



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

Passaic River Flood Warning System New Jersey

Flood Warning System Emergency Operations

FACT SHEET

DECEMBER 2008

DESCRIPTION:

The USACE operates and maintains the Passaic River Flood Warning System (PFWS) through an Economy Act Agreement with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration-National Weather Service (NOAA-NWS) and other federal and state agencies. The PFWS protects a 935 square mile flood basin with 132 communities, including parts of Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, Somerset, and Union Counties in NJ; and Orange and Rockland Counties in NY. This is a one-of-a-kind system uses unique technology with atypical implementation (non-structural with USACE responsible for operation) to monitor flooding threats in one of the most densely populated river basins in the US (population exceeds 2.5 million with 20,000+ homes and businesses in the floodplain).

AUTHORIZATION: Water Resources Development Act of 1976 under the Passaic River Basin Study.

STATUS: This intergovernmental system integrates information flow and mitigation activities for multi-level response from federal, state, and local agencies within this high flood risk community. The PFWS provides first responders immediate access to flood data and a communications network to receive instantaneous watches/warnings from various agencies. It generates critical data for NWS flood forecasting from locations that are otherwise underserved. The program provides a forum of quarterly coordination meetings among federal, state, and local agencies in the emergency management community.

Subcontracted Activities to Partnering Agencies:

As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USACE, NOAA-NWS, the US Geological Survey (USGS), the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), and the New Jersey State Police, Office of Emergency Management (NJSP-OEM), a PFWS Advisory Committee was set up to coordinate PFWS activities. NOAA-NWS administers a major portion of the technical and contractual arrangements, including:

- Network management and 24/7 operational support of communications and warning system
- Hardware support for 31 rain and stream gages and associated radio repeaters
- Computer software support and training for 4 county Emergency Operation Centers, 12 high risk municipalities, 3 NOAA-NWS offices, and the NJDEP-OEM, USGS, and USACE
- Real-time data displays on the Internet, and integration with NOAA-NWS operational forecasting tools
- Facilitating with NJSP-OEM quarterly coordination meetings among federal, state, and local agencies
- Ongoing performance assessments and feedback from user community to improve system usefulness

The USGS provides further technical assistance by operating and maintaining stream gages and a telemetry system that is integrated into the PFWS. The NJDEP and NJSP-OEM are the primary points of contact for the State of New Jersey and coordinate with the counties and municipalities that benefit from this system.

PROJECT COST: \$ 446,000 has been allocated for the project in Fiscal Year 2006

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District Area: NJ #5,7,8,9,10,11,13