

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A
PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA) FOR
SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECTS**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announces its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for shoreline stabilization measures (proposed action) on the Great Lakes in the States of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. The PEA will evaluate shoreline stabilization measures eligible for FEMA grant funding. The notice is being published pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, and other applicable environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice); 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 11988 (Floodplain Management), since the proposed action has the potential to affect historic, cultural and archaeological resources, low-income and minority populations, floodplains, wetlands, and threatened and endangered species.

Shoreline erosion can have substantial consequences on nearby structures and environmental resources. Fluctuations in water levels on the Great Lakes have resulted in increased rates of bluff recession and beach loss, associated risks to nearby structures, as well as the loss of wetlands and habitat. The purpose of shoreline stabilization measures is to mitigate erosion hazards in nearshore areas. FEMA will evaluate the proposed action to ensure that it meets all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local requirements for these activities.

The PEA will address the purpose and need of the proposed action, project alternatives considered (including the No Action alternative), affected environment, environmental consequences, and impact mitigation measures. The proposed actions include the installation of stone revetments, groins, offshore breakwaters, beach nourishment projects, and implementation of bioengineering techniques. Bioengineering techniques use native vegetation and other suitable plant species with structural components to stabilize and reduce erosion along a shoreline.

A comment period to solicit input on the scope of the analysis including the purpose and need, alternatives, and potential impacts will remain open for 30 days following publication of this notice. Once completed, the draft PEA will be available for public review and comment. FEMA will announce a final comment period through a notice of availability for the Draft PEA.

Interested persons may provide comments or obtain more detailed information about the PEA by contacting Duane Castaldi, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region V, 536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60605-1521; or by email at Duane.Castaldi@fema.dhs.gov. The public; local, state, tribal, and federal agencies; and other interested parties are invited to provide comments on the purpose and need of the proposed action, alternatives, potential environmental impacts, and measures to reduce those impacts.