



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Wilmington District

CESAW-ECP-PE

April 26, 2022

PUBLIC NOTICE
AND
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

NEUSE RIVER BASIN FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT
DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (IFR/EA)

Comment Deadline: Within 30 days of the date of this Notice.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, Wilmington, North Carolina has prepared the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) for the Neuse River Basin Flood Risk Management Study, dated April 2022. An electronic version of the Draft IFR/EA is available on the USACE, Wilmington District website at: <https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/missions/flood-risk-management/neuse-river-basin/>

The draft report addresses the proposed assessment and draft recommendations for Federal actions to reduce risk and damages caused by flooding along the Neuse River and its tributaries. The draft Recommended Plan for the Neuse River Basin Flood Risk Management Study includes the following nonstructural measures:

- a. Structure Elevation – 419 structures
- b. Structure Dry floodproofing – 127 structures
- c. Structure Wet floodproofing – 222 structures

Nonstructural features would be constructed within separate contiguous areas for an estimated total of 768 structures. Only habitable structures would be eligible for structure elevation and floodproofing. The draft Recommended Plan includes elevating 14 structures and floodproofing 6 structures along Hominy Swamp Creek in the City of Wilson; elevating 38 structures and floodproofing 21 structures along Crabtree Creek in the City of Raleigh; elevating 2 structures and floodproofing 7 structures along Big Ditch

in the City of Goldsboro; and elevating 365 structures and floodproofing 315 structures along the mainstem of the Neuse River in Wayne and Johnston Counties, all in North Carolina.

Structure elevation raises a house or building so that the lowest floor is above the 1% (100-year) flood event level. Dry floodproofing makes the structure watertight below this level by preventing floodwaters from entering the structure. Wet floodproofing uses flood-damage-resistant materials and construction techniques to areas below the flood protection level of a structure, which is intentionally allowed to flood but with modifications that minimize flood damage.

The draft Recommended Plan also includes flood warning system enhancements with installation of stream gages in two locations (one stream gage in each location). The first location would be in the Eno River at the North Roxboro Street crossing in Durham County (USGS 02085070 Eno River Near Durham, NC). This would consist of updating an existing stream gage to improve the accuracy of water volume estimations. The second location would be in the Neuse River mainstem at the NC-43 (River Road) crossing, approximately 9 miles upstream of the City of New Bern. A new stream gage would be added in this location where none currently exists to improve warning times by providing flood stage data to the downstream communities in Craven County and the City of New Bern. Finally, development of public education materials highlighting residual, or remaining, flood risks throughout the Neuse River Basin are also included in the draft Recommended Plan.

The draft IFR/EA has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and USACE requirements for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (33 CFR 230), as amended, and addresses the relationship of the proposed action to other applicable Federal and State Laws and Executive Orders. The draft report addresses the impacts of the draft Recommend Plan on environmental resources, including, but not limited to: federally listed threatened and endangered species, archaeological and historical resources, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, soils, and water and air quality. This Public Notice is being distributed to notify all known interested persons of the availability of the draft IFR/EA for review. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to NEPA would be completed by the USACE if comments received during the review period indicate that a FONSI is appropriate for this project.

Commenting Information:

Comments must be submitted in writing via regular mail or email within 30 days of the date of this notice. The USACE, Wilmington District, will consider these comments in determining whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS) would be completed. Written comments pertinent to the proposed work should be submitted to:

Ms. Teresa Young, Environmental Lead or

Mr. Jim Medlock, Project Manager, USACE, Wilmington District

Email address: nrbfrm@usace.army.mil