

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING 26 FEDERAL PLAZA NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278-0090

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries (NYNJHAT) Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Feasibility Study for Actionable Elements

Integrated Interim Response Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA)

Oakwood Beach, NY; Harlem River, NY; and, East Riser, NJ Actionable Element Sites

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (Corps) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), in accordance with the February 2025 CEQ guidance (https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-regulations-and-guidance/CEQ-Memo-Implementation-of-NEPA-02.19.2025.pdf) and the recently published Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 20, 2025). The Draft Integrated Interim Response FR/EA) dated July 2025 was prepared to address coastal storm risk management needs within a 2,500+square mile study area, as an interim response to respond to an immediate CSRM need and to correspond with future legislative cycles (Water Resources Development Acts (WRDAs)), while the more complex measures of the larger NYNJHAT Study require additional analyses, modeling, public engagement, and design maturity to complete. The purpose and need for this action is to manage risk to critical infrastructure in local areas of high susceptibility to storm surge and other flood risk. This interim response action helps to address a critical need for CSRM measures at three Actionable Element Sites: Oakwood Beach, New York; Harlem River, New York; and East Riser, New Jersey. The final recommendation is contained in the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated XX XXX 2026.

ALTERNATIVES AND THE TENTATIVELY SELECTED PLAN

The Draft Integrated Interim Response FR/EA, incorporated herein by reference, considered various alternatives that would address the interim response purpose and need based upon the following criteria:

- Must avoid HTRW;
- Must not require implementation of Comprehensive Plan to be functional;
- Must be able to achieve full NEPA compliance;
- Will not predispose the decision on the Comprehensive Plan;
- Must not require field investigations to achieve appropriate design maturity required for a Class 3 cost estimate; and,
- Will seek to address critical infrastructure.

As part of the alternative development process, several potential alternatives were assessed including the No Action (Alternative A), East Riser only (Alternative B), East Riser, Harlem River, and Oakwood Beach (Alternative C), East Riser and Harlem River (Alternative D), and Oakwood Beach only (Alternative E).

Coprs guidance in ER 1105-2-103 requires the identification of six alternative plans to evaluate trade-offs among the four P&G accounts: NED, RED, OSE, EQ.

• The "no action" alternative.

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- An NED plan.
- A plan that reasonably maximizes to total net benefits across all benefit categories including monetized and non-monetized benefits.
- A plan that reasonably maximizes net benefits including monetized and non-monetized benefits consistent with the study purpose only.
- The least environmentally damaging practicable alternative, as required by the Clean Water Act under Section 404 (Title 40, Part 230 of the Code of Federal Regulations [40 CFR Part 230]).
- A locally preferred plan, if requested by the non-federal partner and approved by the ASA(CW), if the LPP is not one of the plans identified above.

The Corps estimated costs, benefits, adverse effects and trade-offs to compare each Action Alternative, and determined that Alternative B was the NED Plan, Alternative C was the Total Net Benefits Plan, Alternative D was the Study Purpose Only Net Benefits Plan, and Alternative D was the Least Environmentally Damaging Plan. The No Action (Alternative A) would not satisfy the purpose of and need for the 2025 Interim Response as described in Draft Integrated Interim Response FR/EA; however, the Corps review process requires consideration of the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative is used in an EA to assess environmental consequences that may occur if the proposed action is not implemented. Therefore, the No Action Alternative was carried forward for detailed analysis and serves as a baseline against which the Action Alternatives are compared.

The Tentatively Selected Plan is Alternative C, which consists of all three Actionable Element Sites, as follows:

- The Harlem River Actionable Element Site has two potential alignment opportunities in Northern Manhattan, where Alternative A is the "Landward Alignment", and Alternative B is the "Seaward Alignment". While both Harlem River alignments are proposed as a CSRM floodwall feature with a number of deployable vehicular gates, the Landward Alignment has five gates, and the Seaward Alignment has two. Also varying between these two alignments, is the location with proximity to the waterfront on the Harlem River, length, and potentially the reveal height of the floodwall. While both floodwalls are proposed at +17.5 feet NAVD88, the height of the wall above the ground is dependent on the existing ground elevation at the site.
- The East Riser Actionable Element Site includes proposal of channel modifications, three culvert replacements, and a railroad bridge replacement on East Riser Ditch Channel in Carlstadt and Moonachie, New Jersey. Channel modifications more specifically include widening and deepening of the East Riser Ditch Channel, bank stabilization, and replanting of vegetation.
- The Oakwood Beach Actionable Element Site is proposed as a CSRM-focused Nature-Based Solution wetland enhancement including three primary components: removal of non-native invasive plants, creation of a vegetative mosaic with native plants and tidal channels, and dune restoration.

