

**NOTICE OF INTENT
TO PREPARE A PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS
STATES OF ILLINOIS, INDIANA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, OHIO, AND
WISCONSIN**

The Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for flood control projects in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The PEA will evaluate flood control measures eligible for FEMA grant funding. The notice is being published pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, and other applicable environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice); 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 11988 (Floodplain Management) because the proposed action has the potential to affect historic, cultural, and archaeological resources; threatened and endangered species; low-income and minority populations; floodplains; and wetlands.

Flooding can have substantial consequences on infrastructure and environmental resources. Flooding is occurring with greater frequency and intensity, coupled with a rise in storm frequency and intensity from climate change, resulting in increased inundation of communities and infrastructure, including critical facilities, within Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The PEA will evaluate the use of levees along stream banks and around facilities to reduce flood loss and damage (the proposed action). FEMA will evaluate the proposed action to ensure that it meets all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local requirements for these activities.

The PEA will address the purpose and need for the proposed action, project alternatives considered (including the No Action alternative), affected environment, environmental consequences, and mitigation measures. The proposed actions include levees along streams, channels, and other waterway banks, and floodwalls and levees around facilities and structures.

In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 C.F.R. §§ 1500.4(k) and 1501.11), the PEA will identify, by project type, the potential adverse and beneficial effects associated with potential flood mitigation projects. The subsequent review of site-specific grant applications may be streamlined by tiering from the PEA to reference summary detail regarding project types, alternatives, and effects and to emphasize details specific to a proposed action. The PEA will allow FEMA to streamline their compliance responsibilities, focus site-specific reviews on a narrower scope and to eliminate repetitive discussions.

A comment period to solicit input on the scope of the analysis including the purpose and need, alternatives, and potential impacts will remain open for 30 days following publication of this notice. Once completed, the draft PEA will be available for public review and comment. FEMA will announce a final comment period through a notice of availability for the Draft PEA.

Additional information, including details on the PEA proposed actions and Federal, State, Tribal, and other interested party distribution list may be found on FEMA's website at: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>.

Interested persons may provide comments or obtain more detailed information about the PEA by contacting Duane Castaldi, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region 5, 536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60605-1521; or by email at fema-r5-environmental@fema.dhs.gov. The public; local, state, tribal, and federal agencies; and other interested parties are invited to provide comments on the purpose and need of the proposed action, alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and measures to reduce those impacts.