



News Release

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Alaska District

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Corps Invites Public to Dam Safety Meetings

ANCHORAGE – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, in cooperation with the Fairbanks North Star Borough, will host public meetings on Jan. 27 in Fairbanks and Jan. 28 in North Pole to discuss dam safety concerns and risk reduction actions underway at the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project in North Pole, Alaska.

The Chena Project's Moose Creek Dam recently underwent a safety review that indicates there is an unacceptable risk to the public during an impoundment of flood waters from the Chena River. These findings present an urgent and compelling requirement for interim risk reduction measures and long-term solutions. Current actions include modifying flood control operating procedures and updating emergency response plans, as well as conducting engineering evaluations and analyses.

The Jan. 27 meeting will be conducted at Lathrop High School's Hering Auditorium in Fairbanks, while the Jan. 28 session is reserved for North Pole High School's Oehring Memorial Auditorium.

Both events are scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. for an informal open house with the opportunity to meet Corps and Borough representatives. At 6:30 p.m., a 30-minute video about the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project, titled "Man and Nature in Harmony," will be presented.

Featured speakers representing the USACE Alaska District include: Col. Reinhard Koenig, P.E. Commander; Trish Opheen, P.E., Chief of Engineering and Dam Safety Officer; and John Schaake, Manager of the Chena Project Office. During the sessions, members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns and offer suggestions regarding public safety.

For details or to make arrangements for the hearing impaired, contact the USACE Alaska District Public Affairs Office at 907-753-2522 / 2520 or Public.Affairs3@usace.army.mil. Additional information about the Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project and Moose Creek Dam may be accessed online at: <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/co/chena/index.html>.

Note to news media: A media availability session is scheduled before each meeting from 6 to 7 p.m. To make arrangements for covering these events and/or conducting interviews with Corps representatives, please call the USACE Alaska District Public Affairs Office at 907-753-2522 / 2520 / 2721 (office) or 907-382-1297 (cell).

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