

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
OAKDALE SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT
TOWN OF ISLIP, SUFFOLK COUNTY, NEW YORK
FEMA-4615-DR-NY**

BACKGROUND

On September 1 to September 3, 2021, remnants of Tropical Storm Ida caused storm damage to several areas of New York State, including portions of Suffolk County, New York. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared Remnants of Tropical Storm Ida a major disaster on September 5, 2021. The disaster declaration authorized federal public assistance to affected communities and certain non-profit organizations through FEMA and in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5172) as amended, the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) of 2013, and the accompanying Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013.

The NYS Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), now under the NYS Office of Resilient Homes and Communities, completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and related laws for the state environmental review of the Carlls River and Connetquot River Watersheds and Southwest Sewer District #3, collectively referred to as CCSSD3 Sewer Expansion Project. GOSR issued a Negative Declaration for that project on June 12, 2018. FEMA completed an EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the project in March 2019 under FEMA-DR-4085-NY, Hurricane Sandy. FEMA was the lead agency under NEPA and related laws for the federal environmental review of CCSSD3. On January 22, 2019, eligible voters in Great River (the Connetquot River Watershed) voted against implementation of the project and as a result, this geographic area of the CCSSD3 Sewer Extension Project did not move forward. Focus for the Connetquot River Watershed sewer connections was then directed to the Hamlet of Oakdale in the Town of Islip, Suffolk County, New York. To complete the Oakdale project, NYS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) has requested FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under DR-4615-NY, Remnants of Tropical Storm Ida. GOSR completed an EA to consider potential impacts of the proposed Oakdale project and, based on their review, issued a Negative Declaration on February 24, 2022.

The Oakdale project would include a new sewer collection system from Suffolk County's Bergen Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, connecting to existing conveyance systems within the Hamlet of Oakdale, and the abandonment of existing septic tanks and cesspools. The project is intended to minimize short-term and repetitive, adverse impacts on human life and property associated with on-site wastewater system failures. The secondary purpose is to minimize long-term, adverse impacts associated with such failures on surface waters, groundwater and coastal wetlands that

negatively affect these resources, and reduce the ability of these waters and wetlands to provide natural protection against storm surge.

In accordance with FEMA's implementation for NEPA compliance under FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, FEMA is required, during decision making, to fully evaluate and consider the environmental consequences of major federal actions it funds or undertakes. In accordance with FEMA Instruction 108-1-1 and the principles of Unified Federal Review (UFR), FEMA has considered the GOSR EA and findings and will adopt the same EA and findings with this FEMA-issued Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

ALTERNATIVES

Three alternatives were analyzed in this determination: the No Action Alternative and two action alternatives, the Proposed Action and the Innovative/Advanced On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (I/A OWTS), that would meet the project purpose and need. The subrecipient eliminated three additional alternatives from further analysis. Under the No Action Alternative, the unsewered parcels in the project area would continue to use on-site wastewater treatment systems, contributing to ongoing sewage backups during storm events and resulting in high effluent nitrogen concentrations from existing on-site disposal systems in the project area.

Under the Proposed Action a new sewer collection system would be constructed to connect parcels to existing conveyance systems via extended interceptors in the Town of Islip, within the southwestern portion of the hamlet of Oakdale. All hamlet parcels south and west of the Grand Canal, as well as properties on Shore Road between Grand Canal and Vanderbilt Avenue, would be connected to the system.

