



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OFFICE OF FLOOD HAZARD RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

Rebuild By Design – Hudson River August 2015

Background

Rebuild by Design was a competition created in the summer of 2013 by the federal Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The competition was used to encourage development of ideas capable of dramatically improving the physical, ecological, and economic resilience of the Sandy-affected area. In June 2014, the State of New Jersey was awarded \$380 million to implement two flood resiliency projects through the Rebuild by Design competition. New Jersey was awarded \$150 million to implement a resiliency project called the New Meadowlands project, and \$230 million to implement a comprehensive urban water strategy in the Hudson River region (RBD – Hudson River).

Current Project Status

RBD – Hudson River is currently performing a feasibility study and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The feasibility study is an analysis of the ability to complete a project successfully, taking into account legal, economic, technological, scheduling and other factors.. The EIS is a document prepared to describe the effects for proposed activities on the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment.

The feasibility study began on June 4, 2015. Current and ongoing work associated with the feasibility study includes data gathering. The NJDEP's engineer, Dewberry Engineers, Inc., have been working to gather preexisting information from the your local, county and state governments, the utility companies servicing the areas, and some private concerns that may have information that would be useful. This effort is being performed in order to gather as much flood related information as possible and also identify areas that additional information may be needed. Additionally, it is possible that you have seen some of Dewberry's people working in your area. Over the last month two months, Dewberry has been surveying along the waterfront, inspected many of the waterfront structures, and has been in the water in some locations to do underwater inspections of some of the structures. Dewberry has also been walking the streets of Hoboken in an effort to identify areas for possible green infrastructure in the future.

Upcoming efforts related to the feasibility study include some geotechnical data gathering. Dewberry will be installing some groundwater wells and performing soil boring activities over the next few months. The EIS is also about to officially begin and will include opportunities for the public to comment on the ongoing process. The first public meeting is scheduled to take place on September 24, 2015 at the Hoboken Multi-Purpose Center from 7-9 pm and will be an opportunity to comment on the Scoping document currently being written. This document ("scope") outlines the topics and analyses of potential environmental impacts of the preferred alternative that will be addressed in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS, or draft EIS).

The Scoping document will be available for review on September 8, 2015 at <http://www.rbd-hudsonriver.nj.gov>. Comments on the Scoping document can be given during the public meeting, via email to rbd-hudsonriver@dep.nj.gov, or mailed to David Rosenblatt, Director, Office of Flood Hazard Risk Reduction Measures, 501 East State Street, Mail Code 501-01A, PO Box 420, Trenton, NJ 08625-0420 by October 9, 2015 (15 days after the scoping meeting) will be considered for review.

If you would like to be informed of any additional RBD – Hudson River website updates, please sign up for the NJDEP list serv at the following link: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/floodhazard/rbd-hudsonriver-subscribe.htm>.