

APPENDIX G
Public Involvement

PUBLIC NOTICE
Estate La Grande Princess and Estate Golden Rock
St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands
Notice of the Availability of the Environmental Assessment
for St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project
FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority as Subgrantee for the relocation of the St. Croix Coastal Interceptor.

The proposed action consists of the relocation of Subgrantee would relocate the coastal interceptor inland from manhole 0432 through vacant, undeveloped land in Estate La Grande Princess and then within rights of way of existing roads through Estate Golden Rock to manhole 0439. Once the new line is brought online, the existing line from manhole 0432 to manhole 0439 will be cleaned with water, inspected, and abandoned in place below the sea bed. Six existing manholes would be cleaned and collapsed by hand, approximately two feet below the sea bed. The proposed project would be funded through the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program. The purpose of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program is to reduce overall risk to people and structures, while at the same time reducing reliance on federal funding if an actual disaster were to occur.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. The EA summarizes the project's purpose and need, project alternatives, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for considered alternatives. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated with the tiered EA. The EA is available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded from DHS-FEMA's website at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/106272>. The EA can be viewed in hard copy at Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority's offices at 941-946 Estate Williams Delight, Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, 00840.

The project will relocate the coastal interceptor out of the 100-year floodplain. Alternatives considered include 1) taking no action or 2) the proposed alternative: relocation of the existing line inland and abandonment of the existing line from manhole 0432 to manhole 0439.

FEMA has determined that the relocation is the most practicable alternative. FEMA has also determined that investment of funds to reduce flood risk is in the public interest.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed action. The public comment period will end 30 days from the date of this legal notice publication. Written comments on the proposed project can be mailed or emailed to DHS-FEMA Region II, Mitigation Division, Attn: EHP, Floor 13, 26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278 or via email at FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov.

**OPEN
FOR
PUBLIC
REVIEW**



COASTAL INTERCEPTOR RELOCATION

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority as Subgrantee for the relocation of the St. Croix Coastal Interceptor.

The project proposes to relocate the submerged sections of the Coastal Interceptor (sewer line) further inland from the coastline near Turquoise Bay to run along 'Condo Row' Road. The relocation requires the installation of new piping and the construction of a new lift station. Once the new sewer line is in service, the submerged sections of the old line will be flushed clean, demolished, and abandoned in place below the sea floor.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment.

The EA and other project documents are available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded from DHS-FEMA's website at: <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/106272>. The EA can be viewed in hard copy at Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority's offices at 941-946 Estate Williams Delight, Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, 00840 between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The file is also available online at www.viwma.org.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT
PERIOD
ENDS**

JULY 03, 2015

CALL 340-712-4962

FOR MORE INFORMATION



**THIS PROJECT
FUNDED BY**

*FEMA Pre-Disaster
Mitigation Grant
Program*

  www.viwma.org

It's Our Home! Let's Keep it Clean!



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

"JUN 17 2015

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation
26 Federal Plaza, Floor 13
New York, NY 10278

RE: St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project Environmental Assessment

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Environmental Assessment (EA) on the St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project, located in Estate La Grande Princess and Estate Golden Rock, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands. The proposed project consists of replacing and relocating a 30-inch diameter sewer pipeline that transports sewage from La Grande Princess and Golden Rock areas to the Lyndon B. Johnson pump station in Christiansted, St. Croix. The existing pipeline has been subject to coast erosion and is now located 50 feet offshore, and is subject to an inflow of salt water and the loss of sewage in the ocean. The new pipeline, lift station and manhole would be located inland, and predominantly out of the 500 year floodplain. EPA's comments on the document follow.

- EPA is concerned that the document and figures do not show the Nature Conservancy's Estate Princess property lines. As it is our understanding that the Nature Conservancy will not grant an easement for the lift station or pipeline, please verify that the pipeline will not be encroaching on that property.
- Section 5.2.1 states that the northern portion of the proposed project, including the site of the proposed lift station, is located on vacant land that would likely be developed in the near future. If development in this area has not occurred due to the lack of adequate sewerage, and this project is likely to enable such development, the document must include the indirect impacts of growth in the area.
- Section 5.5.2 and Figure 4 show that manhole MH 4032 will remain in the Zone AE floodplain. Will any reinforcement or mitigation be done to protect that manhole from future sea level rise?
- Section 5.7.1 identifies several invasive plant species in the area to be disturbed, such as Tan-tan (*Albizia lebbek*) and coral vine (*Anigonon leptopus*). While EPA understands

that less than 1 acre of vegetation will be disturbed, EPA recommends that FEMA prepare an invasive species plan, or replant with native plants over the disturbed areas. Seed and mulch should only include native seeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please call Lingard Knutson of my staff at (212) 637-3747.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Grace Musumeci", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Grace Musumeci, Chief
Environmental Review Section
Sustainability Multimedia Programs Branch

Dluzak, Catherine

From: Sasso, Johann M SAJ <Johann.M.Sasso@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2015 5:31 PM
To: Dluzak, Catherine; Ayala, Jose
Cc: Castillo, Sindulfo SAJ
Subject: FW: Notice of Availability: St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project Environmental Assessment (UNCLASSIFIED)
Attachments: St Croix Coastal Interceptor Public Notice.pdf

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Mrs. Dluzak:

Good afternoon. I'm in receipt of below email from my supervisor Mr. Castillo on June 02, 2015 regarding the public notice for the mentioned project. The Environmental Assessment (EA) has been released for public comments with a closing date of July 03, 2015. An application for this project was received on February 24, 2015 through the Joint Permit Application process with the USVI Department of Planning and Natural Resources. The proposed project is being evaluated through continuous coordination with the applicant to obtain all required information to evaluate such project. Below are the Corps comments to both the EA and the submitted information.

