



Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Milwaukee County

Christine Westrich, OEM Director

Carl Stenbol, Emergency Management Division Administrator

Mr. Brian Hahn
Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service (NWS)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

6.17.2016

Dear Mr. Hahn,

Milwaukee County respectfully requests to upgrade the existing U.S. Geological Survey station at Estabrook Dam, 43.100000°N 87.908333°W, MEEW3, to a flood forecasting point in the National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service.

Currently, Milwaukee County is complying with orders for repair and operations of the Estabrook Dam. Seven years ago, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources ordered Estabrook's flood gates be placed in an open position until such time full operations could be sustained.

After the renovations are completed, Estabrook's gates will be closed and remain closed unless operation is needed to adjust the river's water level and/or for maintenance. Because the gates will be in a closed position, advanced warning of rising waters is of the utmost importance:

- The dam operator would need to be positioned to operate the gates in advance of flood waters;
- An impoundment will increase the chance of intermediate flooding;
- The Milwaukee River at Estabrook Dam will reach its 100-year flood stage sooner than if the dam did not exist or if all gates were open; and
- A rise in water level will increase the amount of debris flowing towards the dam, requiring preparation for debris removal and potential gate operation.

In the event that heavy rains occur and water levels rise significantly, all gates need to be opened accordingly in advance of the surge to prevent significant flooding upstream. Upgrading the Estabrook Gauge into a prediction point will allow for Milwaukee County's OEM, Parks and associated dam operators to have personnel in place to deal with any imminent hazard.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Westrich
OEM, Director

OEM

Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 N 9th St | Room 308 | Milwaukee WI 53233 | (414) 278-4709