U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Levee Risk Analysis Data Release;
What does this mean and how will it be communicated.

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• What is LSAC
• Why Release LSAC
• LSAC Risk vs PL84-99 vs FEMA
• Challenges for Release
• Schedule and Way Ahead
• SWG’s Communication Plan
What Is LSAC

- Levee Safety Action Classification
- Screening level assessment of levee system performance at full system load
- Focus on primary risk drivers
- Classifies system based on consequences and likelihood of failure
Current Eligibility Focus

• Focused on the Infrastructure (not people)
• Focused on Conditions (not performance)
• Focused on Inspections (not risks)
What are the hazards and how likely are they to occur?

How will the infrastructure perform in the face of these hazards?

Who and what are in harms way? How susceptible to harm are they? How much harm is caused?

- Focuses on full range of flood risk factors
- Encourages taking appropriate “actions” to manage flood risk
- Shifts efforts and attention from the structure to risk management
LSAC – Why Release It?

- The LSAC is an assessment tool
  - Risk based
  - Emphasis on potential for “brittle failures”
  - Entire USACE portfolio

- Communication
  - Corps to Sponsor to Stakeholder
  - Informed decision making
  - Interim Risk Reduction Measures
LSAC – Why Release It?

- Improve sponsor engagement and understanding of levee safety activities;
- Improve sponsor and community understanding of the benefits and flood risks associated with levee systems;
- Promote actions to reduce and manage the associated flood risks; and,
- Build a foundation for shared responsibility in developing and implementing flood risk management solutions for levee systems.
Risk Analysis
Characterization of Levee Risk- results in classification (LSAC)
Benefit- Increased understanding of risk of living behind levee
Informs Accreditation/Certification

PL 84-99 Eligibility
- Based on rating criteria of O&M
- Rated U, M, or A
- Benefit- Corps will fund flood damage repair
- Informs LSAC and FEMA Accreditation

FEMA Certification
- Must be 100 yr height
- Passes other Eng criteria
- Certified by AE firm
- Benefit - decreased flood insurance rates
Challenges for Release

- Ongoing Risk Assessments may change LSAC 1’s (potential reduction to LSAC 2)
- Describing difference between Risk (Screenings) vs O&M (Periodic/Routine Inspections) ratings
- Tie in with FEMA Accreditation/Certification
Risk Communication Schedule

- 17 Dec - HQ brief to CMDRS
- 15 Jan - Districts submit draft Commo Plans to SWD
- 29 Jan - Districts finalize Commo Plans
- Conf call with FEMA (HQ lead) - 22 Feb

- SWD Regional call to further discuss LSAC release
- HQ release of LSACs (subsequent to FEMA call)
- Districts brief sponsors, FEMA, Congressional on LSACs within 30 days of HQ release
Way Ahead

- Official release of LSAC to sponsors will be joint effort - Levee Safety Lead with participation to include Public Affairs, Emergency Mgt, Flood Risk Mgt, Silver Jacket reps, and Operations.
- SWG will schedule a meeting with sponsor to discuss LSAC and provide official notification.
SWG Communication Plan Guidelines

- Include Levee System Summary
- Include Q&A’s
- Way to capture lessons learned
- Have schedule starting with LSAC release, include notifying sponsor, FEMA, Congressional, State POC.
Desired Outcome

- Encourage a community discussion and engagement in a broader set of flood risk management actions to manage risk.
- Encourage dialogue and problem solving between USACE and sponsors.
- Promote risk-informed, cost effective prioritization of risk reduction activities.
- Change the role of USACE from “compliance inspector” to provider of risk advice and technical assistance.
- Provide flexibility to align flood risk management actions with requirements to protect and restore natural resources.
Questions?

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