

## Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 500-year Floodplain

Date: April 3, 2015

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on behalf of the Responsible Entity, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program and HUD Grant Number B-13-DS-34-0001 is located in a 500-year floodplain, and NJDEP will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the actions in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed actions, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at HUD 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

NJDEP is proposing to fund electrical improvements at the Passaic Valley Water Commission's Little Falls Water Treatment Plant, 800 Union Boulevard, Totowa, Passaic County, New Jersey. The proposed project is entitled Water Storage Improvements – Phase I (SRF1605002). Proposed improvements include construction of the following: a new standby generator facility, a retaining wall, the installation of electrical duct-banks, electrical switchgear enclosures, and fuel storage tanks. The proposed project also includes demolition of the existing powder-activated carbon facility, associated piping and appurtenances and an electrical switchgear. Approximately a quarter acre of the proposed project, specifically the electrical duct-banks to be constructed and an existing electrical switchgear to be demolished, would be within the 500-year floodplain.

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 mitigation 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.

All comments received by April 18, 2015, or fifteen (15) days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later, will be considered. DCA encourages electronic submittal of comments at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Further information can be found on the DCA website: <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP