

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Notice of Availability
Environmental Assessment

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission Floodwall and On-Site Power System Construction

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to provide funding to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) for the construction of a floodwall and on-site standby power system in Newark, New Jersey. The wastewater treatment facility at 600 Wilson Avenue was significantly damaged during Hurricane Sandy. Funding would be provided per FEMA 4086-DR-NJ in accordance with section 406(a) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5172), as amended.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of FEMA [44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10]. The EA evaluates alternatives for compliance with applicable environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Executive Orders #11990 (Protection of Wetlands), #11988 (Floodplain Management) and #12898 (Environmental Justice). The alternatives evaluated in the EA are: 1) No Action Alternative; 2) Proposed Action Alternative involving the construction of a floodwall and on-site standby power system; 3) Action Alternative involving component floodproofing and construction of a distributed stand-by power system; 4) Action Alternative involving elevating the facility by raising site grades; and 5) Action Alternative involving relocating the Plant outside the floodplain. The Proposed Action Alternative would include construction of a floodwall around the Facility's critical infrastructure and installation of an on-site standby power system to run the Facility in the event of a disruption to the electrical power grid. The floodwall would be designed to hold back a 500-year flood event and the on-site standby power system would run operations if the grid is disrupted. The existing stormwater drainage system will be re-worked and improved by installing two new pumping stations to ensure the stormwater management system does not backup with water and stormwater continues to flow offsite during a storm event.

The EA will be made available for review online at the FEMA library web site at: www.fema.gov/resource-document-library; or FEMA4086COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov can be contacted to request an electronic copy. The web link to the FEMA library web site on which the EA has been posted will also be available on PVSC's website (www.nj.gov/pvsc/) and a hard copy of the EA will be available for review at PVSC's Administration Office, 600 Wilson Ave, Newark, New Jersey between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

The comment period will end 30 days from the date of this publication. Written comments on the EA can be mailed to FEMA 4086-DR-NJ Sandy Recovery Field Office 307 Middletown Lincroft Road, Lincroft, NJ 07738, Attn: EHP PVSC Floodwall and On-Site Power System, or emailed to FEMA4086COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.