



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751

Public Notice

In Reply Refer to: Kevin DiRocco

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Levee Safety Program

Date: April 13, 2023

Comment Period Closes: April 28, 2023

15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

ACCESS TO U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408 MODIFICATIONS TO RAILROAD CLOSURE STRUCTURE #1 LOCATED IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE) is evaluating plans pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408) to allow the city of Hartford to modify Closure Structure #1 of the Connecticut River Right Bank – Hartford, CT Flood Damage Reduction Levee System (levee system) in Hartford, CT. The levee system is operated and maintained by the city of Hartford and consists of about 34,000 feet of earthen dike and 4,400 feet of concrete flood wall along the west bank of the Connecticut River, pressure conduits containing portions of the Park River and Folly Brook, five roadway and railroad closure structures, and three pump stations. The action that affects the Federal project is limited to modifications to Railroad Closure Structure #1 at the upstream end of the levee system to allow the closure structure to operate during a flood event. The levee system reduces flood risk to approximately 3,000 acres of highly developed commercial, residential, and industrial land in Hartford, including essential facilities such as the city's wastewater treatment plant.

This notice is being issued pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408, USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et. seq.) and the USACE procedures for implementing NEPA (33 CFR 230). Section 408 allows USACE to grant permission for the alteration, occupation, or use of USACE civil works projects if it is determined that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the Federal project. A decision on a Section 408 request is a Federal action, and therefore subject to NEPA and other environmental compliance requirements.

The levee system was constructed by USACE and turned over to the city of Hartford in 1944. Since then, the levee system has provided significant flood risk benefits to the city. The closure structure currently cannot be operated as designed due to alterations by Amtrak, presenting significant flood risk. USACE has determined that the action is categorically excluded under NEPA, and therefore, an Environmental Assessment is not required for this action.

The public is invited to provide comments. To request more information contact: Kevin DiRocco, Levee Safety Program Manager, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696

Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, (978) 318-8396, Kevin.J.DiRocco@usace.army.mil. The comment period will end on April 28, 2023. Letters should be postmarked by this date.