

- PUBLIC NOTICE -

**ALTERATION OF A U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECT PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408:
PROPOSED EARTHWORKS ON THE LANDWARD SIDE OF THE HAVERHILL FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION
PROJECT, HAVERHILL, MASSACHUSETTS**

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 city of Haverhill to complete work on the landward side of the Haverhill Flood Damage Reduction Project. The proposed project is in support of the Harbor Place Phase 2A development along the developed riverfront of the Merrimack River in downtown Haverhill, Massachusetts. The proposed project consists of 100 feet of new earthwork on the landward side of the Haverhill Flood Damage Reduction project. This work includes excavation and grading to reinforce the floodwall prior to work on Phase 2A of the Harbor Place development. The impacts to the USACE flood wall consists of isolated spread footings and a slab on grade supported by a ground improvement program to include GeoConcrete Columns (GCC) and Rammed Aggregate Piers (RAP). These activities are minor actions.

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 Haverhill Flood Reduction Project provides flood protection along the Merrimack River for the city of Haverhill. The city of Haverhill operates and maintains the system. The action that affects the Federal project involves the construction of earthworks on the landward side of the floodwall. The project is necessary to ensure the physical integrity and continued reliability of the floodwall during construction of the Phase 2 Harbor Place project. The preliminary determination is that the minor modifications within the levee right of way will not adversely affect environmental resources on the affected area of the flood control system. 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 11, 2019. Letters should be postmarked by this date.

