



# USACE LEVEE SAFETY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **Background:**

In 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) created its Levee Safety Program with the mission to assess the integrity and viability of levees and recommend courses of action to make sure that levee systems do not present unacceptable risks to the public, property and environment. USACE subsequently launched a major effort to establish a levee safety organization; create the National Levee Database (NLD) and inventory; develop a methodology for performing technical risk assessments of existing levee infrastructure; and review and revise current related policies and procedures associated with levees.



## **Levee Safety Organization:**

In November 2007, USACE established its Levee Safety Organization at every organizational level, which includes the headquarters, divisions and districts. Positions include a Levee Safety Officer, the technical lead for levee safety issues and decisions, and Levee Safety Program Manager, who is responsible for coordination and implementation of the Levee Safety Program. Headquarters has an additional position, Special Assistant for Levee Safety. The USACE Levee Safety Community of Practice works within the authorities and responsibilities outlined in the Inspection of Completed Works, Public Law 84-99, and the specific authorities of individual projects. Work is accomplished under the Flood Risk Management Business Line. The primary lead for the Levee Safety program is the Engineering and Construction CoP. At HQ, the principals are James Dalton, Dam and Levee Safety Officer, Eric Halpin, Special Assistant for Dam and Levee Safety, and Tammy Conforti, Levee Safety Program Manager.

## **USACE Levee Safety Activities:**

- Populating and maintaining the National Levee Database (NLD) to serve as a living, dynamic record of information relative to the status and safety of the nation's levee systems.
- Conducting both routine (every year) and periodic (every 5 years) inspections to –
  - 1) To ensure that the levee system will perform as expected.
  - 2) To identify deficiencies or areas which need monitoring or immediate repair.
  - 3) To continuously assess the integrity of the levee system in order to identify any changes over time.
  - 4) To collect information in order to be able to make informed decisions about future actions.
  - 5) To determine eligibility for federal rehabilitation funding for the levee in accordance with PL 84-99.
  - 6) To determine if the levee is being properly operated and maintained.
  - 7) To determine if the local sponsor is in compliance with the project partnership agreement, if applicable.
- Applying a levee screening tool that combines inspection data with a preliminary engineering assessment and maximizes the use of existing information (inspection ratings and consequence data) and local knowledge of levee performance. Results will be used to rank levees based on relative risk to help inform decisions about future actions to improve public safety associated with the levees.
- Incorporating changes and improvements associated with the state-of-the-art professional engineering practice into its levee safety policy and procedures.