



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

DETROIT DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BOX 1027

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48231-1027

18 January 2008

IN REPLY REFER TO

Dear Great Lakes Stakeholder:

Our Great Lakes shallow draft harbors have faced many challenges over the past several years. These ongoing challenges include an aging infrastructure and constrained funding, resulting in many critical system needs. Now, the system also faces record low water levels. Over the past several years we have had limited funding to address these critical needs at shallow draft harbors. However, the recently signed Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Bill provides a significant amount of funding for shallow draft harbors. We would like to take this opportunity to meet with interested stakeholders to discuss this year's funding and expected workplan, cover other system needs, and discuss future strategies. Stakeholder feedback is critical to our efforts; I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to share your concerns, comments, and suggestions with us.

I cordially invite you to join the Corps and other Great Lakes stakeholders for a meeting specifically on Shallow Draft Harbor needs and issues on Wednesday, February 6, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Because of the dispersed geographic area that we cover, we will hold the meeting in Detroit, Michigan but we will have seven additional locations where you can come in person and view the meeting by video teleconference. In addition, we will also have teleconference call-in capability for people who are unable to make it to one of the video teleconference locations. The details on video teleconference sites and the teleconference call in number are attached.

Details on the meeting locations are enclosed. Please confirm your intent to attend either in person or by telephone with Rich Gifaldi at (313) 226-4689 or by email at [Richard.A.Gifaldi@usace.army.mil](mailto:Richard.A.Gifaldi@usace.army.mil) by February 1, 2008.

I have included a preliminary agenda for your consideration. Please feel free to contact Dave Wright by phone at (313) 226-3573 or by email at [David.L.Wright@usace.army.mil](mailto:David.L.Wright@usace.army.mil) with any comments or questions on the meeting. Also, please pass this invitation on to any colleagues who may be interested. I look forward to meeting with you in February.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Leady", is positioned above the typed name.

WILLIAM J. LEADY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Engineer