



# FACT SHEET

## East Cutoff Dike

### Interim Risk Reduction Measures



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

#### History

In 1979, the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project was completed in North Pole, Alaska. One component of this project is the East Cutoff Dike. It is a low-crested saddle dam measuring about 5,600 feet in length and 5 feet in height that lies between Moose Creek Bluff and higher ground to the east. It was constructed to prevent impounded flood waters from flowing into the Moose Creek drainage.

#### Dam Safety Screening and Interim Risk Reduction Measures

On May 31, 2007, the Corps released Engineer Circular 1110-2-6064, "Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM) for Dam Safety." It addresses a new system for dam safety screening and actions required to mitigate identified risks.

The East Cutoff Dike was screened and placed in a category of "High Priority" on Sept. 3, 2009, indicating that the risk to the public is unacceptable under certain conditions. Only during an extremely large flood event would water behind the Moose Creek Dam reach this small saddle dam. However, to address unacceptable risks when water is impounded, the Corps has developed Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM) to improve public safety and reduce economic consequences associated with failure.

#### Specific Deficiencies

1. Potential overtopping during an extreme flood.
2. Vegetation removal requirement.

#### What We Are Doing Now

To minimize risk to public safety, the Alaska District is actively pursuing implementation of the following Interim Risk Reduction Measures in coordination with stakeholders to include the public, as well as federal, state and local governments:

1. Evaluate and implement lowering of the control sill;
2. Revise the Emergency Action Plan;
3. Increase monitoring and surveillance and;



4. Remove vegetation to comply with new regulation.

#### Follow-On Actions

The Corps is developing long-term alternatives and solutions that will require funding to implement. The Alaska District is committed to keeping the public informed of safety issues related to the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project.

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