Based on the information provided by the applicant and the EA, here are the Corps comments:

1. The use of fill material inside water of the US needs to be considered clean fill material. The proposed use of the material from the demolished manholes is not considered clean fill material.
 - As part of our permitting evaluating process, the applicant was notified of this and they proposed an alternate option to fill the manholes.
 - The applicant proposal includes the placement of two caps inside of the manhole, one at each pipe, and filling the bottom to about -2 feet from sea bottom with concrete. After the concrete has settled and dried, they would demolish with hand tools the remaining of the manhole. Manhole is to be pulled and dispose in upland.
 - The Corps still has questions on the concrete placement methodology and if work will be conducted using mechanized equipment or by hand.
 - The Corps also needs additional information on how the remaining two feet, from -2 to bottom elevation, would be filled or if they are proposing to be left as is.
2. The EA nor the information provided by the applicant mentions any protocols required by EPA when abandoning a sewer line in place inside the waters of the US. On the agency comments appendix there is no comments or a determination made by the EPA for this project specifically on the sewer line disposal and to the Corps jurisdiction.
3. The determination made by the agencies in the EA, agency comments appendix, made their determinations based on the manhole demolition in place proposal and not on the latest proposed work methodology. The new alternative will need to be consulted with the agencies to ensure determinations are in accordance with proposed work methodology.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above comments or concerns please contact me at your convenience.

Thanks;

Johann M. Sasso
Project Manager

Antilles Regulatory Section
400 Fernandez Juncos Ave.
San Juan, PR 00901
787-729-6905/6944 ext.3053
johann.m.sasso@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Castillo, Sindulfo SAJ
Sent: Tuesday, June 02, 2015 2:55 PM
To: Sasso, Johann M SAJ
Subject: FW: Notice of Availability: St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project Environmental Assessment (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

FYSA.

Sindulfo

-----Original Message-----

From: Dluzak, Catherine [mailto:Catherine.Dluzak@fema.dhs.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 01, 2015 4:47 PM
To: Castillo, Sindulfo SAJ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Notice of Availability: St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project Environmental Assessment

Mr. Castillo:

Attached is FEMA's Notice of Availability for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project in the La Grand Princess and Golden Rock Estates on the island of St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. The Notice will be published in the St. Croix Avis on June 3, 2015. The public comment period will end 30 days from the publication of the Notice on July 3, 2015. An electronic version of the EA will be available for public comment on <http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/106272> <<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/106272>> . A hard copy of the EA will be available at the offices of the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, 941-946 Estate Williams Delight, Frederiksted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Written comments on the proposed project can be mailed to DHS-FEMA Region II, Mitigation Division, Attn: EHP, Floor 13, 26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278 or emailed to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov.

Thanks,

Catherine M. Dluzak

Historic Preservation Specialist

FEMA Region II

212-680-8825 (desk)

609-508-2475 (BB)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

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Caveats: NONE

Dluzak, Catherine

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

Mr. Knutson,

Thank you for your comments (dated 6/17/15) regarding FEMA's St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Below please find information detailing how FEMA has addressed the EPA's comments.

1. FEMA has verified that the pipeline will not encroach on the Nature Conservancy's property.
2. FEMA revised Section 5.2.1 to address the comment regarding development of the vacant parcels.
3. FEMA coordinated with the VIWMA and the existing walls will be rehabilitated but due to the high traffic location, the manhole will not be raised. FEMA also addressed this in the climate change section.
4. FEMA added a recommendation in Sections 5.1.2, 5.7.2, and the conditions to address concerns with invasive species.

If you have any additional questions please let me or Jose Ayala, Environmental and Historic Preservation Specialist, know. Again, we thank you for your response.

Thanks,

Catherine M. Dluzak
Historic Preservation Specialist
DHS-FEMA, Region II
26 Federal Plaza, 13th Floor
New York, NY 10278
212-680-8825 (desk)
609-508-2475 (BB)

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

Mr. Sasso,

Thank you for your comments (dated 7/23/15) regarding FEMA's St. Croix Coastal Interceptor Relocation Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Below please find information detailing how FEMA has addressed the Corps comments.

1. FEMA has revised the scope of work for Alternative I to reflect the updated work methodology when demolishing the manholes (to include the concrete capping of the manholes, demolition by hand, and disposal of remnants upland.
2. VIWMA contacted the EPA regarding protocols required by that agency when abandoning a sewer line in place inside the waters of the US. The EPA made VIWMA aware that they will need to comply with the EPA regulation on solid and hazardous waste as defined in 40 CFR 261. FEMA will add this as a condition in the EA.
3. FEMA has notified the agencies of the revised Alternative I and the agencies have all concurred that the original determinations stand.

If you have any additional questions please let me or Jose Ayala, Environmental and Historic Preservation Specialist, know. Again, we thank you for your response.

Sincerely,

Catherine M. Dluzak
Historic Preservation Specialist
DHS-FEMA, Region II
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212-680-8825 (desk)
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