

# Levee Safety Policies Supporting a Sustainable Flood Risk Management Program

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# Discussion Topics

- Principles Embedded in Levee Policy Change
- Levee Safety Policy as Part of Overall Mission Accomplishment
- Current Levee Safety Policy Activity
- Path Forward on Levee Safety Policy



# Levee Policy Principles (a sampling)

- Accompany with Commensurate Process and People Changes
- Decision Oriented – Risk Informed
- Institutionalize Lessons....but
- ....Compliance Requires Critical Thinking
  - ▶ One Size Does Not Fit All



# Policy as an Aid to Sponsor Flood Risk Management

## Old Way

- Handoff Between Corps and Sponsors
- Decision Framework Not as Clear
- Paper Trails
- Silent on Role of Communication

## New Way

- Continuing Collaboration with Sponsors
- Puts Form and Substance to “Shared Responsibilities”
  - ▶ Decision Framework
  - ▶ Roles and Options
- Data Rich Environment
- Communication an Explicit Part of Policy



# Policy as an Aid to Understanding the Nature and Severity of Flood Risk

## Old Way

- Condition Based
- Economic Consequences
- Considers Exceedance Events?
- Doesn't Consider Non-Breach Risk

## New Way

- Risk Informed
- Life Safety, Economic, and All Consequences
- Considers Exceedance Events!
- Considers Non-Breach Risks



# Elements of Mission Accomplishment

Policy

- What, Who, When and How of Levee Safety Activities

Technical &  
Program  
Guidance

Process

- Management Framework & Technical Tools for Policy Implementation

Cadres  
LS SC  
SOG  
Models

People

- Sustain a Competent and Capable Workforce to Implement Policies

CoP  
RMC  
MMC  
Training  
Bench Building



# Current Policy Activities

## Program Policy – What and When

- Levee Safety Engineering Circular – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter FY13
- Interim Policies in Place
  - ▶ ECB IRRM
  - ▶ Periodic Inspections
  - ▶ Program Standup
- Vegetation Policies:
  - ▶ ETL 571 Standard
  - ▶ System Wide Improvement Framework
  - ▶ PGL on Variances

## Technical Guidance – How

- Levee Design
- Seepage
- Seismic Stability
- Hydrologic Analysis
- Culverts
- Risk Assessment



# Levee Safety EC

## *“Culture Changers”*

- Levee Modifications will be planned and formulated fully compliant with the new Planning Paradigm
- Corps has an important role in communicating and advising sponsors of benefits and risks of levee systems
- Life Safety Risks are an explicit consideration in the policy





# Approach to Future Policies

- More Integrated Across Disciplines, Programs, and Communities of Practice
- Better Technology and Policy Transfer
- More Stakeholder Feedback