SUMMARY OF EFFECTS

The potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate and applicable to each Actionable Element Site in the Draft Integrated Interim Response FR/EA. A summary assessment of the potential effects is provided in Table 1 (Oakwood Beach), Table 2 (Harlem River), and Table 3 (East Riser):



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Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Oakwood Beach Actionable Element Site

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects	The Garwood Bea		CITE OILC
Resource	Less than significant adverse effects	Less than significant adverse effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Wildlife	\boxtimes		
Fish	\boxtimes		
Migratory Fish	\boxtimes		
Terrestrial Vegetation	\boxtimes		
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation			\boxtimes
Invasive and Aquatic Nuisance Species			
Aquatic Threatened and Endangered Species			\boxtimes
Terrestrial Threatened and Endangered Species			
Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald Eagle Protection Act Species			
Marine Mammal Protection Act Species			\boxtimes
Sea Turtles			\boxtimes
Essential Fish Habitat			
Wetlands	\boxtimes		
Floodplains	\boxtimes		
Wild and Scenic Rivers			\boxtimes
Designated Critical Habitat			\boxtimes
Critical Environmental Areas (State)			\boxtimes
Marine Protected Areas	\boxtimes		
Coastal Zone Management Act Areas	\boxtimes		
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Areas			\boxtimes
National Park Service Land	\boxtimes		
Wildlife Refuge Land			\boxtimes
Commercial and Recreational Fishing			\boxtimes
Topography and Geology	\boxtimes		
Surface Waters	\boxtimes		
Sediment	\boxtimes		
Land Use	\boxtimes		
Bathymetry	\boxtimes		
Inland Hydrology	\boxtimes		

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Resource	Less than significant adverse effects	Less than significant adverse effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Coastal Hydrology, Currents, and Circulation			
Tides, Tidal Exchange, and Tidal Range	\boxtimes		
Sediment Transport	\boxtimes		
Water Quality	\boxtimes		
Air Quality	\boxtimes		
Climate and Relative Sea Level Change			
Cultural Resources			
Native American Land			\boxtimes
Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste			
Navigation			\boxtimes
Noise and Vibration	\boxtimes		
Socioeconomics and Demographics	\boxtimes		
Reasonably Foreseeable Effects	\boxtimes		



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Table 2: Summary of Potential Effects of the Harlem River Actionable Element Site			
Resource	Less than significant adverse effects	Less than significant adverse effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Wildlife			
Fish			
Migratory Fish			
Terrestrial Vegetation	\boxtimes		
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation			\boxtimes
Invasive and Aquatic Nuisance Species			
Aquatic Threatened and Endangered Species			
Terrestrial Threatened and Endangered Species			
Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald Eagle Protection Act Species			
Marine Mammal Protection Act Species			\boxtimes
Sea Turtles			\boxtimes
Essential Fish Habitat			
Wetlands			
Floodplains			
Wild and Scenic Rivers			\boxtimes
Designated Critical Habitat			\boxtimes
Critical Environmental Areas (State)			\boxtimes
Marine Protected Areas			
Coastal Zone Management Act Areas			
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Areas			\boxtimes
National Park Service Land			\boxtimes
Wildlife Refuge Land			\boxtimes
Commercial and Recreational Fishing	\boxtimes		
Topography and Geology	\boxtimes		
Surface Waters	\boxtimes		
Sediment	\boxtimes		
Land Use	\boxtimes		
Bathymetry	\boxtimes		
Inland Hydrology	\boxtimes		
Coastal Hydrology, Currents, and Circulation	\boxtimes		
Tides, Tidal Exchange, and Tidal Range	\boxtimes		



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Resource	Less than significant adverse effects	Less than significant adverse effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Sediment Transport			
Water Quality	\boxtimes		
Air Quality	\boxtimes		
Climate and Relative Sea Level Change	\boxtimes		
Cultural Resources			
Native American Land			\boxtimes
Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste			
Navigation/Traffic			
Noise and Vibration	\boxtimes		
Socioeconomics and Demographics	\boxtimes		
Reasonably Foreseeable Effects	\boxtimes		



