

Stakeholder Email Comments:

From: [Francie Cohen](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: "Westfield Boulevard Alignment" option
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 11:31:11 PM

Michael,

Thank you for your time and all of your effort on this project. My family has been in our house in Warleigh since 1956. I will be to the point and express my opinion and vote for the Westfield Blvd. Alignment option.

Best regards.

Francie Cohen
6066 Meridian St West Dr

Colonel Luke T. Leonard

District Commander
USArmy Corps Of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Colonel Leonard,

As a resident of the Butler Tarkington community with relatives in the Rocky Ripple community, I am strong opposed to the flood wall currently being proposed. I believe it has adverse impacts on the community. In addition, based on Citizens Water stance, it also has adverse impacts on the city of Indianapolis water and wastewater systems.

Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association points of concern with the current, proposed plan:

- Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lowe
Butler Tarkington Resident

From: [Andrew Buckner](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#); btnaboard@gmail.com
Subject: Butler Tarkington Floodwall
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 4:35:04 PM

Mr. Michael Turner
US Army Corps Of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201

We have lived at 5530 N. Kenwood Ave. in the Butler Tarkington neighborhood for 14 years. We live within sight of the canal. I was appalled to see that the proposed floodwall design could lead to the sewers backing up in up to 5,000 homes if a flood occurred. We have had the sewers back up about 10" - 12" inches deep in our basement twice since we moved here. The first time we removed all of the non-structural walls in the basement and filled a 20 yard dumpster with trash and damaged possessions. We also had to replace our washer and dryer. I used all the salvaged wood to build shelves that are 12" above the floor. The second time this happened we only lost a couple of trash bags worth of valuables due to most valuables were on the shelves. I surmise that if the sewers backed up due to a valve closing as part of the floodwall, that we would have significantly more sewage in the basement than before. In this case the cure would be much worse than the cause.

Another item that hasn't been addressed is the construction of a new state-of-the-art sewage pump station that has been built since your original design. The flood wall will be on the wrong side of the enhanced original structure and the new pumps, computers, and substation would be a complete loss if they were flooded.

Our house was built in 1935 and in all that time there has not been a flood that has over topped the canal.

Finally, I wonder if anyone has done any study on what happens when a river does over top an actively used canal. It would seem to me that the water would flow down the canal and away from the point of intrusion. If a flood gate were to be installed down stream on the canal wall, the over top water could be dumped back into the river below Butler University where there would be no damage to structures.

We urge you to cancel the current placement and design of the proposed floodwall and consider other options.

Andrew and Mary K. Buckner
5530 N. Kenwood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Alissa Wetzel](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Butler Tarkington Floodwall
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 4:26:48 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to express my disapproval of the proposed floodwall to be built in the Butler Tarkington neighborhood for the reasons set forth herein.

(1) The proposed wall cuts through Butler property, including the historic Holcomb Gardens. This could hinder the campus' future development, as evidenced by the Butler Board of Trustee's disapproval of your plan. Butler is a vibrant part of Indianapolis and is expected to grow exponentially over the coming decades. The floodwall would cut through an area that is crucial for University expansion. It's bad for Butler and that means its bad for the city, as well as the University's supporters and alumni.

(2) The proposed plan leaves Rocky Ripple vulnerable to potential flooding. The idea of leaving part of the neighborhood vulnerable is shameful from a humanitarian perspective, bad for the University, and problematic for the city.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Respectfully,
Alissa C Wetzel, Butler Class of 2004

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Roscoe, Shelby](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Butler-Tarkington Flood Wall Project
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 12:08:38 PM

Please know that I am opposed to the Butler-Tarkington flood wall project for the below reasons.

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

Sincerely,

Shelby Roscoe

Butler-Tarkington Resident

From: [Jan](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Canal changes
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 8:12:45 PM

Please listen to the estimated 5000 people whose sewers would back up and whose homes would be flooded!

Rocky Ripple residents deserve consideration, too!

Jan Hernly
4736 N. Kenwood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Sarah Walter](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Central Canal floodwall project comments (Indianapolis)
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 1:37:39 PM

To Michael Turner:

Hello,

I am writing as a resident of the Butler Tarkington neighborhood with concerns about the proposed flood wall along the Central Canal. Below are a few of my concerns:

*

Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents – their homes deserve to be protected as well, and residents should not be held to a vote taken more than a decade ago

*

Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal

*

Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens – as a Butler alum, I would hate to see this beautiful area compromised

*

Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

*

The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.

*

The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.

*

A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall – as someone who jogs along the towpath almost daily, this is extremely important to me. One of the reasons we bought our home in Butler-Tarkington was because of the access to the great towpath.

*

A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.

*

If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

I know many residents of Butler-Tarkington and Meridian Kessler have voiced these and other concerns. I strongly encourage you to take these concerns into account and consider a redesign of the

project. These are our homes, and this is our neighborhood – and we want the best for all our residents.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sarah Walter

Butler-Tarkington resident

From: [Steve Brining](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Comment for there Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 11:28:29 AM

Good Morning Mr. Turner,

I am writing to voice my approval for the currently suggested plan for the completion of the flood project in Indianapolis. I have read through the modified original plan as well as the optional plans than think that the modified plan that the Corps is suggesting does a good job of adapting to concerns by local residents. A lower wall combined with removable panels will retain most of the view that local residents feared losing while keeping costs down.

The 56th street plan looked like a viable option until I noticed that it would leave more residents out of protection, as well as trigger another 3 year study. The plan to include Rocky Ripple appears to be too costly at this point when factoring in both the delays in time for studies and congressional approval, as well as the cost per residence. I understand that some residents there may have changed their mind, and many residents could have moved to the area since the 1996. I also understand that these project take years to plan and implement. The currently modified plan would give the most protection to the largest number of neighborhoods that opted to participate when the project was being developed.

In order to assist Rocky Ripple residents, the Corps could do a study on the options available to that neighborhood for getting flood protection after the last phase of the current project is completed. This will give residents as well as the city a clear path forward for preparing the area for a major construction project in the future as well as preparing for and securing the associated costs.

Thanks for taking the time to read this,
Steve Brining
6207 N Park Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317-506-1177

From: [CHRISTINE N CARLSON](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: [Brooke Klejnot](#); [Will Carlson](#)
Subject: Comments and opinions re: DSEIS of 6-29-12
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 11:24:20 PM

September 28, 2012

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
P.O. Box 59
ATTN: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Dear Col. Leonard:

I am opposed to the recommendations made in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Phase 3B of the White River (North) Flood Damage Reduction Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement ("DSEIS"), dated June 29, 2012, and I am also opposed to the major clearing of trees in Phases 3A and 3C.

Your recommended plan puts the flood wall between the canal and Westfield Blvd., and I respectfully request that ACE reevaluate the entire plan and prepare and pursue alternatives that protect Rocky Ripple, the Canal and Holcomb Gardens and that minimize tree loss.

A plan that is not good for all neighborhoods, is not good for any neighborhood. Concerns raised about the safety of the residents of Rocky Ripple, the gross clear-cutting of trees, the risk to the City of Indianapolis' water supply, and the walling off of neighborhoods has convinced me that the negative impacts outweigh the potential benefits from completing one of the proposed recommendations, especially since certification, and relief from flood insurance and flood proofing for our constituents, is not guaranteed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully

Christine N. Carlson
6330 N. Park Avenue
Indianapolis IN 46220
317-257-5413

Christine N. Carlson
317-257-5413

Simplicity is the glory of expression.
.....Walt Whitman

Comments on

*DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT*
FOR
INDIANAPOLIS NORTH FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Prepared by US Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District
June 2012

By Peter M. Boerger, Ph.D., P.E.
305 W 46th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

I. Introduction

My name is Peter M. Boerger, and I am a resident of the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood of Indianapolis. My training is in engineering, economics and public policy analysis. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Public Administration from Purdue University and a Ph.D. in Engineering Economics from the School of Industrial Engineering at Purdue University. I have worked a range of positions analyzing technical/economic public policy issues over my career. I hold a Professional Engineer license from the State of Wisconsin, but my intent in these comments is to provide a review of the economic and public policy aspects of the proposal in the context of the project's overall technical nature, not a review of engineering calculations or design analysis related to the project.

I intend my comments to target one particular aspect of the *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement* ("DSEIS"). The fact that I do not address in detail other aspects of the DSEIS (such as the morality of walling in a community during a flood event and the effect of the proposed wall on the beauty of a historic canal) should not be viewed as my lack concern about these other deficiencies in the report, only that I believe other commenters have and will comment on them adequately.

The topic of my comments here concern apparent and unexplained inconsistencies between the analysis in the DSEIS and the analysis presented in the 1990s Corps document reporting on the economics of the project at that time. Resolving those inconsistencies could have a decision-altering effect on the economics of the "Rocky Ripple Alternative" analyzed in the DSEIS.

II. Economics of Protecting Rocky Ripple in the 1990s' Corps Analysis

The economics of the overall flood control project were analyzed in the 1990s in a Corps document entitled "Indianapolis North Flood Control Feasibility Study, Indianapolis, Indiana, Interim Feasibility Report, CWIS #12759, Volume II – Appendix A Economics" (referred to here as "Appendix A"). While there is no date listed on my copy of that document, I believe it to have been written and presented in or around 1996.

Section "III" of that document, titled "The Feasibility Study" describes a major refinement made to the mapping of the reaches along the river as part of the feasibility study that led to combining the Warfleigh, Broad Ripple and Monon Reaches into one reach called the "Warfleigh Reach" (for purposes of these comments we will refer to this newly combined reach as the "Combined Warfleigh Reach").

Specifically that report says:

“More accurate existing ground elevation data obtained by District survey crews established a hydraulic link (i.e. flooding at one reach affects flooding at another) between the Warfleigh, Broad Ripple and Monon Reaches. The Warfleigh Reach limits have been changed to include these additional upstream adjacent reaches plus the downstream unprotected adjacent reach LWR-3.”

Apparently, the Corps staff analyzed the hydraulic linkage between the reaches under study and decided that there was hydraulic linkage between the the three reaches referenced and thus chose to combine them for purposes of economic analysis. This presumption is confirmed by the numbers of Commercial Structures found in Table A-2 of Appendix A. That table shows 230 commercial structures in the Combined Warfleigh Reach, with that high number of commercial structures being possible only if the Broad Ripple business district were included in the new Combined Warfleigh Reach. The effect of that decision on economics of the old (pre-combined) Warfleigh Reach was to incorporate the benefit of around \$15 million dollars of prevented commercial flood damage in a 100 year flood event (Table A-7 of Appendix A).

Significantly, the Rocky Ripple Reach was not included in the Combined Warfleigh Reach. Given the clearly stated reason for combining the Monon, Broad Ripple and (previous) Warfleigh reaches, one can only presume that Rocky Ripple was not included because the Rocky Ripple reach was found to be not hydraulically linked to the other reaches. If it were hydraulically linked, it would make no sense to leave it as a separately analyzed unit at that time.

The fact of Rocky Ripple’s isolation from the other analyzed units can be seen in Table A-2 of Appendix A, which lists only 350 residential structures in that analysis unit. Significantly, Rocky Ripple is shown to have no (zero) commercial structures for purposes of the economic analysis performed in Appendix A. This implies that Rocky Ripple was not even given the benefit of prevented flood damages at the businesses located in the 56th & Illinois business district. Rocky Ripple was clearly isolated from a significant part of, if not all of, the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood in that analysis. Interestingly, in spite of that restriction, the Rocky Ripple portion of the project passed economic feasibility (had Benefit Cost ratios greater than 1) for two of three alternative configurations for flood protection in a 300 year flood analysis (see Table A-13(b) of Appendix A).

III. Hydraulic Linkage of the Rocky Ripple Reach to the Combined Warleigh Reach in the DSEIS

Contrary to the apparent conclusion of the Corps about hydraulic linkage in 1996, the Corps’ 2012 DSEIS has apparently concluded that a hydraulic linkage exists between the Rocky Ripple reach and the Combined Warfleigh Reach of the river. On page 9 of the DSEIS it says

“The Corps determined that the downstream end of the floodwall needed to be extended, beyond the southern limits of the Riviera Club property, to terminate at a higher existing ground elevation in order to provide 300-year level of protection. The existing ground elevation at that location is lower than the elevation required for the project’s 300-year level of protection. Construction of a 6-inch to 24-inch high wall, adjacent to the canal towpath, that would terminate along the towpath embankment at high ground in the vicinity of the Butler University athletic fields was investigated. After extensive review of geotechnical conditions, the Corps determined the towpath alignment was not technically and economically feasible. Therefore, the Corps is now proposing an alternate alignment to terminate the downstream end of the floodwall.”

The Corps’ proposed “alignment” includes a wall along Westfield Boulevard and through Butler University property at a height up to 6.5 feet (page 18 of DSEIS). Far from the lack of “hydraulic linkage” implied in the 1996-vintage Appendix A report, the Corps now finds enough linkage to warrant a wall reaching over 6 feet tall. Unfortunately, the DSEIS is silent on this disparity.

IV. Implications of the Corps’ Apparently New Hydraulic Linkage Position for the Economics of Protecting Rocky Ripple

If a 6 foot high wall is needed along Westfield Boulevard, then there is clear “hydraulic linkage” to the neighborhoods surrounding Rocky Ripple. At a minimum, Rocky Ripple should receive the benefit of flood protection to houses in Butler-Tarkington neighborhood and the businesses at 56th & Illinois Streets. With that kind of hydraulic linkage, it may in fact make sense to include much or all of the Combined Warfleigh Reach in calculating the benefits of flood protection for Rocky Ripple. Yet we see nothing in the DSEIS indicating that such additional economic benefits were contemplated in the analysis of the “Rocky Ripple Alternative.” Tellingly, no formal benefit cost analysis was even presented in the DSEIS due to a referenced “preliminary analysis” showing a b/c ratio less than 1 (page 15 of the DSEIS). Given the importance of the Corps’ proposed alternative excluding Rocky Ripple from protection and its implications for the protection of Rocky Ripple residents and their property, it is important for the Corps to address specifically which benefits it included in its “preliminary analysis” and whether or not those benefits should be extended to encompass flood protection benefits for additional structures. Based on the significant height of the wall proposed for the proposed protection plan, it may be that the benefits, when calculated, may in fact change the b/c ratio for the Rocky Ripple Alternative to being greater than 1. At a minimum, interested parties should be able to look at the Corps methodology for benefits calculation and comment on it.

From: [Reich, Marlene](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: [Andy Chrapla](#)
Subject: Comments on Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 9:54:42 AM

As long time residents of Warfleigh who lived through more than 2 years of levee construction, we are extremely displeased with the corps' current plan which now calls for the removal of the majority of the vegetation. We have been advised that the additional tree removal is required due to post-Katrina standards that did not previously exist; however, the degree to which the corps now intends to clearcut will change a scenic, migratory riparian corridor to an urban drainage ditch, destroying the natural beauty and distinctive nature of our neighborhood. We do not recall ever hearing of vegetation causing the failure of the flood walls/levees in New Orleans, nor do we believe that the extent of vegetation removal proposed in the Draft SEIS is required.

We urge the corps to reconsider the extent of the tree removal proposed in the current SEIS.

Marlene Reich and Andrew Chrapla
6139 Riverview Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Taft /

Marlene Reich / Partner
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2023
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###

From: [Mick Gregory](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: [Mick Gregory](#)
Subject: Comments On Levee Proposal
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 6:26:33 PM

From: Mick Gregory
5367 Riverview Dr
Indianapolis
IN 46208

To: Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers,
Louisville District
PO Box 59
ATTN: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Date: 9/26/12

Re: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B

Dear Sir

I've lived in Rocky Ripple for quite a few years. I'm in my 60's and really don't want to relocate at this time in my life. In addition I don't have a lot of money and there is little chance I could get a new place equivalent to my home in Rocky Ripple, especially if a wall was built cutting Rocky Ripple off. A lot of other residents here are in a similar situation.

I know that money is in short supply today, but this plan is unfair to the residents of Rocky Ripple. If we were unaffected by the new wall I could understand the necessity of the authorities deciding they couldn't afford to provide us with flood protection. But we would be affected. Your proposal asserts that our situation would not be adversely affected by the building of the wall along the canal, but that assertion can only be supported by ignoring a whole bunch of factors. All the work you have carried out upstream has changed the flow pattern of the river. The value of our homes would drop through the floor and they might be hard to sell at any price, we would be forced to evacuate whenever the river level rose, and sooner or later we would be flooded. Etc.

Part of this plan requires that the 2 roads into Rocky Ripple be closed with sandbags to complete the flood barrier. This will be done whenever there is a flood warning. We would be subject to mandatory evacuation during high water events, however long that lasted. I personally don't have family nearby. I don't have a lot of spare money so paying for short term accommodation whenever there is a high water event would be a problem for me. The tools with which I make my living would be stuck in my

garage, unless I rented a storage unit and a van to move them out. My other option would be to stay, be left stranded and cut off from emergency services, and unable to drive in or out or make a living. And when Rocky Ripple does eventually flood we will be denied the opportunity to save our possessions. This part of the plan just leaves me shaking my head with disbelief that it could even be proposed.

Do you want to watch that on your TV? People returning home from vacation unable to reach their homes, turned away by Police at the sandbags. People who didn't get out in time trapped on the other side of the wall. Old or sick people who prevaricated about leaving being evacuated by helicopter if the water kept rising. Others clambering over the sandbags like refugees clutching suitcases and pets. Homes left unprotected from looters and frozen pipes. Tropical fish and chickens dying. Groups of distressed residents hanging out by the sandbags. And all this to protect an adjacent neighborhood.

It appears that the purpose of this project is to protect the homes to the east, which are worth more money than the homes in Rocky Ripple. The decision to exclude Rocky Ripple was apparently made on the basis that our homes are not worth enough to tip the cost benefit scales. So we have to be written off, in effect, to protect wealthier folks on the other side of the canal.

I am convinced that there are ways to protect Rocky Ripple, along with Butler University and the canal that provides most of the City's water, and do it without knocking down a bunch of houses. There was a previous plan that did this without the enormous price tag that appears in the current plan.

The price tag that was used to justify excluding Rocky Ripple from the project appears to have been inflated in various ways. It includes the cost of demolishing dozens of the highest value houses in the town and relocating those residents, without providing a comparison with the cost of extending the levee out on the river side and saving the houses, as the previous plan did. It includes the cost of running sewers to houses by the levee that would lose their septic systems, which would require a lift station, and sewer lines running all the way around the perimeter of the town. In other words a large percentage of the cost of installing sewers for the entire town, which shouldn't be charged to the levee project at all. And who knows what else, since no cost breakdown was provided. It just appears that the decision was made not to include Rocky Ripple, and the estimate was structured to support that decision, with no details of the cost of items making up the estimate provided, making it impossible for anyone to question the estimate before the end of the comment period.

I would ask you to reconsider at this time. Provide the costing information that was omitted from the proposal so residents and others can see the actual basis of the huge estimate for the cost of including Rocky Ripple. And then give us some time to absorb this information and respond to it. The decision should not be made on the basis of this outline proposal prior to the release of the costing information.

And if you can't come up with a plan that protects Rocky Ripple then you might try to come up with one that doesn't blow us away.

Thank you

Mick Gregory

From: [Harriet Lowe](#)
To: lori.miser@indy.gov; [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Comments on US Army Corps of Engineers Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS)
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 7:11:23 PM

Harriet and Richard Lowe
5108 Riverview Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRE-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Dear Colonel Leonard,

My husband and I already submitted comments on the proposed Westfield Boulevard Alignment of the downstream end of the Indianapolis North Floodwall and to reject all alignment options as they do not consider the needs of our community and the people who live in Rocky Ripple.

We would like to add some historical perspective to this deliberation. Our neighbor, Wayne Dowell, 5102 Riverview Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208, had a lengthy conversation with my husband and shared his intimate and personal knowledge of the current levee wall. Mr. Dowell is seventy-six years old. He moved to Rocky Ripple when he was two years old in 1936. He watched the levee being built and finished in 1939 and has a keen perspective on Rocky Ripple and flood protection.

We would like to share some of his recollections and comments with you.

- No bulldozers or other power equipment was used to build the levee. Mr. Dowell remembers dump trucks running up and down the river bringing dirt. The levee was built by hand through the WPA.
- Most of the houses on the River south from 52nd Street were built in the 1920s and were there when the levee was built.
- His house was moved up and forward toward the river by ten feet as were all the houses that were already built along our part of Riverview Drive. This was done so that all the houses would meet the levee on the river side in a straight line. The levee was built around our homes. We can see the

evidence of this move in the basement wall construction in our house as can all our neighbors.

- The big trees that are growing on the levee were there when the levee was built and remain here...they have only grown bigger.

- The river always used to be consistently three feet deep instead of eighteen inches. The depth of the river changed after Morse Reservoir was built and damned...and the water gates installed in Broad Ripple. The width of the river has remained about the same except a bit wider when the river is at its lowest levels

- Regardless of what the experts say, Mr. Dowell has watched the ebb and flow of the river for nearly seventy years and he believes we have at least fifty more years before we would need to consider major work for flood protection, not the seven years that we are being frightened by.

- Mr. Dowell's major concern is that he will not be able to live out his life in the only house he has lived in for near seventy-five years and he will not be able to afford to go elsewhere if his house is taken by imminent domain.

There is much to conclude from this conversation with Mr. Dowell. We know that most of the targeted river houses and trees were here prior to the levee, and since the houses were moved up and forward toward the river by the WPA, our homes are not "encroaching" on the levee, but in fact were intentionally incorporated into the levee and have been, for seventy-five years, an integral part of the integrity of the levee. Removal of these homes and structures might arguably compromise the levee further.

We respectfully request that the ACE consider these issues in your deliberation and determination of what options are open for the future.

Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

Harriet and Richard Lowe

cc: Lori Miser, Director

Indianapolis Department of Public Works

lori.miser@indy.gov

Wm. Michael Turner

Chief, Environmental Resources

CELRL-PM-P-E (Room 708)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
michael.turner@usace.army.mil

Senator Richard Lugar
1180 Market Tower
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Harriet Lowe
317-797-2567

011-521-998-221-2732 (Mexico Cell)

From: elliottbc@gmail.com on behalf of [Bryan Elliott](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Comments regarding proposed Floodwall - Phase 3B of the White River (North) Flood Damage Reduction project in Indianapolis Indiana
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 10:50:56 PM

Dear Mr. Turner,

My name is Bryan Elliott and I am a nearly 20 year resident of the Butler Tarkington area community affected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' decision to continue recommending the originally proposed construction of a floodgate and floodwall. Although unable to attend the scheduled August 23rd public comment meeting I have reviewed the USACE's proposal and would like to formally express my opposition to the plan. In general my concerns mirror those expressed by the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association including 1) the project's failure to protect the 300 household in the adjacent Rocky Ripple neighborhood from flooding 2) the project's failure to protect a significant portion of the Central Canal from flooding; thereby potentially compromising the primary fresh water source for much of Indianapolis 3) the project's creation of a physical and visual barrier that will irreparably destroy the aesthetics and embedded sense of nature that have made this neighborhood one of the most desirable in Indianapolis. Selfishly I'm aware that this last point may also lower the value of my nearby home and negatively impact the business area at 56th and Illinois St where my wife is currently employed but, ultimately, my interest and opposition is most strongly driven by what I truly believe is best for the community. Consequently I would encourage the USACE to seek out other alternatives that strike a better balance between community safety and disruption.

Sincerely,

Bryan Elliott
5154 N Illinois Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208



**THE COUNCIL
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
MARION COUNTY**

John Barth
Councillor, At-Large
Community Affairs Com, Chair

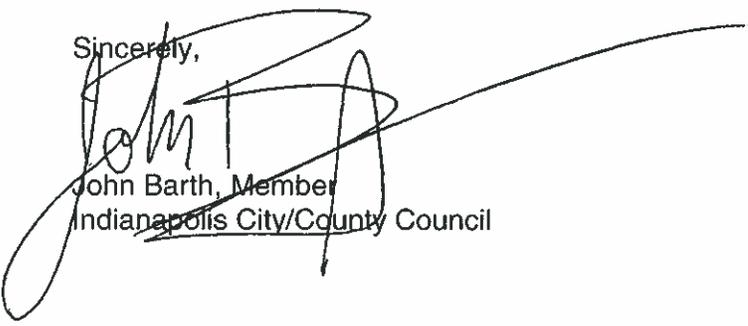
September 27, 2012

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
USArmy Corps Of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Colonel Leonard -

As you know, On August 23, 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) hosted a public hearing for Indianapolis residents to comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Phase 3B of the White River, Indianapolis North Flood Reduction Project. I am writing to restate my view, stated verbally on August 23rd, that I oppose any plan that crosses the Canal and does not provide flood protection to the community of Rocky Ripple. It is my belief that the USACE and the city should listen to the neighborhoods instead of forcing a non-responsive, improperly designed project on the community. There is time to work with neighborhoods to find a solution that works for all of the mid north region of the city.

Sincerely,



John Barth, Member
Indianapolis City/County Council

From: [Ann Dempsey](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Concern with the Flood Wall in Butler-Tarkington
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 3:10:19 PM

Hi Colonel Luke T. Leonard,

I am a resident of Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood in INdianapolis, and I'm writing to voice my concern about the building of the flood wall. My chief points of concern are:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti

Please reconsider your plan to put the lives and homes of Rocky Ripple residents at risk by building the flood wall.

Thank you for your time,
Ann Dempsey
5121 Boulevard Place
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Betty Cook](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Corps of Eng. flood wall
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 1:57:50 PM

As a person who has been living in the B.T. neighborhood for 42 years I can support all the many reasons for putting the flood wall along the river rather than along the canal. Main ones being : protecting the persons living near the river, and avoiding flooding and possible destruction of portions of the Butler campus.

Many dollars have been spent by the Corps. protecting land, and people in this country. I do believe this project is as important as some other Corps. Projects that have been done in the past. Thank you for your attention to my comments. David Griffith Brunercook@sbcglobal.net

From: [Lara Vallely](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: lori.miser@indy.gov
Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 12:40:37 PM

September 2012

Wm. Michael Turner
Chief, Environmental Resources
US Army Corps of Engineers
michael.turner@usace.army.mil

RE: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B

Mr. Turner,

18 months ago I wrote you a letter expressing my disagreement & concern with the proposed levee to be built along the Indianapolis Canal. I'm so very disappointed this plan is still set to continue.

My family & I have lived in Rocky Ripple for 6 years. We are tax-paying citizens that expect flood protection. Without overstating it: we are shocked & horrified the ACE is attempting to build a levee that will wall us into our neighborhood in a major flood event. Should there be a flood event & the 52nd & 53rd St bridges are sandbagged, how can you ensure no one has been left behind? With the massive amount of development & channeling that has occurred north of us, the river rises quickly! If there is a middle of the night emergency the ACE's current proposal ensures devastation for my family & our neighborhood. Your proposal doesn't just endanger our property: it threatens actual human lives.

It also leaves the Indianapolis water canal – a city feature rich with historical, cultural, & environmental value - completely vulnerable in case of a major flood event. The canal supplies water to 60% of Indianapolis citizens. I do not understand how the ACE can jeopardize this source of drinking water!

Development changes in land upstream from us coupled with the Army Corps of Engineer's channeling of the White River, leave our neighborhood increasingly vulnerable to high water events. Historical crests along our portion of the White River have occurred twice in 2008 & once in 2009 & 2010. Flood protection for our neighborhood has never been more imperative. Yet, what the ACE proposes is the exact opposite for our community. Surely this proposal must be pulled in favor of a flood protection plan that protects all of Indianapolis. Do not wall an entire community out.

Sincerely,

Lara Vallely

Rocky Ripple Resident
5125 Crown St
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [LRL-Pagemaster-PA LRL](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (UNCLASSIFIED)
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 10:41:41 AM

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Mike

Public Affairs received this message through our LRL-Pagemaster-PA.

Thank you

LRL-Pagemaster-PA

-----Original Message-----

From: Jennifer Dixon [<mailto:dixonjennifer6@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 2:57 PM
To: LRL-Pagemaster-PA LRL
Subject: To: Colonel Luke T. Leonard

Dear Colonel Leonard,

We are not interested in the proposed flood wall intended for the Central Canal in Indianapolis. There are a variety of concerns, two examples would be the decline in beauty of our area and the decrease in property value due to the creation of the flood wall.

Thank You,

Jennifer Dixon

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

From: [Jennifer Dixon](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood Wall
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 10:18:58 AM

Dear Mr. Turner,

I am opposition to the proposed flood wall for the Central Canal. There are many concerns: the reduction in property value, ruining the aesthetics of our community, a contaminated water supply during a flood, destroying Holcomb Gardens and perhaps permanently destroy the canal itself, trash and graffiti would collect on the wall, people using the tow path could not be seen behind the wall and may jeopardize their security, because a sewer valve would be required the sewer could back up into our homes, the canal is eligible for the Nation Register of Historic Places the flood wall would ruin that opportunity, and there is no guarantee of the flood insurance requirements would be removed or reduced by FEMA. Our health, safety and property value are in danger, the canal wall is completely unacceptable gamble that is not guaranteed to do what it would be built to do, and would cause more problems in the long run. This would be a detriment to the community.

Thank You,

Jennifer Dixon

From: [Joe Fox](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: DSEIS- Army Corps Indianapolis Flood Wall Project
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 9:54:59 PM

We vote for the Westfield Boulevard Alignment option with regards to the above project. We are homeowners in the 6000 block of N. Central Ave. in the Warfleigh neighborhood, Indianapolis, IN. We understand the public comment period is coming to a close, and, like many of our neighbors we would like to add our voice to the mix.

