



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New York District

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Peter Shugert
Phone: (212) 264-1722
E-mail: peter.h.shugert@usace.army.mil
Fax: (212) 264-0614

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2002

Corps issues final environmental impact statement on Meadowlands Mills -- requests public comment

New York - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, today announced completion of a Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Meadowlands Mills project proposed by Empire, Ltd. A notice of availability of the FEIS will be published in the *Federal Register* in early July.

The public comment period is open through Aug. 19, 2002. Comments should be submitted in writing to the New York District Corps of Engineers, ATTN: Regulatory Branch, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 1937, New York, NY 10278-0090.

The FEIS was prepared to assist the Corps in evaluating a permit application submitted by Empire, Ltd., of Wood-Ridge, N.J. The application requests authorization under the Federal Clean Water Act and Rivers and Harbors Act to discharge approximately 2.5 million cubic yards of fill into 206 acres of wetlands and open waters adjacent to the Hackensack River in Carlstadt and South Hackensack, in the Hackensack Meadowlands District of Bergen County, N.J.

The project involves filling of wetlands to facilitate construction of a mixed-use commercial project to be developed by the Mills Corporation of Arlington, Va. A super-regional retail-entertainment center, office space, hotel, mass transit facility, warehouse and distribution facilities, with parking and roadways, are proposed for a portion of a 587-acre tract, which is owned by Empire, Ltd. The application proposes that the remaining acreage on the parcel be used for wetland mitigation activities, including restoration, enhancement and preservation.

The FEIS evaluates existing site conditions and potential impacts including cumulative impacts of the applicant's proposal, and of other alternative actions identified through a public process and the Corps' analysis. The FEIS also makes available for public comment a Draft Conformity Determination required under the Clean Air Act, which evaluates air emissions that project construction activities would generate.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued in July 2000. Responses to DEIS comments are included in the FEIS. Two sessions of a public hearing were held on the project and the DEIS Aug. 29 and Sept. 25, 2000.

Decisions on the appropriateness of alternatives discussed in the FEIS will be made after receipt of public comments. A Record of Decision will follow after the close of the FEIS comment period.

<MORE>

Corps issues final EIS Meadowlands Mills -- requests public comment

Empire, Ltd. will also need to obtain approvals from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission. Corps officials note that there has been great public interest in the project, and that interested parties have already offered many comments for and against the proposal.

The Corps welcomes continued public participation in the process, and encourages the public to offer comments regarding the information included in the FEIS.

The final environmental impact statement may be requested from the Corps of Engineers, or may be reviewed at the following locations:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 1937
New York, NY
(212) 264-0183

New Jersey Meadowlands Development
Commission
One Dekorte Park Plaza
Lyndhurst, NJ
(201) 460-1700

Carlstadt Free Public Library
420 Hackensack St.
Carlstadt, NJ
(201) 438-8866

New Jersey Department of Environmental
Protection
Information Resource Center
432 East State St.
Trenton, NJ
(609) 984-2249

East Rutherford Memorial Library
143 Boiling Springs Ave.
East Rutherford, NJ
(201) 939-3930

Johnson Public Library
274 Main St.
Hackensack, NJ
(201) 343-4781

Secaucus Free Public Library
120 Plaza Center
Secaucus, NJ
(201) 330-2084

Carlstadt Borough Clerk's Office
500 Madison St.
Carlstadt, NJ
(201) 531-7184

The Corps public notice announcing the availability of the FEIS and of a Clean Air Act Draft Conformity Determination can be accessed on the District's web site:

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/business/buslinks/regulat/pnotices>