



PUBLIC NOTICE

June 19, 2012



PASSAIC RIVER MAINSTEM NEW JERSEY & NEW YORK

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT GENERAL RE-EVALUATION

NEW YORK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10278-0090
CENAN-PL-F

STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
401 EAST STATE STREET
TRENTON, N.J. 08608

This notice announces the initiation of a State and Federal cost shared Feasibility level study to determine if flood risk management opportunities are advisable for the Passaic River Watershed, New Jersey and New York. The New York District Corps of Engineers and the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will be hosting public information sessions to discuss the scope, schedule and cost of the Passaic River Reevaluation. We respectfully request your participation in this process and your attendance at the public information sessions. The first public session will be held on July 11, 2012 from 6-9 pm at Pequannock Township High School, 85 Sunset Road, Pompton Plains, New Jersey. The second public session will be held on September 13, 2012 from 6-9 pm at the Passaic County Public Safety Academy, 300 Oldham Road, Wayne, New Jersey.

In accordance with the January 2011 *Report to the Governor: Recommendations of the Passaic River Basin Flood Advisory Commission*, the re-evaluation will be limited to investigations of the following items:

1. Levee/Floodwall/Nonstructural/Bridge & Dam Modification Alternative
2. Levee/Floodwall/Nonstructural/Channel Modification Alternative
3. The Passaic/Pompton River Dual Inlet Diversion Tunnel Alternative
4. Beatties Dam/Two Bridges improvements - Modifications to Beatties Dam, channel improvements both downstream and upstream (including the Two Bridges Area) will be evaluated
5. 10 year non-structural - As part of a complete alternatives analysis, a non-structural only alternative will be analyzed. This measure will be examined throughout the Passaic Basin and may include (but not limited to) flood proofing, elevating structures above the 10 year storm event, buyouts, preservation of open space, etc.
6. No Action Plan - as required by NEPA and other regulations, the No Action Plan will be identified and the impacts will be clearly discussed and analyzed.

Flooding has long been a problem in the Passaic River Basin. The most severe flood, the "flood of record," occurred in 1903, and more recent floods in 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, two in 1975, 1984, 1992, 1999, 2005, April 2007, March 2010 and most recently Tropical Storm Irene/Lee in August/September 2011 were sufficiently devastating to warrant Federal Disaster declarations. The most recent event, Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011, was the worst the Passaic River Basin had seen in over 100 years and damage estimates are still being calculated. It is estimated that over \$1B in damages may have resulted from the March 2011 and August/September 2011 floods alone. From 1900 to 2011, more than 26 lives have been lost, \$5.5 billion in losses and

damages, and fifteen (15) Federal Disaster Declarations have been realized as a result of Passaic River Basin flooding. Further, if the 1903 flood of record, a 100 year event were to occur today, it is estimated that there could be up to \$2.4 billion in damages.

As part of this study, determination of Federal interest will be identified early based on existing information. The General Reevaluation will be completed in two phases: a Conceptual Phase and Detailed Analysis Phase. The Conceptual Phase will examine different combinations of comprehensive flood risk management alternatives through existing data, updated engineering and a comparison of economic benefits. Potential alternatives include looking at the impacts and costs of taking no action in the basin, which is a required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to looking at combinations of levees, floodwalls, channel modification, non-structural measures and bridge and dam modification. The study will also evaluate a new alternative that involves modifications to Beatties Dam and to the Two Bridges area. The Conceptual Phase will give the State an opportunity to determine which alternative(s) will be evaluated in the Detailed Analysis Phase based on conceptual costs and economics, environmental requirements, and public consensus.

You are respectfully requested to provide any pertinent information about the project area that would assist in the study and evaluation of alternatives. In particular, we request information on the type and amount of damages that have occurred from storms in recent years. The information provided will be used to the greatest extent possible to calibrate hydrologic modeling efforts to assess economic damages to determine Federal interest in providing flood risk management measures. We also request any information on natural resources including plants, animals, and particularly wetland habitats. Any assistance or suggestions pertaining to the conduct of this study is encouraged. All comments should be directed to Mr. Eugene Brickman, P.G., Deputy Chief, Planning Division, Eugene.Brickman@usace.army.mil, 917 790 8701, Mr. Jason Shea, Watershed & Navigation Section Chief, Jason.A.Shea@usace.army.mil, 917 790 8727, Alicia Gould, Project Manager, Alicia.Gould@usace.army.mil, 917 790 8327 or John Moyle, P.E, John.Moyle@dep.state.nj.us, 609 292 2296.



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Passaic River Basin
Daily, Modeled & Supplemental Points

