



**United States Army Corps of Engineers  
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# **News Release**

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## **US Army Corps of Engineers solicits bids to repair Princeville Dike, will study increased flood protection**

**WILMINGTON, North Carolina**—"The town of Princeville can confidently look forward to renewed flood protection before the summer of 2000," said US Army Corps of Engineers project manager Doug Greene. "We have put this repair project on a fast track," added Danny Kissam, a contracting specialist at the Corps' Wilmington District. A contract award may be made as early as January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000, with completion of repairs to follow in five to six months.

The solicitation was issued three days early, due to the Corps efforts to be ready to solicit bids by the December 17 date originally set by Princeville as their decision point on buyout or levee repair. Bids are due by December 29<sup>th</sup>, and Wilmington District hopes to award a contract on or about January 4<sup>th</sup>.

"Because of urgent and compelling need, the Federal Acquisition Regulations allowed us to contact contractors early in the process and speed up the solicitation process," Kissam explained. "We were able to issue a presolicitation notice and talk to potential bidders. Seventeen small businesses have expressed interest—a good competitive field. The project is set aside exclusively for small business contractors."

What will the contractor do? "Under Public Law 84-99 we can return the levee to its pre-flood level of protection using federal funds," explained Doug Greene, who will manage the repair project. The contractor will rebuild the dike to its original 300-year flood level of protection. "We also have approval to make several design improvements: we will harden the top of the dike to prevent erosion, we are designing a stoplog closure to make it easier to protect the levee where the CSX railroad crosses it, and we are improving access to the drainage structure."

At the request of Princeville officials and Congresswoman Eva Clayton of North Carolina's 1<sup>st</sup> District, the Corps is also moving forward with a study under Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act. The study will look at various engineer approaches to increased protection to prevent flooding from another Hurricane Floyd magnitude storm. The study will take about two years to complete and would require another 6 ½ years to complete the engineering, design, construction, and real estate acquisition processes if fully funded. Areas of concern would include land acquisitions, easements, and rights-of-way, affecting eight state highways and two railroad crossings. The study would also include evaluation of potential impacts on the town of Tarboro and an extensive hydrologic analysis.

"Fortunately our ability to move rapidly to complete repairs will give the people of Princeville renewed 300-year flood protection before another storm season can begin," said Ben Wood, Technical Services Director for the Wilmington District. "The people of Princeville can rebuild with confidence and take time to evaluate future options with peace of mind."