Under the third alternative, Suffolk County would upgrade all cesspools and conventional On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) within the project area to modern I/A OWTS pursuant to the Suffolk County Septic Demonstration Program. Under this alternative, installation of I/A OWTS would occur over a period of four years. All the system types under evaluation by Suffolk County would be installed below grade and would require excavation to install. In most cases, construction of I/A OWTS would require removal of the existing OWTS. Treated effluent from I/A OWTS would be discharged to leaching fields for further treatment by the surrounding soil and eventually discharged to groundwater. I/A OWTS would require regular servicing for removal of solids, similar to the existing OWTS.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed sewer system expansion would be designed for a flow of 160,852 gallons of wastewater per day and conveying it to the Bergen Point Wastewater Treatment Plant in Southwest Sewer District #3. The new system would be a low-pressure system. The proposed work would include properly abandoning the existing OWTS. The project would include the installation of

approximately 35,750 linear feet of low-pressure sewer mains with diameters ranging from 2 to 10 inches via direction drilling; installation of service laterals, check valves, and curb stops to each residence; installation of low-pressure grinder pump stations at each of the approximately 468 residential properties; and connection of the new collection system to the existing 15-inch diameter sewer stub located on the west side of Heckscher State Parkway.

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

FEMA determined that the Proposed Action as described in the EA would have no impacts on threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, environmental justice, or land use planning. The Proposed Action would have no long-term impacts on noise or transportation. The Proposed Action would have temporary negligible adverse impacts on air quality and greenhouse gases, fish and wildlife, and hazardous materials. The Proposed Action would have long term negligible adverse impacts on air quality and greenhouse gases, energy consumption, and hazardous materials. The Proposed Action would have temporary minor adverse impacts on soils, water quality, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, vegetation, noise, and transportation. The Proposed Action would have long-term minor beneficial impacts on water quality, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, vegetation, fish and wildlife, and public services and utilities.

PROJECT CONDITIONS

The subrecipient is responsible for obtaining and adhering to all applicable federal, state, and local permits, permit conditions, regulatory compliance, and authorizations for project implementation. Any substantive change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation by FEMA for compliance with NEPA and other laws and executive orders. The subrecipient must also adhere to the following conditions during project implementation:

1. Any proposed construction in a floodplain must be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator and must comply with federal, state, and local floodplain laws and regulations.
2. Excavated soil and waste materials, including potentially hazardous wastes, must be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations. Solid waste haulers will be required to have a NYSDEC waste hauler permit and all waste will need to be disposed of or processed at a permitted facility.
3. If any threatened or endangered species are encountered in the project area, the subrecipient must stop work and notify FEMA to continue consultation with USFWS.
4. Preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and adherence to the conditions of SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges is required on project sites where the soil disturbance would be greater than or equal to one acre.

5. The subrecipient and its contractors are required to use appropriate BMPs for construction not limited to sedimentation and erosion control measures, dust control, noise abatement and restriction of work areas to limit vegetation removal and habitat impacts.
6. In the event that unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or archaeological deposits are uncovered, the subrecipient and its contractors will immediately halt construction activities in the vicinity of the discovery, secure the site, and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the discovery. The subrecipient will immediately inform DHSES and FEMA. Work in sensitive areas may not resume until consultations are completed or until an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards determines the extent and historic significance of the discovery as per 36 CFR 79 standards.
7. Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards shall be followed during construction to avoid adverse impacts to worker health and safety.
8. BMPs will be used to limit NAAQS emissions during and after construction under USEPA guidelines.
9. Copies of all permits obtained must be submitted to DHSES and FEMA at or prior to final closeout of the grant.
10. Construction activities must not be initiated until fifteen (15) days after the date the FONSI has been signed as "APPROVED."

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

FEMA published a public notice in the *Newsday* newspaper on July 19, 2024, to notify the public of the thirty-day public review and comment period for the EA. Accordingly, FEMA posted an electronic version of the EA to the FEMA website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>. No public comments were received during the 30-day comment period that ended August 18, 2024. The Final Environmental Assessment reflects the evaluation and assessment of the federal government, the decision maker for the federal action.

FINDINGS

In accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, FEMA has determined that the proposed action will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed. This FONSI serves as the final public notice for the proposed project.

APPROVED:

JOHN J MCKEE

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MCKEE

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John J. McKee
Regional Environmental Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 2

Date

FOR PROGRAM AWARENESS:

**PATRICK M
TUOHY**

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For,

William McDonnell
Hazard Mitigation Division Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 2

Date