

Addendum to the Final Independent External Peer Review Report Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock Replacement, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, General Reevaluation Report (GRR)

Prepared by
Battelle Memorial Institute

Prepared for
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
National Planning Center of Expertise for Inland Navigation (PCXIN)
Baltimore District

Contract No. W912HQ-15-D-0001
Task Order: 0019

June 21, 2017

BATTELLE
It can be done

This page is intentionally left blank.

CONTRACT NO. W912HQ-15-D-0001
Task Order: 0019

Addendum to the Final Independent External Peer Review Report for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock Replacement Orleans Parish, Louisiana, General Reevaluation Report (GRR)

Prepared by

Battelle
505 King Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201

for

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
National Planning Center of Expertise for Inland Navigation (PCXIN)
Baltimore District

June 21, 2017

This page is intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

	Page
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. METHODS AND CONCLUSION	1

LIST OF ACRONYMS

EC	Engineer Circular
GRR	General Reevaluation Report
IEPR	Independent External Peer Review
IHNC	Inner Harbor Navigation Canal
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
SEIS	Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers

1. INTRODUCTION

This addendum is a supplement to the Final Independent External Peer Review (IEPR) Report for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Lock Replacement, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, General Reevaluation Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (GRR/SEIS) (hereinafter: IHNC Lock Replacement GRR/SEIS IEPR) submitted on May 16, 2017, by Battelle. It was prepared to document activities associated with the IEPR Panel's review of the public and agency comments on the IHNC Lock Replacement GRR/SEIS.

This addendum briefly details the IEPR process that determined the need for Final Panel Comments associated with the public and agency comments on the IHNC Lock Replacement GRR/SEIS. The IEPR Panel determined that no additional Final Panel Comments were necessary based on the information provided in the public and agency comments.

2. METHODS AND CONCLUSION

This section summarizes the activities associated with the review of the public and agency comments conducted for this project.

Battelle received electronic versions of the public comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on May 9, 2017. Prior to sending the public comments to Battelle, USACE organized them by source (agency or resident) and provided a summary of the more detailed scientific and technical public comments in an Excel spreadsheet. In addition to this summary, USACE provided all public comments in PDF files. Battelle provided the Excel spreadsheet and all comments in their original full-text format to the panel members.

In accordance with procedures described in the Department of the Army, USACE, Engineer Circular (EC) *Civil Works Review* (EC 1165-2-214)¹, Appendix D, Battelle focused the IEPR Panel's public comment review on assessing scientific and technical issues with regard to the assumptions, data, methods, and models used in the project.

Each panel member was asked to independently determine whether the public comments contained any additional scientific or technical concerns regarding the project which were not previously identified and which should be addressed by USACE in the IHNC Lock Replacement GRR/SEIS project documents. The Panel was charged with focusing on discipline-specific scientific and technical issues and not policy-related comments, per EC 1165-2-214, Appendix D.

Comments submitted by state and Federal agencies were provided to the Panel "For Information Only." Battelle understands that under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), USACE must address state and Federal agency comments as part of the consultation process; therefore, issues brought up by these agencies, and USACE's subsequent responses, were considered policy related.

The panel members reviewed comment letters from state and Federal agencies as well as emails and letters from a variety of companies, non-profit organizations, and members of the general public. Two

¹ USACE (2012). Water Resources Policies and Authorities: Civil Works Review. Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-214. Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. December 15.

public meeting transcripts were also provided. The panel members were required to answer one charge question with regard to the public comments.

1. Do the public comments raise any additional discipline-specific technical concerns with regard to the overall report?

The panel members submitted responses to this charge question, and Battelle reviewed those responses to identify any issues, areas of potential conflict, and other overall impressions. Each panel member's individual comments were shared with the full Panel. Battelle then discussed via email exchanges or teleconferences, as needed, whether any of their identified issues should be carried forward as Final Panel Comments.

Based on the Panel's review, most of the public comments fell into the category of general support or opposition or were discussed in previous Final Panel Comments submitted in the IHNC Lock Replacement GRR/SEIS Final IEPR Report. Issues noted in the public comments, but already covered in previous Final Panel Comments, included issues related to construction-related traffic impacts and the community impact mitigation plan. The Panel did not repeat those concerns in this addendum. All other concerns raised by agencies and other stakeholders were deemed by Battelle and the Panel to be related to policy and therefore outside the purview of the Panel's review.

By the end of the discussion, the panel members had identified no issues within the public comments that needed additional clarifying information in order to strengthen the IHNC Lock Replacement GRR/SEIS. Therefore, this Addendum to the Final IEPR Report does not include any additional Final Panel Comments and is provided as documentation that a public comment review was conducted for the IHNC Lock Replacement GRR/SEIS IEPR.

BATTELLE

It can be done