Sincerely Yours,

Joseph Fox and Dr. Bethany Fox
6235 Central Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

To whom it may concern:

My name is Bradley Thomas Barcom and I live at 731 W 53rd St, Indianapolis IN 46208. I have been a resident of Rocky Ripple for approximately 8 years. Quite frankly, I love my town and am proud to call myself a resident. Rocky Ripple is like no other community that I've ever lived in. It's the first place that I've ever been where people really do know and look out for each other. We have an eclectic mix of inhabitants representing a wide range of educational and vocational backgrounds. We have teachers, doctors, lawyers, carpenters, mechanics, programmers, etc. I myself am a computer systems analyst for the Senior Health Insurance of Pennsylvania.

I am writing this letter today because I would like the Army Corp of Engineers to rethink the proposed alignment of their Indianapolis North Side Flood project. Not only does the proposed alignment threaten to destroy one of Indianapolis' oldest landmarks – the Indianapolis Canal, but it also threatens to wall off an entire community of over 700 inhabitants guaranteeing their almost certain doom. That community is my community, Rocky Ripple.

Having read the ACE DSEIS a couple of times, it is made perfectly clear that the choice to go down the canal as opposed to going around and including Rocky Ripple is a financial one, plain and simple. And at first blush, it almost makes sense. Seeing the price tag of including Rocky Ripple (50,300,000) alongside the price of sacrificing the canal (14,400,000) one is swayed into entertaining the less costly alternative, regardless how unsightly and destructive it would be to the area and local communities. The Central Indiana Canal is a much-loved space, used by many of us, me included, and it would be a tragedy to see it marred unnecessarily, but I'd certainly entertain the said alignment if it really made sense financially. I'm a fiscal conservative and believe that the government should be fiscally responsible at all times.

This wide cost differential, however, immediately raises the question as to what constitutes the difference. Why does one alternative cost so much more than the other? Why does the other alternative cost nearly as much as the whole 3-phase project put together? Seeing as the DSEIS was 112 pages long, I expected to find an itemization or a general cost breakdown of these

figures with each page I came to. Alas, however, after reading all 112 pages twice, I was left with only questions and no answers.

The lack of a cost breakdown especially struck me as odd because the cost was quite literally the impetus behind the alignment that was proposed. For all intents and purposes, the DSEIS could have said the canal alignment would cost 4 million and the Rocky Ripple alignment would cost 60 million. With no substantiating evidence, one can say anything or make any claim. In order to be taken seriously, though, or evaluated properly, one needs to see the facts behind the figures or the breakdowns behind the cost estimates.

This lack of “real” data behind these figures bothered me so much that I and many others in my community brought this up during the ACE community hearing over the DSEIS. To this day, I’ve yet to see any breakdown forthcoming.

That being said, for the sake of argument, let’s just say that the estimates are accurate, that it would cost 35 million more dollars to go around Rocky Ripple as opposed to just walling it off. According to the DSEIS findings, the additional 35 million dollar expense was not cost-justified because it didn’t meet a “1:1 ratio” necessary to be economically feasible. Doing a little math, however, this assertion would seem to be a myopic if not a bit specious. Going to a website like www.city-data.com, one quickly sees that the mean house value of a Rocky Ripple home is \$126,052. Given that estimate, it could probably easily be assumed that, on average, each of the 324 homes in Rocky Ripple would receive around \$100,000.00 damage (a generously conservative estimate) in a catastrophic flood event, not to mention the disruption of life and displacement of every family in the community, a displacement that would most likely be permanent, as they could never go back and rebuild.

So property damage alone would come to around \$32,000,000.00, a figure that is within a hair’s breadth away from the \$35 million dollar incremental cost figure for the Rocky Ripple alignment. So just considering property damage in Rocky Ripple, not even mentioning the untold pain and suffering by those who lost their homes and their community, we are just about even when comparing alignments and the potential cost benefits.

At this point, one could argue that the property damage costs are not a “sure thing,” that they may or may not come to pass. This is, however, not in keeping with the reality of current state of

repair of the Rocky Ripple levee. Recent estimates have now put Rocky Ripple in a 15 year flood plain or a 6.7% per annum of flooding, pretty much assuring that it's not a matter of "if" but "when" Rocky Ripple will be completely flooded.

Now, when one takes a step back and considers the fact that going around Rocky Ripple also saves/preserves two of Indiana's finest landmarks, the Central Indiana Canal and Butler University's Holcomb Gardens, the scales undeniably tilt in favor of the Rocky Ripple Alignment. Quite literally, it's a "win, win, win" situation. Rocky Ripple wins because their community is saved from eminent destruction, Butler University wins because they preserve the natural beauty of their historic gardens, and all of Indiana/Indianapolis wins because one of their oldest historic landmarks in the form of the Central Indiana Canal is preserved.

But that's not where the winning ends. Actually, perhaps the most important byproduct of choosing the Rocky Ripple Alignment is the preservation of Indianapolis' most important public water source. The Central Canal provides potable water for around 600,000 Indianapolis residents, nearly 60% of Indianapolis' population. If the Levee Project was to go down Westfield Boulevard, it would leave the Central Indiana Canal exposed to the potential threat of a flood event.

Repeatedly, the ACE DSEIS states that "the earthen mound of the canal towpath was constructed with poor soil materials." That being said, a major flood event would very possibly breach the canal wall and disrupt Indianapolis' water supply because the canal towpath wall just isn't substantial enough to hold back the waters of a serious flood event. As it is, the canal actually seeps water when the canal water itself gets high. I can only imagine the damage that would be done if the White River exceeded its banks and hit the Central Canal towpath wall dead-on. The result of such a breach would be an inflow of all the water from the flooded river and all the raw sewage from the septic systems in Rocky Ripple going along with it.

This is not a fanciful daydream either. It absolutely can happen. A little over a decade ago, a tree fell over that was growing on the Canal towpath wall and the Canal breached and all the water ran out of it, disrupting Indianapolis' water supply. That was one tree falling over and it took 100's of thousands of dollars and weeks to fix this one little breach, so it could only be

imagined what it would cost to repair a breach resultant of a major flood event, not to mention the cleanup costs associated with raw sewage getting into the city's drinking water supply.

So in essence, what we have with the adoption of the Rocky Ripple Alignment is quite literally a "win, win, win, win" situation. Not only would Rocky Ripple, Holcomb Gardens, the Central Indiana Canal be saved, but also 60% of Indianapolis' water supply would be protected from a major flood event.

So, in conclusion, it seems clear. We can either "win, win, win, win" or we can "lose, lose, lose, lose" depending on which alignment the city of Indianapolis and the Army Corp of Engineers choose. To me the choice seems simple. Talking to others in Rocky Ripple and surrounding communities, the choice seems simple to them as well, so simple in fact that the Rocky Ripple town board, Citizens Water, Butler University, the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association, and last but not least the Broad Ripple Neighborhood have all come out formally against the proposed alignment.

So fervent is the sentiment against the proposed alignment, a peaceful protest took place at the junction where the Town of Rocky Ripple meets the canal. The protest consisted of several hundred people from Rocky Ripple and the surrounding communities who want to preserve the Central Indiana Canal, Indianapolis' water supply, Butler University's Holcomb Gardens, and Rocky Ripple just by doing the right thing and including Rocky Ripple in the flood reduction project.

Below are a couple of links of videos of this protest:

1. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_TOXz-Rd4g
2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&v=gDxMXWbhucw&feature=endscreen>

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Bradley T. Barcom

From: [Elizabeth Price](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: DSEIS- Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction
Date: Wednesday, August 22, 2012 8:47:54 AM

Michael-

I have read through the DSEIS concerning the proposed actions of the US Army Corps of Engineers. I am a resident and homeowner in Warleigh (6264 Broadway St) and would like to express my support for the Westfield Boulevard Alignment.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Price

6264 Broadway St
Indianapolis, IN 46220

From: [Sue Mogle](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: DSEIS Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 1:19:59 PM

This is in reference to the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B. Any proposed construction of a flood wall anywhere other than the Rocky Ripple alignment should be stopped. The Corp of Engineers' own documents support the Rocky Ripple alignment as the best option for flood control for all concerns. The canal doesn't flood. The RIVER floods! Construct flood protection where it is actually needed!

The Rocky Ripple Alignment was the original alignment of the flood wall proposed by the Corps of Engineers 20 years ago, for good reason. That plan would reinforce the existing earthen levee, providing 100 year flood protection for Rocky Ripple as well as the Canal and adjoining neighborhoods without removing any homes and without extensive damage to habitat. Now this project has grown from a 100 year project to a "300 year" monstrosity, destroying huge tracts of trees, riparian habitat, and recreational land to create a huge eyesore that will not only NOT provide the intended flood protection, it will jeopardize the Central Canal, Holcomb Gardens, Butler Athletic fields, and the entire community of Rocky Ripple.

At the public comment meeting we heard talk of "cost versus benefit", yet none of the ACE documents actually detail any of the costs or benefits with a line item budget. ACE documents throw out big general numbers and terms-- \$14 million, \$35 million, 100 year, 300 year—with no details as to how these numbers are derived or the benefits of one plan versus another. These documents propose additional tree removal as if those trees had no value as habitat and recreational areas. These are OUR homes, OUR neighborhoods, OUR trees and habitat, and OUR tax dollars. In over 2 hours at the public comment meeting not one single comment in favor of the proposed alignment was made. \$14 million for a project no one wants is a waste of \$14 million of OUR money.

I respectfully request that you consider the 100 year flood plan, Rocky Ripple Alignment for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, White River (North), Phase IIIB.

Respectfully,

Sue Mogle

From: [Jim Poyser](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: lori.miser@indy.gov
Subject: EIS statement, Indpls White River
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 2:17:23 PM

Sept. 24, 2012

To: COLONEL LUKE T. LEONARD
DISTRICT COMMANDER
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT

In regards to the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B.

Dear Colonel Luke T. Leonard:

I was out of town the night of the public meeting of Aug. 23, and I do wish I'd been there to add my voice to the chorus crying for a re-envisioning of floodwall protection, one that includes protection for my neighborhood, Rocky Ripple.

From all accounts, you were a patient and respectful listener.

There has been a tremendous outpouring of community solidarity in these short weeks. It seems all the surrounding communities -- Meridian Kessler, Butler Tarkington, Broad Ripple -- are concerned about the existing plans, and demand that the US Army Corps of Engineers rethink its approach.

It's especially significant to me that Citizens Water and Butler University are opposed to the floodwall plans as well; obviously anyone connected with that general area is in opposition.

Had I lived in Rocky Ripple in 1996, I might very well have opposed a wall in my back yard. However, I have been tracking the increasingly volatile nature of our weather and now believe that a wall — or perhaps I should say a strengthened levee — is vital for the protection of all life and property in our neighborhood.

I'm not worried about property values. Property values are mostly for people who want to sell their house.

I don't want to sell my house; I don't want to move. I love where I live; I love being in a neighborhood where I know my neighbors. I love being in a neighborhood where we disagree ideologically from time to time, but our concern for the larger well-being of the neighborhood trumps individual concerns.

I also am not concerned about whether any of these plans do or don't affect flood insurance. I've been paying flood insurance my entire time in Rocky Ripple (over a dozen years now), and I'm not hoping to get out of it.

I have seen Rocky Ripple come together as one to oppose all current floodwall protection plans. Other communities have joined in as well. I trust that the community of voices will be heard by you.

Yours,

Jim Poyser

5220 Riverview Dr

Rocky Ripple, 46208

From: [David Waite](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Environment Statement Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 7:21:53 PM
Attachments: [ArmyCorps.doc](#)

Attached is a response to the Army Corps of Engineers June 2012 Draft Supplemental Environmental Statement for Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction, Indianapolis, Indiana

Wm. Michael Turner
Michael.Turner@usace.army.mil

Re: June 2012 Draft Supplemental Environmental Statement for Indianapolis North
Flood Damage Reduction, Indianapolis, Indiana

We were deeply disappointed to learn that the Army Corps of Engineers' proposed flood barrier on the Central Canal in Indianapolis had changed so little from the plan that was unacceptable to the public last year. The proposed route poses a threat to recreation, aesthetics, and the natural environment as well as public health and safety. The Army Corps of Engineers dismissed other alternatives. Although the proposal states that safety is of primary concern, the major decision criterion seems to be cost.

The present plan is not the best choice for a variety of reasons. First, it will destroy the pleasant nature of the neighborhood. The historic canal and the surrounding area are an important part of the Greenway system in Indianapolis and has been a source of pleasure for neighbors for decades. The loss of trees, the ugly wall, and the disruption of the recreation area are especially disturbing. Access to the canal from Westfield Avenue will be blocked. Further the environmental impact statement seems to minimize the danger to the canal as a natural area. Countless species would be affected by the construction alone. Habitat could never be restored to its previous condition. The 30-foot "rootless zone" would be catastrophic to many species. Diversity of wildlife is one of the attractions of this park. Even if no exotic species are harmed, the sheer number of creatures permanently ousted from their habitat by destruction of trees and ground cover is devastating. The nature of the historic canal will be significantly altered. Because no mitigation has been proposed, we cannot comment on its suitability except to note that planting trees miles away would not compensate the neighborhood.

In addition, the current plan would harm the beautiful Butler University campus. The proposed route would drive a thirty-foot swath through Holcomb gardens leaving an unattractive scar. Many mature trees would be destroyed and a part of the Butler campus would be unprotected.

Further, the proposed route threatens public health and safety. Indianapolis depends on the Central Canal for its drinking water supply. A flood would threaten this supply of drinking water. Moreover, it would leave the village of Rocky Ripple to the mercy of flooding. Although a vocal plurality of inhabitants opposed the proposal to reconstruct the Rocky Ripple levee sixteen years ago, their sentiment changed almost immediately and attempts were made to have the project designers reconsider. The levee restoration would protect more homes and people and the water supply of the city.

Finally, the other proposed alternatives do not have the backing of the Army Corps of Engineers. So comment seems unnecessary.

We have lived in the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood for thirty-six years and purchased a home near the canal because the attractiveness of the area. We have enjoyed the canal

as a recreation area and wildlife area. Of the alternatives the proposed project seems to be the most disruptive.

After attending an information meeting sponsored by the Indianapolis Department of Public Works in mid July, the choice seem to be either accept the Corps plan or do nothing. Doing nothing is the best alternative. The current plan does not seem to be supported by Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association, Meridian Kessler Neighborhood Association, Rocky Ripple Village, Butler University or the Water Company. Even Indianapolis, a “sponsor” of the project, seems lukewarm; no one at the public meeting seemed certain that money would be appropriated for the larger project and even the remaining funds might not be enough to extend the present wall south to the Rivera Club. For these reasons, doing nothing seems the best course especially in the absence of funding.

David and Virginia Waite
5342 Boulevard Place
Indianapolis, In 46208-2509
(317) 251 5138

From: [MLWalker](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Fairview -- the Levee.doc
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 3:38:00 PM

Fairview Neighbors and Friends
Neighborhood Association

September 27, 2012

Colonel Luke T. Leonard, District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District

Wm. Michael Turner, Chief
Environmental Resources Section, Planning Branch

Re: DSEIS, Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, Phase 3A

Dear Colonel Leonard and Chief Turner:

It is my understanding that your directive is to design a levee that primarily protects property – limited to a specific geographic area. Your environmental evaluation considers the impact only on that specific area.

Unfortunately, when your design incorporates a (non-flooding) waterway through that area, how your design influences that waterway affects properties far beyond the designated geographic area.

Your current environmental impact statement indicates a plan that deliberately creates the possibility of a catastrophe of flooding where none now exists in order to mediate perceived damage to a part of the area that can flood.

In doing your economic evaluation of the placement of the levee at the Water Company Canal, you did not take into account the purpose, use, and value of the Canal, not only at the location at issue but of

the whole of the Canal. What happens at a particular location of an irreplaceable waterway, affects what happens downstream all along that waterway.

Your plan takes into account the relative value of the residential properties in the designated area but not the value of residential and commercial properties downstream adjacent to the Water Company Canal. Should the Canal survive flood waters and debris, those homes and businesses that are currently not subject to flooding from White River would be endangered by flooding from the Canal.

As you know, the bank of the Canal nearest to the river is especially fragile (that's why you suggested putting the levee on the other side of the Canal.) When the levee is put on the side of the Canal farthest from the waterway that floods (White River), flood water and debris would be directed into and down the Canal -- by design -- across and along (and through) the fragile bank.

The flow of the Canal is controlled at its source to maintain a safe level within its banks. We can reasonably anticipate that the Canal would not survive excessive waters from a flood. Especially it could not survive the scouring from flood debris. Several years ago when a single tree came down in a storm, it breached a few feet of that fragile bank, cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and many weeks to repair, and compromised the water supply for downtown Indianapolis for all those many weeks. Imagine what a whole flood could do.

A flood directed into and down the Canal by your planned levee would destroy the Canal. It would be financially impossible to repair or replace such a valuable asset to the entire City of Indianapolis and to the citizens of Marion County. [Multiply hundreds of thousands of dollars per maybe 6 feet of breach by 5 miles of Canal.]

Not only would your plan for the placement of the levee destroy the Canal and the homes of our neighbors in the town of Rocky Ripple in the case of a flood, it would eliminate the Greenways Towpath, a unique hiking, jogging, cycling trail that was the original green way to and from Downtown Indianapolis for over 175 years before the Greenways systems was even dreamed of. It links Broad Ripple with Butler University, Christian Theological Seminary, The Interchurch Center, The Indianapolis Museum of Art, the U.S. Naval Armory, etc., etc., through multiple neighborhoods and parks to Downtown.

I am reminded of Copernicus' response to the cycles and epicycles of the "science" of his day. Instead of building walls and gates and pumping stations and such to jury-rig mitigation at the Canal, placing a simple levee where flooding is likely to occur -- at White River -- would be so much less expensive than the planned destruction of:

- a.) Over 300 homes in Rocky Ripple
- b.) Homes and businesses south of 34th Street
- c.) The Canal's unique population of turtles
- d.) Butler University's historic Holcomb Gardens
- e.) Butler University playing fields

- f.) Butler University's prairie
 - g.) Butler University's radio tower & electronic systems
 - h.) Butler University's carillon controls
 - i.) The Arts Garden at the Indianapolis Museum of Art
- j.) The U.S. Naval Armory (is the Navy aware of the Army's plans?)
 - k.) The Greenways Towpath Trail
 - l.) The entire Water Company Canal
 - m.) Over half of the water supply for Downtown Indianapolis

As the neighborhood immediately south of the southern terminus of the proposed levee, we would be among the initial recipients of flooding directed into the Canal. We ask that you factor in your economic impact calculations the multitude of financial implications were flood waters directed into the Canal, downstream as well as in the area at issue.

We ask that you put the levee where it will do the most good and the least harm – to people as well as to property – at the River, not at the Canal.

We ask that you strengthen or replace the existing levee along White River that currently protects Rocky Ripple and the lower portions of Butler University.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Walker, President

Fairview Neighbors and Friends Neighborhood Association

435 Buckingham Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46208

(317) 531-1822

mlwalker40@gmail.com

cc: Colonel Luke T. Leonard

The Mayor of the City of Indianapolis

The City-County Council

The Department of Public Works
Indy Parks -- Greenways
Citizens Water Company
The Trustees of Butler University
The Trustees of Christian Theological Seminary
The Interchurch Center
The Trustees of the Indianapolis Museum of Art
Heslar Naval Armory Board
The Town of Rocky Ripple
Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association
Meridian-Kessler Neighborhood Association
Meridian Street Foundation
Meridian Street Preservation Commission
United Northwest Area Neighborhood Association
Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations

From: [maggie goeglein](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood protection for Rocky Ripple
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 5:52:06 PM

9/28/12

Dear Sir:

I am writing to ask that you reject all of the current alignments proposed for Phase 3B of the Indianapolis, IN, Flood Damage Reduction Project along the White River. While I recognize that the options in consideration are the result of time and effort by the Army Corp of Engineers, I am confident that a solution can be found that not only protects our community from devastating destruction in the event of a flood, but also preserves the historic homes and unique natural beauty of our little town.

My fiancé and I bought our cottage three years ago, and we absolutely love living here. This is a community of green spaces and huge trees, incredible wildlife, and a grocery store we can walk to. The residents are as diverse and eclectic as the houses. Thanks to our geographical isolation, we are still a neighborhood where kids can ride bikes without a chaperone—and it makes me smile every time I see them. There is no other community in the city quite like it, and there is incredible value in this, no matter how difficult it is to quantify.

We didn't live here when Rocky Ripple initially opted out of flood protection, and as we understand it, that decision wasn't representative of the entire population anyway. While we knew that we would need to purchase flood insurance, we had no idea that we would be faced with this horrible dilemma and offered only solutions where people lose their homes—whether by high water or a wrecking ball. As taxpayers, we deserve better. As citizens of this city and state, we deserve better.

There are many reasons why the town and the historic Central Canal should be included, rather than excluded, from flood protection, and we have many supporters above and beyond our residents—our neighbors in Butler-Tarkington support us, as does the Board of Directors at Butler University, the Citizens Water company, and our Representative Andre Carson.

I urgently request that you commit to finding a plan that will protect our town, preserve the homes along the river, and save the natural beauty that makes this community so special.

Thank you most sincerely for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Maggie Goeglein

5345 Lester Street

Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Jason Hanna](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood protection for Rocky Ripple
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 6:01:58 PM

Dear Sir:

I am writing to ask that the Army Corps of Engineers find a new and better solution for Phase 3B of the Indianapolis, IN, Flood Damage Reduction Project along the White River--one that protects the town of Rocky Ripple, the homes of the residents along the river, the historic Central Canal, and the beauty of the greenspaces throughout this area.

As a resident of Rocky Ripple who wasn't living here back in the 90s, I wasn't able to vote on this issue then, and I find it very unfair to impose those opinions on us now. Please consider us--the current residents who love our town--and find another way to build the levee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best wishes,
Jason Hanna
5345 Lester St
Rocky Ripple
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Davis, Stefan S.](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood wall - BTNA
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:32:48 AM

Mr. Turner:

I am writing in support of my neighborhood association's objections to the proposed flood wall in Rocky ripple and Butler U. There needs to be a better proposal.

Thanks you.

Stefan

Stefan S. Davis
Associate Executive Director
Indiana University Alumni Association
317-274.2317 <tel:317-274.2317> IUPUI Office
812-856-6065 IUB Office
317-287-4076 <tel:317-287-4076> Mobile

ssdavis@iupui.edu <<mailto:ssdavis@iupui.edu>>
www.alumni.iupui.edu <<http://www.alumni.iupui.edu/>>

www.alumni.indiana.edu <<http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/>>

IUPUI Office of Alumni Relations

340 West Michigan Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

IUAA

1000 East 17th Street

Bloomington, IN 47408-1521

From: [Nichole Freije](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood Wall - resident and alumna voices concern
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 6:27:00 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

As a nearby resident (920 E. 62nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220) I know how the flood wall looks, as it is already up in Broad Ripple. As a Butler University graduate, it is very important to me that the integrity of the campus be kept intact with the addition of the flood wall.

I am most concerned about the following: the proposed wall cuts through Butler property, including the historic Holcomb Gardens. This could hinder the campus' future development, as evidenced by the Butler Board of Trustee's disapproval of your plan. Butler is a vibrant part of Indianapolis and is expected to grow exponentially over the coming decades. The floodwall would cut through an area that is crucial for University expansion. It's bad for Butler and that means it's bad for the city, as well as the University's supporters and alumni, which I am a proud member.

I also am concerned about the residents of Rocky Ripple. The proposed plan leaves Rocky Ripple vulnerable to potential flooding. The idea of leaving part of the neighborhood vulnerable is shameful from a humanitarian perspective, bad for the University, and problematic for the city.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Nichole Freije

From: [michael hartt](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: flood wall
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 11:24:26 AM

Dear Mr. Turner,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed flood wall plan known as Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, White River (North). This project would destroy the canal as we know it and thus eliminate one of the most valuable assets of our community.

I am also troubled by the disregard shown for the residents of Rocky Ripple. The proposed wall would protect homeowners in my neighborhood of Butler Tarkington, but if there were a flood the wall would make flooding of the Rocky Ripple area more severe.

We need a solution that serves ALL residents in both neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Michael Hartt

From: [Madalyn S. Kinsey](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood Wall along Central Canal
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:45:18 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Mr. Turner:

I am a resident of the Butler Tarkington neighborhood in Indianapolis, Indiana, and am strongly against the construction of the Flood Wall along the Central Canal through the Butler Tarkington neighborhood as currently proposed because of:

- * Concerns about the health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents who would not be protected from floods by the wall;
- * The aesthetic effect of the clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * The aesthetic effect of the clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- * The fact that Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb will likely be destroyed in a flood because they would be behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes, including my own, most likely.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti. Further, such walls provide cover for vagrants and attract an undesirable element looking for the cover from detection such a wall would provide.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.
- * The possibility of flooding without the wall is minimal and the need for the wall is in doubt and far outweighed by the harm done by its construction and existence.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Madalyn Kinsey

Homeowner:

5246 N. Capitol Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Madalyn S. Kinsey / Partner

111 Monument Circle Suite 900
Indianapolis, IN 46204-5125
Phone & Fax: (317) 777-7429
MKinsey@kgrlaw.com <<mailto:MKinsey@kgrlaw.com>>
www.kgrlaw.com

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From: [Renee Harness \(renee@thirdeyeleadership.com\)](mailto:renee@thirdeyeleadership.com)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood Wall Concerns from Business Owner - Butler Tarkington
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 3:22:38 PM

Dear Mr. Turner, I am a business owner in the Meridian Kessler area who often holds client meetings in the area of 56th Street and Illinois and wanted to share my concerns about the upcoming plan to build the flood wall in the MKNA and Butler Tarkington areas. As a business owner, my thoughts are with my own business, but also with the health and safety of the community in which I live and work. These concerns include:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens and potential flooding after the wall is completed;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

I am also concerned about the health and safety of the water supply. I do not support the Flood Wall as it is currently planned and urge you to work with Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association, the city of Indianapolis and Citizens Energy Group to ensure the safety, health and welfare of Butler and Rocky Ripple residents and businesses.

Renee

Renee Harness
Managing Partner & Co-Author,

The Leadership Practices Inventory Action Cards Facilitator's Guide, and

The Leadership Challenge Values Cards Facilitator's Guide.

Description: ThirdEye (2)

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"We are the ones we've been waiting for." June Jordan, Poet & Activist

From: [Candace Denning](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: flood wall controversy
Date: Friday, August 31, 2012 3:55:14 PM

Dear Mr. Turner and others whom it may concern:

My understanding is that the White River flood wall plan is sixteen years old with revisions only to the cost. It seems to me imperative to listen carefully to the present protest against a plan originating in 1996.

A lot has changed in Indianapolis, yet the plan remains the same. People appear to appreciate the canal more now as an historic landmark and a beautiful natural habitat. Thousands of walkers, runners and bikers use the canal path every week. In addition, Rocky Ripple homes and property have been improved and the neighborhood continues to move upward. These people are also taxpayers.

I read that rerouting the flood wall was considered too expensive, but \$30 million isn't that much in today's economy. Good grief. How much money is spent on public projects that don't protect environment and people's homes? That cost argument doesn't make sense to me. It is worth more than \$30 million to preserve a beautiful environment and protect a vital community now and in years and years to come.

Candace Denning
5657 N. Illinois
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Josi Sprunger](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood Wall Letter
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 11:15:28 PM
Attachments: [Flood Wall Letter Sept 2012.docx](#)

Please find my letter attached in opposition to the flood wall along West Field Blvd.

Josi Sprunger
Butler Tarkington Resident

Colonel Luke T. Leonard

District Commander
USArmy Corps Of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Colonel Leonard,

As a resident of the Butler Tarkington community with friends in the Rocky Ripple community, I am strong opposed to the flood wall currently being proposed. I believe it has adverse impacts on the community. In addition, based on Citizens Water stance, it also has adverse impacts on the city of Indianapolis water and wastewater systems.

Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association points of concern with the current, proposed plan:

- Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements

Sincerely,

Josi Sprunger
Butler Tarkington Resident

From: [Jill Morris](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood Wall Project
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 11:11:50 AM

Colonel Leonard,

I wanted to thank you for providing the forum that allowed the community to express concerns about the proposed plan to build the flood wall along Westfield Blvd. Your professionalism was appreciated. Overall, your entire staff was very pleasant, with the exception of one gentleman in a business suit that was answering questions in the "meet and greet" area. He proceeded to say "Rocky Ripple shot their foot off when we turned down the project 17 years ago. We should never even be living there since it's river bottom land and we're just not worth saving." I thought, is this how the whole Corp of Engineers thinks?

First, so many things have happened over the past 17 years that drastically influences our current position. There has been a lot of building along the river, both up stream and down that has taken away what was existing flood area. This will cause an additional stress on our already deteriorating levee.

When I see on the news the potential destruction of buildings along the Gulf Coast by hurricanes, the flooding that continues in New Orleans, the houses built on cliffs in California that are lost from mud slides, I don't understand why my living in a home that was built in the 1940's along a river should be grounds for being condemned. Someone gave permission back then.

I love my home and community of 28 years. I've invested in my gardens, my house and my neighborhood. If the wall is installed along Westfield instead of following the river, I will lose everything.

My home was recently appraised for \$125,000. Some homes are less, some more. Take that times 300 and it could average to about 30M. We are worth saving. Please reconsider.

Thank you for your time and I'll be anxiously awaiting your discussion.

