



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DETROIT DISTRICT
477 MICHIGAN AVE.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226-2550**

April 8, 2020

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, PUBLIC GROUPS, AND CITIZENS:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Detroit District, on behalf of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, has completed an environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed removal and reconstruction of the Union Street Dam located on the Boardman River, Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan. The project is known locally as FishPass. The purpose of the proposed FishPass project is to simultaneously block or remove undesirable fish species trying to pass (primarily sea lamprey) and determine if passage of native fish species is feasible. The proposed project consists of reconstructing the dam with a labyrinth weir and a natural bypass channel on the south riverbank and two (2) in-stream artificial channels 410 feet in length on the north bank to assess multiple fish sorting techniques while maximizing flexibility.

On February 11, 2020, the USACE public noticed this EA for the Union Street Dam Fishpass Project – Uplands, Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan. The EA has been amended in response to comments received. The scope of the EA has not changed but the analysis of the in-water work has been expanded and elaborated on instead of incorporating the USACE Regulatory Office's EA by reference. The in-water project features associated with the FishPass project are still being reviewed by the USACE Regulatory Branch per their permit application review process for compliance with applicable laws and regulations including Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act¹.

Preliminary environmental analysis indicates that implementing the proposed work would not result in significant adverse environmental effects, nor would it be expected to result in significant cumulative or long-term adverse environmental effects. Adverse effects would be minor, limited primarily to short-term noise and air emissions from equipment operation.

This EA may be viewed on line at the following web address:

<https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utills/getfile/collection/p16021coll7/id/14035>. Copies of this Public Notice are being sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Michigan and other Federal agencies, tribes, local agencies, interested groups, and individuals.

¹ The USACE Regulatory Branch permit review (LRE-2018-00546-56-S18) is on-going. Regulatory Branch will incorporate this EA by reference should they issue the necessary federal permit.

The USACE is soliciting comments from the public in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any person who has a concern or an interest that may be affected by the proposed project may request a public hearing or submit written comments within 15 days of the date of this notice. Comments must clearly set forth what interest may be affected by the proposed activity and how the action significantly affects the quality of human environment. Any person who has a historical or cultural interest that may be affected by the proposed action may submit written comments within the comment period of this notice, clearly describing what historical or cultural interest may be affected by this activity. If no comments are received by the end of the fifteen (15) day review period, it will be assumed that you have no comment. As the Detroit District, USACE, mail room is closed because of the COVID-19 virus, please provide all comments by email to: FISHPASS-Project@usace.army.mil with the subject line FishPass.

Following the comment period and a review of the comments received, the USACE District Engineer will make a final decision regarding the necessity of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed environmental assistance project. Based on the conclusions of the EA, it appears that preparation of an EIS will not be required; therefore, a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact has been included in the EA.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Uhlarik

Charles A. Uhlarik
Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch