

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

April 3, 2014

This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 for floodplain management, in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations at 24 CFR Part 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment for Community Development Block Grant under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383).

NJDEP has determined that the following proposed action under the Shore Protection Fund Program is located in the 100-year floodplain, and that NJDEP will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action.

The proposed project is to protect Route 35 shore communities from future damage of breach as was experienced during Superstorm Sandy. It involves the placement of a continuous 4.0-mile wall of steel sheeting parallel to New Jersey Route 35 within the Borough of Mantoloking and Township of Brick in Ocean County. The steel sheeting would be placed along the beach and, after the completion of a forthcoming U.S. Army Corps of Engineers beachfill project, would be covered with sand to become part of the dune system and form a barrier to protect the Route 35 roadway from the effects of future coastal flooding.

The entire project would essentially be constructed within the Special Flood Hazard Area Zone "VE" coastal floodplain, as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) Panel 216 of 660, Map Number 34029C0216G, March 28, 2014 and Panel 218 of 660, Map Number 34029C0218G, March 28, 2014. The proposed project is located in the Borough of Mantoloking and Township of Brick, Ocean County, New Jersey.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by NJDEP at the following address on or before April 19, 2014. All comments should be submitted to Kelly Staffieri, Bureau of Coastal Engineering at 1510 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey 08753 or online at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/shoreprotection/contact.htm>.

Date: April 3, 2014

Commissioner Bob Martin

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection