



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT  
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE  
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

June 20, 2016

Honorable Katie Andersen  
Mayor of Jamestown, ND  
Jamestown City Hall  
102 Third Avenue Southeast  
Jamestown, ND 58401

Dear Mayor Andersen:

During the Annual James River Operations Meeting in April of this year, an ongoing issue was discussed regarding trees that have fallen into the channel of Pipestem Creek and the James River through the City of Jamestown. In the high flow years during 2009, 2010, and 2011, trees along the bank of Pipestem Creek and the James River were submerged and died. With the recent lower flow years, many of these trees have fallen into the channel. The responsibility for clearing these trees out of the channel falls to the City of Jamestown, as was determined during the annual operations meeting. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Control and Water Quality Section recommends these trees are cleared as soon as possible since increased damages due to flooding could result when another high flow year occurs.

Obstructions in the channel of Pipestem Creek and the James River will decrease channel capacity through the reach. Combined releases of 1,800 cfs are approved in the current water control plan for Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs, and have been seen in past high flow years. Deviations for higher releases are also possible in an extreme event such as in 2009 and 2011. Ultimately, high flows through an obstructed channel will result in higher stages in the area, which could cause increased flood damage, an increased need for advanced measures, or a need for advanced measures to a higher elevation.

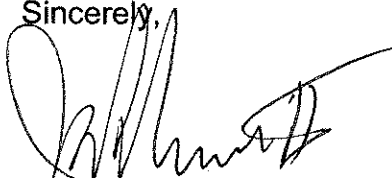
The current state of Pipestem Creek and the James River channel could also cause structural concerns during high flows. As large trees are flushed down the channel, it is likely they will build up behind bridges and other structures crossing the river. This could result in structural damages or losses through the city.

The current water year is a low flow year, and high releases out of the reservoirs are not an imminent concern. However, a periodic flush out of one or both of the reservoirs is recommended in the water control manuals for Jamestown and Pipestem Reservoirs to maintain channel capacity when there are several consecutive years of low and medium flow years. Without high releases from the reservoirs, it is very likely channel capacity through the city of Jamestown would begin to degrade without a

periodic flush. A goal of at least 1,200 cfs is recommended in the manuals for this flush. While no flush is planned for the 2016 water year, there is a possibility of a flush occurring next year if another low or medium year is forecast.

Any questions concerning this letter should be directed to Kellie Bergman at (402) 995-2308.

Sincerely,



JOHN I. REMUS, II, P.E.  
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cc:

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