LEGAL NOTICE
Town Of Lancaster

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain and a Wetland - Town of Lancaster, New Hampshire

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

The Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) intends to fund the following Proposed Action under the Catalyst Program. NBRC will prepare an 8-Step Decision-Making Process review in compliance with Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management) as amended by EO 13690 (Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input), which established a more protective standard for evaluating flood risk to ensure projects funded by the Federal government are more resilient to the impacts of flooding. Additionally, NBRC will adhere to EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), which established a more protective standard in order to avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands, as well as to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands where there is a practicable alternative.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to replace 0.5 miles of water and sewer infrastructure in Lancaster, New Hampshire. This work will occur on Summer Street between Indian Brook (44°29'54.0" N 71°34'04.3" W) and Page Hill Road (44°30'21.4" N 71°34'04.9" W). Classified as a 'gap' project; the waterline replacement will connect two (2) improved ends of water infrastructure and dovetail a 2025 Federal Highway Administration (FHA) project to redesign the Route 3 N intersection for a safer flow of traffic. By upgrading the current cast iron main and lead joints, this project will protect drinking water quality and reduce the frequency of necessary repairs. This project will also enhance fire suppression ability by upgrading service connections to hydrants while diminishing the occurrences of inflow and infiltration in aged sewer mains. Site work will include grinding existing pavement, trenching, replacing existing water and wastewater, and repaving. Replacement of one culvert that does not intersect or impact wetland areas or streams will improve runoff. There is an optional installation of a sidewalk due to demand from nearby property owners. Because this project is an in-kind replacement of existing waterlines, there will be little to no additional disturbance within the existing roadway. No additional vegetation other than that within the right-of-way will be removed.

The Federal Food Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain was defined using the 1-percent annual chance floodplain (1 PFA), also known as the 100-year floodplain. Using the regional FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), NBRC has determined that a portion of the proposed action is mapped within the limits of the 100-year floodplain or the 1 PFA. The current water infrastructure being replaced is underground; therefore, the Proposed Action will occur below the elevation of the FFRMS floodplain. Accordingly, NBRC has determined that the project's footprint exists in an FFRMS floodplain and warrants an analysis under the 8-Step Decision-Making Process.

The wetland information for the Proposed Action was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetland Inventory (NWI) database. Using the NWI database, a portion of the project area is mapped to overlap a permanently flooded riverine wetland, Indian Brook. Because the current water infrastructure being replaced is underground, through the Indian Brook bridge, this portion of the project exists within proximity to the wetland. Accordingly, NBRC has determined that the project's footprint exists in a mapped wetland and warrants an analysis under the 8-Step Decision-Making Process.

This notice provides people who may be affected by the Proposed Action and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment with an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts.

Comments should be submitted by email to nepa@nbrc.gov. NBRC is accepting comments on this notice from May 1, 2024, through the end of the day of May 15, 2024.

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Lancaster Land Use Department
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