



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
CHICAGO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
231 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, SUITE 1500  
CHICAGO IL 60604

April 20, 2019

CELRC-PMD-EF

Ms. Kathryn Vallis  
Lake Michigan Coastal Program - IN DNR  
Coastal Resources Planner  
Indiana Dunes State Park Annex Office  
1600 N. 25 East  
Chesterton, IN 46304

Dear Ms. Vallis,

The U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago (Corps) will be preparing a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment on the impacts associated with a proposed storm water management improvement project in unincorporated Porter County, South Haven, Indiana. The Porter County Department of Development and Storm Water Management is working with the Corps to address aging storm water drainage infrastructure to better manage the risk of flooding. Existing infrastructure is either undersized for the community or in a degraded state. This has contributed to flooded properties and inundated streets. The proposed project area includes McCool Road north of Clear Creek Drive to the intersection of Midway Drive and continues on Midway Drive from McCool Road on the west to Long Run Road on the east. All work is confined to the right-of-ways of McCool Road and Midway Drive, and a drainage ditch on the west side of McCool Road (Enclosure 1).

The project location and surrounding neighborhood currently experience flooding at a relatively high frequency from Squirrel Creek inundating the existing flood conveyance and storage infrastructure. The proposed project includes approximately 800 linear feet of channel improvements for the McCool Road ditch from Squirrel Creek to a proposed drop structure near the intersection of Midway Drive. An existing 36" storm sewer that currently carries a portion of the Squirrel Creek waters will be capped at its entry point near Squirrel Creek and McCool Road diverting all water into the improved channel. The existing 36" storm sewer will remain functional for any further input from the cap to its connection with the existing drainage infrastructure beneath Long Run Drive. Approximately 1200 linear feet of a 54" relief sewer would then be installed beneath Midway Drive and McCool Road to connect the improved channel and drop structure to the flood storage basin just east of South Haven Elementary School. The proposed activity complies with Indiana's approved coastal management program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such program. Work is expected to commence in spring of 2021 and will last approximately 12 months.

As part of the NEPA scoping process, the Chicago District would appreciate a review of federal consistency and any comments or concerns you might have about any potential impacts from this proposed project. This could include impacts to various habitats, threatened and endangered species, or cultural and social resources. After receiving the scoping input and conducting its impact assessment, the Corps will release a draft

Environmental Assessment for a formal public review. Enclosure 3 is a list of State and Federal Agencies, Tribal Nations and general public receiving this request.

Comments must be received by May 30, 2020 and should be sent to Mr. John Belcik by email at [john.t.belcik@usace.army.mil](mailto:john.t.belcik@usace.army.mil). Additionally, questions should be directed to Mr. Belcik at (312) 846-5595.

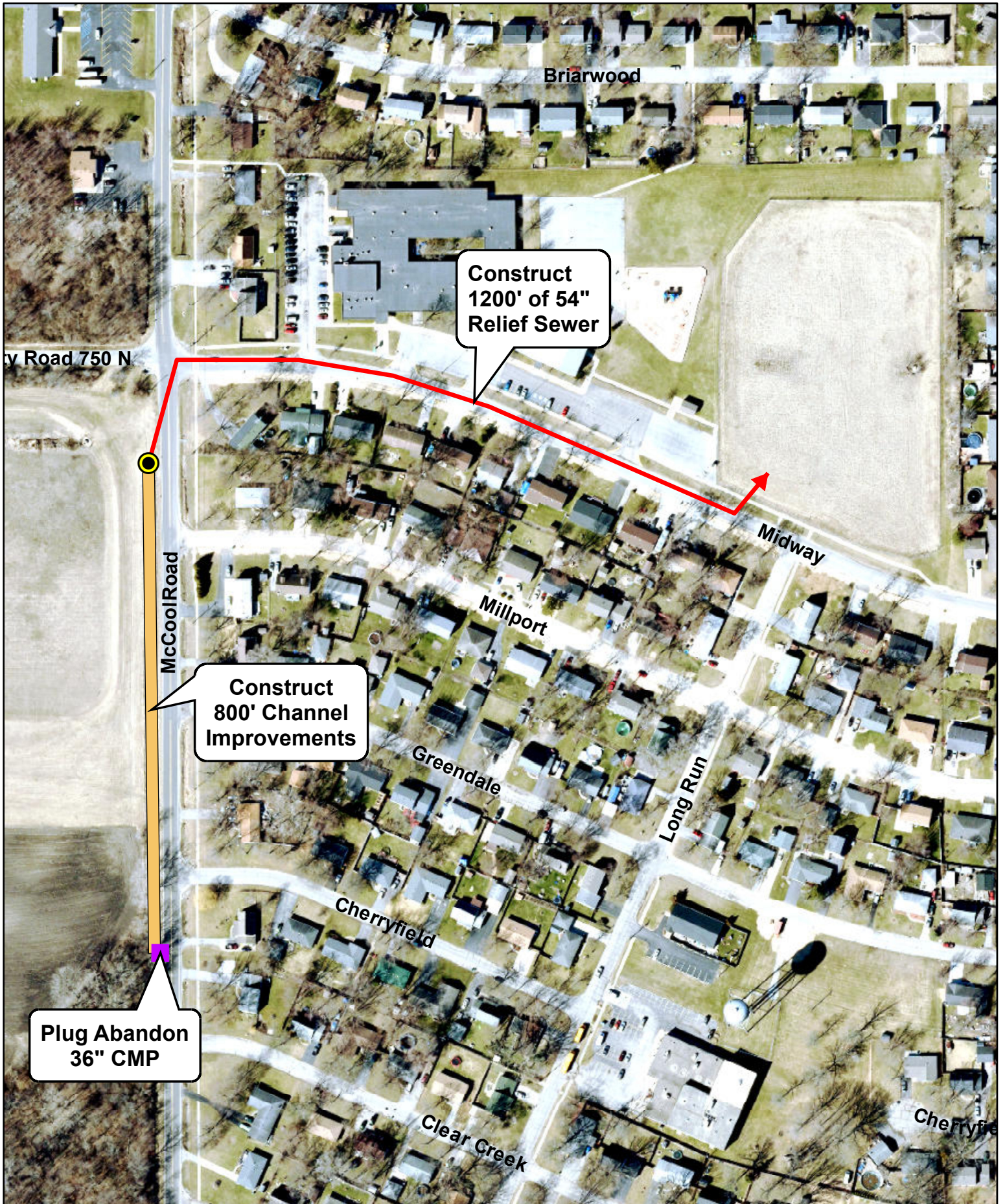
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susanne J. Davis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susanne J. Davis, P.E.  
Chief of Planning Branch

Enclosures





Construct  
1200' of 54"  
Relief Sewer

Construct  
800' Channel  
Improvements

Plug Abandon  
36" CMP