

STATE OF MICHIGAN



JOHN ENGLER, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

"Better Service for a Better Environment"

HOLLISTER BUILDING, PO BOX 30473, LANSING MI 48909-7973

INTERNET: www.deq.state.mi.us

RUSSELL J. HARDING, Director

REPLY TO:

LAND & WATER MANAGEMENT DIVISION
PO BOX 30458
LANSING MI 48909-7958

May 26, 1998

Mr. David L. Dulong, P.E., Chief
Engineering and Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1027
Detroit, MI 48231-1027

Dear Mr. Dulong:

We have reviewed your letter of April 17, 1998, regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) plan for emergency protection of the New Buffalo water intake plant located in Berrien County on Lake Michigan. The proposed restoration involves the construction of a new rock revetment to minimize wave damage to the existing intake, extending waterward and designed to a higher elevation than the existing rock revetment.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) concurs that emergency shoreline protection is required for the protection of intake and the structure. The placement of rock for protection of the intake structure, as proposed, will comply with the State of Michigan water quality standards and the State of Michigan's Federally approved coastal management program.

In the long-term, it is our belief that the revetment will contribute to an existing serious erosion problem occurring to adjacent shoreline properties. This proposed revetment construction is considered by the State of Michigan to be the last revetment repair at this location that the State of Michigan will authorize. It is imperative that the City of New Buffalo commence planning that will result in the relocation of the water intake structure. This planning should include consideration of the construction of a submerged water intake pipeline and a relocated pumping station set back a considerable distance from the existing Lake Michigan shore.

The Corps' navigational piers at New Buffalo appear to continue to cause shoreline erosion south of the structures. We request that you re-examine the shoreline erosion rates to determine whether original predictions on shoreline impacts remain valid. We recommend that we discuss the erosion issue after you have reviewed the current conditions.

L. Dulong, P.E.
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May 26, 1998

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed rock revetment construction and look forward to continued discussion on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Lawrence N. Witte, Chief
Land and Water Management Division
517-373-1170

cc: Mr. James Bredin, DEQ