



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NORFOLK DISTRICT
FORT NORFOLK
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CENAO-EX

27 May 2026

SUBJECT: Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Virginia Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study, Virginia Beach, Virginia (EISX-202-00-E4P-1763993292)

AGENCY: U.S. Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Virginia Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) plans to prepare an Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (IFR/EIS) for the Virginia Beach Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ) Feasibility Study. The primary purpose of the study is to investigate the feasibility of managing coastal storm risks to Virginia Beach, Virginia, from hurricanes and other storms with their associated storm surge and coastal flooding. This feasibility study will formulate and evaluate plans to address the CSRМ problems and opportunities throughout the City of Virginia Beach. This notice announces USACE's intent to determine the scope of the issues to be addressed and identify the significant issues related to a proposed action.

DATES: Scoping comments may be submitted until June 30, 2026.

ADDRESSES: The public is invited to submit NEPA scoping comments to Justine Woodward, Department of the Army, USACE Norfolk District at Fort Norfolk, 803 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510 or via email: vbcsrm@usace.army.mil. The project title, Unique ID: EISX-202-00-E4P-1763993292, and the commenter's contact information should be included with submitted comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Justine Woodward, (757) 201-7728 or via email at justine.r.woodward@usace.army.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

USACE is issuing this notice pursuant to NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq., and the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq., as implemented by Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations (36 CFR Part 800). The study authorities include: Section 1201(9) of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, dated January 3, 2018 (Public Law 115-270); Section 201 of the Water Resources and Development Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-260); and Section 216 of the Flood Control

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Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611); and continuing authority to re-evaluate ongoing beach renourishment projects. The study is authorized to identify long-term solutions to minimize risk attributable to coastal storms through the potential project's 50-year authorization. The Study Area includes the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia. The Study Area also includes any material borrow areas, if determined necessary for the project, located within federal waters of the Outer Continental Shelf that are not within the boundaries of Virginia Beach. The focused Study Area is separated into seven different Planning Areas to help streamline plan formulation and numeric modeling exercises. The Planning Areas include the following designated areas: Little Creek, Lynnhaven, Rudee, Sandbridge, Back Bay, Southern Rivers, and Elizabeth River. Additionally, risk management measures for Critical Infrastructure within the Planning Areas will be considered.

The study will investigate the feasibility of addressing storm surge risks to vulnerable populations, property, and infrastructure, throughout Virginia Beach, and develop and evaluate various alternatives comprised of measures to manage those risks and improve the city's resilience against damaging storm surge.

Several alternatives are currently being considered, including a no action alternative and various combinations of structural and nonstructural measures for managing risks and damages caused by coastal storms in the Study Area in Virginia Beach. Structural measures being considered include floodwalls, levees, and storm surge barriers at various inlets. Nonstructural measures being considered include elevations of residences, and flood-proofing of non-residential buildings and critical infrastructure. Natural and hybrid infrastructure are also being considered in the study.

Effects to be considered include but are not limited to the following: temporary and permanent social effects of structural and nonstructural measures on low-lying communities with a high risk of vulnerability to storm surge; potential primary or secondary effects on nearshore benthic resources and threatened/endangered species, Essential Fish Habitat, and other benthic and aquatic resources, water quality, hydraulics and hydrology; temporary and or permanent effects on recreational use; effects on cultural resources; air quality; and other relevant social and environmental effects.

USACE is the lead federal agency and the City of Virginia Beach is the non-federal sponsor for the study effort. Cooperating agencies may include the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service.

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ANTICIPATED PERMITS AND OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS: USACE anticipates that the following permits or authorizations will be required: water quality certification pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a federal consistency determination pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, and leases from BOEM for use of offshore borrowed areas (if determined necessary). Coordination with environmental agencies will be conducted under the Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other federal and state laws and regulations.

SCOPING PROCESS: An in-person public scoping meeting was held on October 13, 2022 and virtual office hour sessions were held via Webex on October 18, 2022 and October 22, 2022. Two virtual public webinars were held on December 12 and December 16, 2024, respectively. In-person public engagement opportunities were held throughout the City of Virginia Beach during the weeks of February 3-8, 2025 and January 26-29, 2026. Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, and the public are invited to provide scoping comments on alternatives and effects, including any relevant information, studies or analyses. Scoping comments will be accepted until June 30, 2026. For more information, including planned public engagement opportunities, refer to the project website at: <https://www.nao.usace.army.mil/VBCSRM/>. All comments received during the scoping period are being used to consider additional measures and alternatives, significant resources, and impacts that should be considered in the EIS. Additional comments received outside the scoping period will be considered prior to the Draft EIS public review period, to the extent possible. For comments that cannot be addressed prior to the public review period, those comments will be included with the public review period comments on the draft EIS and addressed at that time.

SCHEDULE: USACE estimates that the Draft IFR/EIS will be available for public review and comment in late 2026 and early 2027. At that time, USACE will provide a public review period for individuals and agencies to review and comment on the Draft IFR/EIS. USACE will notify all interested agencies, organizations, and individuals of the availability of the draft document at that time. A Final IFR/EIS is anticipated in late 2027.

Sonny B. Avichal, PE
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding