



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corps to hold second public hearing session on DEIS for Meadowlands Mills

New York -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District will hold its second and final public hearing to solicit testimony from the public on a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Meadowland Mills development project proposed in New Jersey's Hackensack Meadowlands District.

The hearing will be held Monday, Sept. 25 in the auditorium of the Henry P. Becton Regional High School, located on Paterson Avenue at Cornelia Street, in East Rutherford, N.J.

The session is scheduled for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., break for one hour, then resume at 7 p.m. and continue until approximately 11 p.m.

Those who testified at the Aug. 29 session do not need to re-appear at the Sept. 25 session. Statements made on both dates, and all written comments submitted, will be considered in preparing the final environmental impact statement and making a decision on the permit request.

The hearing record will remain open until 5:00 p.m., Oct. 11 for receipt of written comments. Written comments should be forwarded to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
Regulatory Branch, Room 1937
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278-0090

The DEIS has been 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 material into 206 acres of wetlands and open waters adjacent to the Hackensack River in the Boroughs of Carlstadt and Moonachie and the Township of South Hackensack.

The proposed mixed-use commercial project would be developed by the Mills Corporation of Arlington, Va.

Proposed for a portion of a 592-acre tract, which is owned by Empire Ltd., is a super-regional retail-entertainment center, office space, hotel, mass transit facility, warehouse and distribution facilities, and associated parking structures and roadways. The company has proposed that the remaining acreage on the parcel available after development be used for wetland mitigation activities, including restoration, enhancement and preservation.

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The DEIS evaluates existing site conditions and potential impacts, including indirect and cumulative impacts of the applicant's proposed action, and of other alternative actions identified through the public scoping process and the Corps' analysis of the project. Determinations on the appropriateness of alternatives will be presented in the final environmental impact statement after comments on the draft document are thoroughly reviewed and considered.

Corps officials note that there has been a great deal of 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 DEIS.

The draft environmental impact statement 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**

**Hackensack 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
401 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 DEIS and public hearing on the DEIS and project (including a map and directions to the hearing location) can be accessed on the district's web site at <http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/business/buslinks/regulat/pnotices>