UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION VII
901 NORTH 5TH STREET
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66101

Dr. Christopher M. White
Kansas City Levees Project
Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers
601 E. 12th Street, Room 843
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896

JUL 17 2006

Dear Dr. White,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Kansas City Levees Project. Our review is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) 42 U.S.C. 4231, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1508, and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The DEIS was assigned the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) number 20060222.

Based on our overall review and the level of our comments, the EPA has rated the DEIS for this project LO (Lack of Objections). This rating indicates that EPA's review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

Although the majority of the levee sites were thoroughly investigated for contamination and appropriately avoided or mitigated, the CID unit is known to contain hazardous waste contamination and until the analysis in completed, potential impacts exist. Therefore, EPA recommends that the hazardous waste investigation be completed for the Central Industrial District (CID) Levee unit prior to the final EIS, and that the findings of that investigation be considered in selecting the preferred alternative for this specific levee improvement.

Also, we recommend that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) include the hazardous waste descriptions for both the Armourdale, and the CID units within the Hazardous Waste Management section (DEIS Section 3.1.7). Although both of these sites receive varying degrees of coverage on HTRW considerations elsewhere in the DEIS (noting that CID information deficiencies could be important to preferred alternative selection and mitigation needs), they are not described within section 3.1.7.

We appreciate having the opportunity to work with the Kansas City District in a formal Cooperating Agency role, and to provide comments regarding this project and your DEIS. If you

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have any questions or concerns, please contact Kim Johnson at (913) 551-7975.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Cothern

Joseph E. Cothern
NEPA Team Leader
Environmental Services Division