



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
New England District

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PUBLIC NOTICE

In Reply Refer to: Kevin DiRocco
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Levee Safety Program
Date: 5/30/2024
Comment Period Closes: 6/14/2024

15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ACCESS TO A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408 FOX POINT HURRICANE BARRIER, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District (USACE) is evaluating plans under 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408) to allow the Manchester Street Power Plant to temporarily place a dredge material pipeline across the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier – Providence, RI (hurricane barrier). The hurricane barrier was federally constructed, is cooperatively operated and maintained by the USACE and the city of Providence, and consists of a series of earthen embankments and concrete structures from just west of Allens Avenue, across the Providence River, to high ground east of South Main Street.

The Manchester Street Power Plant plans to perform maintenance dredging of a cooling water basin north of the hurricane barrier and pump dredged material from the basin through a pipeline and into a scow stationed south of the hurricane barrier. The dredge material pipeline will temporarily block vehicular access to the federally operated portion of the hurricane barrier within the Providence River and will pass through a vehicular closure gate operated by the city of Providence. The pipeline is expected to be in place for less than one week.

This Notice is being issued pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408, USACE Engineering Circular (EC) 1165-2-220, Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management, and 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 a USACE civil works project 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 location of the dredge material pipeline will temporarily impede access to the river portion of the hurricane barrier and prevent closure gate of a vehicular gate, so USACE has stipulated that the dredging pipeline must be removed within four hours of notification to the contractor if the barrier must be operated to prevent storm flooding. As such, USACE has made a preliminary determination that the placement of the pipeline will not adversely affect environmental resources on the affected area of the Fox Point Hurricane Barrier and will not have a significant impact on the human environment. The public is invited to provide comment. To request more information or obtain a copy of Environmental Assessment: Kevin DiRocco, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, Kevin.J.DiRocco@usace.army.mil. The comment period will end on 14 June 2024. Letters should be postmarked by this date.