

April 30, 2009

Mr. Edward D. Oldis  
1510 Shore Drive  
New Buffalo, MI 49117

RE: Response to Your Letters Dated March 30, 2009 and April 22, 2009

Dear Mr. Oldis:

On behalf of the City of New Buffalo, please consider this to be a preliminary response to your subject letters. NIES Engineering, Inc. was retained by the City to prepare the Project Plan for the Water Treatment Plant Upgrades for which there was a public comment period extending from March 26, 2009 to April 27, 2009.

Thank you for providing a copy of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) letter dated May 26, 1998 and referred to in your letters. The letter requests that the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) "re-examine the shoreline erosion rates to determine whether original predictions on shoreline impacts remain valid". We have forwarded copies of the letter to Mr. Kameron Jordan at MDEQ and Mr. Tom O'Bryan of the USACE, Grand Haven Office, requesting responses from both entities. Once we have those responses, we will prepare a final response on behalf of the City.

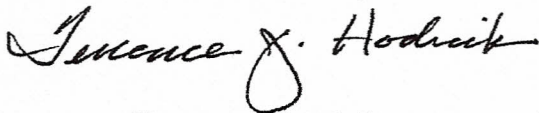
As you may know, the old revetment was demolished in early 1998 by what Mr. Tom O'Bryan, USACE Area Engineer, recently termed "extremely high energy wave action". According to Mr. O'Bryan, the revetment was redesigned in 1998 by the USACE utilizing larger, interlocking rock and construction was completed on October 23, 1998 at a cost of \$386,313.30. The project was funded 100% by Federal dollars. The revetment was also lengthened slightly to the west and you granted an easement for the stone that now protects your beachfront.

From the City's perspective, the now 11 year old revetment provides excellent protection for the 39 year old Low Lift Pump Station (LLPS), which is an important component of the City's drinking water supply system. In our opinion, both the revetment and the LLPS have many more years of service life remaining. Subject to a determination by USACE concerning shoreline erosion rates, we see no reason to relocate the LLPS at this time. We would like to point out that the City was not a "copy to" on the May 26, 1998 letter and has never received any kind of notice from MDEQ or the USACE requiring that planning be initiated for relocating the Low Lift Pump Station.

Land for a new LLPS moved off the shoreline would be difficult to obtain and connections to the existing intake pipelines would be very deep (80 ft) below the bluff that residential housing currently sits on (costly to construct). Replacement of the LLPS would further increase water rates to City residents and businesses. Water rate increases to support the current Water Treatment Plant Upgrades are already considered substantial.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions concerning this response. The City intends to keep you informed as information or responses to the erosion concerns are made available from USACE or MDEQ.

Yours very truly,  
NIES Engineering, Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Terrence J. Hodnik". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Terrence J. Hodnik, P.E.  
Principal

cc: Mr. Charles O. Dobbins, Jr.  
Mr. Ken Anderson  
Mr. Kameron Jordan, MDEQ  
Mr. Tom O'Bryan, USACE