

**EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED
ACTIVITY IN A WETLAND**

September 5, 2014

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups & Individuals

This is to give notice that the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on behalf of the Responsible Entity, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA), has determined that the following proposed action under the Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Program is located in a wetland. Because the project is located in a wetland, NJDEP will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the wetland and the potential impacts on the wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The RREM program assists eligible applicants whose homes were damaged by Superstorm Sandy to complete the necessary work to make their homes livable and compliant with floodplain, environmental, and other State and local requirements. The RREM program is intended to supplement other funds the owner has received to repair or reconstruct the structure. RREM provides grants to eligible applicants up to \$150,000.

Proposed Action: RREM Program Project Number RRE002829R: The reconstruction of the one-unit residential structure located at 1374 Railroad Avenue, Manahawkin, Ocean County. The structure was damaged as a result of Superstorm Sandy. The existing structure would be demolished and replaced with a new one-unit residential structure. Approximately 0.21 acres of the 0.23-acre parcel, in which the project is located, is within a tidal saltmarsh, based on the NJDEP Coastal Wetlands Map Name Bay Side, Map Number 301-2124 and a site reconnaissance conducted July 16, 2014.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public education tool. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the harm associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by NJDCA on or before September 20, 2014. NJDCA encourages electronic submittal of comments at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>. In the alternative, comments may be submitted on paper to: Stacy Bonnaffons, Assistant Commissioner, Sandy Recovery Division, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 by September 20, 2014. The Notice can be viewed at NJDCA during the hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Further information can be found on the Department's web site at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

Bob Martin, Commissioner, NJDEP