

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. What is the comprehensive study and what is it not?

A1. The North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS) will identify risk areas; a diverse set of structural, non-structural and programmatic risk reduction and coastal resiliency measures; benefits; planning-level costs; institutional barriers; and areas and activities warranting further analysis. The results will enable projects and programs to proceed in an integrated way such that the costs and benefits of near-term and long-term implementation can be realized in a regional and systematic context. It is important to understand however, that the study will not result in a list or set of projects ready for design and construction.

Q2. How were the impacted areas defined and ranked?

A2. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) used hurricane surge data and the physical effect of storm damage data to define and rank impacted areas.

Q3. Does the study cover the entire coastline for Sandy- impacted areas or only for U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) project areas?

A3. The study covers only tidally influenced Sandy-impacted areas (as defined by FEMA) within the boundaries of the USACE North Atlantic Division which spans from Maine to Virginia.

Q4: How are other federal, state and local agencies being incorporated into the study?

A4: There are many opportunities for incorporating agency input. Technical subject matter experts from various agencies have been embedded in the study teams. There will also be a website to collect survey input for the study and where regular updates will be posted. Before and after the release of the draft report, webinars to support interactive agency collaboration will be made available.

Q5: What type of review will the comprehensive study undergo?

A5: The comprehensive study will under Quality Control (QC), Agency Technical Review (ATR), Independent External Peer Review (IEPR), and agency and public review.

Q6: Will the geographical information system (GIS) data from the study be available to state and local agencies?

A6: Yes, GIS data compiled for the comprehensive study will be packaged into a geo database that will be provided to the states.

Q7: How is the comprehensive study expected to influence ongoing activities?

A7: USACE envisions stronger coordination and collaboration among agencies with their ongoing and planned data collection, study development and implementation of recommendations.

Q8: What is the role of the Rockefeller Foundation?

A8: The Rockefeller Foundation may assist USACE in organizing and facilitating a series of collaborative workshops. These workshops are still in the planning phase and dates have not been announced.

Q9: What are the effects of sea level rise combined with storm surges?

A9: This will be assessed as part of the study.

Q10: How aware are the people in the affected communities of potential risks?

A10: This will become known as coordination and engagement with the public, local and state agencies continues.

Q11: Will there be a comparison of the cost to protect coastal communities to justify their existence?

A11. No specific cost-benefit ratios at a community level will be calculated.

Q12: Does the comprehensive study look at retreat and if so, how drastically?

A12. The comprehensive study will look at a very large and diverse set of structural, non-structural and programmatic risk reduction and coastal resiliency measures, including retreat.

Q13: Will the comprehensive study predict precipitation out into the future?

A13: The study will forecast future conditions and anticipated changes, incorporating risk and uncertainty, as appropriate.

Q.14 Are we envisioning that this is an opportunity for cities and states to bring up strategy recommendations (e.g. 2100 report)?

A14. Yes, this study is a great opportunity for collaboration and sharing information.

Q15. Has the study project management plan been completed and can it be shared?

A15. The draft project management plan and scope of work were submitted to USACE headquarters and approved for interagency coordination March 2013. The project management plan and scope of work can be shared once the implementation guidance has been finalized.

Q16: Is Congress willing to provide funds for beach nourishment?

A16: It is not appropriate for USACE to speculate on how Congress might act with respect to funding for beach nourishment.