

comments are to be provided to Mr. Ruben.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. The Combined Erosion Control and Storm Damage Prevention Pre-Feasibility Study for the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, NJ, including the Borough of Highlands, was authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the U.S. House of Representatives adopted August 1, 1990, which states the following: "Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives, that, the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, New Jersey, published as House Document No. 464, Eighty-seventh Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine the advisability of modifications to the recommendations contained therein to provide erosion control and storm damage prevention for the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay." The Water Resources Development Act of 1966 reauthorized the project, including uncompleted construction.

2. The previously authorized Federal project for Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, NJ, was authorized by the Flood Control Act of October 12, 1962, in accordance with House Document No. 464, Eighty-seventh Congress, Second Session. While this project resulted in construction of shore protection improvements within certain municipalities, improvements in Highlands were not considered economically feasible and therefore not recommended. It was noted in the 1962 study that Highlands is subject to severe damage from tidal flooding and that the problem would be further considered for development of an economically feasible plan. The area of Highlands was again addressed in the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, New Jersey, Combined Flood Control and Shore Protection Reconnaissance Study Report, dated March 1993. This reconnaissance report covered municipalities extending westward from Highlands to South Amboy with concentration on Port Monmouth for which a specific plan of improvement was identified. Report findings concluded that, within the study area, shoreline protection and flood control projects in Highlands and five other communities appeared to be economically viable and were recommended to go forward with further studies. This was determined indirectly through means of a planning evaluation matrix that compared Port

Monmouth criteria to damage mechanism and potential damage reduction benefits.

3. Two types of environmental analyses will be conducted; impacts associated with structural storm damage reduction improvements and analyses required for mitigation planning purposes.

4. Public scoping meetings are expected to be scheduled in September 2003. The meetings will be held in Monmouth County at locations not yet determined. Public notices identifying the location, date, and time for the meetings will be announced in local area newspapers. Results from the public scoping meetings with the District and Federal, State, and local agency coordination will be addressed in the scoping document. Parties interested in receiving notices of public scoping meetings or copies of the scoping document should contact Mr. Ruben at the above address.

5. Federal agencies interested in participating as a Cooperating Agency are requested to submit a letter of intent to Colonel John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer, at the above address.

6. Estimated Date of DEIS Availability: February 2005.

**Leonard Houston,**

*Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

#### **Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, Combined Erosion Control and Storm Damage Reduction Study, Borough of Keyport, Monmouth County, NJ: Feasibility Phase**

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The New York District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which will lead to a NEPA document in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, as defined and amended in 40 CFR parts 1500-1508 (promulgated pursuant to NEPA), Corps' principles and guidelines as defined in Engineering Regulations (ER) 1105-2-100, Planning Guidance Notebook, and

ER 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing NEPA, and other applicable Federal and State environmental laws for the proposed storm damage reduction project in the Borough of Keyport, Monmouth County, NJ.

The study area consists of low-lying areas along the Raritan Bay shoreline between and including Luppattong Creek to the west and Chingarora Creek to the east in the Borough of Keyport, Monmouth County, NJ. Bay area flooding primarily occurs in the low-lying commercial areas located in the central and northwestern portions of the Borough and in residential areas to the northeast. Flooding also occurs in areas adjacent to Luppattong and Chingarora Creeks.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Ronald Pinzon, Project Biologist, Planning Division, Environmental Analysis Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY, 10278-0090, (212) 264-2199, or [Ronald.R.Pinzon@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ronald.R.Pinzon@usace.army.mil).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. This study is authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the U.S. House of Representatives dated August 1, 1990, reading: "Resolved by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives, that, the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, New Jersey, published as House Document No. 464, Eighty-seventh Congress, Second Session, and other pertinent reports, to determine the advisability of modifications to the recommendations contained therein to provide erosion control and storm damage prevention for the Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay."

2. A public scoping meeting is scheduled for September 2003. Results from the public scoping meeting with Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as the public, will be addressed in the DEIS.

3. Federal agencies interested in participating as a Cooperating Agency are requested to submit a letter of intent to Colonel John B. O'Dowd, District Engineer, at the above address.

4. Estimated date of DEIS availability: August 2004.

**Leonard Houston,**

*Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch.*

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