



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

Design Branch

MAR 24 2014

Dear Tribal Chairman,

Continuing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) coordination on issues relating to Tribal trust resources, this letter follows my letter of 31 January 2014 and provides details about near and long-term changes to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) policy for initial and continuing eligibility criteria for levees in the Public Law (PL) 84-99 Rehabilitation Program.

The changes result from public feedback and a comprehensive program review, and intend to better synchronize flood risk management and levee safety. Since long-term final changes to the Program require USACE to change 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 203 through a rulemaking process, near-term interim policy (enclosed) was issued on 21 March 2014. The interim policy's purpose is to allow Program eligibility determinations to continue while the new policy is developed, and to do so in a manner that avoids potentially incentivizing public sponsors to take actions that may negatively impact natural resources or tribal rights. Vegetation on levees is no longer a criterion for determining Program eligibility.

I have sent the enclosed letter and policy to the non-federal sponsors who own, operate, and maintain program levees. For more information, please contact my Tribal Liaison, Ms. Lori Morris at (206) 764-3625 or via email at frances.morris@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce A. Estok", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Bruce A. Estok
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

Enclosures