



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT
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CENAN-PL-E

June 13, 2019

Public Notice

Rahway River Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study Update

This notice is being issued to inform the public of new information related to the Rahway River Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New York District (District), in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), has been conducting a feasibility study investigating coastal storm risk management in the Rahway River Basin.

In summary, the District identified Alternative 4a as the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). Alternative 4a consists of nonstructural treatments for approximately 136 structures (125 residential, 11 non-residential) contained in the 10% annual chance exceedance (ACE) floodplain and a levee within the Joseph Medwick Park. Nonstructural measures were designed to the future 1% ACE (100-yr) water surface elevation plus one foot to account for water surface perturbations. The Levee is 3,360 ft long with a 12 ft top width and one vertical to three horizontal (1:3) side slope.

A Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (DIFR/EA) analyzing the effects of Alternative 4a was prepared and underwent a public/agency review from May 31 through June 30, 2017. During this time, the District became aware of contamination issues within the Joseph Medwick Park, where the TSP and associated compensatory wetland mitigation is located. Although remediation activities within the park were completed in 2012, some of the remediation techniques used within the TSP project area include capping and/or access exclusion (e.g. fencing).

Per USACE regulations, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), as the non-federal sponsor for the project, is responsible for providing all lands and easements required to construct, operate and maintain the project. The USACE regulations further stipulate that the lands must be free from contamination and that the non-federal sponsor is responsible for costs for the cleanup and response should contamination be discovered and the non-federal sponsor wishes to proceed with the project.

NJDEP has indicated that they will perform additional testing to identify the full impact of the project on HTRW concerns within the park before project implementation. NJDEP understands their responsibility to fully remediate the area within the TSP footprint and associated compensatory mitigation prior to the District initiating construction of the TSP. As part of the remediation effort, the NJDEP will be responsible for preparing any required environmental assessments and acquiring the necessary permits for the remediation work.

As the remediation action to be taken by NJDEP is a separate action that will be completed prior to the implementation of the TSP, the TSP and the effects described in the DIFR/EA will not change. The District is still anticipating issuing the Final DIFR/EA that concludes with a Finding of No Significant Impact in the early 2020 timeframe.

General questions regarding the Rahway River Coastal Risk Management Study can be directed to Ms. Rifat Salim, Project Manager, email: Rifat.Salim@usace.army.mil; phone: 917-790-8215.

The DIFR/EA and associated documents are available on New York District's web site at: www.nan.usace.army.mil/RahwayRiverTidal.

Any written comments concerning the new information should be submitted to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
Planning Division-Environmental Branch (Attn: Ms. Kimberly Rightler)
Jacob J. Javits Federal Building
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278-0090

Public comments can also be submitted via email to:
RahwayRiverTidal@usace.army.mil.

Comments submitted will assist in the agency's evaluation of the project changes and will be reflected in the project record.

All written comments, including contact information, will be made a part of the administrative record, available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Administrative Record, or portions thereof, may also be posted on an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Internet website. Due to resource limitations, this office generally cannot acknowledge receipt of comments or respond to individual letters.