**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**
**BUFFALO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**
**1776 NIAGARA STREET**
**BUFFALO NY 14207-3199**

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

December 22, 2008

Project Management

Ms. Barbara A. Martin
Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee
63 East Grand Street
Berea, Ohio 44017

Dear Ms. Martin:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your concern for the East 55th Street Confined Disposal Facility, one of the alternative plans studied under our Cleveland Harbor Dredged Material Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DMMP/EIS) project. Your input, and that of the public and agencies involved throughout the study process, is essential to developing a plan that is in the best interests of the City of Cleveland, the surrounding communities, and the Nation.

The proposed East 55th Street Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) alternative is comprised of an approximately 157-acre, diked disposal facility that does not encroach upon the existing East 55th Street park or marina.

The Federal Project, that is the project that requires Federal funds to implement, is only comprised of the actual CDF construction and filling with dredged material from the Federal channels at Cleveland. Once the CDF (or any one of its separable cells) is filled and turned over to the non-Federal sponsor, in this case, the Cleveland Cuyahoga County Port Authority (CCCPA), its end use is determined by the non-Federal sponsor. Although the Cleveland Harbor DMMP/EIS considers the potential port relocation in our assessment of cumulative impacts, the scope of the USACE-led action for the East 55th Street alternative plan is limited to CDF construction and filling.

I assure you we will give your comments due consideration as we work to complete the study, and we look forward to further discussion following the public release of the complete draft plan and environmental impact statement in spring of 2009. As you mentioned, we also plan to hold a public meeting to actively solicit the input of the community and public at large in the first half of 2009. Once the meeting is scheduled, we will notify the Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee directly.

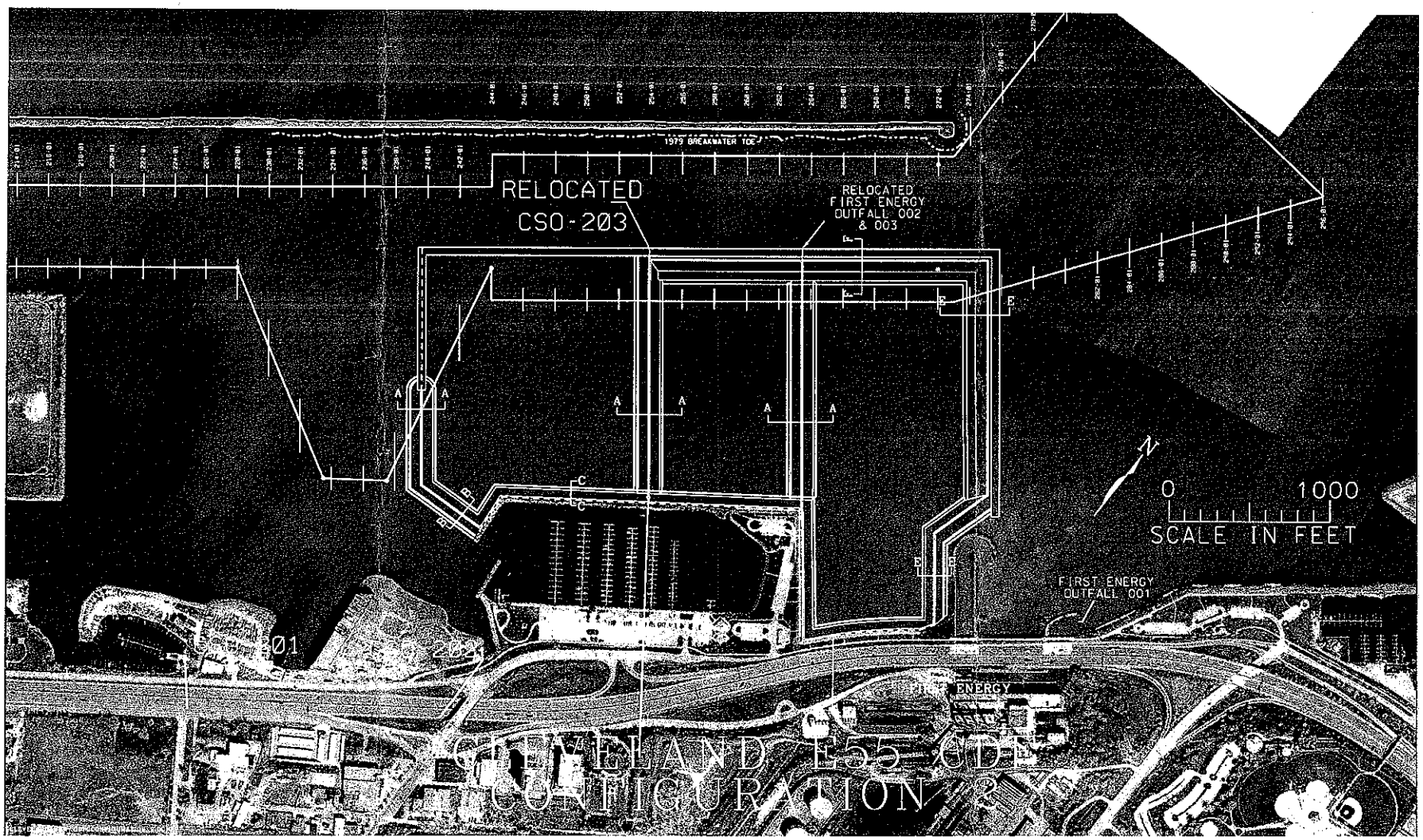
We will continue to work in close partnership with the community, the project sponsors, and agencies to develop a solution that best meets the needs of our Nation, our customers and stakeholders, state and local governments, and the community. I look forward to meeting with you again in the near future.

Sincerely,

Joshua Feldmann
Project Manager
Cleveland Harbor DMMP/EIS

Enclosures:
East 55th Street CDF preliminary plan

CF:
Bill Gruber, Vice Chair, Dike 14 Nature Preserve Committee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