



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

696 Virginia Road
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Public Notice

In Reply Refer to: Kevin DiRocco

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Levee Safety Program

Date: May 2, 2022

Comment Period Closes: May 17, 2022

15 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE

ALTERATION OF A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408 LOCUST TRANSFER AND FLOW OPTIMIZATION PROJECT – MAIN INTERCEPTOR SEWER SPRINGFIELD, MA

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 Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC) to construct a sewage transfer pipeline to connect an existing main interceptor sewer to their new Connecticut River sewer crossing at York Street. The proposed pipeline is adjacent to the Connecticut River Floodwall South of Memorial Bridge, Springfield, MA levee system. The levee system is operated and maintained by the city of Springfield, MA and includes approximately 5,250 feet of concrete floodwall, three sandbag closure structures, and three pumping stations to remove stormwater from the leveed area. The leveed area consists of approximately 110 acres of mixed commercial and residential development with residential, industrial, public, and utility buildings.

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 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 the USACE between July 1931 and May 1941 in response to the Great Flood of 1936. After construction, the levee system was turned over to the city of Springfield for operation and maintenance. The action that affects the Federal project includes construction of a section of sewer transfer pipeline south of York Street and within the former Hampden County Jail property. All construction will be landward of the levee system and the pipeline will not cross the levee system. The pipeline section that affects the Federal project consists of an approximately 400-foot-long section of 72-inch-diameter sewer transfer pipeline

oriented near and at a slight skew to the levee system floodwall. The pipeline depth varies from 15 to 25 feet below existing grade, and installation will require excavation of an up to 25-foot-deep trench as close as 15 feet to the landside toe of the floodwall footing. The trench will be supported using an excavation system designed by the contractor to minimize impacts to the levee system. USACE has determined that the action is consistent with the USACE Regulatory Division's Environmental Assessment Statement of Findings/FONSI (File No. NAE-2017-0289) for prior work in the area of impact, thus satisfying the environmental compliance requirements of NEPA and EC 1165-2-220.

The public is invited to provide comment. 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 May 17, 2022. Letters should be postmarked by this date.