

- PUBLIC NOTICE -

**ALTERATION OF A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408:
PROPOSED SEWER BELOW THE THIRD LEVEL CANAL AND BOTH FLOODWALLS OF THE HOLYOKE FLOOD
DAMAGE REDUCTION PROJECT, HOLYOKE, MASSACHUSETTS**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District (USACE) is evaluating plans under 33 U.S.C. 408 (Section 408) to allow the city of Holyoke to construct a sewer line below the Holyoke Flood Damage Reduction Project. The project consists of installation of the sewer line using a “trenchless” construction method referred to as pilot tube guided auger boring. With this construction method, a proposed 36-inch steel sleeve will be put into place from a drive pit on the southeast side of the canal to a receiving pit on the northwest side of the canal. A proposed 18-inch polyvinyl chloride pipe will be installed within the 36-inch sleeve. The annular space between the steel sleeve and the 18-inch sewer will be filled with grout and then the ends of the pipe will be sealed. The proposed construction is planned during a scheduled canal drawdown. The proposed construction method eliminates the need for open excavation within the canal, minimizing the potential for disturbance to the canal walls or floodwalls, and minimizing disturbance to the canal bottom.

This Notice is being issued pursuant to 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). The USACE has determined that the project will not have a significant adverse effect on the environment and prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under NEPA. Section 408 allows the 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 Holyoke Flood Damage Reduction Project provides flood protection in the city of Holyoke. The city of Holyoke operates the flood control system. The action that affects the Federal project involves the pilot tube guided auger boring below the floodwalls. This project is necessary to separate the sewer line from stormwater drainage which discharges as combined flow discharge to the Connecticut River during heavy precipitation events. The preliminary determination is that the proposed project under the floodwalls will not adversely affect environmental resources. To request more information or obtain a copy of the FONSI contact: Kate Atwood, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742, (978) 318-8537, Kathleen.a.atwood@usace.army.mil. The comment period will end on October 25, 2019.