Jill Morris

500 Ripple Road

Indianapolis, IN 46208

317-295-1922

From: [linda spencer](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood Wall PROPOSAL ON WESTFIELD BLVD.-INDIANAPOLIS, in
Date: Saturday, August 25, 2012 12:56:47 PM

DEAR SIR: I HAVE LIVED IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD FOR OVER 43 YEARS. THIS PROPOSAL TO PUT A FLOOD WALL ALONG WESTFIELD BOULEVARD IS SILLY. WHY WOULD YOU PUT A WALL IN THE MIDDLE OF A NEIGHBORHOOD? I'SN'T THE CONCERN OF THE CORPS TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE? THIS IDEA WOULD FLOOD

ROCKY RIPPLE, A TOWN OF SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE, POSSIBLY CONTAMINATE THE WATER SUPPLY FOR THE CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS, AMONG MANY OTHER CONCERNS. SINCE THIS IS OUR TAX MONEY AT USE, WHY NOT RECONSIDER AND SPEND MORE MONEY AND GET IT RIGHT FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL. I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT THE CITIZENS OF THE AREA COULD KEEP THEIR PROPERTY FREE FROM FLOOD, KEEP THEIR TREES AND WILDLIFE AND ENJOY THE GARDENS. WE LIVE HERE AND ENJOY THE CANAL DAILY, THE ANIMALS, ETC. WON'T YOU LET US KEEP THESE PLEASANT SIGHTS AND SOUNDS AND RE-ENGINEER YOUR ROUTE ON THE RIVER, PLEASE. THANK YOU.

From: [joan kane](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood wall Rocky Ripple IN
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 10:30:28 AM

Sir:

I am a resident of Rocky Ripple in Indpls IN and am writing in regard to the proposed flood wall. I am AGAINST any flood wall constuction in Rocky Ripple. In the meetings I attended, no information emerged that would promise safety from a flood with this wall. Further, to destroy homes and wilderness on the levee is totally unacceptable to me. Thank you.

Joan Kane
5143 Annette Street
Indpls IN 46208

From: [WILLIAM THOMPSON](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Flood Wall
Date: Monday, August 13, 2012 4:24:01 PM

The Indianapolis North flood Damage Reduction Project (North) Phase III

If the flood wall is put on the canal and the river floods the residents of Rocky Ripple & the Tarkington area would have a significant lost of homes and maybe human life's. If I was responsible for that I don't know how I could sleep at night or any other time. And don't thank you wouldn't get blamed for it locally and nationally. Apparently someone has not thought this through or is just worried about saving money ether way its just stupid. Put yourself as a resident of this area and thank about it. I don't see How you will explain this was a good decision for these people???

It only makes since to put a flood wall where it floods close to the river.

Concerned 30 year Rocky Ripple Resident

William R. Thompson sr.
5353 Riverview dr.
Indianapolis In. 46208

From: [WILLIAM THOMPSON](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: flood wall/Please help us.
Date: Monday, August 13, 2012 5:15:49 PM
Attachments: [Flood wall new.pdf](#)

WILLIAM THOMPSON

From: "WILLIAM THOMPSON" <thompson_sr@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Monday, August 13, 2012 4:54 PM
Subject: Fw: Flood Wall

The Indianapolis North flood Damage Reduction Project (North) Phase III

If the flood wall is put on the canal and the river floods the residents of Rocky Ripple & the Tarkington area would have a significant lost of homes and maybe human life's. If I was responsible for that I don't know how I could sleep at night or any other time. And don't thank you wouldn't get blamed for it locally and nationally. Apparently someone has not thought this through or is just worried about saving money ether way its just stupid. Put yourself as a resident of this area and thank about it. I don't see How you will explain this was a good decision for these people???

It only makes since to put a flood wall where it floods close to the river.

Concerned 30 year Rocky Ripple Resident

William R. Thompson sr.
5353 Riverview dr.
Indianapolis In. 46208

From: [Carlie Anderson](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: [John Barth](#)
Subject: Flood Wall
Date: Monday, July 09, 2012 9:33:15 AM

Dear Mr. Turner,

I am writing this letter to record my objections to the proposed flood wall along a Westfield Blvd. section of the canal.

First, I have to point out (which I'm sure you already know) that Indianapolis is the only major city not located on a navigable waterway. We are not talking about the Mississippi here. While I am aware that flash floods can swell the smallest of waterways, the "mighty White" as she is sometimes lovingly called is not a major waterway.

Second, and most important the proposal defies logic as I see it. For the White River to reach the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood it would have to inundate The Riviera Swim Club and much of Rocky Ripple. So Rocky Ripple would have to be underwater before the river reached the canal. If any area need protecting it is Rocky Ripple.

Finally, such a structure would mar one of Indianapolis' most serene and lovely sites.

While I may not be able to attend one of the hearings planned, I have no doubt that you will hear from many of my thoughtful and concerned neighbors.

Carlie Anderson
5139 North Kenwood Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

255-4240

From: [Dave Daugherty](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Fw: Rocky Ripple Town Council Updates: ACE Comments DUE FRIDAY
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 8:19:15 PM
Attachments: [US Army Corps of Engineers.doc](#)

Michael,
I believe that this was sent to you March of last year.
I am Dave Daugherty with the towns emergency management.
I am sending the attached letter again just to make sure it counts.
Would you please forward it to Colonel Luke T Leonard, District Commander.
If you or anyone in the Army Corps is in the neighborhood on 9/29/2012 we are having our annual Rocky Ripple Festival.
Please feel free to attend. If you have any questions feel free to contact me by email or phone 317 257 2639.
Thank you,
Dave Daugherty

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: "DAUGHERTY, DAVE" <DDAUGHER@idem.IN.gov>
To: dockguitar@yahoo.com
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2012 1:44 PM
Subject: FW: Rocky Ripple Town Council Updates: ACE Comments DUE FRIDAY

US Army Corps of Engineers
William Michael Turner
Chief of Environmental Resources
CELRL-PM-P-E (Room 708)
PO Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Dear Mr. Turner,

I have been a resident of Rocky Ripple since 1978. I have cherished the near pristine environment of White River along the Rocky Ripple banks. There is no boating along this stretch of the river except for canoe and kayak.

The 1996 plan for building the levee in Rocky Ripple called for the clear cutting of trees along the Rocky Ripple shoreline. In 1996 I was opposed to this drastic measure.

However, since 1998 I have been chairman of the Rocky Ripple Emergency Management (RREM). We formed what I believe was the first Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in Indiana.

Since the beginning, RREM/CERT has been working to inform Rocky Ripple residents of the dangers of White River flooding. We have tried to educate the residents so that they will be prepared in case of a flood event. We have developed a warning system much like the Department of Homeland Security's color warning system. We use the yellow, orange and red alert levels. A better explanation of how this works is posted on the Rocky Ripple web site. Please take the time to go to <http://rockyripple.com> once there scroll down under Pages, on the right, and click on White River.

Over the years I have come to understand what the Army Corps was trying to say in 1996. When the White River rises high enough, Rocky Ripple is below river level, the town is much like New Orleans. A catastrophic failure of the levee could result in serious injury or possibly loss of life.

Please take the time to reconsider the Army Corps current position on the levee/ wall project from the Riviera Club south.

I know the 1996 debates of this wall/levee were rough. If the Army Corps harbors any resentment from the past I urge you to set the hard feelings aside and alter the levee/wall plan to include Rocky Ripple.

It is your original plan and what the Army Corps really wanted to do in the beginning. If you must take all the trees, it would be sad but, I am willing to compromise for the sake of the children and adults living and visiting Rocky Ripple. I hope you are able to compromise and change as well. It makes sense to put the levee in Rocky Ripple.

Sincerely,

Dave Daugherty
RREM/ CERT Chairman
Town of Rock Ripple
5040 Riverview Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317 257 2639

From: [tracey.jaffe](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Grave concerns about floodwall plans for Butler-Tarkington in Indianapolis
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2012 1:54:45 PM

Dear Mr. Turner,

I want to voice my strong opposition to the construction of a flood wall along Westfield Avenue in the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood. I am particularly alarmed by the proposal to clear trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal in order to build a wall that inevitably will destroy the unique beauty of the area. Besides being an eyesore, the wall also will create safety concerns for people walking or jogging along the much-used tow path behind it, since there no longer will be visibility from Westfield Blvd. Finally, I am concerned that the proposed design poses a threat to the city water supply and the potential for sewer back-up into homes if a flood were to occur.

I live one block from the canal in the Butler-Tarkington neighborhood. I do want flood protection from the White River, but I strongly urge the Army Corp of Engineers to more seriously consider building the wall along the river itself, which will have the great benefit of also protecting the Rocky Ripple neighborhood. I realize more funds will be required, but I request that you make it a top priority to address the serious concerns that the Butler-Tarkington and Rocky Ripple neighborhoods, as well as Butler University and Citizens Water, all have about your current flood control plans for the area. Serious discussions with local, state, and federal officials about acquiring additional funding need to occur so that a flood control plan that enhances rather than hurts Indianapolis can be developed.

Please do not let the Army Corp of Engineers destroy the beauty of my historic Butler-Tarkington neighborhood!

Respectfully,

Tracey Jaffe

5401 N. Capitol Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Sam Carpenter](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Include Rocky Ripple in Indianapolis flood protection plans
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2012 10:06:28 PM

COLONEL LUKE T. LEONARD
DISTRICT COMMANDER
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT

Dear Colonel Leonard,

I am writing to ask that Rocky Ripple be included in the flood protection projects now being developed by the Army Corp of Engineers. It is clear that:

- The economic cost of a flood event will be far greater and cause more damage should the flood wall be placed along the canal rather than along the White River. If the wall is placed on the canal, residents of Rocky Ripple will be trapped from leaving their homes with their property. Because the earthen levee that currently runs along the White River has a high potential for failure, there is also a likelihood of flashflooding within Rocky Ripple that could not only cause loss of property but also loss of life.
- Should the wall go up along the canal as currently proposed by the Army Corp of Engineers, there will be an immediate hit to property values within Rocky Ripple. Current residents will lose much of the equity in their homes and the property tax base will decrease. The very opposite will be true if the wall is built along the White River as it should be.
- Not only will the town of Rocky Ripple be jeopardized by a flood wall along the canal, so will the city of Indianapolis' drinking water.
- During the public comment period, the public has spoken with a clear and loud voice, we are very much against the plan as proposed by the Corp to put a wall along the canal which will also wall off Rocky Ripple into the flood zone. I attended the public comment session at North United Methodist Church and it was clear that not only Indianapolis officials but also Indianapolis citizens are clearly against the project as is currently proposed by the Corp.

The reasons of economic ruin, potential for loss of life, polluted drinking water and the public outcry against the proposed wall are strong enough reasons to change the direction of the Army Corp of Engineers to allow Rocky Ripple to share the protection provided by a tax funded flood wall. But they do not include the greatest reason to provide flood protection to Rocky Ripple in addition to surrounding communities. The greatest and most obvious reason is that to exclude one community is to cast them aside and state they and the people that live within that community do not have enough value to be included in this flood protection project. To exclude Rocky Ripple goes against the very mission of the Corp which is to protect citizens from natural disasters. Because it seems you hold so much of my

future in your hands, I ask you to change your plan, and include Rocky Ripple in your flood protection initiative.

Sincerely,

Sam Carpenter

5348 Lester Street

Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Alison Schumacher](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Include Rocky Ripple in Indianapolis flood protection
Date: Friday, August 31, 2012 9:25:15 AM

Dear Mr. Turner,

I am writing to ask that Rocky Ripple be included in the flood protection projects now being developed by the Army Corps of Engineers.

· The economic cost of a flood event will be far greater and cause more damage should the flood wall be placed along the canal rather than along the White River. If the wall is placed on the canal, residents of Rocky Ripple will be trapped from leaving their homes with their property. Because the earthen levee that currently runs along the White River has a high potential for failure, there is also a likelihood of flashflooding within Rocky Ripple that could not only cause loss of property but also loss of life.

· Should the wall go up along the canal as currently proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers, there will be an immediate hit to property values within Rocky Ripple. Current residents will lose much of the equity in their homes and the property tax base will decrease. The very opposite will be true if the wall is built along the White River as it should be.

· Not only will the town of Rocky Ripple be jeopardized by a flood wall along the canal, so will the city of Indianapolis' drinking water.

· During the public comment period, the public has spoken with a clear and loud voice. We are very much against the plan as proposed by the Corps to put a wall along the canal which will also wall off Rocky Ripple into the flood zone. My husband attended the public comment session at North United Methodist Church and it was clear that not only Indianapolis officials but also Indianapolis citizens are clearly against the project as is currently proposed by the Corps.

The reasons of economic ruin, potential for loss of life, polluted drinking water and the public outcry against the proposed wall are strong enough reasons to change the direction of the Army Corps of Engineers' plan to allow Rocky Ripple to share the protection provided by a tax-funded flood wall. But they do not include the greatest reason to provide flood protection to Rocky Ripple in addition to surrounding communities. The greatest and most obvious reason is that to exclude one community is to cast them aside and state they and the people that live within that community do not have enough value to be included in this flood protection project. To exclude Rocky Ripple goes against the very mission of the Corps, which is to protect citizens from natural disasters. Because it seems you hold so much of our future in your hands, we ask you to change your plan, and include Rocky Ripple in your flood protection initiative.

Sincerely,

Alison Schumacher

5348 Lester Street

Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Michelle Rhodes](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis Flood Wall (CELRL-PM-P-E)
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 11:35:02 AM

Chief Michael Turner,

As a Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association board member and resident in Butler Tarkington I'd like to respectfully submit the following concerns regarding the current proposed USACE Flood Wall plan:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

I hope you and your team will be willing to review these concerns and adjust your plan accordingly. I thank you in advance for your time!

Best,
Michelle L. Rhodes
BTNA Vice President
334 Berkley Road
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Sharon Kidwell](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis Flood Wall Proposal
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 11:42:26 AM

Mr. Turner:

The revised flood wall proposal for the Central Canal in Indianapolis still does not address important issues of concern for the residents of the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood and our nearby neighbors in the Rocky Ripple Neighborhood. My concerns that the present revised plan fails to take important issues seriously has not changed. The 700 people in Rocky Ripple need to be protected, as well as the integrity of the historic canal, Butler University's historic gardens and expansion property, and the safety of the drinking water for thousands of Indianapolis residents. I urge you to visit our neighborhoods, to meet with the good people here, and to put yourself in our place. I urge you to listen to our people and to spend the extra tax money to develop a viable plan that is acceptable to everyone concerned.

Sincerely yours,
Sharon A. Kidwell
5474 North Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208

Sent from my iPad

From: [Mark Chatten](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis Floodwall
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 11:25:42 PM

Dear Mr Turner

As a local resident I am strongly opposed to the proposed floodwall because it does not provide protection to Rocky Ripple. Your report does not account for the potential loss of life of the Rocky Ripple residents - this needs to be factored into your analysis as a breach of the Rocky Ripple levee prior to overtopping likely would lead to loss of life. A quantitative risk analysis of this needs to be provided and this factored in - the decision is not purely based on economic factors.

Furthermore regardless of alignment, proper consideration has not been given to aesthetics and the recreational value of the canal. The proposed design if built would be ugly and destroy the character of this beautiful park. Please consider the use of sloped grading (embankment) adjacent to the wall so the apparent exposed height of the concrete wall is minimal ie less than 1.5ft. Also if bike trails and row of cherry trees were planted the negative aesthetic impact would be greatly reduced and the recreational value maintained as much as possible. I also strongly recommend any security fencing - such as near gate structure - is ornamental ironwork in keeping with historical character of the neighborhood.

Thank you.

Regards
Mark
Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T

From: [James Asher](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Amplification Project
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 9:35:23 AM

Hi,

If the floodwall doesn't go down the river, then the project you propose will turn Rocky Ripple into a bathtub should flood waters come down the White River. This would actually amplify my risk of flood damage. I live in Rocky Ripple.

Yes, there was a vote taken years ago. I believe that was done in 1996, a year before I bought my house on Riverview, which will have an increased risk of flood if your current project goes as planned. That vote came down to 10 votes as I recall.

There are many structures built on the current levee. Those are probably illegal and need to go.

But I'm not really an engineer.

This has that patina of "There's no problem a little government intervention can't make WORSE.." If you're going to fix the problem, do it right and put the flood wall along the river.

A reasonable solution would put the flood wall upon a reinforced levee.

James Asher
Rocky Ripple, Indiana

From: [Art Garden](#)
To: lori.miser@indy.gov; [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: nathan.bennett@mail.house.gov
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project Wight River North Phase III
Date: Wednesday, August 29, 2012 11:41:11 AM
Attachments: [Col Luke T Leonard Flood Letter Nancy Falco.doc](#)
[Col Luke T Leonard Flood Letter Robert N Falco.doc](#)

Please see attached letters addressing the proposed Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project Wight River North Phase III.

Col Luke T Leonard
District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 59
ATT: CELRI-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Nancy Falco
5419 Graceland Ave
Indianapolis, IN
46208

Re: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
White River North Phase III

Dear Col Leonard and involved elected officials,
I am writing to express my opposition to the above project as proposed. When I first learned of the project, I was upset at the aesthetic damage it would do to my neighborhood. Our home is less than a block away from the canal and one reason we moved here. We enjoy the towpath and just the beautiful view every time we drive down Westfield Blvd. This project would seriously compromise that enjoyment. The downtown canal is often described as a jewel of the area, and our part of the canal is just as appreciated by not only my neighbors but the entire city. It is a historic landmark which was designated as an American Water Landmark in 1971. It is nothing to be cut up and sacrificed.

In addition to the aesthetics, there is a more important reason not to cut through the canal as proposed. It carries more than 60% of the city's water supply. This proposal would not protect the canal from a flood which could destroy the canal and compromise the city's water and sewage.

Finally, the most important objection to this plan is that it does not protect all life and property which, it seems obvious, should be the goal. This proposal would turn the neighborhood of Rocky Ripple into a flood bowl with no protection at all and also compromise the historic Holcomb Gardens at Butler University.

The original plan called for the flood wall to be built next to the river which would protect Rocky Ripple, the canal, and Butler. The Army Corps of Engineers is now saying that they cannot do this because it is too expensive although they have not explained how the cost was determined. They are saying they have no choice to go ahead with the project as planned or they will jeopardize the previous phases of the project. It appears they are saying they have painted themselves into a corner and are looking for a cheap way out without concern with what is best for Indianapolis or its residents. They are creating a disaster waiting to happen. I hope they will reconsider and hope elected officials will also present opposition to this Phase III Project as proposed.

Sincerely,
Nancy Falco

Col Luke T Leonard
District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 59
ATT: CELRI-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Robert N Falco
5419 Graceland Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46208
August 29, 2012

Re: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
White River North Phase III

Dear Col Leonard and involved elected officials,

I'm writing to you as a concerned citizen and friend to those living in Rocky Ripple.

I have listened to the concerns of all on this matter and have come to the conclusion that The US Army Corps of Engineers had it write the first time.

If a flood wall needs to be built to protect the town of Rocky Ripple it must be built at the rivers edge and the best defense is The Corps proposal of an "I Wall" as described as "Phase 3B Proposed Rocky Ripple Alignment"

Yes homes will be lost but the grater good for all should prevail.

But I would like you to consider some modification to the plan of taking homes by eminent domain.

Rather than taking the homes and paying fair market value, the homes effected could be moved onto new foundations at less cost than a buyout.

The lots are long and if homes were moved closer to the street I think most would see it as a win for the home owners, and a cost savings for the project.

As for the "I Wall" I have always liked it because it makes the best sense. I'd like to see all our tax payer money spent wisely and putting all the recourses on the Wall!

Not flood gates, or walls any ware else but at the front line to stop the enemy "The River".

Just like in any battle you don't want to build your line of defense behind you. And we all know what happens in battle when you try to go into battle on the cheap.

You loose.

You have a tough task before you and Money is tight but if you chose any other proposal you will pay dearly in the long run.

Sincerely,
Robert N Falco

From: [Sara Laycock](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, White River (North), Phase 3B
Date: Friday, August 24, 2012 10:59:30 AM

Mr. Turner,

As homeowners of 415 W. Westfield Boulevard and supporters of our community, we are opposed to the current Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, White River (North), Phase 3B. Understanding that changes to the proposal will cost millions, we cannot support a plan that will destroy our City's drinking water supply and displace an entire community should a flood happen.

The Central Canal supplies nearly 60% of the drinking water for the City of Indianapolis. The current plan does not protect this supply, which would be catastrophic for the City if a flood overtook it. The ramifications of flooding the canal could cost more to the City and the state than the suggested redesign along the White River.

The USACE's Floodwall recommendation in the DSEIS would do irreparable damage to the historic Central Canal, an amenity used by thousands each year. The Canal was a top reason we invested in our home six years ago. It's designated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Place, a unique differentiator we should not overlook.

Our family is deeply concerned about the USACE's recommendation of the removal of trees within fifteen feet on each side of the proposed floodwall /earthen levee for the project. It will take generations to revive the area of the habitats that currently exist. Trees placed in other parts of the City to make up for the destruction along the canal is not acceptable for our community.

We ask that the USACE and the City of Indianapolis provide full flood protection for the Town of Rocky Ripple by: (1) adopting an alignment generally consistent with the existing earthen levee in Rocky Ripple; and (2) reengineering the floodwall (as proposed in the Rocky Ripple alignment set forth in the DSEIS) to have as minimal impact as possible on existing structures in Rocky Ripple.

We request the USACE and the City of Indianapolis include the Butler University Athletic Fields within the scope of the Project and provide full flood protection for the Butler University Athletic Fields.

Thank you for your consideration and action to preserve the Central Canal and save Rocky Ripple.

All the best,

Sara and Robert Laycock
415 W. Westfield Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Sue Mogle](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, White River (North), Phase IIIB
Date: Monday, August 13, 2012 12:14:55 PM

Colonel Leonard and Michael Turner,

I am a resident of Rocky Ripple in Indianapolis, Indiana. I have watched the debate and developments regarding the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, White River (North), Phase IIIB with growing alarm. I support the alternative Rocky Ripple Alignment. The Corps of Engineers' own documents support this alignment as the best option for flood control for all concerns.

The proposed alignment on the East side of the canal is particularly disturbing and should be stopped. This alignment would wall off the entire community of Rocky Ripple in an Indianapolis version of the Ninth Ward, leaving a town of roughly 300 homes and 700+ people in eminent danger of a catastrophic flood. Estimates of such a catastrophic event are roughly seven years. The cost of property damage alone would be (conservatively) equal to estimated additional costs of the Rocky Ripple Alignment (\$33 and \$50 million). Virtually certain loss of life in a catastrophic flood is incalculable. And the only proposed emergency plan in the event of a flood is to sandbag the two bridges to Rocky Ripple, cutting off access and escape routes! I cannot believe that such a plan for a flood wall is even under consideration, let alone serious consideration.

The Central Canal, which was designated as an American Water Landmark by the American Water Works Association in 1971, carries approximately 30% of the water supply for the City of Indianapolis south of 38th Street. The current proposal along the canal jeopardizes that canal—and the water supply for 600,000 people—in the event of a flood.

The negative impact on property values for Rocky Ripple as well as the Butler-Tarkington and Warfleigh areas would be substantial.

When the flood control project was introduced in 1996, a small but vocal group in Rocky Ripple led a campaign against the Rocky Ripple alignment for reasons of their own. Their campaign involved much disinformation and hysteria, and eventually a straw poll that was heavily influenced by voter fraud. The poll was supposed to have been limited to Residents of Rocky Ripple, but rather than polling Rocky Ripple homeowners, many "voters" were short time renters or "residents" only for purposes of the poll. Actual Residents of Rocky Ripple have consistently said that they want and need flood protection, and appreciate earlier efforts of the Corps of Engineers on our behalf.

I respectfully request that you consider the Rocky Ripple Alignment for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, White River (North), Phase IIIB.

Respectfully,
Sue Mogle

From: [Ann Wickham](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 7:26:29 PM

August 27, 2012

Wm. Michael Turner
Chief, Environmental Resources
CELRL-PM-P-E (Room 708)
US Army Corps of Engineers,
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201

Re: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, White River (North) Phase III

As a 15 year resident of Rocky Ripple I do want flood protection without the removal of my neighbors' homes. The taking of resident's homes is unfair and financially devastating to our residents and to the community's tax base.

With the implementation of either the Westfield or the 56th Street alignments, most if not all interior homes would be impacted by a major flood, as this wall would transform Rocky Ripple into a flood bowl: river water would flow into Rocky Ripple without a way to flow out once river waters receded, thus increasing public health issues.

FLOOD PROTECTION

WITHOUT COMMUNITY DESTRUCTION

Save our homes

Ann Wickham
5400 Canal Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Dhyana Raynor](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Wednesday, August 08, 2012 12:27:42 PM

Dear Mr. Turner,

As a resident of Rocky Ripple in Indianapolis, Indiana, I am writing this letter to reject the Westfield Blvd (proposed action) realignment of the downstream end of the Indianapolis North floodwall.

Some of my reasons are as follows:

- The proposed wall would place the entire town of Rocky Ripple in the way of a flood, threatening the lives and homes of over 700 residents who live there.
- Public funds should not be expended for any project that puts any life at risk, and sealing off Rocky Ripple by construction of a Westfield alignment places life and property at significant risk during a high water event.
- In the event of a flood warning, the Army Corps proposed sandbag closures of the 52nd St and 53rd St bridges would prevent any and all traffic into and out of Rocky Ripple, including emergency vehicles.
- By excluding the 300 homes in Rocky Ripple from the Flood Reduction Project, the Westfield Blvd wall would destroy the property value of every house in Rocky Ripple. The properties would become unsellable, uninsurable and undesirable.
- In the event of a flood, Rocky Ripple residents would not be allowed to rebuild. The area would be designated uninhabitable, and, it is my understanding, that FEMA would step in to claim immanent domain.
- The Westfield Blvd wall would reduce the property value of homes along Westfield Blvd in the Butler Tarkington community.

The residents of Rocky Ripple want and need flood protection.

Please reevaluate the Army Corps proposal. None of the current proposed actions are acceptable.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Dianne R Raynor

5406 Canal Blvd

Indianapolis, IN 46208

Dhyana

1. **Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide a comprehensive overview of the project's objectives, scope, and deliverables. This document is intended for the project team and stakeholders.

2. **Objectives**

The primary objectives of this project are to:

- Develop a robust software solution that meets the requirements of the client.
- Ensure the project is completed within the specified budget and timeline.
- Provide regular communication and reporting to the project sponsor.

3. **Scope**

The project scope includes the development, testing, and deployment of the software solution. It also includes the provision of training and support to the end users.

4. **Deliverables**

The key deliverables of this project are:

- A fully functional software application.
- Comprehensive test reports and documentation.
- A user manual and training materials.

5. **Conclusion**

This document serves as a guide for the project team and stakeholders. It outlines the project's goals and provides a clear understanding of the project's scope and deliverables.

From: Rick Whitener

To: Turner, Michael LRL

Cc: Lori.Miser@indy.gov; BTNABoard@gmail.com

Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project

Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 2:20:01 PM

Attachments: Rocky Ripple analysis.xlsx

Mr. Turner,

Here are my comments on this project.

I oppose the current plan which excludes the Rocky Ripple community. I support a change in your recommended plan to include Rocky Ripple in the flood damage reduction plan. I understand this would increase the cost of the project by around \$30 million.

Completing the flood control project without Rocky Ripple being included will have the long term effect of shrinking Indianapolis / Marion county population, tax base and living area by around .08% (300 homes and 700 people out of a 2011 population of 827,609 people).

Completing the project this way makes it only a matter of time before homes will be destroyed by a flood event. Property values will be affected and families will begin to move out either slowly or rapidly after a flood. Since Indianapolis / Marion county is, by definition, a unified governmental unit. The city cannot expand via annexation as other cities are able to do.

Population growth can occur only as undeveloped and vacant properties are developed. This growth would now have to overcome the loss of population and homes from Rocky Ripple.

After discussing the plan with some of the Army Corps of Engineers staff at the public hearing at Meridian Street UMC it was clear that the benefits of the program were calculated primarily on the value of the property in Rocky Ripple. I suggest that the following additional economic factors be included:

1. Indianapolis tax revenue reductions from property taxes, local option income taxes and the 2% food and beverage tax. Using the 2013 City / County budget figures and assuming an increase in income of 2% per year, the 30 year impact the the city budget and the Capital Improvement Board budget would be over \$17 million dollars. See attached spreadsheet for these figures.

2. Potential damage to the Citizens Water Company canal towpath recreational trail. Thousands of people use this facility each month. Including Rocky Ripple directly protect another 3/4 of a mile of trail.

3. Protecting Holcomb Gardens on the Butler campus. I don't know the value of this property since Butler has no intention of selling it, but damage to this area would require millions to directly repair and some of the trees and planting have historical value that cannot be replaced.

4. Protecting more of the Citizens Water Company canal. Again, an additional 3/4 mile would be protected. Besides the economic use with the city water supply, this is an historic landmark that adds value to the neighborhoods it goes thru.

