



February 16, 2018

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Mr. James Dalton
Director of Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000

Dear Mr. Dalton:

RE: Docket COE-2018-0003 – Policy and Procedural Guidance for Processing Requests To Alter U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Projects Pursuant to Section 408

REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME

Dear Mr. Dalton:

This letter is in response to the notice published in the Federal Register on February 5, 2018, seeking comment on the above-referenced draft Engineering Circular (EC). According to the notice, comments must be submitted by March 7, 2018. 83 Fed. Reg. 5075. By this letter, the National Waterways Conference, Inc. (NWC) respectfully requests that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps or USACE) extend the time by which to submit comments by an additional sixty (60) days.

NWC's diverse membership includes water resources stakeholders in all of the Corps' business lines, including many non-federal sponsors of USACE projects. This includes inland and deep draft port authorities, levee and drainage districts, barge operators and shippers, water supply districts, hydropower producers, as well as state and local governments. As such, we have a keen interest in this proceeding and seek to participate to the fullest extent. For the good cause shown herein, we request that the Corps extend the comment period in order to permit the comprehensive participation this proposal warrants.

As an initial matter, we appreciate the Corps' diligence in developing draft Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, and note that the draft seeks to address many of the concerns expressed to the Corps over the last 2 years with respect to the 408 process. Moreover, we understand the Corps' interest in finalizing the EC in an expeditious manner. Nonetheless, given the complexity of the issue, we would suggest that a modest extension of the comment period would provide for a more comprehensive review and analysis of the proposal, and thereby provide the opportunity to develop meaningful comments in response to the proposal.

In addition, NWC's members will meet in Washington the week of March 5th for our annual Legislative Summit. During that time, we will have the opportunity to convene our members to discuss the proposal in more detail, gathering specific comments on the practical application of the proposed EC. The requested extra time to submit comments will allow us to more fully respond to the draft in a way that we hope is constructive to the Corps as it prepares the final EC.

For these reasons, we respectfully request an extension of the time to respond to the draft EC. Thank you for your consideration of our request. Should you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 703-224-8007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy W. Larson".

Amy W. Larson, Esq.