



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

Ramapo River at Mahwah NJ and Suffern NY

Flood Damage Reduction Project

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: Flooding has occurred frequently on the Ramapo River, with flood events in 1968, 1971, 1973, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1996, and 1999. The 1977 and 1984 floods were the most severe causing extensive damages to the project area. Tropical Storm Floyd in September 1999 also caused significant damage.

The authorized project involves the construction of features for flood protection along the Ramapo River, Mahwah River, and Masonicus Brook in Mahwah, New Jersey and Suffern, New York. The authorized plan features extend a total of 13,000 feet along portions of the Ramapo River, Mahwah River, and Masonicus Brook. The modifications include the widening and deepening of the channels, sheet pile walls, and bridge modifications. The project will provide protection to residential, commercial, and industrial developments in Mahwah and in Suffern.

AUTHORIZATION: The Ramapo River and Mahwah Rivers Flood Control Project is authorized for construction under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-662).

STATUS: The project design memorandum was completed and approved in September 1987. Plans and specifications were substantially complete in 1990. Construction funds were appropriated, but work was never initiated due to the lack of project cooperation agreements.

After the flooding in 1999, the involved States, counties, and towns expressed interest in resuming the project. Letters of support from New York and New Jersey documented the interest and requested an update of the project to determine whether further interest is warranted. Funds were appropriated in Fiscal Year 2001 and coordination with the interested parties was initiated. Initially, a Limited Reevaluation Report was being conducted, but a General Reevaluation Report is to be prepared as study activities found that reformulation of the authorized plan is necessary. A draft project management plan (PMP) has been developed and is currently being coordinated with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The PMP along with a cost shared design agreement is scheduled to be executed in early FY 2005. Currently, a topographic survey had been prepared, existing conditions hydrology and hydraulics completed, preliminary environmental studies, and formulation efforts are ready to start upon execution of the agreement. In addition to the update of the authorized project, the other alternatives to be considered include nonstructural measures, levees and floodwalls, detention at an existing quarry, and river and stream corridor environmental restoration. Future work will be dependent on the availability of funds.

PROJECT COST: The cost of the project based upon the 1990 design is approximately \$23,000,000 at current price levels. The cost of design and construction would be shared between the Federal Government (75 percent) and the non-Federal Sponsors (25 percent). The non-Federal Sponsors share includes the cost for all lands, easements, and rights-of-way as well as a cash contribution. A project update and changes to features would refine that cost.

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