



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2

290 BROADWAY

NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

OCT 17 2016

Frank Verga
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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New York, NY 10278

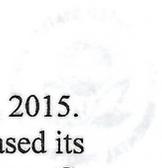
Dear Mr. Verga:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Storm Risk Management project (CEQ # 20160207) in Staten Island, Richmond County, New York. This review was performed in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in cooperation with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), is proposing to implement the National Economic Development Plan (NEDP) for coastal storm risk management on the south shore of Staten Island. Under Phase I of the NEDP, the USACE plans to construct a Line of Protection (LOP) against severe coastal surge flooding and wave forces along 5.3 miles of shoreline between Fort Wadsworth and Oakwood Beach. Construction is expected to occur over a 3 to 4 year period.

The majority of the LOP will consist of a buried seawall/armored levee, with the remainder consisting of a T-type vertical floodwall. The Oakwood Beach area will also be protected by a variety of habitats that include tidal wetlands, maritime forest/scrub-shrub habitat, and low marsh and high marsh acres of living shoreline. The NEDP includes additional construction of a raised promenade, vehicle and pedestrian access structures and, to manage inland flooding, tide and sluice gates, drainage control structures for existing stormwater outfalls, elevated road beds, and ten excavated ponds.

The EPA recognizes that implementation of the NEDP will reduce the adverse impacts of major storm events on the south shore of Staten Island, preventing loss of human life and reducing the substantial costs of recovery from natural disasters. It is important that the USACE make every effort to avoid, minimize, and mitigate any adverse environmental impacts during design, construction, and operation of the NEDP.



The final EIS addresses our concerns as presented in our comment letter of September 3, 2015. However, please note that on August 1, 2016 the Council of Environmental Quality released its "Final Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on the Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emission and the Effects of Climate Change in the National Environmental Policy Act Reviews."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747 or knutson.lingard@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Judy-Ann Mitchell, Chief
Sustainability and Multimedia Programs Branch