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

December 18, 2020

Technical Services Division
Design Branch

Lake Michigan Coastal Program
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Indiana Dunes State Park Annex Office
1600 North 25 East
Chesterton, Indiana 46304

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Chicago District requests a General Federal Consistency Determination for the Lake George Canal – Middle Section Restoration. The Lake George Canal (LGC) is a branch of the Indiana Harbor and Ship Canal in northwest Indiana. The proposed activity complies with the Indiana Coastal Zone Management Program and will be conducted in a manner consistent with such policies.

The project is being designed and constructed by USACE in support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's restoration efforts at the Grand Calumet River Area of Concern (AOC) to delist the AOC through removal of 12 sediment and habitat related beneficial use impairments (BUIs). Sediments in the project area are contaminated with high levels of PAHs and other contaminants. The LGC restoration project includes construction of an engineered sediment cap to contain contaminated sediments in-place and reduce surficial sediment and porewater contaminant concentrations to ecologically supportive levels, construction of bank controls at the West Tank Farm to prevent oil sheen discharge from the West Tank Farm to LGC, and ecosystem restoration to restore habitat in support of the BUI removal process in order to improve degraded benthos, and fish and wildlife populations at the LGC. The project also includes installation of a sheet pile wall along the eastern end of the sediment cap to stabilize the sediment cap and invasive species removal along the north banks of the LGC. Figures of the project site location and proposed work are attached.

The LGC – Middle Section restoration is anticipated to start July 2021. The duration of the bulk construction activities is anticipated to span 12 to 15 months. Planting and plant establishment can potentially add 3 option years to the project duration.

Please address any questions or concerns regarding this project to Benjamin O'Neil at 312-846-5509 / Benjamin.R.O'Neil@usace.army.mil.