I believe Indianapolis would see a net economic benefit to have Rocky Ripple included. The non-economic factors from having neighborhoods that continue to front the canal instead of a flood wall along Westfield make the argument even stronger.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Rick Whitener

5501 N. Kenwood Ave.

Indianapolis, IN. 46208

317-345-0727

Tax receipts for IndyGov

2011

	Total	Reduction by losing Rocky Ripple	Yearly Impact
Property Taxes	\$ 307,000,000	0.06%	\$ 194,748
Marion County Food Beverage	\$ 38,913,656	0.08%	\$ 32,914
County Option income Taxes	\$ 233,000,000	0.08%	\$ 197,074
Totals	\$ 578,913,656		\$ 424,735

Population

Marion County 2011	827,609	
Rocky Ripple	700	0.08%

Assumes Property tax on Rocky Ripple Property
would decline by 75%

30 Year Impact -
Straight line

\$ 5,842,433

\$ 987,407

\$ 5,912,212

\$ 12,742,052

30 Year Impact - 2%
yearly increase

\$ 424,735 1st Year

\$ 433,230 2nd Year

\$ 441,894 3

\$ 450,732 4

\$ 459,747 5

\$ 468,942 6

\$ 478,321 7

\$ 487,887 8

\$ 497,645 9

\$ 507,598 10

\$ 517,750 11

\$ 528,105 12

\$ 538,667 13

\$ 549,440 14

\$ 560,429 15

\$ 571,637 16

\$ 583,070 17

\$ 594,732 18

\$ 606,626 19

\$ 618,759 20

\$ 631,134 21

\$ 643,757 22

\$ 656,632 23

\$ 669,764 24

\$ 683,160 25

\$ 696,823 26

\$ 710,759 27

\$ 724,975 28

\$ 739,474 29

\$ 754,264 30

\$ 17,230,686

From: [Kyle Miller](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: INDIANAPOLIS NORTH FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 10:25:17 AM

Michael,

I am a long-time Warleigh neighborhood resident. After reviewing the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), I heavily favor the Westfield Boulevard Alignment (proposed action). I thank the USACE for putting such comprehensive research together for review. I support every aspect of the proposed action. I hope this action gets support from the city and look forward to completion of the floodwall.

Thank you,
Kyle

Kyle Miller
6310 N. Park Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

From: [Glenn Kimball](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Project
Date: Friday, August 24, 2012 3:58:52 PM

Col Turner,

Thank you for holding the public hearing on August 23, 2012. It was very helpful and informative. I commend you for your professionalism during the comment time.

I seriously hope the Corps and the city of Indianapolis will seek and find a way to finish the project and provide flood protection for Rocky Ripple. The proposed Westfield Flood Wall, while cheaper, seems unjust to the residents of Rocky Ripple and ultimately unfair to the entire Indianapolis community.

I walk, almost daily, along the canal from Illinois Street to the Butler campus and have come to deeply appreciate the beauty and wildlife along the way. While I understand the project would not destroy the canal it would compromise its aesthetics.

I also question the need to remove any more trees along the river north of the canal.

Respectfully,
Glenn Kimball
23 W. 57th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Beth Rago](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis North Floodwall Project
Date: Friday, August 17, 2012 2:03:39 PM

From: Beth Rago <sun619@sbcglobal.net>
Subject:
To: sun619@sbcglobal.net
Date: Friday, August 17, 2012, 1:38 PM

Army Corps of Engineers
Wm. Michael Turner
Chief, Environmental Resources
Attn: CELRL-PM-P-E Room 708
US Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Chief Turner:

I am a Rocky Ripple resident in Indianapolis, Indiana. I am writing about the floodwall that is proposed to go up along Westfield Boulevard. I don't want my house to be virtually condemned. We in Rocky Ripple deserve equal flood protection, the same as the rest of Indianapolis. I vote and pay taxes. Butler University and the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association oppose this solution to the realignment of the downstream end of the Indianapolis North floodwall. Their opposition shows how devastating this proposal would be to a beautiful area where 700 residents live. The proposed Flood Reduction Plan would make my house uninsurable. I would not be able to sell. I won't be able to rebuild my house if it is destroyed. This is unacceptable.

The White River levee should be repaired at the river. This would protect Rocky Ripple as well as the rest of the city. No homes in Rocky Ripple should be disturbed. 700 residents of a vibrant neighborhood would be sandbagged in at 53rd and 52nd St. bridges. How will emergency vehicles be able to reach trapped people? There are many elderly residents here. What a nightmare for these people!

The Corps has included costs associated with a new sewer and lift station when budgeting this project. These costs are not relevant to the proposed action. Including them artificially inflates the cost of giving fair and equal flood protection to my neighborhood.

I did not live in Rocky Ripple when a straw poll was conducted in 1996, which supposedly turned down repairing the levee at the river. My voice deserves to be heard NOW, in 2012. If my area is walled in, it creates a flood bowl. River water would come into Rocky Ripple and would not have a way to flow out once the river receded! This would create serious health risks.

White River will be channeled from Broad Ripple, south to and including the area adjacent to the Riviera Club. Ripple residents will be more vulnerable to flood because this channeled water will flow faster and higher. This will further erode the levee which was built in the 1930s.

Reconsider your plan! There are people living here! Don't wall me out of flood protection! All Indianapolis residents deserve equal treatment.

Sincerely,
Beth Rago
529 W. 54th St.

Indianapolis, Indiana

From: [Phillip Darrah CPA](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis North Levee Project
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 1:34:24 PM

Thank you for all the hard work that has gone into the planning for the Indianapolis North Levee Project and, especially, for enduring the various, anxious and desperate opinions of the citizens involved.

I am a resident of Meridian Kessler Terrace, situated in the flood zone. My home would greatly benefit from the flood protection.

I think that forming a solution to address a problem that affects so many people in so many different ways requires Solomon wisdom and strong leadership. I believe that we find ourselves in this quandary today because of a lack of local political leadership on the issue in the 1990's.

As you know, in the mid-90's a strong voice of opposition was raised by the Rocky Ripple neighborhood. I understand that today's residents of Rocky Ripple argue that the decision to be excluded from the flood wall project is illegitimate. However, the arguments raised at that time were taken seriously and put a halt to the project for at least 15 years. Those living there now were either part of the decision or, purchased their properties knowing that a decision had been made to be excluded from the new levee. So I don't feel that current objections of Rocky Ripple should further delay the levee project.

Once alternatives were developed, a new voice of opposition was raised by residents along Westfield Boulevard, based on aesthetics. The Army Corps revised plans to make the wall less of a problem for them, but it appears those efforts did not satisfy. Further, Butler University added voice to this group in opposition.

I can understand the apprehension of the Westfield Boulevard residents, however we heard the same arguments from Rocky Ripple in the 1990's, which proved to be overwrought. Would the Westfield Boulevard residents have the same concern should they wake up and find all their neighbors between the canal and White River under water? Likewise, I appreciate the concern of Butler University, however the "gardens" that they seek to protect are, little more than overgrown landscape and weedy lawns. Surely a low stone wall would not negatively affect their gardens.

Finally, I understand that the local water company has issued concerns about a flood wall passing over sewer lines. The concern is that sewage would back up into the protected neighborhoods should the gates be closed. I have faith that the engineers can resolve this issue. Given the unfortunate choice, in the event of a real flood I would rather suffer a sewer backup into my basement, than a flood of the entire house (including the basement).

As I said, this project begs for leadership. And I believe that a leader will say to those with ancillary concerns that the protection of a large part of North Indianapolis, outweighs other (valid) concerns. We have waited so long for this project and I can only imagine the amount of flood insurance dollars spent

during the last 15 years. It is my hope that the Corps will support whichever project leads to the most expedited completion of the levee.

Thanks.

Phillip Darrah

14 Kessler Boulevard West Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46208

317-254-0467

From: linderdesign@sprintmail.com
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis White River (North) Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 8:05:04 AM

July 10, 2012

RE: The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project as it relates to the community of Rocky Ripple.

Dear Sir,

As residents for the past 26 years of Rocky Ripple, we would like the DPW and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to re-reconsider repairing the existing levee along White River as was the original plan several years ago.

At that time we supported the Army Corps design, and sent letters of support, attended meetings and sent letters of apology after the town's dismal treatment of the ACE representatives. Since then the town has changed, homeowners have improved their properties – and attitudes. This is a unique and beautiful area of the city adjacent to Butler University and to wall it off would reverse the quality and care-taking of this neighborhood community. Although homes along the existing levee will be impacted, the long term effects for potential community development, its welfare, increase in property values for Rocky Ripple and those of the surrounding area would outweigh any short-term inconveniences. In that wells have been closed off, city water supplied and plans for city sewer systems to be installed in several years - these plans contribute to the city's long-term view that Rocky Ripple is valued, and is a viable community worth the efforts of improvement. It does not make sense to create a potential cesspool by walling off Rocky Ripple if a flood were to raise the river level, plus overflow of the canal. The existing levee plan along Westfield would effectively turn this area into a lake destroying over three hundred homes and impacting families, home-based businesses and the surrounding area.

We strongly urge the ACE, DPW and city of Indianapolis to reconsider Rocky Ripple and its residents and return to the original levee improvement proposed in the 1990's.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With Respect,

David & Vandra Linder

5208 Sunny Meade Lane

Indianapolis, IN 46208

317-259-8297

Vandra Pentecost

Linder Design
5208 Sunny Meade Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46208
www.vandrapentecost.com

2D Department Head
Indianapolis Art Center

From: [Paul D. Cardamon](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indianapolis White River (North) Flood Damage Reduction Project - comment - support
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 10:21:48 AM

Mr. Michael Turner,

I just would like to comment on the Indianapolis White River (North) Flood Damage Reduction Project.

I fully support the project.

I would like to see the final phase completed as quickly and cost effectively as possible. This would ensure that the entire project's benefits are realized. I am worried that the project won't be fulfilled. Any chance of this happening? There are already a lot of sunk costs in the project as it stands. I would hate to see those two initial phases not realize their benefits, as the third phase is still pending.

Thanks,

Paul D. Cardamon

Syndication Analyst

City Real Estate Advisors, Inc.

30 South Meridian St., Suite 600

Indianapolis, IN 46204

317.808.7129 Direct

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Email: pdcadamon@cityrealestateadvisors.com <<mailto:mlueken@cityrealestateadvisors.com>>

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City Real Estate Advisors Inc. | PO Box 44992 | Indianapolis IN 46244-0992

From: [Margaret Brabant](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Indpls. North Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Tuesday, August 14, 2012 3:02:34 PM

August 14, 2012

Dear Mr. Wm. Michael Turner,

I write to express my grave concerns regarding the manner in which the Army Corps of Engineers 2012 Flood Reduction Plan Project threatens to be imposed without sufficient consideration of its potential to destroy the property, health and well-being of Indianapolis citizens.

History—I purchased my home in Rocky Ripple in 1992 and lived through the first round of the Army Corps of Engineers proposals to provide flood protection in 1996.

I participated in many of the meetings hosted by the Corps and our town council. I conducted research on the Corps' proposed project and presented my findings at one of the many public meetings hosted by Rocky Ripple's town council.

At that time, the Corps' initial proposal was unacceptable to many Rocky Ripple residents because it excluded some houses from protection and involved razing a number of area homes, trees and wildlife habitat. The proposed levee was an unadorned cement wall as high as eight feet in some areas. When Rocky Ripple citizens objected, Corps representatives were wholly unyielding in their position, a position that brutally rejected any compromise—take the wall or take nothing. After months of deliberations and heart-wrenching debate, the town board conducted a referendum style special voting session wherein the Rocky Ripple residents could “vote” on the Corps' proposal. Only days before the referendum was scheduled for a vote, the Corps belatedly offered a plan that would reduce the height of the wall (5 ft. in most places) and included a façade design that was more aesthetically acceptable. However, by the time this revised plan was offered, many Rocky Ripple residents did not trust the Corps to follow through on its latest iteration. Subsequently, a slim majority of citizens supported the referendum to block the proposed plan.

However, it is important to note that the people of Rocky Ripple never voted to forego flood protection. Many residents voted against the Army Corps plan with the understanding that significant repairs could be undertaken to the existing earthen levee. Indeed city officials at the time promised funding to repair the existing levee. The late Congresswoman Julie Carson advocated on our behalf to secure federal funding to assist with repairs. Some repairs were funded and completed. Unfortunately, these funds were short lived, in part because of the economic turn down and Congresswoman Carson's death.

Then and Now—Unfortunately, the Army Corps of Engineers apparently learned nothing from the mistakes they made during the mid-1990s debate because they continue to push for a “one levee fits all” approach, asserting for instance that they must build a levee that fits post-Katrina standards, despite the fact that the White River bears little in common with New Orleans or the floods on the Mississippi

River. The Corps, as well as some Indianapolis city officials, seem oblivious to the fact that ignoring Rocky Ripple's need to be included in flood protection will not solve flood-related problems throughout the city of Indianapolis.

The current Flood Damage Reduction Project plan not only fails to address the needs of Rocky Ripple (because the Corps is unwilling to consider alternative plans) but also places the health and well-being of other Indianapolis citizens at risk in a myriad of ways. Sadly, the Army Corps, as well as key Indianapolis city officials, express an unwholesome attitude of arrogance towards all Indianapolis residents. Such an attitude is dangerous because it suggests the Corps and city officials may view a large percentage of Indianapolis residents as expendable.

Evidence to support this view that we are expendable lies in the Corps' own documents. Why does the Corps persist in its plans to build its wall along the historic Waterworks Canal, a canal that provides water to 600,000 Indianapolis residents, and one that was not constructed to withstand the impact of flood waters? Why would city officials even consider a plan that might well compromise the health of the entire city, let alone a plan that "walls in" area citizens and virtually assures the loss of property, if not life, of Rocky Ripple residents?

In the event of a significant flood, property damage in Rocky Ripple could be in the millions (estimations run between \$33-\$50 million dollars). Ironically, this is virtually the same amount of money quoted as necessary to build a levee that would include Rocky Ripple and provide greater protection for the city of Indianapolis. We have been told that the federal government will not permit us to rebuild should such damage occur. But one wonders how to estimate the value of life lost? Ask any official who has had to deal with the 2011 State Fair tragedy and one begins to get a sense of what it means for public officials to allow callous and reckless building practices to occur. Any flood reduction plan that fails to include the residents of Rocky Ripple would be similarly callous and reckless, and ultimately costly to all Indiana taxpayers. Beyond the residents of Rocky Ripple, any floodwall that does not provide the greatest protection for the greatest number of Indianapolis citizens merely wastes tax dollars (at the federal, state and local levels).

Area residents in the historic Butler-Tarkington neighborhoods also have much to lose if the current flood reduction plan is implemented. It is difficult to estimate the financial impact of a wall placed along the canal, the building of which will require the removal of hundreds of trees and the destruction of wildlife habitats. In the event of major flood that will destroy the walled-in Rocky Ripple community, what will it be like for our BTNA neighbors to live adjacent to a hideously blighted area? What will happen to BTNA's quality of life, let alone the property values of this beautiful area of Indianapolis?

Even more broadly, a canal wall will surely disrupt, if not utterly eliminate, the enjoyment of the thousands of Indianapolis residents who presently use the towpath as part of the

Indy Greenways. Lost too will be the diverse ecosystem that presently exists along this stretch of the canal because construction of the proposed wall means tree and habitat destruction, another loss difficult to cost out.

Solutions—Since the mid-1990s debates began, city officials have repeatedly promised to repair the existing levee, but these promises have never been kept. One suspects, however, that where there is a will, there is a way and the dollars can be found to repair the levee. If the Army Corps of Engineers could be encouraged to think a bit more creatively, one can imagine a plan wherein the levee runs

along the White River where it needs to be in order to protect the greatest number for the greatest good. Surely there are people within the Corps who can think outside of the box, or in this case, outside of the wall, and are able to envision projects that can protect and are affordable. Simply put, our federal, state and local officials need to recognize that the taxpayers can pay now for flood prevention or pay more for flood damage later. We can prevent loss of life and property now if we really care to do so. But to ignore the needs of Indianapolis citizens now is to risk having blood on one's hands later.

Sincerely,

Margaret Brabant

538 Ripple Road

Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Kevin Strunk](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: [Kevin Strunk](#)
Subject: Indy North DEIS comments
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 3:14:08 PM
Attachments: [STRUNK Indy North levee DEIS September 27, 2012.pdf](#)

Mike

Please see attached pdf version of my comments on the current Indy North DEIS due September 28, 2012.

Thanks

Kevin Strunk

Kevin Strunk and Jeanette Holland

6350 Glen Coe Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46260
(317) 257-3323 email kstrunk@indy.net

September 27, 2012

Colonel Luke T. Leonard, District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers-Louisville District
CERL-PM-P-E Room 708
PO Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

also emailed to: Michael.Turner@usace.army.mil

Colonel Leonard and other USACE staff:

I am writing a concerning the call for comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for Phase 3B or the Indianapolis White River North Flood Damage Reduction Project and associated Environmental Impacts. USACE extended the EA comment period until September 28, 2012.

I have been involved with the project as a home owner immediately adjacent to the levee (6068 Riverview) since January 1, 1991 when I joined John Oakley and other Indianapolis DPW staff on the Warfleigh Levee to view both the cresting water of that flood event and the obvious leakage from the base of the levee. As a geologist familiar with structural failure, I immediately understood the ramifications. In April 1991, the first DPW/USACE/resident meeting occurred in my home office mere feet from the levee. Shortly after that, the USACE and DPW began the review, leading to the 1996 plans. The fact that it took FIVE years then was a frustration. It is now TWENTY-ONE years later, and the project continues to languish. Phase I and II are completed, but Phase 3B is long delayed. I have donated vast amounts of time and energy as an interested and impacted citizen. As a professional geologist, I marvel at the USACE process.

I wish to make the following comments, observations and requests:

1. It is incredible to me that USACE and Indianapolis DPW did not vet the proposed project with the knowledgeable public prior to issuing the DEIS. I have suggested numerous times to USACE and DPW staff that they actually TALK TO PEOPLE.
2. While I understand the sentiments of those asking for a review of the 1995 Rocky Ripple decision, anyone knowledgeable of the reality of what it would mean to shoe horn in a true levee in Rocky Ripple understands that it is a terribly expensive idea fraught with massive tree clearing, destruction of numerous houses and the alteration of a way of life in a unique neighborhood. Wall off the river, and Rocky Ripple becomes a less charming north side haven, with little connection to the very reason the town even exists (the river). It is clear that a Rocky Ripple levee would be a huge negative impact to the White River riparian corridor botanical resources and wildlife, and the scenery, at an average cost of \$120,000 per protected home.
3. The currently suggested alignments for finishing Phase 3B are supposedly the result of the recognition of some poor soils and an archeology site(s) along the canal tow path between the Central Canal and the White River and also between the south end of the Riviera Country Club

and the northeast corner of Rocky Ripple. I would like to see those soil conditions further reviewed as this appears to be THE reason for the 2011 and 2012 proposed alignments. Resolving this situation is key to any future plans or alignments. Solve this issue and the 1996 alignment could be used, negating the main Westfield Boulevard tree clearing objections of the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association. A technical review of the tow path soils must be done anyway to look at any Rocky Ripple levee and address canal wall integrity issues.

4. I also urge the USACE and Indianapolis DPW to review the feasibility of providing separate flood protection for Rocky Ripple, mindful of the many technical, land ownership and internal political challenges which have nothing to do with the larger DEIS area. Perhaps flood protection less than the 350- year or even the 100-year level could be built, thus providing some protection.

5. The proposed massive tree clearing of the Warfleigh and Broad Ripple levees and which would also occur in Rocky Ripple is an environmental travesty and in fact is a stab in the back to those residents who worked in good faith with the DPW and USACE to maintain the trees on the levee and the flood plain. Indeed, the final design of the reconstructed levees with the sheet pile flood wall and the toe drain was supposed to resolve this issue. In the mid-1990's, the USACE admitted that the laminar flow of a flooding river, and not the normal vector force slamming a bare concrete wall as seen in the hurricane-driven New Orleans tidal wave, negated the need for tree clearing. Please calculate and inform me of the probability that during a 350-year event the levee soils will be so saturated that should a big wind then come up and actually knock over a tree with a root ball so large that it fully rotates in such a fashion as to undermine the deeply emplaced sheet pile, thus causing a levee breach. That probability approaches ZERO, perhaps something like 1.0 times 10 to the negative 1000. The USACE proposed tree clearing is simply anal conservative over-engineering. It lacks any imagination, and the USACE policy wonks should be ashamed. I understand that USACE is being sued elsewhere on this issue.

6. Of course, the new 15- foot permanent clear zone from the base of installed structures is the basis for the massive tree clearing and the width of the clear zone for houses and a levee corridor in Rocky Ripple. If the USACE would simply alter this seemingly arbitrary policy, the current and any future proposals could be much different. Again, it is anal conservative over-engineering and is NOT Value Engineering. The costs and logistics associated with this key issue are driving the overall project planning. PLEASE REVIEW THIS DESIGN ISSUE.

7. At this time I urge the USACE to adopt the "No Action" and suspend the current plans for the Friedmann Park and Riviera Club levee segments, as well as those segments covered by the DEIS. I also urge the USACE and Indianapolis DPW to convene a panel of truly informed and technically minded staff and residents to assist in the larger review. I have suggested to USACE and DPW that myself and select others would be happy to serve on the panel.

Cordially,

Kevin Strunk

Kevin Strunk, Licensed Professional Geologist, and 21-year levee project veteran/resident.

From: [Jeni Pacala](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Letter re: Indpls North Levee Project
Date: Friday, August 24, 2012 9:00:49 AM
Attachments: [flood letter.docx](#)

Colonel Leonard,

My name is Jenifer Pacala, and I live at 5112 Riverview Drive in Rocky Ripple. According to the "Rocky Ripple" plan, I am one of the "red dots" that the Corps has deemed necessary for removal should the flood wall go around Rocky Ripple. I would like to share with you my thoughts on your current proposed flood plan going down Westfield Blvd.

I, like the majority of my town's people and surrounding neighborhood residents, am against the wall going up Westfield Blvd. I was at the meeting last night, August 23rd, and it is clear to me that you understand why we're all against the Westfield wall, so I will not burden you with more talk of our historic canal and the benefits of walking, biking, trees, critters and nature to enjoy.

What I will tell you is that, in my humble opinion, the wall needs to follow the river. I am trusting, in faith, that the Army Corps of Engineers can figure a way to protect Rocky Ripple in your plan, and also without the demolition of the 22 houses you currently have slated. Being one of the 22, I am in between a rock and a hard place – but flood protection for Rocky Ripple is the best choice, the wise choice, and the only choice that I can recommend. If the flood wall goes up Westfield, the property values in Rocky Ripple will be more like Monopoly Money than Uncle Sam's. So whether my house is taken by eminent domain or by worthless property value, OR by a flood, the red dots on your current Rocky Ripple plan are SNAFU.

There has been talk by Citizens Water that a damn below the 16th Street bridge on the river could be removed, and the possibility of lowering high flood waters by 5 ft. This would be significant, and an easier fix than destroying 22 homes. I am hoping Citizen's studies prove this to be true. Regardless, I know you guys can come up with a better plan than is currently recommended to the City of Indianapolis.

I am pleading, Sir, that the Army Corps revisits this area and conducts another study, not only to include Rocky Ripple in your flood plan, but to do so without the destruction of our 22 homes. We may lose some of our view, and we may lose our deck, we'll probably lose all of our trees, but we sure don't want to lose our homes. We love it here, will accept a flood wall behind us, and will support you all the way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jenifer Pacala

5112 Riverview Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46208

jenpaca@att.net <<mailto:jenpaca@att.net>>

August 24th, 2012

**COLONEL LUKE T. LEONARD
DISTRICT COMMANDER
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS,
LOUISVILLE DISTRICT
PO BOX 59
ATTN: CELRL-PM-P-E
LOUISVILLE, KY 40201**

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Jenifer Pacala
5112 Riverview Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46208
jenpaca@att.net

From: [Mary Davis-Gregory](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Levee Issue in Rocky Ripple
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 10:05:04 PM
Attachments: [Levee Letter 2.doc](#)
Importance: High

Attached is my letter expressing my feelings about the levee that will wall in the town of Rocky Ripple

From: Mary Davis-Gregory
5367 Riverview Dr,
Indianapolis, IN 46208

To: Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers,
Louisville District
PO Box 59
ATTN: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Date: 9/26/2012

Re: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B

Dear Sir

I am writing to ask you to reopen discussion on your proposal to build a flood wall along the Westfield canal.

I've lived in Rocky Ripple for a large part of my life. As the levee work has progressed to the north the behavior of the White River has noticeably changed. The water level comes up more rapidly, it runs faster, and it gets closer to the top of the levee. It seems clear that if your current proposal is implemented these changes will become more severe, and our levee will be even more likely to be breached.

In the short term the scariest part of your proposal is the idea that the roads into Rocky Ripple will be closed off with sandbags whenever a high water event is declared. The last time there was a high water event I was in England on vacation with my husband. If your proposal had been implemented at that time we would have arrived from the airport in a cab late one evening and been unable to even get to our home to pick up our pets and other valuables. We would have had to wait outside the barricades until someone decided they could let us back in without endangering the rich folks on the other side of the canal.

Please, take some time to reconsider this proposal. At least until there has been time for you to explain how the cost of building the wall around Rocky Ripple reached the huge number in your document, and we have a chance to respond to it.

There has to be a way of going about this project without sacrificing one neighborhood to protect another. Building the wall around Rocky Ripple seems such an obvious idea. Nobody gets hurt. Butler University isn't impacted. The canal is protected. Yet in order to lower the cost you have a proposal that causes all sorts of problems. And I don't even know how you came up with those huge numbers since you chose not to share the costing information with us.

Thank you for your consideration.

From: [Carol Caldwell](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 2:19:34 PM

Dear Mr. Turner:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Corps' plans for the Flood Wall along the Central Canal in Indianapolis. I'm one of the many residents who bought my property in the Butler Tarkington neighborhood because of the presence of the Canal and open access to walking trails along it. A wall between the canal and Westfield Boulevard will certainly destroy that ambiance.

I would rather see nothing happen than to deal with the certain damage the current plans would do to neighborhoods surrounding the area. This includes:

- * Walling off Rocky Ripple and leaving the the health and safety of its residents at risk
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

I sincerely hope the Corps will reconsider and take the needed time to develop more adequate plans that will not destroy the environment and the ambiance of the surrounding areas.

Thank you
Carol A. Caldwell
4907 N. Kenwood Avenue
Indianapolis, IN

From: [Traynor, Mike](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 12:28:47 PM
Attachments: [Flood Wall Letter 09-24-12.pdf](#)

Mr. Turner

Please find my letter attached with my concerns regarding the Army Corps of Engineers proposed flood wall in the City of Indianapolis.

Thanks,

Michael Traynor, PE
Jacobs
Senior Project Manager
317.423.4847
317.538.2602 cell
Michael.Traynor@jacobs.com

www.jacobs.com <<http://www.jacobs.com/>>

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Colonel Luke T. Leonard

September 24, 2012

District Commander

US Army Corps of Engineers

Louisville District, PO Box 59

ATTN:

CELRL-PM-P-E, room 708

Louisville, KY 40201-0059

RE: Proposed Flood Wall for Indianapolis in the Area of Rocky Ripple and Butler University

Dear Colonel Leonard:

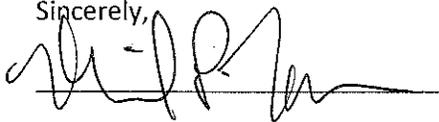
I would like to add my concerns to the many others you have received from Homeowners, BTNA, the Rocky Ripple Town Board, Butler University and Citizens Water Company to name a few. My objections, in addition to the many I've read from other concerned parties include:

- Immediate reduction in value of my primary residence located at 5151 Boulevard Place
- Risk to my drinking water
- Impact to my neighbors in the Town of Rocky Ripple
- Loss of recreational areas along the canal tow path
- Decimation of Holcomb Garden
- Loss of mature trees along the entire route of the project
- Potential sewer back-up through the antiquated combination sewers that exist in our neighborhood and service my property
- An incomplete cost to benefit analysis prepared by the Corp to support this plan that seems to woefully lacking any identification or inclusion of the issues listed here

Please don't complete this project and allow us to deal with the risks and consequences of the 300 year flood event. In the case where you must build it, then modify the plan to make it include my Rocky Ripple neighbors and execute it in a way that addresses virtually every affected person in my neighborhood and City's concerns.

Thank you for considering my views on this.

Sincerely,



Michael P, Traynor, PE

Resident at 5151 Boulevard Place, Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Ryan, Travis](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 3:38:38 PM
Attachments: [Ryan - response to DSEIS.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Turner

Please find attached a response to the Draft Supplement Environmental Impact Statement regarding the INDIANAPOLIS NORTH FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION plan.

Best regards

-t.

Travis J. Ryan
Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and
Director of the Science Technology and Society Program
Center for Urban Ecology <<http://www.butler.edu/cueb/>>
Butler University
Indianapolis, IN 46208
tryan@butler.edu <<mailto:tryan@butler.edu>>

"...the Dude abides"

23 August 2012

Wm. Michael Turner
Chief, Environmental Resources
CELRL-PM-P-E (Room 708)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Dear Mr. Turner:

In early April 2011, I sent a letter to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Louisville District office) in response to the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Phase 3B of the White River (North) Flood Damage Reduction Project. In this letter, also sent to the offices of Senator Dick Lugar and Representative Andre Carson, I pointed out a significant shortcoming of the EA: in section 4.3 (Aquatic Resources), there is no mention of the turtles that inhabit the Central Canal (note: the Central Canal is referred to as the Indianapolis Water Canal in the EA). This section focuses almost exclusively on the White River, mentioning the fishes and benthic invertebrates. As it pertains to the Central Canal, the EA only states "Algae and other aquatic vegetation are prevalent in the canal waters; however, with the limited shading and depth, the aquatic vegetation is likely a limiting factor for fish and macroinvertebrates [sic] use of the waters" (EA 2011, p. 4-13). It later acknowledges – in a somewhat contradictory manner – that "There are no impairments listed for the Indianapolis Water Canal [sic]" (ibid.) as it pertains to the biotic community.

In my response to the EA, I pointed out that my students and I studied the turtle assemblage of the Central Canal intensively between October 2001 and August 2009. During that time, we caught, marked, and returned more than 3,000 individual turtles, representing all six aquatic turtle species native to Marion County. It is likely that the number inhabiting the canal is actually several times higher than what we were able to mark and return.

