

Colonel Kenneth P. Rockwell  
Commander, Chicago District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
231 S. LaSalle Street, Suite 1500  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Colonel Rockwell:

This letter, while not legally binding, is provided as an expression of the City of Aurora's intent to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under Section 519 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, as amended, for the design and implementation of the proposed project for the aquatic ecosystem restoration of the Fox River in Illinois.

We understand that the feasibility study investigated a full range of alternatives to identify a plan to restore connectivity and aquatic habitat in the Fox River, and that dam removal is identified as the recommended plan in the Project Implementation Report and Integrated Programmatic Environmental Assessment. As an owner of a dam proposed for removal, we intend to partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to serve as non-federal sponsors and provide the necessary items of local cooperation for the proposed project.

We also understand additional assessments for environmental, historic, and hazardous, toxic, and radioactive wastes will be conducted and incorporated in the final design of the project. Depending on the results of these additional assessments, the City of Aurora will either continue to serve as a non-federal sponsor to implement the proposed project, seek to partner with IDNR on their own to evaluate partial removal or other modifications to improve dam safety, or choose to keep the dam intact without modification.

In order to serve as a non-federal sponsor, the City of Aurora's understands and agrees to the following items of local cooperation:

- Provide, during design and construction, the non-federal cost share of 35% of the total project costs.
- Provide 100 percent of the costs for long-term operation and maintenance of the constructed project.
- Provide all required lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal areas (LERRDs) required for the project (appropriate costs are reimbursable).
- Perform and pay for all costs associated with any required hazardous, toxic, and radioactive wastes (HTRW) cleanup and response in, on, or under any real property interest required for the project.
- Hold and save the United States free from all damages arising from the project that are not due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors.

Please contact Brian Witkowski by phone at (630) 256-3226 or by e-mail at [witkowskib@aurora.il.us](mailto:witkowskib@aurora.il.us) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

John Laesch  
Mayor of Aurora