A Petition of The Residents, Businesses and Users of the Chain of Lakes, Illinois

Addressed to: **Colonel Aaron Reisinger, Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District**

WE THE UNDERSIGNED WOULD LIKE TO BRING YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FOLLOWING PROBLEM, WITH RECOMMENDATION(S):To Residents of The Chain Of Lakes waterway system

Homeowners, Recreational users and Business Owners of the Chain of Lakes, located in Illinois, are requesting your assistance. In the Past (15) Years residents have been patient, however, after noting lack of following of the Stratton Dam operations manual, and repeated flooding semi annually we have lost faith in both the Operational Oversight of the Stratton Dam located in McHenry, Illinois, and the protective safeguards which appear to be disregarded. In recent years something has changed, as both continual high waters and repeated overflowing of the original Army Corps sea wall elevations have been compounded by the instability of the waterway operations. This has affected Life, Health and safety, which is assured in normal habitation zoning. This lack of safeguards is now plaguing our community and has an adverse affects on lakefront habitation as noted in plummeting resale values, erosion and contamination of environmental habitats, and the ongoing annual destruction of related property.

We are requesting the Army Corps Of Engineering to "Evaluate the Complete System" from dam inception to weather prediction. Homeowners have observed incomplete drain down at winter pool elevations, premature refilling of the pool elevations preceding the spring Storm Patterns thru the Memorial Day holiday. Because of these actions, capacity is not available for the "Anticipated Storms", causing a continual pattern of prolonged excessive inventorying of waters through the July 4th Holiday. This has precipitated continual closures of the system to recreational users, and has caused 50 Year - 100 year Flooding every 1-3 years including one year that had two damaging floods.

Homeowners are asking that the Army Corps of Engineering review the past 15-Year history of operations, including its initial Permit request for the Building of the dam, dam operations manual initially provided by the Army Corps. Homeowners and Business Owners need your assistance to establish a normal predictable and stable environment to avoid being plagued by the anxiety, destruction of property, and loss of the use of their recreational lakes. It has been noted in prior Army Corps permit applications, that the Dam has a serious number of mechanical and system issues. The water has difficulty getting downstream to the dam, and fights annually with ice dams, and the elevation of the Spillway and negative use of the lock which could provide additional drain down capabilities.

Another concern is the age of Stratton Dam and the deteriorating condition of the Dam and the old cement structure, as well as the outdated mechanical operations, topography surrounding continually hydrated soils and burms surrounding the facility. Per the 1999 review, the recommendations by the Army Corp are now far outdated after 19 Years and that work has still have not been completed. We are, therefore, additionally requesting both a "Full" review of the operations, actual location and position of the dam, use of or need for a lock system, and "ANY" additional safeguards or Engineering innovations / improvements which could be recommended. (Similar to the DP "Levee 50 Project")

Hopefully this review will help to expedite Elevated Waters in the Chain of Lakes and promote additional downstream flow, while using annual prediction requirements to accommodate Winter Melt / Spring storm waters, as well as "ANY SAFEGUARDS" to potentially divert surplus waters to Lake Michigan or slow waters entering into the Chain Basin from Wisconsin.

Residents, Businesses and Recreational Users are hopeful that upon Acceptance of this Petition that the Colonel will assist Residents of the Northern District of Illinois, The Army Corps will "Start Fresh" when evaluating this complex Chain of Lakes system, and establish a "COMPREHENSIVE PLAN" that would be Presented & implemented, and which would afford residents both a "Predictive" and "Reactive" dam operation without using hydrologic modeling which is continually plagued by obsolete data, operator interoperation or political influence. This has led to the current DO NOTHING or "Store and Trickle Mythology", vs An Anticipated Need and Build to protect Philosophy.

AGREED UPON BY THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:

NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	TELEPHONE	NAME	ADDRESS	EMAIL	TELEPHONE