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For Immediate Release

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Army Corps of Engineers posts significant new warnings about safety of City of Port Washington breakwaters

PORT WASHINGTON, WI: Field office personnel from the Army Corps of Engineers office in Kewaunee today posted new warning signs on the north and south breakwaters in the city of Port Washington's harbor. While people will not be prohibited from walking out onto the breakwater, they will encounter signage that will clearly paint a picture of the extremely dangerous conditions and declare the structures unsafe.

"This development is not unexpected, and frankly offers us another opportunity to bring public attention to the challenge our city faces – in short, our ongoing fight to secure appropriation and authorization for federal funding of a long-term fix to these vital breakwaters," said City of Port Washington Mayor, Tom Mlada.

The City of Port has been actively seeking assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers for a long-term solution, as the breakwaters are federal assets and require federal action to fix. The breakwaters' rate of deterioration has progressed significantly over the course of the past several years, causing the Army Corps to declare subsequent to a recent inspection that they are a significant public health and safety concern and that their failure may well be imminent.

"It would be fiscally irresponsible to the taxpayer to allow these structures to fail, but moreover, such a course of action would represent a choice to place up to \$70 million in estimated infrastructure, including one of Southeast Wisconsin's most critical energy-producing facilities, at risk for potentially devastating damage," stated Mayor Mlada.

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