



Sept. 2, 2026

Mr. Adam R. Telle
Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Lt. Col. Donald K. Lew
Commander
Detroit District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
477 Michigan Ave.
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Re: Brandon Road Interbasin Project Continued Stop Work Order

Dear Assistant Secretary Telle:

It's been nearly a month since IDNR formally requested the immediate scheduling of the Brandon Road Interbasin Road Project (BRIP) Senior Executive Board (SEB) to substantiate the cause of the BRIP work stoppage and attempt to resolve this prolonged and unjustified delay.

To date, I have received no meaningful communication about the work stoppage order. Governor Pritzker has directed IDNR to again request an emergency meeting of the SEB to receive immediate updates on our request.

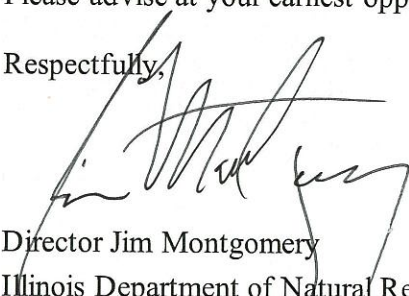
The State of Illinois has received no update since you confirmed on July 28, 2026, the work stoppage order issued for the BRIP. On July 30, 2026, IDNR formally requested the immediate scheduling of the SEB to discuss the basis for this action and potential project impacts. To our knowledge, no SEB meeting has been set.

We are greatly concerned by the continued delay and the blackout of communication regarding the work stoppage with the non-federal partners on this project. The State of Illinois is the original non-federal sponsor of this project and wants to resume work as soon as possible. We are deeply troubled that the ongoing work stoppage will only increase project costs and delay construction deadlines.

Given the importance of this project to protecting the Great Lakes from the threat of invasive carp, it is necessary that the SEB convene immediately to find a path forward for this critical project.

Please advise at your earliest opportunity when the SEB will be convened.

Respectfully,



Director Jim Montgomery
Illinois Department of Natural Resources