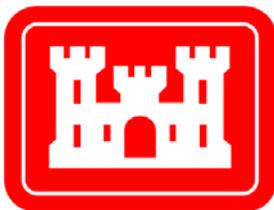


**AUGUSTA CITY LEVEE PROJECT
SAVANNAH RIVER
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA**

LEVEE, FLOODWALL, CLOSURE STRUCTURE

PERIODIC INSPECTION REPORT NO. 1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Savannah District

SEPTEMBER 2010

Part I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Augusta Levee is a federally authorized and non-federally operated and maintained, urban flood protection project. The flood protection is located on the west bank of the Savannah River adjacent to downtown Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia.

Construction of the Augusta Levee began in 1908 and was completed between 1914 and 1916 by the City of Augusta. After undergoing damage by the Flood of 1929, certain sections of the levee were rebuilt to stand up against greater floods. In the Flood Control Act of 1936, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to improve the levee system. This work was completed in 1941. The levee system consists of floodwalls, closure structures, and earthen embankments.

The combined governments of the City of Augusta and Richmond County are responsible for operating and maintaining the flood control project.

The levee and appurtenant features were inspected on 23 through 25 March 2010. Multiple significant deficiencies were noted, most of which are ongoing from previous inspections, and remedial actions have not been initiated.

The main system deficiencies are:

- Although a majority of the levee contains desirable vegetation, significant portions of the embankment contain undesirable vegetation, i.e. vegetation that prohibits a proper inspection and vegetation that can affect the integrity of the levee. Vegetation deficiencies were noted in the December 2008 inspection, but few have been addressed. Many are on-going deficiencies listed in numerous inspection reports.
- Numerous encroachments have been identified during this inspection and previous annual inspections, mainly in the downtown area. Encroachments include buildings, billboard posts, numerous Riverwalk features, utilities, etc., that have been constructed on the levee or levee toe.
- Other deficiencies include flood wall drain holes that are blocked, scour/erosion and low spots at water control structures, and several interior drainage flapgates that are in disrepair and possibly inoperable.

The overall system rating for the Augusta City Levee is “Unacceptable.” Individual items rated as unacceptable deficiencies in previous inspections have not been corrected within the timeline set by the October 2008 Inspection Report. The City/County was requested in October 2008 to provide a proposed plan for correcting deficiencies, particularly vegetation. The plan was requested within 90 days of receipt of the inspection report. To date, Savannah District has not received a proposed plan to correct vegetation encroachments or any other deficiencies. Additionally, vegetative deficiencies

listed as unacceptable in the last report were identified as needing to be corrected within one year from the date of the report. The listed deficiencies noted in the last report have not been corrected as of this inspection.