



System Wide Improvement Framework

Omaha District

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

System Wide Improvement Framework

USACE levee systems that are eligible for rehabilitation assistance under Public Law (P.L.) 84-99 following flood or storm damage; include those federally-authorized, operated and maintained by a non-federal sponsor; or non-federally built, operated and maintained by a non-federal sponsor. Eligibility determinations for levee systems are currently based on a subset of inspection items. Levee systems that maintain acceptable or minimally acceptable inspection results within the subset will be considered 'Active' and eligible for rehabilitation assistance.



If an inspection indicates items on the subset are unacceptable, the levee system would be considered 'Inactive' and not eligible for rehabilitation assistance. USACE now offers non-federal sponsors a process through the system-wide improvement framework (SWIF) to remain temporarily eligible for P.L. 84-99 rehabilitation assistance while they correct unacceptable operation and maintenance deficiencies as part of a broader, system-wide improvement to their levee systems. Submitting a SWIF plan is a two-step process. First, a Letter of Intent is submitted followed by submission of a SWIF plan. The applicant has up to two years to develop the plan once the Letter of Intent is approved by HQ USACE.

A SWIF provides committed sponsors the opportunity to transition their levees over time to USACE standards. By using a SWIF, sponsors can prioritize deficiencies to address the highest risk first to achieve system-wide risk reduction.

The SWIF plan is a living document. Each SWIF plan is unique to the levee system and the associated deficiencies, but generally, all SWIF plans include system identification information, list of deficiencies, plan for rectifying the deficiencies based on risk, funding plan, interagency collaboration details, interim risk reduction measures (IRRM), and finally a schedule with project milestones. At the Omaha District, we request annual updates to the SWIF along with an annual progress report. Every two years, the SWIF plan is resubmitted for HQUSACE approval, which grants up to another two years of "Active" status in the P.L. 84-99 Rehabilitation Program during implementation of the SWIF plan. This re-approval process continues until the plan is fully implemented, which could be anywhere between two years and 20-30 years depending on the implementation schedule.

Examples of situations where a SWIF is appropriate are when a longer-term, holistic approach may be necessary to address multiple engineering deficiencies AND operation and maintenance deficiencies; when broader improvements involve multiple levee segments/systems; or when additional time and coordination are needed to consider complex, endangered species habitat or Native American concerns while meeting requirements for levee safety.

The following should be considered prior to submitting a SWIF:

- A SWIF may include corrective action for overarching operation and maintenance deficiencies, for example, a system-wide culvert replacement.
- A SWIF is not intended for correction only of individual operation and maintenance deficiencies, for example, a single culvert replacement.
- A SWIF is not a process for acceptance into the P.L. 84-99 program.
- A SWIF may include a vegetation variance request.
- A SWIF recognizes regional differences.
- A SWIF must be closely synchronized to align with other USACE levee policies.

For further information, contact the Omaha District Readiness Branch at 402-995-2446 or CENWO-EOC@usace.army.mil

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OMAHA, NEBRASKA

<https://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Management/System-Wide-Improvement-Framework/>