My letter went either unread or ignored, as section 4.3 (Aquatic Resources) of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS), made available in June 2012, is essentially identical to the original EA. There is no mention of turtles among the aquatic resources in the Central Canal, nor an acknowledgement of the flawed assumption that the physical characteristics of the canal (such as the width, depth, shading, or amount of aquatic vegetation) significantly limit animal biomass.

More troubling is that, in my letter from April 2011, I detailed the fact that the portion of the Central Canal that will be most heavily altered by the proposed alignment will most certainly have a direct impact on the resident turtle assemblage. Both basking turtles, such as the map turtles and red-eared sliders, and less obvious species, like snapping turtles, preferentially inhabit the regions of the canal that are bordered by woodlots. This is certainly true during the active period, but this habitat is even more important in the 3-4 month period of inactivity during the coldest part of the year. Additionally, turtles preferentially reside in the specific area that will be cleared of trees by the Corps' proposed alignment: along Westfield Boulevard between Capitol Avenue and Holcomb Gardens on the campus of Butler University. We have noted a greater density of turtles in this stretch as compared to anywhere else

within the Central Canal. Given the number of turtles per unit surface area, it is no exaggeration to say that this stretch of the canal likely hosts the greatest density of turtles in Marion County. Yet, the only potential impact to turtles mentioned in the 2011 EA was that “The floodwall could **prevent** some reptile and amphibian **losses** due to road kill by preventing them from moving across the road” (EA 2011, p. 5-20; emphasis added). This section also says “aquatic fauna is low in number of individuals and species; therefore potential impacts are expected to be minimal” (ibid.). Despite being given specific information in the form of data that have appeared in national and international peer-reviewed, scientific journals that contradict the assumptions that appear in the EA, the language in the DSEIS is essentially unchanged (compare with DSEIS 2012 section 6.4.1, p. 44-45).

I will let others point out the failure to recognize the cultural value of the Central Canal as a whole, the aesthetic value of trees and wildlife that will be lost, and the sense of community that is threatened by the proposed alignment. These are all of considerable importance. But in terms of being an accurate assessment of the environmental impact represented by the Corps’ proposed alignment, the April 2011 EA is shortsighted and incomplete. I find the June 2012 DSEIS to be worse because, for reasons that remain unclear to me, the Corps apparently passed on an opportunity to replace several incorrect assumptions with scientifically-validated, field-based data collected over a span of several years. I hope that prior to making a final decision, the US Army Corps of Engineers – and the Mayor’s office – will at least recognize the threat to wildlife that the proposed alignment actually represents, even if they do not value that wildlife in the same manner as many of the residents of Indianapolis who I have had the opportunity to talk with over the past decade.

Respectfully submitted

Travis J. Ryan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and
The Center for Urban Ecology
Butler University

Relevant Literature

- Conner, C. A., B. A. Douthitt, and T. J. Ryan. 2005. Descriptive ecology of a turtle assemblage in an urban landscape. *American Midland Naturalist* 153:426-435.
- Peterman, W. E. and T. J. Ryan. 2009. Basking behavior of Emydid turtles (*Chysemys picta marginata*, *Graptemys geographica*, and *Trachemys scripta elegans*) in an urban landscape. *Northeastern Naturalist*:629-636.
- Ryan, T. J., C. A. Conner, B. A. Douthitt, S. C. Sterrett, and C. M. Salsbury. 2008. Movement and habitat use of two aquatic turtles (*Graptemys geographica* and *Trachemys scripta*) in an urban landscape. *Urban Ecosystems* 11:213-225.
- Ryan, T. J., W.E. Peretman, J. D. Stephens, and S. M. Sterrett. Movements and habitat use of the snapping turtle in an urban landscape. Manuscript in preparation.

From: [Judy Mooney](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Date: Saturday, August 18, 2012 2:37:17 PM

"Rocky Ripple"....the words always brings a smile to my lips. To steal John Steinbeck's introduction to Cannery Row, Rocky Ripple " is a poem, a feeling, a quality of light, a tone, a habit, nostalgia, a dream. Its inhabitants are, as the man once said, 'whores, pimps, gamblers, and sons of bitches', by which he meant everybody. Had the man looked through another peephole he might have said, 'Saints and angels and martyrs and holy men and women', and he would have meant the same thing."

To my lights, when we're talking about Rocky Ripple, we're not talking about real estate or economics. We are talking about a very special slice of life in Indianapolis that exists in this quiet, humble and sometimes raucous community. It is a community where folks appreciate the river, the beauty and wildlife that surrounds them and also the uniqueness of their sometimes quirky neighbors. I think that the city of Indianapolis benefits from our quiriness... not only because of our annual Arts Festival in September or the immediate charm you experience when you wander into our community but most of all because it is there. It is nice to know that places like Rocky Ripple still exist.

As one of the many elders who live in Rocky Ripple, I will go to the public hearing of the Army Corps of Engineer's next Thursday with hopeful anticipation. I have a hope based on the belief that the Army Corps and the city of Indianapolis are made up of "whores, saints and sons of bitches" just like we are. I hope that together we can discover a way to protect Rocky Ripple so everybody wins. Saving the Rocky Ripples of our planet is no small matter. It's how we celebrate and preserve the dance of life.

Michael Mooney (judymooney@rocketmail.com)
August 17, 2012

From: [Patty Fraser](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#); lori.miser@indy.gov
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 9:15:44 AM

701 West 52nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
September 28th 2012

Re: Rocky Ripple Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

To the ACE, Congressman Andre Carson, Lori Miser, and Mayor Ballard:

As a citizen of Rocky Ripple, I would like to appeal to you to adopt the Rocky Ripple alignment in your levee plans. All of us in our little town have our stories—allow me, please, to tell you mine.

My husband and I moved here in 1987 in order to be in Washington Township school district. We have a son who is on the autism spectrum and is mildly mentally handicapped—his name is Chris and he is in his 30s. Washington Township was purported back then to have the best special education. If we had had more money we wouldn't have chosen to live here, where the property values aren't high, and where there is always the risk of flooding. But Chris' needs came first, of course.

We have stayed here through the years because it took a long time for Chris to become completely competent to find his way back home from the places he needs to go in the city. As my husband and I are now some what up in years, it is our plan for Chris to stay here in our home, with community assists, for his lifetime. From this location, if need be, he can walk to a grocery, drugstore, bank, etc.--his needs can be accomplished in this way if he is unable to find a ride, as he doesn't drive.

Now we believe there is to be an increased deluge risk in case the White River floods and a levee has been built that stops upriver short of the area of our home. As the loving and responsible parents of an at-risk person, we are looking at possibly having to move from the home that we have lived in for 25 years and that we have spent teaching Chris to be as independent as possible in. As undesirable as that threat is, our chances of finding another strategically comparably safe place for him to live his life after we are gone are slim, as any good real estate agent would acquaint perspective buyers for our home of the increased risk to them here, and we might not even be able to sell it!

I know that, as usual, money has to be a factor in deciding these issues, and this is not a particularly wealthy area of homes. Nevertheless, I also know that the number of lives adversely impacted by the refusal to include Rocky Ripple in the levee protection must count even more. I am also confident that engineers who build enormous dams must be able to construct a plan that will protect all its citizens, not just the ones who live in high value properties. I implore you to seek another plan that safeguards Rocky Ripple.

Thank you for your attention.

Patricia Wadsworth

<<http://steffsstuff.lbbhost.com/Patty/000random.php>>

From: [Tim Nation](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: No canal floodwall
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 12:50:14 PM

In Indianapolis please rework your plans to include a Rocky Ripple flood wall.

Your current plans would destroy an important part of our neighborhood.

Tim Nation
4725 N Cornelius Ave
Indianapolis IN 46208
317-919-8690

From: [Vickie Wann](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: No flood wall!
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 1:20:10 PM

Falling property values, eyesore, cutting of trees. A member of the neighborhood association. Vickie Wann

From: [Turner, William T - INDIANAPOL IN](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Northside Indianapolis Flood Protection Plan
Date: Monday, July 09, 2012 11:20:31 AM

I am a resident of Warfleigh neighborhood (6232 Washington Blvd.) and have been since 2007. I am told that the flood zone will not be redrawn until all of the flood protection plan phases are complete.

I would like to remind the people involved in the completion of this project that every day that goes by costs the homeowners in my neighborhood hard earned money. My annual flood insurance premium is \$1,850 per year – what a waste.

I urge the city and the Army Corps of Engineers to expeditiously finish the phases of the project to alleviate the unnecessary cost for me and my neighbors.

Thank you for your help,

Will Turner

William T. Turner, CFP®
Vice President - Merrill Lynch

The Payne & Mencias Group

510 East 96th Street Suite 500
Indianapolis, IN 46240
phone: 317-848-5690
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Payne & Mencias Group website <http://fa.ml.com/payne_mencias>

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From: [Diane Badgley](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Objections to the flood wall proposal for City of Indianapolis
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 4:09:59 PM

To the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

As owners of a home and a commercial property in the affected area, we want to express strong opposition to the current USACE proposal for a flood wall along Westfield Blvd in the City of Indianapolis. In our view, this plan has problems on numerous levels:

City-wide:

- Puts the current infrastructure for a major portion of the city's water supply in harm's way permanently.

While we understand that an alternate plan in this area would not secure the entire canal, it seems very short-sighted to ensure through this action that it can never be protected. If the canal is destroyed, how long would it take the city to re-establish its water supply? How can this be considered adequate protection on a city-wide basis?

Community:

- Excludes the town of Rocky Ripple. This is unacceptable. How can we in good conscience exclude so many homes that are in fact part of our community?
- Constitutes such an extensive change to this area of the city, and hence our community, that it will be destabilizing.

The proposed flood wall is not on the edge of this area but cuts right through and involves land that is used by many people daily. One can hope it will work out positively, but there are reasons for concern that it could result in negative changes that create less favorable living conditions and reduced property values.

- Threatens valued and historic community features - the canal and Holcomb Gardens - both through construction of the wall and deforestation and in the event of a flood.
- Fails to provide flood security because there are some potential failure points in the proposed plan. Concerns about sewer backups and the improper closure of the canal gate suggest possible damage to buildings within the protection area of the flood wall. The recent Broad Ripple area flood in the city lends merit to these concerns.

What seems cost-effective cannot truly be so if it is the wrong plan. Based on the above concerns, we believe the current proposal is the wrong plan and respectfully ask the Army Corp of Engineers for a re-evaluation to provide a more comprehensive plan of protection for the entire area.

Sincerely,
Diane and Brent Badgley

From: [VanTyle, W](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Opposed to BTNA Flood Wall as Proposed
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 12:58:00 PM

Dear Mr. Turner:

I currently am and have been a resident of BTNA since 1982 and have enjoyed thousands of hours in the Butler Gardens, walking the tow path, and driving along Westfield Blvd. As a result of this interest and concern, I am totally opposed to the flood wall as it is currently proposed along Westfield Blvd and extending into the Butler Gardens. The following concerns have been expressed by the BTNA Neighborhood Association and I share all the concerns as itemized below:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter.

W. Kent VanTyle, Ph.D.

502 Buckingham Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46208

Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology

Butler University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

From: [Bradley Hamann](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Opposing Flood Wall (Indianapolis - Hamann 8-31-12)
Date: Friday, August 31, 2012 9:48:22 PM

8-31-2012

Good evening, Michael.

My name is Bradley Hamann, and I am a 2004 graduate from Butler University and President of the Butler University Young Alumni Board of Directors. I am writing this email to you as we only have a few hours left for the USACE to receive correspondence from the public on the alarming proposal to construct a flood wall through the historic Holcomb Gardens.

As a student from 2000-2004, I cannot recall a single instance when Holcomb Gardens has flooded. I believe there was a time when Lake Street flooded a bit in 2007, but that is about all that I can remember. Please understand that alumni, young and old, have a connection with Holcomb Gardens, and to see a flood wall constructed would take away from our beautiful setting. Walls have a tendency to attract graffiti, and I do not believe it is necessary over the course of the 12 years that I have known this campus.

The Indianapolis Central Canal is also a major source of our drinking water in Indianapolis, and constructing a flood wall could compromise the quality of our drinking water. Butler University is a growing campus after back to back years in the Final Four. I am positive that the university would eventually like to expand into the intramural fields, which would not be possible due to its landlocked location in a flood zone. Truly, I urge you and the USACE to reconsider the construction of this wall. As a Butler-Tarkington resident, I oppose this wall. As the President of the Butler Young Alumni Board of Directors, I support the mission of Butler University, which is also to oppose this wall.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Bradley A. Hamann

--

Bradley A. Hamann
President, Butler Young Alumni Board of Directors
Illinois Broker, Keller Williams Realty
Indiana Realtor, SK Richard & Associates
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<http://www.linkedin.com/in/bhamann>

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From: [Susan Appel](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Opposition to Central Canal Flood Wall
Date: Friday, August 17, 2012 9:41:03 PM

Michael Turner-

After reading through the 120 page report from the Army Core or Engineers, it is clear this is not a simple program with a simple solution. It is also clear that many things have changed from the time the proposal was made. Simply put, this is a solution in search of a problem as evidenced by the fact this project was initially intended to terminate behind the Riviera Club.

It is also clear, the evaluation for this plan was made from the perspective of a Federal agency looking at the City of Indianapolis as a whole. As a member of this community, it is our responsibility to stand up for the quality of life of our community as part of the City. With that in mind, I strongly oppose the implementation of Phase IIIB of the project for the following reasons:

- It lacks support of the impacted neighborhoods (Butler Tarkington and Rocky Ripple) and neighborhood members including many of those who are currently paying for flood insurance
- It lacks the support of the Mayor of Indianapolis as the proposed route does not include protection for the Rocky Ripple neighborhood. This project is dependent of the financial cooperation between the Federal and Local governments, and absent one, the project is a non-starter. To ignore the expressed wishes of the partner local municipality is to relegate the project to failure.
- It lacks the support of Citizens Energy, whose canal would be bisected and compromised by the proposed route, and whose canal supplies 60% of the drinking water for the City of Indianapolis. If the functional argument in favor of the canal's integrity is not sufficient, it is also a area where thousands of citizens appreciate trees, shrubs, bats, herons, turtles, and other wildlife which will be deprived of their habitat by the vegetation clearing proposed in Phase IIIB.
- Removing X acres of trees from our community hurts our environment. The study states the environmental impact is much greater than planned, but within acceptable limits looking at the City and State as a whole. A "decorative" concrete wall may be aesthetically pleasing when compared to a barren landscape, but is a massive physical and economic step down from mature native trees. This arguable hurts the economic value of houses in the neighborhood to a greater degree than any potential flood insurance savings could afford.

This community is one of the few communities in the city where nature and an urban environment exist side by side in harmony. Residents consciously make trade offs when they elect to live in any neighborhood. One known, internalized, and accepted tradeoff of living in the impacted area is that there is a chance that the White River may experience flooding at or close to the levels of 1913. This is why they also elect to, or not to, purchase flood insurance if they are in an impacted area. When comparing the cost of flood insurance versus the benefit of mature trees, the White River, and Central Canal as they have existed for 100+ years residents of our neighborhood have clearly decided that the exist value proposition is tilted toward the latter.

The X acres of trees and historical canal are the reason many people choose this neighborhood to raise their families in. It is a community which has held home prices steady or even rising during the housing crisis. Facts and standards change over time and this project is a clear example of this truism. Between the initial request from the City of Indianapolis and today the requirements to meet a 300 year flood event have changed. While it is unclear what would have been requested if the standards of today had applied then, it seems reasonable to assume that this project would not have been as straightforward as improving existing levees which have already been completed.

I am a mother of two young children. I don't want to tell my 4 year old daughter she can't see her "friend the heron", ducks, turtles or trees.

This project does not economically benefit the neighborhoods in the form of flood insurance "savings", but rather destroys quality of life and real estate value. Please save our community and our trees by not continuing with the Central Canal Flood Wall.

Sincerely,
Susan Appel

From: [Renee Harness](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Opposition to Current Flood Wall Plan in Butler Tarkington, Indianapolis
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 3:27:49 PM

Dear Mr. Turner, I am a resident of the Butler Tarkington neighborhood in Indianapolis and wanted to share my concerns about the upcoming plan to build the flood wall in the MKNA and Butler Tarkington areas. As a resident, my thoughts are with my home and neighborhood, but also with the health and safety of the community in which I live. These concerns include:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens and potential flooding after the wall is completed;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

I am also concerned about the health and safety of the water supply. I do not support the Flood Wall as it is currently planned and urge you to work with Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association, the city of Indianapolis and Citizens Energy Group to ensure the safety, health and welfare of Butler and Rocky Ripple residents and businesses.

Renee Harness
5347 North Park Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-523-8192
Renee Harness

"We are the ones we've been waiting for." June Jordan, Poet & Activist

From: [Dennis Carr](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Opposition to Flood Wall Plan for Butler Tarkington and Rocky Ripple
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 3:26:03 PM

Dear Mr. Turner, I am a resident of the Butler Tarkington neighborhood in Indianapolis and wanted to share my concerns about the upcoming plan to build the flood wall in the MKNA and Butler Tarkington areas. As a resident, my thoughts are with my home and neighborhood, but also with the health and safety of the community in which I live. These concerns include:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens and potential flooding after the wall is completed;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
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I am also concerned about the health and safety of the water supply. I do not support the Flood Wall as it is currently planned and urge you to work with Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association, the city of Indianapolis and Citizens Energy Group to ensure the safety, health and welfare of Butler and Rocky Ripple residents and businesses.

Dennis Carr
5347 North Park Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-809-8478

From: [Andrew Appel](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Opposition to Indianapolis White River North Flood Mitigation Proposal
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 11:12:06 AM

Mr Turner,

After reading through the 120 page report from the Army Core or Engineers, it is clear this is not a simple program with a simple solution. It is also clear that many things have changed from the time the proposal was made. Simply put, this is a solution in search of a problem as evidenced by the fact this project was initially intended to terminate behind the Riviera Club.

It is also clear, the evaluation for this plan was made from the perspective of a Federal agency looking at the City of Indianapolis as a whole. As a member of this community, it is our responsibility to stand up for the quality of life of our community as part of the City. With that in mind, I strongly oppose the implementation of Phase IIIB of the project for the following reasons:

- It lacks support of the impacted neighborhoods (Butler Tarkington and Rocky Ripple) and neighborhood members including many of those who are currently paying for flood insurance

- It lacks the support of the Mayor of Indianapolis as the proposed route does not include protection for the Rocky Ripple neighborhood. This project is dependent of the financial cooperation between the Federal and Local governments, and absent one, the project is a non-starter. To ignore the expressed wishes of the partner local municipality is to relegate the project to failure.

- It lacks the support of Butler University

- It lacks the support of Citizens Energy, whose canal would be bisected and compromised by the proposed route, and whose canal supplies 60% of the drinking water for the City of Indianapolis. If the functional argument in favor of the canal's integrity is not sufficient, it is also a area where thousands of citizens appreciate trees, shrubs, bats, herons, turtles, and other wildlife which will be deprived of their habitat by the vegetation clearing proposed in Phase IIIB.

- Removing acres of trees from our community hurts our environment. The study states the environmental impact is much greater than planned, but within acceptable limits looking at the City and State as a whole. A "decorative" concrete wall may be aesthetically pleasing when compared to a barren landscape, but is a massive physical and economic step down from mature native trees. This arguably hurts the economic value of houses in the neighborhood to a greater degree than any potential flood insurance savings could afford.

This community is one of the few communities in the city where nature and an urban environment exist side by side in harmony. Residents consciously make trade offs when they elect to live in any neighborhood. One known, internalized, and accepted tradeoff of living in the impacted area is that there is a chance that the White River may experience flooding at or close to the levels of 1913. This is why they also elect to, or not to, purchase flood insurance if they are in an impacted area. When comparing the cost of flood insurance versus the benefit of mature trees, the White River, and Central Canal as they have existed for 100+ years residents of our neighborhood have clearly decided that the

exist value proposition is tilted toward the latter.

The acres of trees and historical canal are the reason many people choose this neighborhood to raise their families in. It is a community which has held home prices steady or even rising during the housing crisis. Facts and standards change over time and this project is a clear example of this truism. Between the initial request from the City of Indianapolis and today the requirements to meet a 300 year flood event have changed. While it is unclear what would have been requested if the standards of today had applied then, it seems reasonable to assume that this project would not have been as straightforward as improving existing levees which have already been completed.

I am a father of two young children. I don't want to tell my 4 year old daughter she can't see her "friend the heron", ducks, turtles or trees.

This project does not economically benefit the neighborhoods in the form of flood insurance "savings", but rather destroys quality of life and real estate value. Please save our community and our trees by not continuing with the Central Canal Flood Wall.

Sincerely,

Andrew Appel

From: [Joe Seufert](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Phase IIIb Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 2:51:04 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

I own a house in Butler Tarkington on North Kenwood Avenue that is impacted by the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project. I support the currently proposed routing of Phase IIIb protection on the east side of IWC canal just south of the Riviera Club. I would hope that access through the wall would be maintained on the west side of the canal to allow continued use of the jogging/bike trail. And I assume Water Company needs are addressed where the wall crosses the canal. But either way, I am in favor of the most expedient and cost effective means to finish this project. Feel free to contact me questions or to discuss further. Thanks.

Joe Seufert
cell: (317) 289-3519

From: [Daniel Axler](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: John.Oakley@indy.gov
Subject: Please do not include Rocky Ripple in your Indianapolis North flood protection plans.
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 10:06:31 AM

Dear Michael and John;

Here are my comments on the flood protection issue to be included in your collection.

Please do not include Rocky Ripple in your Indianapolis North flood protection plans.
Please do not cause my two houses to be removed.

I moved here in 1988. I saw the river, and understood it could possibly flood.
I pay my flood insurance and continue to take that calculated risk in order to enjoy the view and have access to the river.

Living next to the river is that important to me.

If anyone is scared of the river flooding, why move here in the first place, or why stay there after the majority of the town chose not to be included in the ACE's 1996 plan?

If the wall is not built along the river, Rocky Ripple's situation will not change.
The City has never maintained the existing earthen levee around Rocky Ripple. They have not done any work on the levee since it was built in 1937!

The existing earthen levee should be maintained at the level of protection it now offers, a level that has protected us from ALL high water events since it was built. If we could repair and raise our levee even a little bit, we would be in much better shape than we currently are, and at much less cost than a wall along the river. Also, no houses would be demolished in this plan.

Thank your for your work on this process.

9.28.2012

Daniel Axler
5058 Riverview Drive
Rocky Ripple, IN 46208

317.254.0012

Daniel Axler
317.233.7126 office
317.254.0012 mobile (not text-able)

From: [Carter, Cam](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Proposed Canal Wall for Flood Control Project in Indianapolis
Date: Tuesday, August 21, 2012 3:46:48 PM

Mr. Michael Turner, CELRL-PM-P-E

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District P.O. Box 59, Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Dear Mr. Turner:

I am a resident of the Butler Tarkington neighborhood in Indianapolis living for the past 12 years at 339 W. 44th Street. I am sending you this email because I will not be able to attend the Corps meeting/open house on Aug. 23 regarding the proposed flood control wall along the canal on Westfield Boulevard in Indianapolis.

Candidly, in nearly 25 years of working in and around government at all levels, I've never come across a more ill-conceived project than this one. If it moves forward, it will destroy one of the more enriching features of my neighborhood.

From my study of the project, it is not necessary for the flood control aims being pursued by the Corp of Engineers and it is not desired by those most affected by it - the neighbors and residents of Butler Tarkington and the Town of Rocky Ripple. The current plan will be very destructive to the canal and towpath, an amenity used by neighborhood residents, Butler University students and other Indianapolis citizens year-round on a daily basis. The proposed floodwall will offer no protection to Holcomb Gardens on the Butler University campus, the 1830's era central canal, nor the citizens of Rocky Ripple (indeed, the current plan seems to ensure that those residents will remain under threat of flooding in perpetuity).

Given the expense of the project, the opposition of those most affected by it, and the laws of probability and nature which make flooding a maybe-once-in-a-lifetime occurrence, I can't for the life of me understand why a responsible public official would advocate for it.

Please consider this email an expression of my strongest opposition to this project and encouragement for you and other relevant authorities to reconsider your plans for this project. Other alternatives that meet the aims of all stakeholders are surely available to the Corps.

Sincerely,

Cameron Carter

Vice President, Economic Development & Federal Affairs Indiana Chamber of Commerce

office: 317.264.6892

mobile: 317.919.6455

ccarter@indianachamber.com

Cameron Carter

Vice President, Economic Development & Federal Affairs

Indiana Chamber of Commerce

office: 317.264.6892

mobile: 317.919.6455

ccarter@indianachamber.com

From: [Elizabeth Krajeck](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Proposed flood wall in Butler-Tarkington area, Indianapolis
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 2:14:36 PM

Dear Mr. Turner:

I've considered the possible impact of the proposed flood wall on the water supply, sewer system and public safety in the Butler-Tarkington area, and request that the current plan be rejected. In addition to a negative impact on the water and sewer systems, there appears to be a negative impact on the populations sense of well-being.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Krajeck

From: [Lisa M Sindelar](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Proposed Flood Wall in Mid-town Indianapolis
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 8:08:51 AM
Attachments: [USACE flood wall concerns from CEGF11.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Turner,

I am a resident of the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association and I stand with my fellow neighbors regarding the following concerns of the proposed flood wall:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

Please re-visit the project to ensure if this flood wall is necessary and if so, if there can be a solution that addresses the above concerns.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sindelar, 524 Buckingham Dr, Indianapolis IN



A member of Citizens Energy Group

1220 Waterway Blvd. | Indianapolis, IN | 46202

www.citizenswater.com

August 17, 2012

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District, P.O. Box 59
ATTN: CELRL-PM-P-E, Room 708
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Re: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction

Dear Colonel Leonard:

Citizens Water (Citizens), owner of the water and wastewater systems in Indianapolis, has reviewed the design plans and *Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS)* for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction project (Project). We believe that the project as proposed has adverse impacts on the Indianapolis water and wastewater systems.

Citizens' drinking water system includes the White River Surface Water Treatment facility located in downtown Indianapolis. The White River Facility serves downtown Indianapolis and produces up to 60% of the drinking water needs for Central Indiana. This critical facility obtains its supply from the historic Central Canal. We feel that the Project potentially endangers the Central Canal, our primary drinking water source, and also could unnecessarily interrupt sanitary sewer service to approximately 5,000 households.

We have outlined concerns as follows:

1. Citizens has reviewed the Interim Feasibility Report, Volume II, Appendix A, Economics. This Feasibility Report does not assess the costs and benefits directly and indirectly related to the protection and continued operation of the Central Canal. Since the Canal is the only surface water source to the White River Facility, we believe that it should be included in the analysis.
2. Crossing of the canal with the gate structure. While the gates are designed to allow sufficient flow down the canal, they pose a risk of limiting the flow in the event of a malfunction. Further, the gates would need to be maintained on a regular basis to keep them free from weeds and debris that could cause hydraulic restrictions.
3. The plans currently incorporate three (3) pump stations that discharge directly to the canal. In general, Citizens' policy is to disallow discharges to the canal. We recommend redirecting these discharges to City storm drains or the White River. The water quality of these discharges are unknown and would need to be tested on a regular basis.
4. The proposed Broad Ripple-Riverside Interceptor Flood Gate would obstruct continuous sanitary sewer service to approximately 5000 upstream parcels. We believe this condition poses a significant health hazard. Citizens prepared a memorandum dated January 23, 2012 that details the adverse impacts, and submitted it to both the Indianapolis Department of Public Works and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District.
5. The current alignment of the floodwall creates a risk of scouring the west bank of the canal during a flood event. The scouring could cause a failure of the canal system, particularly in the area known as the "high banks region." Preliminary modeling suggests that river velocities will exceed 12 feet per second (fps) during a 300-year flood event. We feel these velocities could compromise the integrity of the canal banks and cause a possible failure.



A member of Citizens Energy Group

1220 Waterway Blvd. | Indianapolis, IN | 46202

www.citizenswater.com

August 17, 2012

6. The proposed floodwall will obstruct public view of the canal along Westfield Boulevard and will cause an increase in security risk due to more difficult monitoring of human activity along the canal.
7. The proposed floodwall may cause additional storm water run-off and erosion to the canal banks. Generally, the canal banks are finished with pervious material and are graded to sheet storm water away from the canal. The wall will increase the impervious area and direct storm water into the canal.
8. The floodwall will complicate maintenance along the canal for weed harvester access, regular patrolling, and mowing, particularly in the area between the wall and the canal. Citizens currently maintains an access point to the east bank, and it doesn't appear that provisions to maintain this access are provided in the proposed design.

In summary, the Corps' Project, as currently proposed, will adversely impact both the drinking water and wastewater systems owned and operated by Citizens because the Project does not protect the operation of Central Canal and could unnecessarily interrupt sanitary sewer service to approximately 5000 households.

Citizens Water would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to further discuss these items in more detail in an effort to develop solutions to these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lindsay C. Lindgren'.

Lindsay C. Lindgren, PE
Vice President, Water Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey Harrison'.

Jeffrey Harrison
Vice President, Capital Programs & Engineering

Cc: Bonnie Jennings, ACOE
Lori Miser, DPW
John Oakley, DPW

From: [Ellie Bachmann](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Proposed Flood wall on Westfield Blvd. Indianapolis IN
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 11:33:21 PM

Dear Mr. Turner, The proposed flood wall current design will have a negative effect on our community and use of the central canal. At the same time it will not protect the area of Rocky Ripple. Hundreds of mature trees will be removed and a flood gate would be installed across the canal. Also, 60% of the city's water supply comes from the canal, and would be in jeopardy. Surely the Army corp of engineers can come up with a better plan.

