

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency
In accordance with 44 CFR §9.8 for Executive Orders 11988 & 11990
Proposed Reservoir Resiliency Improvement Project
Brick and Wall Townships, Monmouth and Ocean Counties, New Jersey

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority as subrecipient for a proposed project to harden the upper slopes of a manmade raw water reservoir in Monmouth and Ocean Counties, NJ. The project would be funded through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive (PDMC) Grant Program. The purpose of the PDMC Grant Program is to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on federal funding in future disasters. This notification is given in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order (EO) 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and 44 CFR Part 9, regulations for implementing EO 11988-11990.

The proposed mitigation project would involve hardening the sloped surfaces of the Brick Township Reservoir, which is an 860-million-gallon raw water reservoir used by the public water supply that serves Brick and several surrounding municipalities. This improvement will be done from elevation 80-95 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) of sloped surface and includes removing most of the sand cover layer within the repaired zone, installing a geotextile layer to stabilize the remaining sand, and backfilling with gravel and stone to protect and weigh down the geotextile.

This action would take place within a lake wetland habitat. Alternatives considered include: 1) taking no action 2) installing a three-dimensional grid composed of cells that confine and compact soil (a GeoWeb system), which would sit atop a gravel cover layer and a layer of permeable, synthetic textile material known as geotextile 3) using triple-layer geocomposite, which is a multi-layered combination of geosynthetic material, coupled with drainage tubes 4) installing an impervious layer over the existing sand cover layer with gravel cover 5) adding cement pieces to the existing sand cover layer or, 6) the proposed alternative, which is installing a geotextile layer backfilled with gravel and stone. FEMA has determined that the proposed alternative is the most practicable to prevent surface erosion and degradation of the reservoir. FEMA has also determined that investment of funds to stabilize the slopes of the reservoir is in the public interest. Potential impacts to water quality or aquatic habitat are anticipated to be temporary during construction, and minimized through best management practices and conservation measures incorporated from resource agency recommendations and required regulatory permits.

Comments about this project, potential alternatives, and floodplain impacts may be submitted in writing within 15 days of the date of this publication to: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region II – Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, Mitigation Division, One World Trade Center, Suite 53, New York, NY 10007 or via email to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov. If substantive comments are received, FEMA will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental documentation for this project.