

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Draft Statewide Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DSPEA)
Emergency Beach Berms
FEMA-4393/4465/4568-DR-NC

In accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act* (NEPA) of 1969, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DSPEA) for the proposed construction of emergency beach berms at the Towns of Oak Island, Brunswick County, North Topsail Beach, Onslow County, and Surf City, Pender County, North Carolina.

The DSPEA has been prepared in accordance with all requirements of NEPA, in which all federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 (“Floodplain Management”) and EO 11990 (“Protection of Wetlands”), FEMA is required to consider alternatives, and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. The DSPEA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences of the proposed action. The DSPEA is available for review and comment and can be viewed on and/or downloaded from FEMA’s website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/region/4>.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Sub-Applicants: Town of North Topsail Beach, Town of Oak Island, and Town of Surf City

Project Titles: FEMA-DR-4393-NC PW 00963 PN 75068 – Emergency Dunes;
FEMA-DR-4393-NC PW 01583 PN 93894 – Temporary Sandberm Restoration;
FEMA-DR-4393-NC PW 02767 PN 73665 – Emergency Berm
FEMA-DR-4465-NC PW 00424 PN 139085 – Emergency Beach Berm

Location of Proposed Work:

Applicant	Start GPS	End GPS
Town of Oak Island	33.9129, -78.2285	33.9025, -78.0750
Town of North Topsail Beach	34.5296, -77.3445	34.4739, -77.4587
Town of Surf City	34.4459, -77.5103	34.3905, -77.5964

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone: These projects are for the placement of compatible sand sourced from either commercial upland sources or by offshore dredging, along the Applicant's shoreline to construct an emergency berm to protect against 5-year flood events. All work is located in a VE zone, or 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard with additional hazards due to storm-induced velocity wave action. Confirmation of location in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) was determined by the respective County's Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The actions are functionally dependent on their location within the floodplain and proximity to water, as well as facilitates open

space use. The proposed work conforms to all applicable State of North Carolina and local floodplain regulations. The proposed work will take place in wetlands per the United States Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory but will have little negative impact on wetland values.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The Towns are requesting funds to place compatible sand along the pre-disaster dune line to construct a berm to provide protection to improved property from 5-year flood events. Further purpose for these actions is to provide habitat to multiple threatened and endangered species and provide a quality beach which supports the tourism industry of coastal North Carolina.

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (no action alternative): If no action is taken to repair this facility, sand would not be placed to construct emergency beach which would adversely impact social and economic resources for the community by leaving improved property unprotected.

Alternative #2 (emergency beach berm): Contracts will be utilized to place compatible sand sourced from either commercial upland sources or by offshore dredging, to be placed along Applicant's shoreline to construct an emergency berm to protect against 5-year flood events.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comment period will conclude 30 days after the initial publication of this Public Notice on **xxxxxxxx, 2021**. If no substantive comments are received, the DSPEA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final. Substantive comments received will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to:

FEMA Region 4
3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road
Atlanta, Georgia, 30341

Alternatively, comments may be emailed to: FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Please send comments with the subject line [DR-4393-NC BERM SPEA COMMENT].

POSTED ON: (*insert posted date*)

End of Notice