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Table 3: Summary of Potential Effects of the East Riser Actionable Element Site

		Actionable Element	1 1
Resource	Less than significant adverse effects	Less than significant adverse effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Wildlife	\boxtimes		
Fish	\boxtimes		
Migratory Fish			
Terrestrial Vegetation	\boxtimes		
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation			\boxtimes
Invasive and Aquatic Nuisance Species			
Aquatic Threatened and Endangered Species			
Terrestrial Threatened and Endangered Species			
Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald Eagle Protection Act Species			
Marine Mammal Protection Act Species			\boxtimes
Sea Turtles			\boxtimes
Essential Fish Habitat			
Wetlands			
Floodplains			
Wild and Scenic Rivers			\boxtimes
Designated Critical Habitat			\boxtimes
Critical Environmental Areas (State)			\boxtimes
Marine Protected Areas			
Coastal Zone Management Act Areas			
Coastal Barrier Resources Act Areas			\boxtimes
National Park Service Land			
Wildlife Refuge Land			\boxtimes
Commercial and Recreational Fishing			\boxtimes
Topography and Geology	\boxtimes		
Surface Waters	\boxtimes		
Sediment	\boxtimes		
Land Use	\boxtimes		
Bathymetry	\boxtimes		
Inland Hydrology	\boxtimes		
Coastal Hydrology, Currents, and Circulation			
Tides, Tidal Exchange, and Tidal Range	\boxtimes		



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Resource	Less than significant adverse effects	Less than significant adverse effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Sediment Transport			
Water Quality	\boxtimes		
Air Quality	\boxtimes		
Climate and Relative Sea Level Change	\boxtimes		
Cultural Resources		\boxtimes	
Native American Land			\boxtimes
Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste	\boxtimes		
Navigation			\boxtimes
Noise and Vibration	\boxtimes		
Socioeconomics and Demographics	\boxtimes		
Reasonably Foreseeable Effects			

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

Public review of the Draft Integrated Interim Response FR/EA and Draft FONSI will occur between 24 July and 25 August 2025. All comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the Final Integrated Interim Response FR/EA and FONSI.

The Corps utilized the Draft Integrated Interim Response FR/EA as a coordination vehicle with Federal and State regulatory agencies, and prepared

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps determined that the Tentatively Selected Plan will have less than significant adverse effects on Federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Corps determined that the Tentatively Selected Plan will have less than significant adverse effects on historic properties as a result of mitigation, under a Programmatic Agreement.

The Tentatively Selected Plan will not result in adverse effects from the discharge of dredged or fill material pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, and complies with the Clean Water Act Section 404(B)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230).

The Tentatively Selected Plan will have less than significant adverse effects as a result of discharge into the waters of the United States. A water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required for each Actionable Element Site will be obtained from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection prior to construction, pending confirmation based on information to be developed during the pre-construction engineering and design phase. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.



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The Tentatively Selected Plan will have less than significant adverse coastal effects. Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, the Corps determined that the Tentatively Selected Plan is consistent with the applicable Federal, State (New York Department of State and New Jersey Division of Land Resource Protection), and Local (New York City Office of Waterfront and Open Space Planning) policies.

DETERMINATION AND FINDING

The Corps has determined that the Draft Integrated Interim Response FR/EA has appropriately assessed and disclosed the environmental effects of the reasonable alternates considered, including the Tentatively Selected Plan. All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated in the integrated EA. Best management practices will be implemented, as appropriated to avoid, minimize, compensate, rectify, or reduce adverse effects as described in 40 CFR 1501.6(c). Environmental windows may be implemented at the relevant Actionable Element Site to avoid potential impacts to special status species. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be implemented to avoid adverse effects to hydrological and aquatic resources. Beneficial effects are also anticipated from the implementation of the Tentatively Selected Plan, relevant to the management of coastal storm flood risk, as well as the incorporation of nature-based solutions were appropriate for wave attenuation and multiple lines of defense, particularly at the Harlem River, Seaward Alignment, and Oakwood Beach Actionable Element Sites.

It is the District's conclusion that the Tentatively Selected Plan will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment or to the surrounding human population.

Technical, environmental, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in ER 1105-2-103. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of reasonable alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that this NYNJHAT CSRM Study Interim Response action would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date	Alexander L. Young
	Colonel, U.S. Army
	Commander and District Engineer