

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is issuing this notice to announce the availability for public review and comment of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for proposed measures to provide flood control and storm damage protection in Union Beach, New Jersey. The DEIS has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The DEIS evaluates the potential adverse and beneficial environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the restoration of the beach berm and dune, periodic beach renourishment, and construction of storm damage reduction measures. The DEIS documents and addresses the environmental impacts of the following projects: Union Beach including Chingarora Creek, Flat and East Creeks, and the Bay Shore.

The selected plan consists of three major elements: (1) Chingarora Creek levee and floodwall; (2) Bay Shore beach and dune incorporating terminal groins with adjoining revetments; and (3) Flat and East creeks floodwall and levee alignment. In addition to the initial construction, the selected plan includes periodic renourishment of the Bay Shore element. Public comments on the DEIS will assist in the Corps' evaluation of the project and will be reflected in the final EIS.

Written comments received within 45 days of the publication of the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability will be considered by the Corps in preparing the final EIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Howard Ruben, Environmental Analyst, Planning Division, Environmental Analysis Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2151, New York, NY 10278-0090, at (212) 264-0206 or at [howard.ruben@usace.army.mil](mailto:howard.ruben@usace.army.mil). Written comments are to be provided to Mr. Ruben.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** 1. The Corps is currently evaluating a hurricane and storm damage reduction study to provide hurricane and storm protection to residential, commercial, and recreational resources in the Borough of Union Beach, located along the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay (RBSHB) shoreline and adjacent areas in Monmouth County, NJ. Hurricanes, northeasters, and extratropical storms have historically damaged shorefronts, beaches, homes, commercial properties, and community infrastructures. Erosion of the beach and the lack of long-term

shore protection measures have resulted in deterioration of the natural beachfront dune complexes in the study area. Severe storm events have flooded the areas and stranded residents in their homes. Consequently, there has been a reduction in the capability of the study area beaches and the low-lying terrain, to provide long-term protection from damages caused by hurricanes and severe storms such as northeasters. In addition, the threat of future storms in the study area poses a danger to local residents and business owners.

2. The Union Beach, New Jersey Beach Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Study, was originally authorized for construction as part of the RBSHB Project, New Jersey, in the Flood Control Act of October 23, 1962, in accordance with House Document Number 464, 87th Congress, Second Session.

**Leonard Houston,**

*Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch.*

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## DENALI COMMISSION

### 5-Year Strategic Plan

#### Introduction

The Denali Commission Act of 1998 (Title III, Pub.L. 105-277, 42 U.S.C. 3121) created a State-Federal partnership to address crucial needs of rural Alaskan communities, particularly isolated Native villages and other communities lacking access to the national highway system, affordable power, adequate health facilities and other impediments to economic self sufficiency. Guided by five Commissioners representing statewide non-governmental organizations, the unprecedented results to date testify to the efficacy of inter-agency teamwork, effective training, and the setting of high sustainability standards by those closest to the problems at hand. The Commission is a highly effective catalyst for enhanced collaboration among federal, State, tribal and local governments as well as private sector, non-profit and other interests. The overarching goal of enabling economic self sufficiency is based on effective community comprehensive planning, and regional support.

This document will guide the reader through:

An introduction of the Denali

Commission's mission

The workplan for fiscal year 2004 and

The 5-year strategic plan

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### Purpose of the Commission

The Denali Commission Act of 1998, as amended (Division C, Title III, Pub. L. 105-277) states that the purposes of the Denali Commission are:

To deliver the services of the Federal Government in the most cost-effective manner practicable by reducing administrative and overhead costs.

To provide job training and other economic development services in rural communities, particularly distressed communities (many of which have a rate of unemployment that exceeds 50 percent).

To promote rural development, provide power generation and transmission facilities, modern communication systems, bulk fuel storage tanks, water and sewer systems and other infrastructure needs.

### Vision

Alaska will have a healthy well-trained labor force working in a diversified and sustainable economy that is supported by a fully developed and well-maintained infrastructure.

### Mission

The Denali Commission will partner with tribal, Federal, State, and local governments and collaborate with all Alaskans to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of government services, to develop a well-trained labor force employed in a diversified and sustainable economy, and to build and ensure the operation and maintenance of Alaska's basic infrastructure.

### Values

*Catalyst For Positive Change*—The Commission will be an organization through which agencies of government, including Tribal governments, may collaborate, guided by the people of Alaska, to aggressively do the right things in the right ways.

*Respect For People and Cultures*—The Commission will be guided by the people of Alaska in seeking to preserve the principles of self-determination, respect for diversity, and consideration of the rights of individuals.

*Inclusive*—The Commission will provide the opportunity for all interested parties to participate in decision making and carefully reflect their input in the design, selection, and implementation of programs and projects.