flood risks, encouraging sound community floodplain management practices, and providing flood insurance to lessen the financial impact of flood damage. Through the NFIP, property owners in participating communities are able to insure against flood losses.

The FEMA lead for this Madison County map update is John Wethington. Mr. Wethington may be contacted by phone at (312) 485-5485, or by email at john.wethington@fema.dhs.gov. Please do not hesitate to contact the Region V office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mary Beth Caruso
Director, Mitigation Division
FEMA Region V

Enclosure

All "cc" communications delivered by electronic correspondence.

cc: Ms. Cheryl Maguire, Mayor, City of Wood River
Mr. Joe Silkwood, Mayor, Village of East Alton
Mr. James Hickerson, Mayor, Village of Hartford
Mr. Marty Reynolds, President, Village of Roxana
Ms. Barbara Overton, Mayor, Village of South Roxana
Mr. Steve Brendel, Stormwater Coordinator, Madison County
Mr. Charles Etwert, Chief Supervisor, Southwestern Illinois Flood Prevention District Council
Mr. Randy Cook Jr., Senior Civil Engineer, Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.
Mr. David Busse, Levee Safety Officer, Chief, Eng. and Construction Division, USACE, St. Louis District
Ms. Rachel Lopez, Levee Safety Program Manager, USACE, St. Louis District
Mr. Jeremy Eck, Acting Levee Safety Program Manager, USACE, St. Louis District
Mr. Hal Graef, Project Manager, USACE, St. Louis District
Ms. Marilyn Sucoe, Acting NFIP State Coordinator, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Mr. Dan Shulman, External Affairs, FEMA Region V