Eleanor Bachmann
5443 N. Kenwood Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Katie White](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Proposed Floodwall
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 10:32:58 AM

Dear Mr. Turner,

I am writing to express my opposition to the latest proposal regarding the floodwall along the White River and Central Canal. My family and I live right along the canal on Washington Boulevard. When we first moved in three years ago, we were surprised and a little outraged that we had to pay for flood insurance, given the cost of the insurance in proportion to what it actually covers. Our realtor explained that there was a floodwall project in the works, so we wouldn't have to pay flood insurance forever. We were thrilled. However, now that I have read the current proposal for the floodwall, I'd be more than happy to continue paying flood insurance. The removal of acres of trees from our community would destroy the character of the canal, reduce home values, and displace wildlife. Our family regularly uses the canal to feed the ducks, look for wildlife and ride our bikes. We would be devastated if the proposal goes through and the current character of the canal is completely changed. I truly hope you will speak out against this current proposal. Thank you, in advance, for your efforts and leadership.

Kathleen Meek
5939 Washington Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46220

From: [Jim Johnston](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Protect Rocky Ripple
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 4:13:30 PM

Sir:

Please revise the Plan to by pass Rocky Ripple and cross the canal. The residents of Rocky Ripple originally opposed the original plan and opted out. My appeal is that I think they should not be flooded for their stupidity back then. Protect our neighborhood, Rocky Ripple and everything else that is in danger.

Hilja and James Johnston
5520 N Kenwood Ave
Indianapolis, In 46208

From: [Will Carlson](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Public Hearing on 8/23/2012
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 1:09:32 PM

Dear Mr, Turner,

The Warfleigh Neighborhood Association held a neighbor-wide meeting on July 23, 2012, to draft a letter with our position on the completion of Phase III of the North Flood Damage Reduction Project as recently updated in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Of the 52 individuals who attended the meeting, 34 or 65% voted in favor of the Westfield Boulevard Alignment. Two members voted to do nothing from this point forward, with the remaining 16 members abstaining. Most of those in attendance favored getting the levee wall completed and upgraded according to Katrina standards -- 'Get it done right this time!' The position taken by many at the meeting was to protect our properties as soon as possible from future floods and to reduce or eliminate the required flood insurance.

Will Carlson

President

Warfleigh Neighborhood Association

From: [Will Carlson](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Public Hearing: Personal perspective on Levee Wall Phase III
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 1:28:19 PM

Dear Mr. Turner,

As a member of the Warfleigh Neighborhood Association, I am in favor of getting Phase III of the North Flood Damage Reduction Project completed and upgraded according to Katrina standards -- 'Get it done right this time!' The position taken by many in our neighborhood is to protect our properties as soon as possible from future floods and to reduce or eliminate the required flood insurance."

My personal perspective has changed since our neighborhood meeting on July 23, 2012. I have received communications from Warfleigh neighbors who could not attend our formal meeting as well as folks from other affected neighborhoods – BTNA, Butler University and Rocky Ripple. Of our own neighbors contacting me, quite a few have agreed to "our" position. But those neighbors opposed to the official WNA and representatives from other neighboring groups have brought a great deal of information to my attention that we didn't have at our July 23rd meeting. Most of this material revolves around exaggerated funding required when Rocky Ripple is included in this levee wall protection. Also, the potential for irreparable damage to the canal and its use as a conduit for our water supply is much higher than originally estimated.

As President of the Warfleigh Neighborhood Association, I support the position as drafted by the WNA members. As an individual, my concerns are for the City, all the citizens of Indianapolis, Rocky Ripple and Butler-Tarkington residents and the priceless value of the Butler University campus. We need to all take a position of solidarity and make sure the completion of this project best serves our entire community and not the least expensive option.

Will Carlson

22 W. 62nd Street

Indianapolis, IN 46260

(317)465-1867

From: [Mark Chatten](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Questions: Indianapolis North Floodwall
Date: Tuesday, August 28, 2012 11:06:20 PM

Dear Mr Turner

I am a resident of Butler-Tarkington neighborhood in Indianapolis. I am trying to determine my opinion regarding the proposed floodwall. Please could you clarify the following:

- 1) How can I access the 1996 "Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study"? Is there a version online?
- 2a) How many homes would be protected by the recommended floodwall along Westfield Avenue during the 20, 50 & 100 year flood?
- 2b) How would you characterize the flooding in these events - is it just flooding in basements or more severe such as lift homes off foundations (complete destruction)?
- 3a) What flood risk (return period) associated with the current Rocky Ripple levee overtopping (i.e. assuming there is no breach or other sudden failure)?
- 3b) How does the USACE characterize the current Rocky Ripple levee in terms of its integrity and chance of failure before overtopping? ie. how reliable is it withstanding the height of water its intended for?

Thanks in advance for your response to the above.

Regards
Mark

From: [Kevin Connolly](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Re Proposed Flood Wall along Central Canal Indianapolis
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 7:07:28 AM

Kevin Connolly
335 West Westfield Boulevard
Indianapolis
IN 46208
317-259-9492
kevinconnolly2@gmail.com

28th September, 2012

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
USArmy Corps Of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter in the hope that you are paying more than lip-service to the views and comments of the vast majority of residents and institutions who live and operate in the vicinity of the proposed flood wall along the canal. These invested parties have repeatedly raised objections to the plan; objections which have been supported and substantiated by hard scientific and engineering fact, as well as by the ethical and aesthetic implications of the proposed project.

That a flood wall is required to protect the citizens of Indianapolis from the possibility of the White River flooding is not in question. However, your proposed plan chooses to ignore the vulnerability of those most closely affected by such a flood, namely the people of Rocky Ripple.

It was my impression that the Army Corps of Engineers had, as its fundamental principle, the mission to protect the citizens of America from harm. The proposed plan consigns a whole community of 700 people, US citizens, and their homes and properties, to the ravages of the flooding that your calculations anticipate. I would have thought that any plan, sanctioned by the federal government, and carried out by the Army Corps, would have this mission as the cornerstone of any project. However, in this case, you appear to ignore the residents of Rocky Ripple in the interests of expediency and calculated costs. What is the value of one solitary life lost as a consequence of your misguided development?

It is clear that you have a legal and moral duty to protect all citizens from harm, not just the chosen few. The proposed plan clearly does not seek to do this.

You have also heard objections from Citizens' Water who state that the canal is the source of 60% of Indianapolis' drinking water. Your plan threatens to damage the infrastructure of the canal and could adversely affect both water quality and the maintenance of the canal itself even without a flood occurring. In the event of a flood the impact on the water supply would be disastrous. This is not merely my opinion, but that of bodies who deal with the water supply on a day to day basis. I am sure you have also been reminded on numerous occasions that canals don't flood-rivers do! To ring fence the canal when the threat clearly comes from elsewhere is tantamount to closing the stable doors after the horse has bolted. This, seen as a strategic plan, either militarily or structurally, is clearly flawed.

From an aesthetic perspective this would have a dramatically negative impact on the overall experience of the area. The canal is one of the city's treasures and, as such, should be celebrated and preserved in its raw charm and simple beauty. In a rapidly changing environment we all have a responsibility to maintain and preserve features of aesthetic value and not harm them, particularly with spurious plans that would destroy the south-west bank of the canal as a recreational amenity, and which, otherwise, hold no sound logical reason for their manifestation.

In the light of overwhelming community and civic opposition to the proposed plan, I implore you to review the route of the projected flood-wall, and to give serious consideration to the alternative plan whose delineation embraces the safety and protection of the residents of Rocky Ripple and the canal itself.

Yours Sincerely

Kevin Connolly

--

Kevin Connolly

From: [Richard Guernsey](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: re. Flood Wall
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 1:12:32 PM

Michael...

Protection from potential floods is certainly important! Preservation of everyday quality living is even more important! I've lived in this area since 1973 and my every-other day walk is through Butler (with Holcomb Gardens), along the canal path, and through IMA (& 100 Acres). This combined Canal/White river/Hidden Lake experience is just wonder-filled (as is my frequent drive up to Broad Ripple on Westfield Blvd). And I also have a friend in Rocky Ripple. I want to maintain all this high-quality living environment at the same time as major flood protection. Sooo... I'd like to see (in easily understood drawings and language) a solution that both protects Rocky Ripple and preserves the historic tow path. It may cost a little more, but so be it. A higher quality of life is worth it!

...Richard Guernsey
434 West 46th St.

From: [richard](#)
To: lori.miser@indy.gov; [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Re. Response and Comments to Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project SEIS
Date: Monday, August 06, 2012 10:20:45 AM

> The letter below was mailed to Colonel Leonard and those others on the list at the end of the letter on Friday. I am e-mailing you your copy. Thank you for your attention.

RICHARD LOWE
5108 RIVERVIEW DR
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46208
317-446-4753 Cell
richard@casafamboy.com

Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
August 2, 2012

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRE-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Dear Colonel Leonard:

In May of 2002, I saw a for sale sign on this house along the river at 5108 Riverview Drive. We made an appointment with the realtor to see it, and we've been happy owners living in the house since July 4, 2002. The view of the river is like living in a vacationland with the ducks, geese, herons, eagles, osprey, blue jays, cardinals, pigeons, yellow finches, woodpeckers, squirrels, deer, red foxes, and fish. The menageries of birds empty our three bird feeders within 24 hours flitting back and forth from the feeder to the surrounding trees. The large wonderful trees and reflections in the water provide an ever changing 24 hour panorama with the sky, clouds, sun, moon, and seasons.

We fell in love with the location in the city - 15-30 minutes from everything! Local shopping at 56th and Illinois, Broad Ripple, the canal path, the Riviera Club, IMA, Children's Museum, downtown, Glendale, Castleton, Lafayette, and the airport. Yet, it feels like we are living in a quite park - void of city noises and traffic.

We felt secure in our investment with the levee built by the WPA that had served the community well since its construction in the 1930's. It had never been breached or overflowed in 80 plus years, though we were here for high water in 2002 and 2005. The home was built so the living quarters opened out onto the top of the levee with a deck overlooking the river and the basement and garage at street level for additional security. Therefore we have continued to improve and maintain it with a new roof, windows, doors, heating and a/c, kitchen, bathrooms, flooring, carpeting, and most importantly trimming the trees on the levee so the euonymus ground cover thrives protecting their root system and the foot at the river. We have discovered that this euonymus ground cover not only protects the tree root system, but adds to the height of the levee with each high water event trapping and holding additional silt from the downstream muddy water. The only maintenance required is bi-annual trimming with a weed cutter.

We also became active in the community attending board meetings, joining the river committee to find ways of improving and maintaining the levee, helping raise money at the annual fall Rocky Ripple Festival, planting an annual vegetable garden in the community garden, enjoying the three parks, undeveloped treed lots, walks around town and south along the river in the enchanted forest, canoeing

on the river, etc.

What other communities in UniGov offer these benefits?

So, as you can see we were not able to participate in the vote of 1996, and from our understanding, the biggest issue was lack of clarity and definition of what was really going to be done and how. Even that proposal lacked common sense and sane consideration of the actual problems at hand, and now all of the ACE proposals have gone off the chart because of Katrina! It is like throwing 320 homes and over 735 inhabitants under the BUS! Home values will deteriorate, and nobody will be able to stay in their home during a high water event! Then what happens to police and fire protection? What about all the pollution that will occur to the river water when our homes become flooded? We will not be able to afford and maintain flood insurance. What impact will the loss of this community have on the surrounding businesses and communities in Indianapolis?

This blue sky thinking and fear mongering as a result of Katrina only makes resolution more expensive and less palpable with everyday living and Mother Nature. We have 80 years of successful history, we just have to improve upon it. What was done in the 30's did not come close to \$50,000,000 even in today's dollars. I ask that you do some creative thinking and come up with some creative ways to add to the existing levee system and maintain the value that exists within the community and the city today, instead of trying to destroy this paradise we all love for those who live here.

Right now with the lowest water I have ever seen in ten years, a bulldozer in the river would do wonders to shore up the banks! It's ironic that instead of using this opportunity for maintenance and repair, you are spending time and money determining how to destroy this remarkable and very unique neighborhood.

Amazing how in 1937 The Civilian Conservation Corp. was able to pull a rabbit out of the hat and build the current levee with picks and shovels, while preserving all riverfront development, that has served us well through every high water event to date!

Sincerely,

RICHARD LOWE

cc: Lori Miser, Director
Indianapolis Department of Public Works
lori.miser@indy.gov

Wm. Michael Turner
Chief, Environmental Resources
CELRL-PM-P-E (Room 708)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
michael.turner@usace.army.mil

Senator Richard Lugar
1180 Market Tower
10 West Market Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Senator Dan Coats
10 West Market St. Suite 1650
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Congressman André Carson
District Office
300 E Fall Creek Pkwy N Dr. Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46205-4258

State Rep. Ed DeLaney
Indiana House of Representatives

200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

State Senator Scott Schneider
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204

From: [Mary Ann Yates](#)
To: lori.miser@indy.gov; [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: meridiankessler@aol.com
Subject: Re: Butler Tarkington/Rock Ripple Flood Protection
Date: Wednesday, August 15, 2012 7:07:19 AM

August 15, 2012

Gentle Servants of the People,

The proposed Flood Wall design by the Army Corps of Engineers is one more opportunity to destroy property values and ambiance to a shining star of a neighborhood in Indianapolis. The historical and current cultural benefits will be jeopardized as well as a total disregard for an entire 700 home area. This project includes city contribution and if my city votes for this I can assure you are jeopardizing a tax base which you desperately need.

I am not opposed to flood walls just the plans that are so short sighted as to have 200 years of repercussions and destroy the canal area, create additional problems with back up sewage, and eliminate a 700 home area from protection, limit Butler University expansion, Affect Historical registry Holcomb Gardens, and blight our neighborhood – do not let this go forward.

Mary Ann Yates

President

Elder Moves, Inc.

(317) 283-4683 w

(317) 443-5028 c

www.eldermoves.net <<http://www.eldermoves.net>>

www.eldermoves.blogspot.com <<http://www.eldermoves.blogspot.com>>

From: [Stanifer, Christie](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: RE: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction DSEIS (UNCLASSIFIED), ER-15583-1
Date: Thursday, August 30, 2012 3:40:49 PM
Attachments: [ER15583-1.pdf](#)

Mr. Turner:

Attached is our response letter for the above project.

Sincerely,

Christie L. Stanifer
Environmental Coordinator
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
402 West Washington St, Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Direct: (317) 232-8163
Fax: (317) 232-8150

-----Original Message-----

From: Turner, Michael LRL [<mailto:Michael.Turner@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 4:33 PM
To: Stanifer, Christie
Subject: RE: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction DSEIS (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Ms. Stanifer,

The deadline has been extended until August 31st. The City has requested another extension also. At this writing you have ample time to pull your comments together and submit them.

Thanks for inquiring.

Mike

Wm. Michael Turner
Chief, Environmental Resources
Ecologist
Louisville District
US Army Corps of Engineers
(office) 502-315-6900
(fax) 502-315-6864
(cell) 502-640-2009

-----Original Message-----

From: Stanifer, Christie [<mailto:cstanifer@dnr.IN.gov>]
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 1:17 PM
To: Turner, Michael LRL
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction DSEIS
Importance: High

Mr. Turner:

I apologize that IDNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife was not able to meet the deadline of this project review. Somehow the file fell through the cracks and was not tracked as it should have been, so we missed the August 13 deadline. Would you still accept our comments if we get them to you today or even tomorrow?

Sincerely,

Christie L. Stanifer
Environmental Coordinator
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
402 West Washington St, Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Direct: (317) 232-8163
Fax: (317) 232-8150

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

THIS IS NOT A PERMIT

**State of Indiana
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Fish and Wildlife**

Early Coordination/Environmental Assessment

DNR #: ER-15583-1 **Request Received:** July 3, 2012

Requestor: US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District
Colonel Luke T Leonard
CELRL-PM-P-E, Room 708
PO Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

Project: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project, (Phase 3B between the Riviera Club & Butler Univ); DSEIS

County/Site info: Marion

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. Our agency offers the following comments for your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

If our agency has regulatory jurisdiction over the project, the recommendations contained in this letter may become requirements of any permit issued. If we do not have permitting authority, all recommendations are voluntary.

Regulatory Assessment: On May 3, 2001, the Department approved Application No. FW-19540 for the Metro Indianapolis North Local Flood Protection Project along the West Fork White River (copy enclosed). Any new work proposed that is from the Riviera Club south property line to Butler University (as shown in Figure 6 and 11 of the DSEIS dated June 21, 2012) is outside the floodway and a permit is not required under the Flood Control Act (IC 14-28-1) for this project.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked. The mussels below have been recorded within ½ mile west of the project:
A) **FEDERALLY & STATE ENDANGERED:**
1. Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*)
2. Snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*)
3. Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*)
4. Rough Pigtoe (*Pleurobema plenum*)
B) **STATE ENDANGERED:** Rabbitsfoot (*Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica*)
C) **SPECIAL CONCERN:**
1. Round Hickorynut (*Obovaria subrotunda*)
2. Kidneyshell (*Ptychobranchnus fasciolaris*)

Fish & Wildlife Comments: None of the above mussel species are still found live near the project area; therefore, we do not foresee any impacts to these species as a result of this project.

Avoid and minimize impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources to the greatest extent possible, and compensate for impacts. The following are recommendations that address potential impacts identified in the proposed project area:

1) **Proposed Realignment:**
The Division of Fish and Wildlife supports the proposed floodwall realignment for the South Warfleigh Section. It would appear to have negligible impacts to significant fish, wildlife, and botanical resources within the project study area. However, there are significant concerns with the proposed levee alignment (Kessler Boulevard to Riviera Club segment) and along previously constructed Phases 3A and 3C because of the removal of riparian habitat.

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2) Tree Clearing:

Tree clearing along the existing wooded riparian corridor of West Fork White River and previously constructed segments of the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project is a significant concern that has not been adequately addressed to date.

The permit issued in 2001 (FW-19540) is currently out of compliance with the special conditions regarding tree cutting. Changes to the site should be made to bring it into compliance with the permit. Failure to bring this project into compliance with the permit may result in your file being forwarded to the Compliance and Enforcement Section of the Division of Water.

To date, the Corps has failed to properly mitigate for the original clearing impacts. Proposed mitigation included 14 acres of mature bottomland hardwoods and 15 acres of emergent wetland plantings. The currently proposed vegetation clearing will result in the conversion of an additional 6.4 acres along Phase 3A and 0.3 acres along Phase 3C from mature riparian forest to an open short grass landscape. The completion of Phase 3B from Kessler Boulevard to the southern end of the Riviera Club and adjacent to the Citizens Water Canal will require the removal of 6.84 acres of riparian woodlands, or 5.34 more than were estimated previously. Therefore, the final mitigation acreage is expected to be substantially more than the previously identified 29 acres (more likely in the range of 90 to 150 acres as indicated in the DSEIS).

3) The following are current guidelines for non-wetland forested impacts within the floodway:

Impacts that remove trees from a non-wetland, riparian area should be mitigated. Impacts to non-wetland forest over one (1) acre should be mitigated at a minimum 2:1 ratio. If less than one acre of non-wetland forest is removed in a rural setting, replacement should be at a 1:1 ratio based on area. Impacts to non-wetland forest under one (1) acre in an urban setting should be mitigated by planting five trees, at least 2 inches in diameter-at-breast height (dbh), for each tree which is removed that is 10" dbh or greater (5:1 mitigation based on the number of large trees).

A native riparian forest mitigation plan should use at least 5 canopy trees and 5 understory trees or shrubs selected from the Woody Riparian Vegetation list (copy enclosed) or an approved equal. A native riparian forest mitigation plan for impacts of less than one acre in an urban area may involve fewer numbers of species and sizes of trees, depending on the level of impact. Additionally, a native herbaceous seed mixture should be planted consisting of at least 10 species of grasses, sedges, and wildflowers selected from the Herbaceous Riparian Vegetation list (copy enclosed) or an approved equal. The DNR's Floodway Habitat Mitigation guidelines can be found online at: <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20120801-IR-312120434NRA.xml.pdf>.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife does not support the currently proposed action in relation to previously constructed Phases 3A and 3C as well as the proposed segment of 3B from Kessler Boulevard to the southern end of the Riviera Club and adjacent to the Citizens Water Canal. The No Action Alternative or the Vegetation Variance Alternative would allow either all or some of the trees that would otherwise be cleared to remain in place. On page 42 of the DSEIS, it is assumed from Manning's Equation that "[keeping] these trees within the outer portion of the vegetation free zone decreases the flow of the White River near the I-Wall during any potential high water events", which "eases the potential effects of scour and wave-wash along the levee and floodwall."

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Pages 34-37 of Chapter 5 in the DSEIS present evidence of the benefits and quality of the White River and its habitat value. It was stated that the White River contains a diversity of habitat, and that USFWS has described it as a "high quality fishery." From an assessment by IDEM in September 1996, the QHEI rated the Rocky Ripple area of the White River at 84 (out of 100), which indicates a fairly good diversity and quality of habitat. Section 5.6 "Terrestrial Resources" discusses the amount of riparian forest along the river and canal, as well as the many benefits of this forest type. It was stated that the riparian forest supports suitable habitat for a diversity of bat and bird species. Page 37 states "It is very likely that the Indiana bat uses the riparian woodlands within the area covered by the three phases of the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project as summer habitat."

A vegetation variance for completed Phases 3A and 3C would preserve about 3.2 acres of mature riparian woodlands along the river. You must still comply with the special conditions placed on permit FW-19540. Since preparation of the September 1996 GRR and EIS for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Study and as a result of the flooding from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Corps of Engineers revised its design standards for construction of floodwalls and levees. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' design criteria in Engineer Technical Letter (ETL) 1110-2-571, Guidelines for Landscape Planting and Vegetation Management at Levees, Floodwalls, Embankment Dams, and Appurtenant Structures, dated 10 April 2009, requires removal of all structures, trees and other deep-rooted vegetation within 15 feet of a floodwall or toe of an earthen levee. It is important to note that these guidelines were not in existence at the time of the original 1996 GRR and EIS or during the time Phases 3A and 3C were constructed between September 2002 and July 2004. This new Corps design criteria will have negative impacts to the wooded riparian habitat corridor along the White River by requiring the removal of trees and other deep-rooted vegetation within 15 feet. The Division of Fish and Wildlife currently recommends keeping as much of the wooded riparian corridor along West Fork White River as possible.

The proposed additional tree clearing is a significant concern for the Division of Fish and Wildlife particularly on sheets C102, C104, C105, C106, C107, and BC103. In these areas, the renderings provided seem to show the riparian corridor reduced to a single row of trees or less. In areas such as this, the benefits of a wooded riparian corridor for fish, wildlife, and botanical resources are severely reduced. In three locations along Phase 3A, the clearing will go to the river's edge for about 15% of the total length (i.e. approximately 1,140 linear feet). These areas will be protected with erosion control blankets and the ends of the blankets will be anchored in trenches in the riverbank. In areas where the riparian corridor is completely eliminated or reduced to only a single row of trees, cumulative impacts should be expected. These impacts include increased erosion, loss of remaining trees and the necessity to use hard-armoring in place of bio-engineered techniques when bank failure occurs. This is based on experience with similar construction on large river systems under past permits issued by the DNR.

4) The following are current guidelines for bank stabilization impacts in the floodway: Establishing vegetation along the banks is critical for stabilization and erosion control. In addition to vegetation, some other form of bank stabilization may be needed. While hard armoring alone (e.g. riprap or glacial stone) may be needed in certain instances, soft armoring and bioengineering techniques should be considered first. In many instances, one or more methods are necessary to increase the likelihood of vegetation establishment. Combining vegetation with most bank stabilization methods can provide additional bank protection while not compromising the benefits to fish and wildlife. Information about bioengineering techniques can be found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20120404-IR-312120154NRA.xml.pdf>. Also, the following is a USDA/NRCS document that outlines many different bioengineering

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techniques for streambank stabilization: <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/17553.wba>
(Choose Handbooks; Title 210 Engineering; National Engineering Handbook; Part 650
Engineering Field Handbook. Choose Chapter 16 from next window).

Riprap must not be placed in the active thalweg channel or placed in the streambed in a manner that precludes fish or aquatic organism passage (riprap must not be placed above the existing streambed elevation). Riprap may be used only at the toe of the sideslopes up to the ordinary high water mark (OHWM). The banks above the OHWM must be restored, stabilized, and revegetated using geotextiles and a mixture of grasses, sedges, wildflowers, shrubs, and trees native to Central Indiana and specifically for stream bank/floodway stabilization purposes as soon as possible upon completion.

The additional measures listed below should be implemented to avoid, minimize, or compensate for impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources:

1. Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue), legumes, and native shrub and hardwood tree species as soon as possible upon completion.
2. Minimize and contain within the project limits inchannel disturbance and the clearing of trees and brush.
3. Do not work in the waterway from April 1 through June 30 without the prior written approval of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
4. Do not cut any trees suitable for Indiana bat roosting (greater than 3 inches dbh, living or dead, with loose hanging bark) from April 1 through September 30.
5. Do not excavate in the low flow area except for the placement of piers, foundations, and riprap, or removal of the old structure.
6. Use minimum average 6 inch graded riprap stone extended below the normal water level to provide habitat for aquatic organisms in the voids.
7. Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.
8. Seed and protect all disturbed streambanks and slopes that are 3:1 or steeper with erosion control blankets (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.

Contact Staff:

Christie L. Stanifer, Environ. Coordinator, Fish & Wildlife

Our agency appreciates this opportunity to be of service. Please contact the above staff member at (317) 232-4080 if we can be of further assistance.



J. Matthew Buffington
Environmental Supervisor
Division of Fish and Wildlife

Date: August 30, 2012

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MAILED

JUN 01 2001

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
CONSTRUCTION IN A FLOODWAY

APPLICATION # : FW-19540

STREAM : West Fork White River

APPLICANT : Indianapolis Department of Capital Asset Management
Jim Shackelford
604 North Sherman Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46201

AGENT : U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
Linda Murphy
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059

AUTHORITY : IC 14-28-1 with 310 IAC 6-1 and IC 14-29-1 with 310 IAC 21

DESCRIPTION : As part of the proposed Metro Indianapolis North Local Flood Protection Project, new flood protection structures will be constructed to raise flood protection along the White River. The project involves construction in four sections as listed below:

The Canal Towpath Section is approximately 3,512' in length and will have about 3,375' of sheet pile with concrete cap. This section is located along the northwest streambank of the Indianapolis Water Canal and along the southeast (left) overbank of the West Fork White River. The floodwall will have a maximum height of about 3' with flood protection varying uniformly from 717.90', NGVD, to 714.37', NGVD, (upstream to downstream).

The South Warleigh Section begins just south of the Riviera Club on Illinois Street and runs north to Kessler Boulevard, a reach of approximately 4,249' along the southeast streambank of the West Fork White River. Construction includes about 1,000' of sheet pile with concrete cap, 550' of new earth levee, 780' of T-wall, and 1,909' of Type II I-Wall. The maximum height of the new structures is approximately 10' with flood protection varying uniformly from 720.60', NGVD, to 718.10', NGVD (upstream to downstream).

The Warleigh Section begins at Kessler Boulevard and runs northeast to College Avenue, a reach of approximately 7,606' along the left bank of the West Fork White River. Proposed work includes raising about 2,400' of the existing levee with sheetpile and concrete cap, constructing 530' of earth levee, and installing 4,676' of modified sheet pile I-wall. The structures will have a maximum height of about 4' and provide flood protection varying uniformly from 725.60', NGVD, to 720.60', NGVD (upstream to downstream). Other work includes rehabilitation of the Warleigh Pump Station.

The Monon-Broadripple Section begins at College Avenue and continues upstream approximately 4,982' along the left bank of the West Fork White River to high ground, about 400' upstream of the Indianapolis Water Company Canal intake structure at Westfield Boulevard. Construction includes: installing approximately 4,880' of modified sheet pile I-Wall with textured concrete; repaving Westfield Boulevard to the level of the flood protection; and raising the Canal inlet structure. The maximum height of the floodwall is about 6' and provides flood protection varying uniformly from 728.10', NGVD, to 725.60', NGVD (upstream to downstream).

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Other project features include (1) The levees will have a 10' top width and 2 1/2 :1 side slopes; (2) Except for the Canal Towpath Section, toe drains will be installed along the landward toe of the existing and new earth levees, and along the base of new floodwalls; (3) Gate closures will be installed where the line of protection (of the floodwall) crosses roads and entrance driveways; (4) A 110' x 25' x 4'-6" high terrace will be constructed along the landward side of the floodwall adjacent to the Riviera Club; (5) Removal of existing septic tank leach field from a section along the levee; (6) Construction of two sewage lift stations; and (7) Placement of two outfall pipes along the riverbank. Details of the project are contained in plans and information received at the Division of Water on February 10, 1999, February 24, 1999, April 23, 1999, September 9, 1999, September 29, 1999, April 7, 2000, May 3, 2000, May 15, 2000, January 9, 2001, March 8, 2001 and April 6, 2001.

LOCATION : **DOWNSTREAM:** Beginning about 400' upstream of the inlet structure for the Indianapolis Water Canal and continuing downstream for approximately 16,837' along the left (west, south, and southwest) streambank of the West Fork White River to a point about 4,200' downstream of the Kessler Boulevard stream crossing; and beginning on the northwest (right) streambank (Canal Towpath) of the Indianapolis Water Company Canal at a site 250' upstream of the 53rd Street stream crossing and continuing downstream for approximately 3,512' at Indianapolis, Washington Township, Marion County
NE¼, NW¼, NW¼, Section 14, T 16N, R 3E, Indianapolis West Quadrangle
UTM Coordinates: Downstream 4410000 North, 570550 East
UPSTREAM: W½, Section 36, T 17N, R 3E
UTM Coordinates: Upstream 4413550 North, 573500 East

APPROVED BY :


for Michael W. Neyer, P.E., Director
Division of Water

APPROVED ON : May 30, 2001

Attachments: Notice Of Right To Administrative Review
General Conditions
Special Conditions
Service List

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW

APPLICATION #: FW- 19540

This signed document constitutes the issuance of a permit by the Natural Resources Commission, or its designee, subject to the conditions and limitations stated on the pages entitled "General Conditions" and "Special Conditions".

