



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Public Notice

In Reply Refer to: Kevin DiRocco

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Levee Safety Program

Date: October 18, 2022

Comment Period Closes: November 1, 2022

15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

**ACCESS TO U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408
KNOWN AS THE CLARK LEVEE LOCATED IN
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE) is evaluating plans pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408) to allow the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) to access the banks of the Connecticut River over Clark Levee in the Hartford Local Protection Project (LPP) in Hartford, CT. The levee system is operated and maintained by the city of Hartford. The CAA is requesting access to bring equipment over the levee to support CAA's vegetation management. The levee system provides flood protection to approximately 3,000 acres of highly developed commercial, residential, and industrial land in Hartford. The LPP consists of about 35,000 feet of earthfill levees, 4,400 feet of concrete floodwalls, in addition to stoplog structures, conduits, and pumping stations.

This notice is being issued pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408, USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) and the USACE procedures for implementing NEPA (33 CFR 230). Section 408 allows USACE to grant permission for the alteration, occupation, or use of USACE civil works projects if it is determined that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the Federal project. A decision on a Section 408 request is a Federal action, and therefore subject to NEPA and other environmental compliance requirements.

Most of the Hartford LPP levee system was constructed by USACE in 1938 and completed in 1944, with additions completed in 1957 and 1981. The levee system has provided significant flood risk benefits to the City since its completion. The proposed action comprises access to the Clark Levee in order to move heavy equipment for the management of vegetation along the river that obstructs navigable airspace. The use of the levee for heavy equipment access is limited to one-time access and one-time exit of the heavy equipment. Pickup trucks and all-terrain vehicle access will be necessary on a daily basis during the approximate three-week project duration for labor access and equipment fueling. Use of the levee is anticipated to occur during the winter season to take place under dry or frozen ground conditions, ideally in January and February, which will maximize protection of soils around the levee. After use of the levee is complete, the roads and

other disturbed areas within the levee right-of-way will be regraded, stabilized, and revegetated to the city of Hartford's satisfaction and in compliance with all conditions of regulatory approvals and other state approvals. A crane will remain on the airport-side to lift logs over and move them along a designated haul route each way to prevent effects to the levee. The public is invited to provide comments. To request more information contact: Kevin DiRocco, Levee Safety Program Manager, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, (978) 318-8396, Kevin.J.DiRocco@usace.army.mil. The comment period will end on November 1, 2022. Letters should be postmarked by this date.