



Civil Works Branch

Public Notice

Alaska District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date MAY 9 2003 Identification No. ER 03-04
Please refer to the identification number when replying.

COASTAL STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION

DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT BARROW, ALASKA

To All Interested Parties:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Alaska District is conducting a study to determine the feasibility of constructing storm damage reduction measures at Barrow, Alaska.

The city of Barrow is an isolated community on the Arctic Ocean at the northern tip of Alaska. Barrow is the economic center for the North Slope Borough with a population of 4,400 residents, the majority of which are Inupiat Eskimo. The community infrastructure at risk from storm damage, shoreline erosion, and flooding consists of roads, a utilidor, and a sewage lagoon along with public and private structures. The utilidor stretches more than 3 miles and contains sewage, water, and power lines, and communication facilities for the community. Beach erosion threatens over 1 mile of the utilidor and a low-lying beach road that separates Barrow's sewage lagoon from the sea and provides the only access to the former naval Arctic Research laboratory.

The public is invited to help us identify important cultural and natural resources the project might affect, such as archeological or historical sites, shorebird habitat, Steller's eider (a threatened sea duck) nesting habitat, near shore marine resources, and wetlands. Your comments will be used to identify issues for the environmental impact statement (EIS) that will be prepared and associated studies that will be conducted. The EIS will consider the needs of the community to protect their infrastructure and the need to avoid significant adverse impacts to the critical arctic environment and traditional subsistence activities. Scoping meetings will be held this summer. The first meeting will be held on June 12, 2003 in Barrow. A meeting notice and agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting.

An enclosed map identifies the project area. Alternatives considered include the placement of sands and gravels suitable for beach nourishment along up to 5 miles of beach, elevation of coastal roadways, and other structural and non-structural alternatives identified during scoping and subsequent studies. The initial nourishment would require a large quantity of suitable material. Viable borrow sources have not been identified.

Please submit your comments to Ms. Lizette Boyer by June 1, 2003. You can reach Ms. Boyer of our Environmental Resources Section by calling (907) 753-2637, by fax at (907) 753-2625, e-mail: Lizette.P.Boyer@poa02.usace.army.mil, or at the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District
ATTN: CENPA-EN-CW-ER (Boyer)
P.O. Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898



Guy R. McConnell
Chief, Environmental Resources Section

Enclosure