The permit or any of the conditions or limitations which it contains may be appealed by applying for administrative review. Such review is governed by the Administrative Orders and Procedures Act, IC 4-21.5, and the Department's rules pertaining to adjudicative proceedings, 312 IAC 3-1.

In order to obtain a review, a written petition must be filed with the Division of Hearings within 18 days of the mailing date of this notice. The petition should be addressed to:

Mr. Stephen L. Lucas, Director
Division of Hearings
Room W272
402 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The petition must contain specific reasons for the appeal and indicate the portion or portions of the permit to which the appeal pertains.

If an appeal is filed, the final agency determination will be made by the Natural Resources Commission following a legal proceeding conducted before an Administrative Law Judge. The Department of Natural Resources will be represented by legal counsel.

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GENERAL CONDITIONS

APPLICATION #: FW- 19540

- (1) If any archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, federal law and regulations (16 USC 470, et seq., 36 CFR 800.11, et al) and State Law (IC 14-21-1) require that work must stop and that the discovery must be reported to the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology within 2 business days

Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
Room W274
402 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Telephone (317) 232-1646 FAX (317) 232-8090

- (2) This permit must be posted and maintained at the project site until the project is completed
- (3) This permit does not relieve the permittee of the responsibility for obtaining additional permits, approvals, easements, etc. as required by other federal, state, or local regulatory agencies. These agencies include, but are not limited to

Agency	Telephone Number
Indianapolis Department of Capital Asset Management	(317) 327-4700
US Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District	(502) 315-6733
Indiana Department of Environmental Management	(317) 233-2471
Local city or county planning or zoning commission	

- (4) This permit must not be construed as a waiver of any local ordinance or other state or federal law
- (5) This permit does not relieve the permittee of any liability for the effects which the project may have upon the safety of the life or property of others
- (6) This permit may be revoked by the Department of Natural Resources for violation of any condition, limitation or applicable statute or rule
- (7) This permit shall not be assignable or transferable without the prior written approval of the Department of Natural Resources. To initiate a transfer contact

Mr. Michael W. Neyer, PE, Director
Division of Water
Room W264
402 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Telephone (317) 232-4160, Toll Free (877) 928-3755
FAX (317) 233-4578

- (8) The Department of Natural Resources shall have the right to enter upon the site of the permitted activity for the purpose of inspecting the authorized work.
- (9) The receipt and acceptance of this permit by the applicant or authorized agent shall be considered as acceptance of the conditions and limitations stated on the pages entitled "General Conditions" and "Special Conditions"

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SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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PERMIT VALIDITY : This permit is valid for 24 months from the "Approved On" date shown on the first page. If work has not been initiated by May 30, 2003 the permit will become void and a new permit will be required in order to continue work on the project.

This permit becomes effective 18 days after the "MAILED" date shown on the first page. If both a petition for review and a petition for a stay of effectiveness are filed before this permit becomes effective, any part of the permit that is within the scope of the petition for stay is stayed for an additional 15 days

CONFORMANCE : Other than those measures necessary to satisfy the "General Conditions" and "Special Conditions", the project must conform to the information received by the Department of Natural Resources on: February 10, 1999, February 24, 1999, April 23, 1999, September 9, 1999, September 29, 1999, April 7, 2000, May 3, 2000, May 15, 2000, January 9, 2001, March 8, 2001 and April 6, 2001 Any deviation from the information must receive the prior written approval of the Department.

Number	Special Condition
(1)	revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue), legumes, and native shrub and hardwood tree species as soon as possible upon completion; tree plantings along the toe of the existing levee must be regionally native hardwoods of container or ball and burlap stock; all levee sections that will be maintained must be planted with warm season grasses and wildflowers, and these areas can be mowed once annually in late fall or early spring
(2)	minimize and contain within the project limits all tree and brush clearing and provide the opportunity to utilize cleared trees of firewood and timber size; a multi-agency team consisting of representatives from Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Indianapolis Department of Capital Asset Management must mark trees that can be removed along the entire length of the project; tree marking must be completed prior to any tree removal or construction of this project; the marking will accurately identify and delineate the actual clear area needed to complete construction of this project
(3)	do not cut any trees suitable for Indiana bat roosting (greater than 14 inches in diameter, living or dead, with loose hanging bark) from April 15 through September 15
(4)	appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized; silt fences must be installed along the field delineated clear zones to control movement of sediment out of the construction zone
(5)	seed and protect all disturbed streambanks and slopes that are 3:1 or steeper with erosion control blankets (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation) or use an appropriate structural armament. seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas
(6)	plant five trees, at least 2 inches in diameter-at-breast height, for each tree which is removed that is ten inches or greater in diameter-at-breast height in the mitigation areas as outlined in sheets C-25 and C-26 dated August 7, 1998 received at the Division of Water on February 10, 1999

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- (7) replacement habitat areas must be planted no later than the first fall after impacts from construction occurs; a conservation easement must be provided to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources within 90 days after permit issuance that protects these areas in perpetuity; consult Department of Natural Resources Legal Staff (317-232-1291) for information on drafting of conservation easement
- (8) submit a report to the Environmental Biologist at the West Lafayette Office (Division of Fish and Wildlife, 3300 Soldiers Home Road, West Lafayette, IN 47906) by December 31 of each year to monitor the initiation, progress, and success of the replacement habitat areas. the report will include appropriate pictures of vegetative plantings, wetland areas, and hydrology controls; a narrative will describe the activity accomplished to date, acres planted, number planted, list of species planted on site, and estimated survival; reports will be submitted each year, even if work has not been initiated on the site, and continue to be submitted for a maximum of three years after work initiation, or until the replacement habitat areas are complete and determined to be successful; if after three years after work initiation the replacement habitat areas are not successful, the permit will be considered in violation, and another plan will be submitted for approval
- (9) do not disturb Marrott Park Nature Preserve or Williams Creek during construction of the project
- (10) except for the material used as backfill as shown on the above referenced project plans on file at the Division of Water, place all excavated material landward of the floodway *
- (11) do not leave felled trees, brush, or other debris in the floodway *
- (12) upon completion of the project, remove all construction debris from the floodway *
- (13) approval as a Flood Control Project is contingent upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) acceptance of the freeboard analysis contained in the Corps of Engineers Risk and Uncertainty Analysis for the design of the proposed flood control levee, floodwalls, and associated appurtenances
- (14) approval as a Flood Control Project is contingent on agreement by the City of Indianapolis to own, maintain and operate the flood control levee, floodwalls, and associated appurtenances in perpetuity
- (15) approval as a Flood Control Project is based on the plans submitted by the Corps of Engineers and received at the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) February 10, 1999, and revised hydraulic analysis submitted March 8, 2001; subsequent revisions and/or modifications to the flood control levee, floodwalls, and associated appurtenances will require further review and approval by the IDNR
- (16) submit to the Division of Water as-built plans (certified by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Indiana) of the flood control levee, floodwalls, and associated appurtenances within ninety (90) days after completion of the project
- (17) project must remain within areas previously disturbed by construction activities, and no known historic buildings, structures, objects, districts, or archaeological sites listed in or eligible for inclusion in the Indiana Register of Historic Sites and Structures or the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by this project

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- (18) • NOTE: for regulatory purposes, the floodway is defined as that shown on Panels 30 and 35 of the Flood Boundary and Floodway Map for the City of Indianapolis dated June 3, 1988

Woody Riparian Vegetation

Common name	Scientific name	Midwest Wetland Status	Type of plant	Tree, Shrub, Vine	Indiana Region (N, C, S)	Coefficient of Conservatism	Comment
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>	FAC	Large Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	1	Only occasionally recommended
Black Maple	<i>Acer nigrum</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	6	
Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	FAC	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Silver Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i>	FACW	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	1	Only occasionally recommended
Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	4	
Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	FAC	Large Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Indigobush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	S	3	
Common Paw Paw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	FAC	Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	6	
River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>	FACW	Small Canopy Tree	T	N, S	2	
American Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i>	FAC	Medium Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Bitternut Hickory	<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>	FACW	Large Canopy Tree	T	S*	4	Extreme southwestern counties
Shellbark Hickory	<i>Carya laciniosa</i>	FACW	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	8	
Shagbark Hickory	<i>Carya ovata</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	4	
Sugarberry	<i>Celtis laevigata</i>	FACW	Large Understory Tree	T	S	7	
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	FAC	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	3	
Buttonbush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	OBL	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	5	
Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	FACU	Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	3	
Alternate-leaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	FAC	Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	8	
Roughleaf Dogwood	<i>Cornus drummondii</i>	FAC	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	2	
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	FACU	Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	4	Susceptible to dogwood anthracnose
Pale Dogwood (formerly Silky Dogwood)	<i>Cornus obliqua</i>	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	5	
Gray Dogwood	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	FAC	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	2	
Red-osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea (aka (C. alba))</i>	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	N	4	
Hazelnut	<i>Corylus americana</i>	FACU	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	4	
Cockspur Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i>	FAC	Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	4	
Downy Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus mollis</i>	FAC	Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	2	

Dotted hawthorn	<i>Crataegus punctata</i>		Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	2	Okay in floodplains; not in extreme southwestern counties
Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	FAC	Medium Understory Tree	T	S	2	
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	8	
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	FACU	Small Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	1	
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>		Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	4	
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	FACU	Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Smooth Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i>	FACU	Small Shrub	S	N, C, S	7	
Common Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	8	
Butternut (White Walnut)	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	FACU	Small Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	5	Scattered within range; susceptible to butternut canker
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	2	
Spicebush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	5	
Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	FACW	Large Canopy Tree	T	S	4	
Tuliptree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	4	
Wild Sweet Crabapple	<i>Malus coronaria</i>		Medium Understory Tree	T	N, C, S		
Black Gum	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	FAC	Large Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Hop Hornbeam	<i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	FACU	Medium Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Purple Chokeberry	<i>Photinia floribunda</i> (formerly <i>Aronia prunifolia</i>)	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	N	8	
Black Chokeberry	<i>Photinia melanocarpa</i> (formerly <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>)	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	8	
Common Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	FACW	Small Shrub	S	N, C, S	7	
American Sycamore	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	FACW	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	3	
Eastern Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>	FAC	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	1	Only occasionally recommended
Swamp Cottonwood	<i>Populus heterophylla</i>	OBL	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, S	8	Scattered within its range
Quaking Aspen	<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	FAC	Small Canopy Tree	T	N	2	
American Plum	<i>Prunus americana</i>	UPL	Small Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	4	Also along riverbanks
Black Cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>	FACU	Small Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	1	
Common Hop-tree	<i>Ptelea trifoliata</i>	FACU	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	4	
White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Swamp White Oak	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	FACW	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	7	
Southern Red Oak	<i>Quercus falcata</i>	FACU	Med.-Lg. Canopy Tree	T	S*	5	Far southern and southwestern counties
Shingle Oak	<i>Quercus imbricaria</i>	FACU	Medium Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	3	

Overcup Oak	<i>Quercus lyrata</i>	OBL	Medium Canopy Tree	T	S*	7	Extreme southwestern counties
Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	FAC	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Swamp Chestnut Oak	<i>Quercus michauxii</i>	FACW	Med.-Lg. Canopy Tree	T	S*	7	Far southern and southwestern counties
Chinkapin Oak	<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	FACU	Med.-Lg. Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	4	Also along well-drained riverbanks
Pin Oak	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	FACW	Small Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	3	
Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	4	
Shumard Oak	<i>Quercus shumardii</i>	FACW	Large Canopy Tree	T	C, S	7	
Post Oak	<i>Quercus stellata</i>	FACU	Sm.-Med. Canopy Tree	T	S*	5	Seasonally swampy woods in SW counties
Staghorn Sumac	<i>Rhus typhina</i>		Large Shrub	S	N	2	
Pasture Gooseberry	<i>Ribes cynosbati</i>	FAC	Small Shrub	S	N, C, S	4	
Carolina Rose	<i>Rosa carolina</i>	FACU	Small Shrub	S	N, C, S	4	
Peachleaf Willow	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	FACW	Small Canopy Tree	T	N	4	
Sandbar Willow	<i>Salix interior</i>	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	1	
Black Willow	<i>Salix nigra</i>	OBL	Large Understory Tree	T	N, C, S	3	
Elderberry	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> (or <i>S. nigra</i> ssp <i>canadensis</i>)	FACW	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	2	
American Bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i>	FAC	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	5	
Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	OBL	Large Canopy Tree	T	S*	10	Only in Vanderburgh, Posey, Warrick, Knox, Gibson Co.
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	FACU	Large Canopy Tree	T	N, C, S	5	
Nannyberry	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	FAC	Medium Shrub	S	N	5	
Black Haw	<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	FACU	Medium Shrub	S	N, C, S	4	
Prickly ash	<i>Zanthoxylum americanum</i>	FACU	Medium Shrub	S	N	3	

Plant names and wetland status (Midwest region) from: Robert W. Lichvar and John T. Kartesz. 2009. *North American Digital Flora: National Wetland Plant List, version 2.4.0* (http://wetland_plants.usace.army.mil). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, NH, and BONAP, Chapel Hill, NC. (accessed May 22, 2012)

Herbaceous Riparian Vegetation

Common Name	Scientific Name	Size / Class	Indicator
White Snakeroot	<i>Ageratina altissima</i>	wildflower	FACU
Hog-Peanut	<i>Amphicarpaea bracteata</i>	herbaceous vine	FAC
Ground-Nut	<i>Apios americana</i>	herbaceous vine	FACW
False Nettle	<i>Boehmeria cylindrica</i>	wildflower	OBL
Blue-Joint Grass	<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	grass	OBL
Emory's Sedge	<i>Carex emoryi</i>	sedge	OBL
Shoreline Sedge	<i>Carex hyalinolepis</i>	sedge	OBL
Lakebank Sedge	<i>Carex lacustris</i>	sedge	OBL
Larger Straw Sedge	<i>Carex normalis</i>	sedge	FACW
Hairy-Fruit Sedge	<i>Carex trichocarpa</i>	sedge	OBL
Fox Sedge	<i>Carex vulpinoidea</i>	sedge	FACW
Wild or Streambank Chervil	<i>Chaerophyllum procumbens</i>	wildflower	FACW
Wood-Reed	<i>Cinna arundinacea</i>	grass	FACW
Honewort	<i>Cryptotaenia canadensis</i>	wildflower	FAC
Wild Cucumber	<i>Echinocystis lobata</i>	herbaceous vine	FACW
Canada Wild Rye	<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	grass	FAC
Bottlebrush Grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	grass	FACU
Riverbank Wild Rye	<i>Elymus riparius</i>	grass	FACW
Virginia Wild Rye	<i>Elymus virginicus</i>	grass	FACW
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	wildflower	OBL
Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed	<i>Eutrochium maculatum</i>	wildflower	OBL
White Avens	<i>Geum canadense</i>	wildflower	FAC
Fowl Manna Grass	<i>Glyceria striata</i>	grass	OBL
False Sunflower	<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	wildflower	FACU
Orange Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	wildflower	FACW
Yellow Jewelweed	<i>Impatiens pallida</i>	wildflower	FACW
Soft Rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>	rush	OBL
Wood Nettle	<i>Laportea canadensis</i>	wildflower	FACW
Rice Cut Grass	<i>Leersia oryzoides</i>	grass	OBL
White Grass	<i>Leersia virginica</i>	grass	FACW
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	wildflower	OBL
American Bugleweed	<i>Lycopus americanus</i>	wildflower	OBL
Virginia Blue Bells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	wildflower	FACW
Hairy Sweet-Cicely	<i>Osmorhiza claytonii</i>	wildflower	FACU
Switch Grass	<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	grass	FAC
Wild Blue Phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	wildflower	FACU
Clearweed	<i>Pilea pumila</i>	wildflower	FACW
Green-Headed Coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	wildflower	FACW
Brown-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia triloba</i>	wildflower	FACU
Clustered Black-Snakeroot	<i>Sanicula odorata</i>	wildflower	FAC
River Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus fluviatilis</i>	bulrush	OBL
Soft-Stem Bulrush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	bulrush	OBL
Dark Green Bulrush	<i>Scirpus atrovirens</i>	bulrush	OBL
Wool-Grass	<i>Scirpus cyperinus</i>	bulrush	OBL
Drooping Bulrush	<i>Scirpus pendulus</i>	bulrush	OBL
Cup-Plant	<i>Silphium perfoliatum</i>	wildflower	FACW
Late Goldenrod	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	wildflower	FACW

Prairie Cordgrass	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	grass	FACW
Panicled Aster	<i>Symphotrichum lanceolatum</i>	wildflower	FAC
Side-Flowering Aster	<i>Symphotrichum lateriflorum</i>	wildflower	FACW
American Germander	<i>Teucrium canadense</i>	wildflower	FACW
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	wildflower	FACW
Wingstem	<i>Verbesina alternifolia</i>	wildflower	FACW

Plant names and wetland status (Midwest region) from: *Robert W. Lichvar and John T. Kartesz. 2009. North American Digital Flora: National Wetland Plant List, version 2.4.0* (http://wetland_plants.usace.army.mil). U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineer Research and Development Center, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory, Hanover, NH, and BONAP, Chapel Hill, NC. (accessed May 22, 2012)

From: [RICHARD LOWE](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: bbarcom@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project- My point of view
Date: Monday, July 09, 2012 10:35:27 AM

Hello Michael

>

> I live on the river and am in Mexico until the 17th so cannot make these meetings.

>>

>>> I read the whole report and got more disgusted with ineptitude the further I read!

>>>

>>> The corp only has a MYOPIC VISION! We are not Katrina!

>>> The needs of Indy and RR are unique to us not a hurricane from the Gulf. We have a levy that has worked for some 80+ years. It just needs to be improved!

>>> Your idea of removable panels is absurd! Who is going to put them up and down? When will this be done? Where will they be stored? How will they be maintained?

>>>

>>> This report is the most idiotic waste of our taxpayer money!!! And to say you can only do RR for another \$50,000,000 give me half of that and I will do a better job on the whole project. Talk about a wing job!

>>>

>>> Why is Katrina even mentioned in the report? Are we going to get inundated by lake Michigan? The vegetation is an aid, just like it is on the beach.

>>>

>>> The real issue is to control development in the flood plane upstream and ag run off. What are they going to do about that?

>>>

>>>

> RICHARD LOWE
> 5108 RIVERVIEW DR
> INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46208
> 317-446-4753 Cell
> richard@casaflamboyan.com

>

>

>

From: margdrew@aol.com
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Re: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Friday, August 31, 2012 3:29:43 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: margdrew <margdrew@aol.com>
To: michael.turner <michael.turner@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Fri, Aug 31, 2012 3:22 pm
Subject: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project

Sir,

I am submitting my comments regarding the proposed flood wall in Indianapolis. I have attended all the meetings, read all materials, have submitted other comments during the previous comment period and am now making one last plea.

I attended the meeting on August 23, did not get a chance to speak because although on the list you must not have called my name. My husband and I could not stay past 9:00 due to another meeting. So, I am making my comments now.

Having read all the materials, having gone to all the meetings and having talked to scores of people, I still cannot conceive of a reason for unilaterally deciding that the Town of Rocky Ripple no longer has no value. Yes, the town made a grievous error years ago and yes, some of the townspeople were thoughtless and selfish, however it is a mistake that the town now wants to correct. I believe you have heard from the people who live in Rocky Ripple and none of them support your current plan. I live too close to Rocky Ripple to want to see it walled off and left to decay and die. Trust me, both local and federal governments will have to spend much more money than the proposed amount to fully protect Rocky Ripple if you just abandon it.

The canal must be protected. Building a wall to cut off the towpath will also cause great harm in much the same way that excluding Rocky Ripple from protection will kill of the town. I live where I do because I run the towpath every morning, I walk with my dog through Holcomb Gardens almost daily, and our family uses the towpath to walk or bike to the Indianapolis Art Museum on weekends. I realize none of these things are important to you, but they are to me. It is called quality of life.

I have served as an administrative law judge for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and have been at the center of many controversial hearings, much as you were on August 23. The one thing I learned was that if a community was involved and anxious about a matter and if many people showed up for a hearing on that matter and if all those people, and more, took the time to submit comments, then it was my job to understand their concerns and make sure that every avenue and every idea was fully vetted before reaching a decision that could have long lasting ramifications on people's lives. I understand the current proposal is less money. I believe, however, that other alternatives and a true understanding of actual costs have not been made. I encourage you to rethink the flood wall project and make it more inclusive - not less so.

Thank you.

Margaret A. Drew
5225 N. Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-466-0970

From: [Jeremy South](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: RE: January 2011 Environmental Assessment Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B
Date: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 10:27:50 AM

Wm. Michael Turner

Chief, Environmental Resources

US Army Corps of Engineers

michael.turner@usace.army.mil

RE: January 2011 Environmental Assessment Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B

Mr. Turner,

I write this letter in extreme disapproval to the proposed levee which will be constructed by the Army Corp of Engineers on the east side of the Indianapolis Canal.

My wife and I have lived here for several years renting a small home and have recently purchased one block east of where we previously rented. We have a unique community that has given us a place to call home. We often see kids playing together (rare in most communities), attend the town festival; enjoy the canal path and many other aspects of a peaceful and well run community life.

I am very troubled to find the proposed project intends to box us in, and frankly willingly destroys this community in the event of a flood. Not only would this cost people their home and community, it would cost a way of life that would probably never recover. I depend on my home for my business and my loss would be even greater.

The thought of a levee being built which intentionally compromises the community of Rocky Ripple and the canal to which 600,000 people find their drinking water seems irresponsible and unethical. Especially having to find out of this project by our town Board so close to the proposed building time. Something of this magnitude demands more consideration of those who will be directly impacted.

I did not live in Rocky Ripple during the years of opposition to the levee plan that was to be built along the river. I am a recent resident along with many other new faces. Supporting a plan that works for the majority of the people in the area seems to be the voice I hear very loudly by the community, even those who live along the river.

My wife and I plan to raise our kids in this neighborhood. We see the wildlife, green space and friendly neighbors as a valuable asset to be protected and cherished. We ask of you to reconsider you plan. We need a plan that protects the people and beautiful green space of this town.

Thank you,

Jeremy South

Rocky Ripple Resident

5125 Crown St

Indianapolis, IN 46208

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Program Evaluations <<https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1-wkEUMWdJKpl1JDNUsg-86UPfgOq0MJsiHcDH4v3I>>

Would you like to sign-up for the pottery e-newsletter? <<http://eepurl.com/dboB-/>>

Rocky Ripple Clayworks <<https://sites.google.com/site/rockyrippleclayworks/>>
for website information!

<<http://www.cenlafocus.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/pottery-wheel.jpg>>

Follow us on

Facebook <<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#%21/pages/Rocky-Ripple-Clayworks/151990141523987?sk=wall>>

From: [Oakley, John](#)
To: daxler@onemain.com; [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Re: Please do not include Rocky Ripple in your Indianapolis North flood protection plans.
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 10:36:54 AM

Dan - Thanks for your comments. As always, your input is appreciated.

----- Original Message -----

From: Daniel Axler [<mailto:daxler@onemain.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 10:06 AM
To: Michael.Turner@usace.army.mil <Michael.Turner@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Oakley, John
Subject: Please do not include Rocky Ripple in your Indianapolis North flood protection plans.

Dear Michael and John;

Here are my comments on the flood protection issue to be included in your collection.

Please do not include Rocky Ripple in your Indianapolis North flood protection plans.
Please do not cause my two houses to be removed.

I moved here in 1988. I saw the river, and understood it could possibly flood.
I pay my flood insurance and continue to take that calculated risk in order to enjoy the view and have access to the river.

Living next to the river is that important to me.

If anyone is scared of the river flooding, why move here in the first place, or why stay there after the majority of the town chose not to be included in the ACE's 1996 plan?

If the wall is not built along the river, Rocky Ripple's situation will not change.
The City has never maintained the existing earthen levee around Rocky Ripple. They have not done any work on the levee since it was built in 1937!

The existing earthen levee should be maintained at the level of protection it now offers, a level that has protected us from ALL high water events since it was built. If we could repair and raise our levee even a little bit, we would be in much better shape than we currently are, and at much less cost than a wall along the river. Also, no houses would be demolished in this plan.

Thank your for your work on this process.

9.28.2012

Daniel Axler
5058 Riverview Drive
Rocky Ripple, IN 46208

317.254.0012

Daniel Axler
317.233.7126 office
317.254.0012 mobile (not text-able)

From: [Patty Fraser](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#); lori.miser@indy.gov
Subject: Re: Rocky Ripple Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Date: Friday, September 28, 2012 9:16:51 AM

701 West 52nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
September 28th 2012

Re: Rocky Ripple Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

To the ACE, Congressman Andre Carson, Lori Miser, and Mayor Ballard:

As a citizen of Rocky Ripple, I would like to appeal to you to adopt the Rocky Ripple alignment in your levee plans. All of us in our little town have our stories—allow me, please, to tell you mine.

My husband and I moved here in 1987 in order to be in Washington Township school district. We have a son who is on the autism spectrum and is mildly mentally handicapped—his name is Chris and he is in his 30s. Washington Township was purported back then to have the best special education. If we had had more money we wouldn't have chosen to live here, where the property values aren't high, and where there is always the risk of flooding. But Chris' needs came first, of course.

We have stayed here through the years because it took a long time for Chris to become completely competent to find his way back home from the places he needs to go in the city. As my husband and I are now some what up in years, it is our plan for Chris to stay here in our home, with community assists, for his lifetime. From this location, if need be, he can walk to a grocery, drugstore, bank, etc.--his needs can be accomplished in this way if he is unable to find a ride, as he doesn't drive.

Now we believe there is to be an increased deluge risk in case the White River floods and a levee has been built that stops upriver short of the area of our home. As the loving and responsible parents of an at-risk person, we are looking at possibly having to move from the home that we have lived in for 25 years and that we have spent teaching Chris to be as independent as possible in. As undesirable as that threat is, our chances of finding another strategically comparably safe place for him to live his life after we are gone are slim, as any good real estate agent would acquaint perspective buyers for our home of the increased risk to them here, and we might not even be able to sell it!

I know that, as usual, money has to be a factor in deciding these issues, and this is not a particularly wealthy area of homes. Nevertheless, I also know that the number of lives adversely impacted by the refusal to include Rocky Ripple in the levee protection must count even more. I am also confident that engineers who build enormous dams must be able to construct a plan that will protect all its citizens, not just the ones who live in high value properties. I implore you to seek another plan that safeguards

Rocky Ripple.

Thank you for your attention.

Patricia Wadsworth

<<http://steffsstuff.lbbhost.com/Patty/000random.php>>

From: [Jeremy South](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: RE: September 2012 Environmental Assessment Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 2:20:45 PM

Wm. Michael Turner

Chief, Environmental Resources

US Army Corps of Engineers

michael.turner@usace.army.mil

RE: September 2012 Environmental Assessment Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B

Mr. Turner,

I write this letter in extreme disapproval to the proposed levee which will be constructed by the Army Corp of Engineers on the east side of the Indianapolis Canal.

My wife and I have lived here for several years renting a small home and have recently purchased one block east of where we previously rented. We have a unique community that has given us a place to call home. We often see kids playing together (rare in most communities), attend the town festival; enjoy the canal path and many other aspects of a peaceful and well run community life.

I am very troubled to find the proposed project intends to box us in, and frankly willingly destroys this community in the event of a flood. Not only would this cost people their home and community, it would cost a way of life that would probably never recover. I depend on my home for my business and my loss would be even greater.

The thought of a levee being built which intentionally compromises the community of Rocky Ripple and the canal to which 600,000 people find their drinking water seems irresponsible and unethical. Especially having to find out of this project by our town Board so close to the proposed building time. Something of this magnitude demands more consideration of those who will be directly impacted.

I did not live in Rocky Ripple during the years of opposition to the levee plan that was to be built along the river. I am a recent resident along with many other new faces. Supporting a plan that works for the majority of the people in the area seems to be the voice I hear very loudly by the community, even those who live along the river.

My wife and I plan to raise our kids in this neighborhood. We see the wildlife, green space and friendly neighbors as a valuable asset to be protected and cherished. We ask of you to reconsider you plan. We need a plan that protects the people and beautiful green space of this town.

Thank you,

Jeremy South

Rocky Ripple Resident

5125 Crown St

Indianapolis, IN 46208

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Program Evaluations <<https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1-wkEUMWdJKpl1JDNUsg-86UPfgOq0MJsliHcDH4v3I>>

Would you like to sign-up for the pottery e-newsletter? <<http://eepurl.com/dboB-/>>

Rocky Ripple Clayworks <<https://sites.google.com/site/rockyrippleclayworks/>>
for website information!

<<http://www.cenlafocus.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/06/pottery-wheel.jpg>>

Follow us on

Facebook <<http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#%21/pages/Rocky-Ripple-Clayworks/151990141523987?sk=wall>>

From: [MaryLou Hoffa](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: RE: Take Action TODAY: Email the USACE regarding the Flood Wall
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 12:30:41 PM

Would it not still be more cost effective to let the once in one hundred flood happen and have insurance and home owner recover that cost. One time in one hundred years

The canal has been there since the 1830.

When the last time the river did flood that much?

Per my Indianapolis history knowledge, I don't recall a flood past the canal caused that much damage, if evening happening.