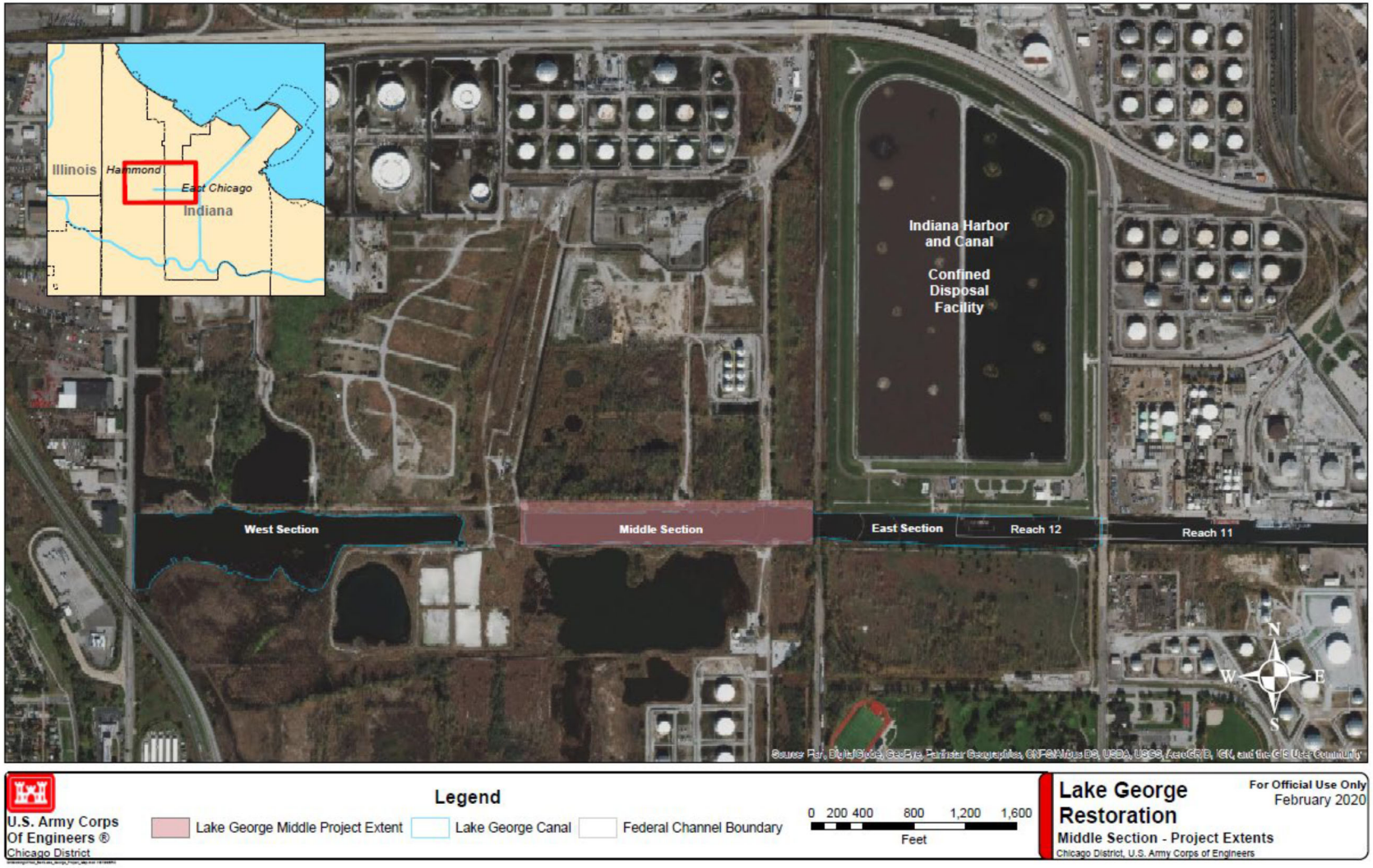
Sincerely,

Joel L. Schmidt

Joel Schmidt
Chief, Hydraulics & Environmental
Engineering Section

Lake George Canal – Middle Section Restoration

Location Map

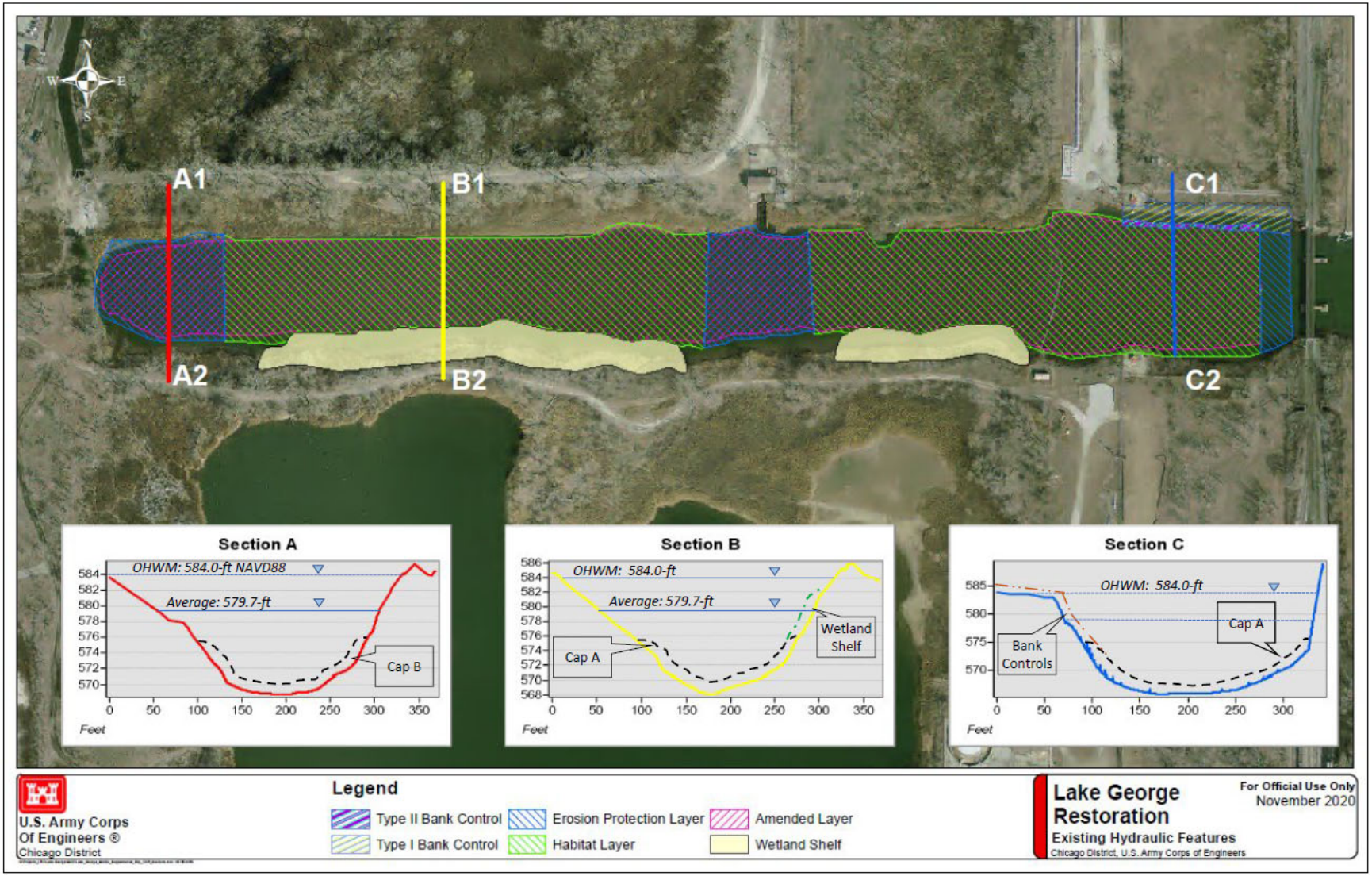


Lake George Canal – Middle Section Restoration

Proposed Project and Existing Conditions

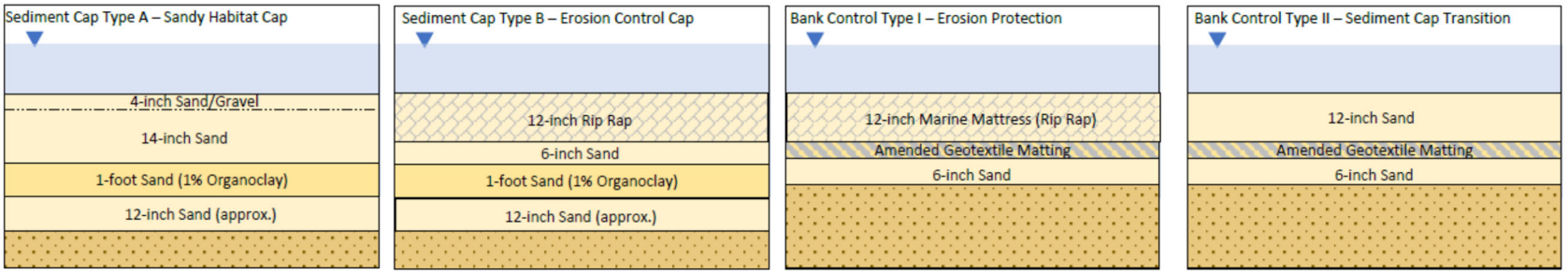
Lake George Canal – Middle Section Restoration

Cross Section of Proposed Activities



Lake George Canal – Middle Section Restoration

Typical Cap and Control Profiles



Wetland Shelf Profile