



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CHICAGO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
111 NORTH CANAL STREET  
CHICAGO IL 60606-7206

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

December 1, 2008

Project Management Branch

CDR Paul Mehler III  
United States Coast Guard  
Marine Safety Unit Chicago  
16W215 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite D  
Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527

Dear CDR Mehler:

As you are aware, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources permit granted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for construction of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Barrier II requires U.S. Coast Guard approval prior to activation of the barrier. At this time USACE requests Coast Guard approval to begin full-time operation of Barrier IIA at a maximum in-water field strength of 1 volt/inch (V/in). We have completed all planned tests at this power level. A report summarizing all of the testing is attached for your review. USACE believes these tests show that operation of Barrier IIA at 1 V/in presents minimal risk to canal users.

USACE would also like to begin safety testing of Barrier IIA at higher maximum in-water field strengths (up to 4 V/in) as soon as reasonably possible. A proposed test plan for evaluating safety risks at higher voltage operating levels is also attached. We ask that the Coast Guard review this test plan and provide any comments to USACE by 15 December. USACE will then finalize the test plan and work with the Coast Guard to schedule testing dates.

Please contact me with your decision on activation of Barrier IIA. Any questions on the testing summary report or the higher voltage test plan should be directed to the Barriers Project Manager, Mr. Chuck Shea, at 312-846-5568 or [charles.b.shea@usace.army.mil](mailto:charles.b.shea@usace.army.mil). USACE greatly appreciates the Coast Guard's efforts and cooperation on this important project. We look forward to continuing our strong partnership in the future.

Sincerely,

Vincent V. Quarles  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander

Attachments (2)