And we have global warming drought.

I think that this money would be better spent in New Orleans where we know flooding occurs on a regular basis and lives are lost each year.

Least don't make Rocky Ripple a New Orleans bowl.

Thank you for your hard work.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association <btboard@gmail.com>
Sent: Mon, September 24, 2012 11:26:24 AM
Subject: Take Action TODAY: Email the USACE regarding the Flood Wall

Neighbors,

We hope this email finds you doing well. We are asking you to take 2 minutes of your time today to let your voice be heard regarding the Flood Wall. All comments are due the the USACE by Friday, September 28th, 2012.

We'd ask you to take a moment to email Michael Turner (Michael.turner@usace.army.mil) your version of the "draft letter" below or mail your comments/concerns to:

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
USArmy Corps Of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Our "draft letter" highlights concerns already voiced by Butler-Tarkington neighbors. The more letters the USACE receives listing these issues the better. Please feel free to utilize our draft but also include YOUR NAME as the signatory. We've also attached a letter from Citizens Energy Group that lists their concerns (water supply and sewer back-up) regarding the USACE plans for your review/reference.

"DRAFT LETTER"

Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood Association points of concern:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us directly by responding to this email. Thanks in advance for your participation and your concern for the Butler Tarkington neighborhood!

Best, BTNA Board

ps. Don't forget we are currently looking for nominations of new board members. If you are interested in serving on the BTNA Board or would like to nominate a fellow resident please email btnapresident@gmail.com. Board member terms are 2 years each and will begin in January.

From: [Les Zwrn](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: [Lori.Miser@indy.gov](#); [Ryan.Vaughn@indy.gov](#); [Olgen.Williams3@indy.gov](#); [Enid Zwrn](#); ["Zachary Cattell"](#); ["btncboard@gmail.com"](#)
Subject: Request to Reconsider the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 1:34:53 PM

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
USArmy Corps Of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Re: Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project

Dear Colonel Leonard:

As 40-year residents of the Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood, we strongly oppose the proposed flood control project, as currently designed.

As proposed, the Project would a) leave the Rocky Ripple neighborhood unprotected; b) irreparably damage the Central Canal and Holcomb Gardens -- amenities that are central to the very heart and soul of the neighborhood; and c) fail to consider alternative --likely more cost-effective solutions --that would avoid the Project's adverse effects on the neighborhoods' property values; the city's drinking water and wastewater systems; and the recreational experience of thousands of users of the Central Canal tow path.

Specifically, we stand in solidarity with the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association's concerns, as cited below:

- * Health and safety of Rocky Ripple residents;
- * Clearing of trees along Westfield Blvd and the Central Canal;
- * Clearing of trees along Holcomb Gardens;
- * Butler University's Athletic Fields, Central Canal and Holcomb would likely be destroyed in a flood b/c they are behind the wall. Holcomb Gardens is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Place. The portion of the Central Canal in Butler-Tarkington is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- * The proposed design would pose a threat to city water supply if there were a flood. The City of Indianapolis acquires 60% of its water from the Central Canal. A flood could wash away the banks of the Central Canal and destroy it permanently or seriously contaminate the water.
- * The floodgate position and design would require a valve on at least one sewer line. In the event of a flood, sewers could back up into an estimated 5,000 neighborhood homes.
- * A wall would prevent visual line-of-sight security for people using the tow path behind the wall.
- * A wall would alter the aesthetic quality of the area and walls tend to collect trash and serve as canvasses for graffiti.
- * If the project were done as proposed, there is no guarantee that flood insurance requirements for some properties would be removed or reduced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). FEMA must certify the entire project and portions of the project in Warfleigh and Broad Ripple do not currently meet the requirements.

As a constructive next step, we suggest that you sit down with a small group of citizens and technical experts from Citizens' Water, Butler University, BTNA, neighborhood-based civil engineers, and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works to identify alternative solutions that are cost-effective and avoid most of the adverse effects cited in this letter, as well as the letter from Citizens' Water.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your efforts to assist BTNA and the City of

Indianapolis.

Les and Enid Zwirn

From: [Harriet Lowe](#)
To: lori.miser@indy.gov; [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Response and Comments to Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project SEIS
Date: Monday, August 06, 2012 10:00:11 AM

To: Lori Miser, Director, Indianapolis Department of Public Works and Wm. Michael Turner, Chief, Environmental Resources, Army Corps of Engineers

The letter below was mailed to Colonel Leonard and those others on the list at the end of the letter on Friday. I am e-mailing you your copy. Thank you for your attention.

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers
Louisville District
PO Box 59
Attn: CELRE-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Dear Colonel Leonard:

As a resident of Rocky Ripple in Indianapolis, Indiana, I am writing to reject the Army Corps of Engineers Westfield Boulevard (proposed action) alignment of the downstream end of the Indianapolis North Floodwall. I am also writing to reject all alignment options as they do not consider the needs of our community and the people who live here.

My husband and I moved to Rocky Ripple 10 years ago so that we could live on the river, enjoy the natural habitat, be part of a supportive community, and, at the same time, enjoy the benefits of living in the city. In those ten years, we have upgraded our home and worked diligently to provide a safe habitat for the birds, fish, and animals that live on our river. We have also maintained and improved our portion of the levee by planting ground cover and removing vegetation that is invasive and harmful. As a matter of fact, we likely have 4 to 6 feet of additional bank and our levee is stronger than ever.

We can't say that for the entire levee in Rocky Ripple. Many homeowners and the town have worked to shore up and maintain the levee, but some haven't. We've been promised assistance with this for all the ten years we've lived here but none has come.

We were not here when the straw poll was taken to build flood protection on the levee, so were not able to vote in favor. We are sorry that the community rejected working with the ACE, but we believe that what is being presented today is grossly prejudicial against an entire community of over 300 homes and 1000 people.

Please consider the following:

- The Army Corps of Engineers should design a plan that protects all life and property.
- The "Rocky Ripple" Alignment, according to the Army Corps of Engineers, would force the removal of most of Rocky Ripple's riverfront homes through Eminent Domain, which is allegedly required in order to construct a new levee that conforms to post-Katrina standards. Aside from the fact that applying post-Katrina standards to our levee (which has never overflowed since it was built more than 80 years ago) does not make sense, the taking of resident homes is unfair and financially devastating to those of us who live on the river and to the community's tax base. This option, which has been deemed unfeasible by the Corps, would also be bad for the Rocky Ripple community and its residents. We want flood protection without the removal of our homes.
- Why is the Rocky Ripple alignment budget not itemized? What exactly is included in the budget for the Rocky Ripple alignment?
- In the event of a flood warning, the proposed sandbag closures of the 52nd and 53rd Street bridges would prevent any and all traffic into and out of Rocky Ripple, including emergency vehicles. Where is the plan for closure—when, who does it, how long before, how long after, how much time do residents have to vacate? What process and plan is in place to assist all our elderly residents? Where will they/we go? Who will pay for housing?
- Butler University's Board of Trustees continues to oppose options that exclude Rocky Ripple. The Board recently voted not to support the current plans, or any that does not include protection for Rocky Ripple.
- Constructing real flood protection for Rocky Ripple (without the taking of homes) also means real protection for the rest of the upstream area that could be impacted by backwater flooding conditions.
- With the implementation of either the Westfield or the 56th Street alignments, most if not all interior homes would be impacted by a major flood, as this wall would transform Rocky Ripple into a flood bowl: river water would flow into Rocky Ripple without a way to flow out once river waters receded, thus increasing public health issues.
- What guarantee exists that in the event of a major flood event, a gate on 52nd Street would be closed in time to prevent flooding beyond Rocky Ripple? Who within the City of Indianapolis or the Town of Rocky Ripple can provide a 100 percent guarantee that this function will be performed; for instance, at 3 a.m. in driving rain in January (consider 1991)? Please think about the two recent

flooding instances in Broad Ripple that were the result of heavy rain and human error.

- The proposed flood wall would adversely affect the property value of homes in the Butler--Tarkington neighborhood and in the Town of Rocky Ripple. Does the city of Indianapolis not care about our community and the people who live here? Does the ACE not value our homes, lives, and property?
- As tax payers, Rocky Ripple residents should expect (and receive) the same level of flood protection as other tax-paying citizens. There are many options that would not be devastating to Rocky Ripple, but they do not seem to have been considered. The proposals are so all or nothing—where are the proposals that maintain and improve the levee without devastating the community by creating a flood bowl or removing homes and vegetation that make Rocky Ripple such a unique environmental green space within Indianapolis.
- The American Water Works Association designated the Central Canal as an American Water Landmark in 1971. Compromising the Canal also compromises plans for Art2Art, a project endorsed by Mayor Ballard and supported with a planning grant from the Central Indiana Community Foundation. The proposed project will degrade the aesthetic beauty of this city treasure.
- Given that the White River will be channeled from Broad Ripple, south to and including the area adjacent to the Riviera Club, residents of Rocky Ripple will become increasingly vulnerable to flood events given that channeled water tends to flow faster and higher, thus further eroding and compromising what remains of the 1930s earthen levee that surrounds the Town of Rocky Ripple.
- All of us who live on the river...on the levee...do not worry as much about overflow from a high water event. We worry that the levee will be breached. Without consistent and community-wide levee maintenance and repair—or a reasonable levee project that doesn't destroy 42 houses and/or structures and all the beautiful vegetation and trees.
- Many residents did not live in Rocky Ripple in the mid 1990s. To exclude an entire community based on a straw poll with a ten-vote difference conducted in the mid 1990s is hardly a referendum for excluding a community of 712 people from flood protection.
- The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) needs to reevaluate its proposals—not enough information is provided in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Post Katrina standards based on what happened in New Orleans should not set the standard for the entire United States. The White River is not the Gulf of Mexico or the Mississippi. Rocky Ripple is unique. ACE should not approve any plan that walls off an entire community and puts any life at risk.

The only sensible plan is effective flood control where the source of the flooding will come—the White River. I respectfully ask that ACE and the City of Indianapolis design a plan that respects the integrity of our community, our citizens, our homes—and provides suitable flood protections while addressing and restricting development upstream to properly maintain the flood plains.

Thank you for your attention.

Best regards,

Harriet Lowe

cc: Lori Miser, Director

Indianapolis Department of Public Works

lori.miser@indy.gov

Wm. Michael Turner

Chief, Environmental Resources

CELRL-PM-P-E (Room 708)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

michael.turner@usace.army.mil

Senator Richard Lugar

1180 Market Tower

10 West Market Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Senator Dan Coats

10 West Market St. Suite 1650

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Congressman André Carson

District Office

300 E Fall Creek Pkwy N Dr. Suite 300

Indianapolis, IN 46205-4258

State Rep. Ed DeLaney

Indiana House of Representatives

200 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

State Senator Scott Schneider
200 W. Washington St.

Indianapolis, IN 46208

Harriet Lowe

5108 Riverview Drive

Indianapolis, IN 46208

317-797-2567

011-521-998-221-2732 (Mexico Cell)

From: eharper
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](mailto:Turner.Michael.LRL)
Cc: btncboard@gmail.com; lori.miser@indy.gov; [State Rep. Ed DeLaney](#); [State Senator Greg Taylor](#)
Subject: Rocky Ripple alignment of Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 11:59:45 PM

Dear Mr. Turner:

Please accept this email as an official comment on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B.

We urge you to revise the current version of this proposal, and revert to an earlier plan to build a flood barrier along the shore of the White River around the village of Rocky Ripple. This 'Rocky Ripple alignment' was dropped on the basis of a narrow vote of opposition to it by the town council. But that was almost two decades ago, and many of those involved no longer live there. A majority of current residents, including friends of ours, would now approve some version of a plan to protect the village.

The stated purpose of the proposed flood wall is to protect the city. Thus, it would be inconsistent with that purpose to build the wall above Rocky Ripple, which would put the homeowners of the village at risk in a major flood. It also would probably waste taxpayers' money. Protecting Rocky Ripple is bound to be cheaper than restoring it. And the estimated \$30 million extra cost of the Rocky Ripple alignment has been reported to be improperly calculated, because it includes the cost of unrelated sewer improvements.

Finally, it would be unconscionable not to protect the population of Rocky Ripple. Given the recent increase in severe weather events, the risk of a flood-related fatality under the proposed plan cannot be ignored.

Colonel Leonard has heard these arguments before, in public hearings and previous comments, along with other reasons for preferring the earlier plan. We hope that the Corps will honor the needs, and accede to the wishes, of those who will be affected by this decision.

Sincerely,

Edwin T. and Esther K. Harper
444 West Hampton Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: [Bungard, Christopher](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Rocky Ripple and Canal Flood Wall
Date: Thursday, August 23, 2012 8:17:40 AM

Dear Wm. Michael Turner,

I write to you in regards to the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Indianapolis, White River (North), IN Flood Damage Reduction Project Phase 3B.

As resident of the area and employee of Butler University, I have concerns about plans to build a flood wall alongside the canal. I believe that building such a wall would have negative impacts on the people who live both east and west of the canal near to Butler University's campus.

It is my understanding that plans to build this flood wall would leave the people of Rocky Ripple without flood protection, and it might potentially increase damage to the people of Rocky Ripple in the event of a high water event. The people of Rocky Ripple pay taxes here in Indianapolis, and I would oppose a plan that would protect people east of the canal while potentially turning Rocky Ripple into a flood bowl. Water from the river and canal could easily flow into Rocky Ripple while being denied an easy exit. While people behind the flood wall would ideally be safe, the people of Rocky Ripple would be imperiled. This would be exacerbated by sandbagging plans that would essentially cut off the two arteries into Rocky Ripple, denying residents a way to get out and emergency vehicles a way to get in.

I am constantly amazed at the beauty of homes in the Rocky Ripple area as well as the strong sense of community of its residents. I fear that building the flood wall would lower property values in the neighborhood and decrease the quality of this neighborhood. It will become increasingly difficult for people to invest good money into maintaining homes that could be one flood away from massive loss and damage.

As an employee of Butler University, I am also concerned about the impact this plan would have on Holcomb Gardens. This is a beautiful part of the Butler campus, and the idyllic view of the canal is very much a part of the beauty of these gardens. As a university in an urban area, Butler has the unique advantage of having a "park like" feel, and Holcomb Gardens is a key piece of that feel.

It is also my understanding that the construction of the flood wall would negatively impact the Indy Greenways walking path. My daughter and I ride along that path on a daily basis. It is a great asset to our city to have such a naturally beautiful bike path that connects downtown to Broad Ripple. I know that my Butler colleagues share in my view that it adds value to us as employees to have the chance to walk or bike to work and enjoy the bounty of ducks, turtles, and trees along both banks of the canal.

I write to urge you to consider other options of flood control. I ask that the course taken protect all people who live along the White River and the canal, not just those east of the canal. All members of our community deserve equal protections regardless of their street address.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Bungard

From: [william wadsworth](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: lori.miser@indy.gov
Subject: Rocky Ripple DSEIS Comment Letter
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 6:06:20 PM
Attachments: [Colonel Leonard.docx](#)

Colonel Leonard:

As a veteran of the USAF, I have the utmost respect for the efforts of the ACE, and I understand what it means to follow orders. And as a retired UPS manager, I was tasked with making decisions that didn't go down well. It was easy to comply with my orders, because no possible loss of life was involved. However, the current plan to exclude the community of Rocky Ripple places my wife, my son, and nearly 1,000 other people directly in harm's way in the event of a flood.

Colonel Leonard, I do not envy the decision you must make, but I am certain you didn't attain your rank by avoiding difficulty or controversy. It takes courage to recognize the real as opposed to the convenient. Let me say that I was present at the first meeting in the 1990's. The ACE representative seemed taken aback when one of the citizens mentioned the fact that our property taxes would increase drastically. As a first-time homeowner, I had no reply to combat the citizen's assertion. But, as this was probably asked at other meetings of this kind, I expected the ACE representative to have a reply. However, she did not.

Had she been more experienced, I'm certain she would have pointed out to the group that the property tax increase would have been negated by the fact that we would no longer have to pay flood insurance! That property tax statement by the citizen was the meeting's turning point-not any objection to the appearance of the wall. In spite of our votes in favor of the wall, my wife and I were in the minority. A better-informed constituency may have voted for ACE's original plan that would have protected our property and more importantly, the lives of our families. I implore you not to penalize us for having all the facts at the time.

I know that the maximum effective range of an excuse is zero meters, but we need a mulligan. I'm not suggesting another vote. I think this is one of those cases wherein, the government must protect its citizenry from itself, and rule for the greater good by unilaterally deciding to build the wall according to the original plan, that includes Rocky Ripple. Prior to the most recent meeting, more than one of the citizens whose house was earmarked for removal, told me that they would be willing to sacrifice their home for the sake of reverting to the original plan, and saving our town.

If the decision goes against us, moving will place an undue hardship on families who elect to leave our homes. Stagnant, and declining property values, and the murky pall of a possible flood disaster, will make our homes impossible to sell at a decent price. The purchase of another home will decimate our savings, and the state of poverty we'll become a part of, will be tantamount to death!

Sincerely,

William I. Wadsworth
701 West 52nd Street
Rocky Ripple, Indiana 46208
317-557-3901

From: [Hamaker](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: lori.miser@indy.gov
Subject: Rocky Ripple Flood Plan Comments
Date: Thursday, September 27, 2012 10:08:02 PM

To the Army Corps and the City of Indianapolis:

I would like to add my voice to the chorus of those urging a rejection of the options presented by the USACE regarding flood wall construction along the Rocky Ripple section of the White River in Indianapolis.

I am a 10 year resident of Rocky Ripple. I did not live in the town when the initial "rejection" of the first wall plan took place, but I have lived here long enough to feel deeply invested in my community. Rocky Ripple, the river, and the canal are all tremendous assets to the City of Indianapolis; I have lived in Indianapolis for most of my life, and grew up fishing and hiking in and around White River, Williams Creek, and the IWC canal. My choice to move to Rocky Ripple was a direct outgrowth of my love and appreciation for what the river and the canal bring to our city's quality of life, and I am thunderstruck that this value was apparently not taken into account in any of the proposals the USACE submitted to the city regarding flood control and prevention.

To be brief, here are a few points I feel are vital considerations as the city and the army corps contemplate their next move.

* The canal is not only a beautiful greenway for hundreds of walkers and bikers every single day; it is also an environmental treasure, providing urban residents a chance to encounter a vast diversity of native birds, reptiles, mammals, and fish up close. As an exhibit developer for the largest Children's Museum in the world, I can't emphasize enough how important it is for children and families to have these opportunities to learn about the natural world in a direct and hands-on way. The present plan entails the removal of the greenway along Westfield, destroying 90% of the riparian zone that makes the canal such a community asset.

* Likewise, the White River is a corridor for animals, birds, and fish--not to mention hikers, paddlers, and fishermen. Anyone who has any love for the outdoors can see what a tragic loss a wholesale removal of trees and brush in this area would be. Post-Katrina vegetation-removal flood standards are wildly excessive for our situation, and would do far more harm than good both for Rocky Ripple residents and all those who love and use the White River.

* The exclusion of Rocky Ripple residents from the preferred plan (the wall along Westfield and sandbagged bridges) is frankly appalling. I pay my taxes, I contribute to the community; yet this plan essentially says to me that my life and my property are not worth saving. How is this acceptable, either to the Army Corps or to the city I love?

* In the event of a catastrophic flood, the Westfield wall plan would lead not only to the destruction of many homes in Rocky Ripple, but to the wholesale contamination of the Water Company canal. All of us in Rocky Ripple are on septic; but even if sewers are brought in before a tragedy happens, the canal would be inundated with household chemicals, trash, and all manner of foul junk from the detritus of our houses. The cost of shutting down and decontaminating the canal is mindboggling; how was this not taken into account in the present proposal?

The earthen WPA levee has protected our community for nearly 100 years. It is in poor shape, and we in Rocky Ripple are the first to admit this. Why could the city not spend a much more reasonable amount of money to remove large trees and structures from the levee itself, and then rebuild/restore the earthwork to its original height and width? This technology is proven, and meets the needs of a river the size of ours. Surely there is a way to make use of what we have in a way that is not wantonly destructive to the river or the canal, and which offers equal protection for residents of all the river neighborhoods rather than just those in Warfleigh and Butler Tarkington.

Please--don't destroy our property values, our green spaces, or our sense of community. Thank you for your consideration.

Cathy Hamaker
5340 Canal Blvd.
Indianapolis 46208
(317) 408-6731

From: [Kandy Kendall](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: lori.miser@indy.gov
Subject: Rocky Ripple Flood Plan
Date: Monday, September 24, 2012 2:54:53 PM

September 24, 2012

Colonel Luke T. Leonard
District Commander
US Army Corps of Engineers,
Louisville District
PO Box 59
ATTN: CELRL-PM-P-E
Louisville, KY 40201

Lori Miser
<<mailto:lori.miser@indy.gov>> Director, Indianapolis Department of Public Works

2460 City-County Building
200 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Re: Rocky Ripple Flood Wall

Dear Colonel Leonard and Ms. Miser,

I have been a resident of Rocky Ripple since 1982 and have lived in three different homes on the current levee in Rocky Ripple. I appreciate the Corps plan to not put a flood wall in my backyard and agree with the proposed wall along the canal and Westfield Boulevard. I have had flood insurance the entire time I have lived in Rocky Ripple because I know I am in the flood plain and am a responsible citizen protecting my home the best way I can. In the event of a catastrophic flood like we saw in New Orleans seven years ago, our homes will not be protected by a flood wall anyway.

I do believe the City needs to help us with maintenance as is stated in the agreement of 1937 between the City and Rocky Ripple when the levee was originally built. Somehow the City of Indianapolis has forgotten this agreement and at this point, refuses to offer us any assistance what so ever.

Thank you for your time.

Very truly yours,

Kandy Kendall

5058 Riverview Dr

Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: linderdesign@sprintmail.com
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Subject: Rocky Ripple Flood Protection
Date: Monday, August 27, 2012 1:19:16 PM

Walling Rocky Ripple out of the Flood Wall Project

August 27, 2012

RE: The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project as it relates to the community of Rocky Ripple.

Dear Sir,

As residents for the past 26 years of Rocky Ripple, we would like the DPW and the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) to re-reconsider repairing the existing levee along White River as was the original plan sixteen years ago. We ask the city of Indianapolis to support the protection of Rocky Ripple. This is a unique, historical and vital ecological part of Indianapolis and links several neighborhood communities from the north end of the Monon trail to Broad Ripple, that links to the Canal path to Butler, the Indianapolis Art Museum and to downtown.

Sixteen years ago we supported the Army Corps design for improving the earthen levee, and sent letters of support, attended meetings and then sent letters of apology after the town's dismal treatment of the ACE representatives. Since then the town has changed, homeowners have improved their properties – and attitudes. Although homes along the existing levee will be impacted, the long term effects for the community and city, its welfare and property values would outweigh any short-term inconveniences. In that wells have been closed off, city water supplied and plans for city sewer systems to be installed in several years it does not make sense to create a potential cesspool by walling off Rocky Ripple. If a flood were to raise the river level, it would also overflow the canal, effectively turning this area into a lake destroying over three hundred homes and impacting families, home-based businesses and the surrounding area.

This is a unique community, a community that helps its residents in times of need, has community events several times a year, and operates a huge community garden open to outside residents. It is a quiet place that is a throwback to an earlier time where it is safe for children to play and explore nature and are watched and protected by the whole community.

We live in the bottom of the bowl, own our home and are raising our niece, whose deceased parents lived in Rocky Ripple too. The community pulled together to provide a college fund benefit concert day for her which was attended by a huge crowd of neighbors. We cannot afford to take on a mortgage and after living here for 26 years and do not want to move our niece again.

It is estimated that the city could raise - or has the funds in reserve - to re-work the existing levee with the ACE. If so, it would greatly increase the property values not just for Rocky Ripple, but also for the surrounding neighborhood area and Butler University with the potential for added commercial growth in the 56th and Illinois area.

We strongly urge the ACE, DPW and city of Indianapolis to reconsider Rocky Ripple and its residents and return to the original levee improvement proposed in the 1990's.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With Respect,

David & Vandra Linder

5208 Sunny Meade Lane

Indianapolis, IN 46208

317-259-8297

From: [Kenneth Yerian](#)
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#); lori.miser@indy.gov
Subject: Rocky Ripple
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 2:29:26 PM

Dear Sir or Madam,

My wife and I are residents of Rocky Ripple, and we wanted to let you know that we are opposed to the Army Corp of Engineers' plan for building a flood wall along the canal on Westfield Boulevard. We also oppose any plan for flood protection that would require the complete removal of homes along the river. We don't feel that the Army Corp of Engineers' plans adequately protect all life and property. We understand that the Corps has artificially inflated the costs of building a new levee along the river by including costs for a new sewer system which is not relevant to the flood control project. This seems to be an underhanded and deceptive action. We oppose the idea of sandbag closures of 52nd and 53rd streets in the event of a flood warning, as this would prevent all vehicular traffic from entering or leaving Rocky Ripple including emergency vehicles. We feel that the Army Corp of Engineers' current proposals would endanger our lives and our property. We ask that you use your conscience and sense of fairness in making these decisions. We ask that if you have no care or concern that people may lose their lives as a result of your decisions that you recuse yourself from making such decisions, and defer these decisions to a person of conscience. We ask that you listen to the needs and wants of the tax payers who live in Rocky Ripple.

Thank You.

Kenneth Yerian

Amelia Sosa

5212 Sunnymeade Ln

Indianapolis, IN 46208

From: linderdesign@sprintmail.com
To: [Turner, Michael LRL](#)
Cc: lori.miser@indy.gov
Subject: Rocky Ripple, Indianapolis DPW Flood Wall
Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012 8:23:03 AM
Attachments: [DPW.docx](#)

Vandra Pentecost

Linder Design
5208 Sunny Meade Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46208
www.vandrapentecost.com

2D Drawing & Painting Department Head
Indianapolis Art Center

Walling Rocky Ripple out of the Flood Wall Project

September 27, 2012

RE: The Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the Indianapolis North Flood Damage Reduction Project as it relates to the community of Rocky Ripple.

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Sixteen years ago we supported the Army Corps design for improving the earthen levee, and sent letters of support, attended meetings and then sent letters of apology after the town's dismal treatment of the ACE representatives. Since then the town has changed, homeowners have improved their properties – and attitudes. Although homes along the existing levee will be impacted, the long-term effects for the community and city, its welfare and property values would outweigh any short-term inconveniences. In that wells have been closed off, city water supplied and plans for city sewer systems to be installed in several years it does not make sense to create a potential cesspool by walling off Rocky Ripple.

This is a unique community, a community that helps its residents in times of need, has community events several times a year, and operates a huge community garden open to outside residents. Many residents have home-based businesses. It is a quiet place that is a throwback to an earlier time where it is safe for children to play and explore nature and are watched and protected by the whole community.

We live in the bottom of the bowl, own our home and are raising our orphaned niece, whose bankrupt deceased parents lived in Rocky Ripple too. The community pulled together to provide a college fund benefit concert day for her this past August that was attended by a huge crowd of neighbors. We cannot afford to move or to take on a mortgage and after living here for 26 years. We want our niece to finish high school without further trauma and to have the support her neighborhood and friends. We have improved our property and plan to live the remainder of our lives here.

- The Army Corps of Engineers plans fail to consider the aesthetic, environmental, and economic value of trees and wildlife that will be lost, as well as the sense of community threatened by the proposed alignment. [The city of Indianapolis, too, needs to consider this.](#)
- The Corps has included costs associated with a new sewer system and lift station, which is not relevant to the flood control project and artificially inflates the Rocky Ripple

Alignment costs.

- In the event of a flood warning, the proposed sandbag closures of the 52nd and 53rd Street bridges would prevent any and all traffic into and out of Rocky Ripple, including emergency vehicles.
- Butler University's Board of Trustees continues to oppose options that exclude Rocky Ripple. The Board recently voted not to support the current plans, or any that does not include protection for Rocky Ripple.
- The ACE should not approve any plan that walls off an entire community and puts any life at risk. [The city of Indianapolis, too, needs to consider this.](#)
- The proposed flood wall would adversely affect the property value of homes in the Butler--Tarkington neighborhood and in the Town of Rocky Ripple. [The city of Indianapolis, too, needs to consider this.](#)
- As tax payers, Rocky Ripple residents should expect (and receive) the same level of flood protection as other tax-paying citizens.
- The American Water Works Association designated the Central Canal as an American Water Landmark in 1971. Compromising the Canal also compromises plans for Art2Art, a project endorsed by Mayor Ballard and supported with a planning grant from the Central Indiana Community Foundation. The proposed project will degrade the aesthetic beauty of this city treasure. [The city of Indianapolis, too, needs to consider this.](#)
- Citizens' Water has voiced their opposition to the ACE's current recommendations.
- Given that the White River will be channeled from Broad Ripple, south to and including the area adjacent to the Riviera Club, residents of Rocky Ripple will become increasingly vulnerable to flood events given that channeled water tends to flow faster and higher, thus further eroding and compromising what remains of the 1930s earthen levee that surrounds the Town of Rocky Ripple.
- Many residents did not live in Rocky Ripple in the mid 1990s. To exclude an entire community based on a straw poll with a ten-vote difference conducted in the mid 1990s is hardly a referendum for failing to protect an entire community from flooding.

It is estimated that the city could raise - or has the funds in reserve - to re-work the existing levee with the ACE. If so, it would greatly increase the property values not just for Rocky Ripple, but also for the surrounding neighborhood area and Butler University with the potential for added commercial growth in the 56th and Illinois area.

We strongly urge the ACE, DPW and city of Indianapolis to reconsider Rocky Ripple and its residents and return to the original levee improvement proposed in the 1990's.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With Respect,

David & Vandra Linder

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