**DRAFT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (continuous expansion)**

**Q1: What is the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive study and what is it not?**

A1: The North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS) will not result in a list or set of projects ready for design and construction. The coastal framework will identify risk areas; a diverse set of structural, non-structural and programmatic risk reduction and coastal resiliency measures; benefits; parametric costs; institutional barriers; and areas and activities warranting further analysis. This 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 systems context.

**Q2: How were the impact areas defined/ranked?**

A2: The County Impact Assessment was completed by the FEMA Modeling Task Force (MOTF) and includes a composite of surge, wind, precipitation, and snow impacts from Hurricane Sandy. The data is publicly available on the web (<http://fema-data.esri.com/GISData/MOTF/Hurricane%20Sandy/FEMA%20MOTF-Hurricane%20Sandy%20Products%20README%2004182013.pdf>).

**Q3: Does the study cover the entire coastline for Hurricane Sandy impacted area or only for USACE project areas?**

A3: The study covers tidally influenced, Hurricane Sandy-impact areas (as defined by the FEMA impact analysis and NOAA Sandy storm surge extent) in the USACE North Atlantic Division (the area 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 and tribal input.

* Interagency subject matter experts provided input to the NACCS scope of work and have been embedded in the technical teams,
* An Interagency Collaborative Webinar Series was launched to facilitate input on specific topics,
* A public website ([www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy](http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy)) was set up with opportunities to provide input on resiliency and to sign up for a subscribe list,
* Two federal register notices were published soliciting input and peer reviewed data sets,
* Extensive media and agency engagements have been accepted to provide information, presentations, and panel discussion representation,
* Several of the draft analyses were shared with state and tribal stakeholders for verification prior to being incorporated into the NACCS, and
* In early 2014, there will be an interagency review period for detailed validation of analyses.

**Q5: What opportunities will be available for public input?**

Public participation is critical to comprehensive coastal risk reduction and resiliency. Across the extensive geographic area of the NACCS, public input is being solicited through the following forums:

* A public website ([www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy](http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy)) was set up with opportunities to provide input on resiliency and to sign up for a subscribe list,
* Extensive media and agency engagements have been accepted to provide information, presentations, and panel discussion representation,
* USACE has established and maintained state-by-state (including DC and NYC) communications and is using public input provided to the state agencies as input to the NACCS, and
* Community-level engagement and interagency visioning will be stated as critical to preparing for future risk reduction and regional resiliency at a local and site-by-site scale.

**Q6: What type of review will the comprehensive study undergo?**

A6: The Comprehensive Study will undergo internal Document Quality Control (DQC), Agency Technical Review (ATR), and interagency and subject matter expert review.

**Q7: Will the GIS data from the study be available to the States/localities?**

A7: Yes, GIS data compiled for the NACCS (minus sensitive data) will be available as a geodatabase to our stakeholders and partners.

**Q8: How is the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study expected to influence ongoing activities?**

A8: USACE envisions stronger and more transparent coordination and collaboration among agencies when planning and implementing risk reduction and resiliency measures into the future. Any interim products or data completed as a result of the NACCS will be immediately available on the NACCS website ([www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy](http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy)) for use by our partners in their efforts and initiatives. These interim products will be shared prior to the final report being processed.

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

A9: It is anticipated that this combination of events will exacerbate coastal flooding and will be assessed, in detail, as part of the study.

**Q10: How aware are people in the communities of the potential risk?**

A10: This will become known as coordination and engagement with the public, local and state agencies and tribal communities continues. Strategic communications will be developed with the States, DC, and NYC.

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

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

**Q12: What models will be utilized to complete the NACCS?**

A12: The NACCS will utilize existing model outputs from the Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) to present the inundation from CAT 1-4 maximum of maximum for risk identification. Additionally, existing floodplain delineations obtained from FEMA as it relates to the 100-year floodplain will be included in the study, which include water surface elevations obtained from various coastal hydraulic models including the ADvanced CIRCulation (ADCIRC) model. As part of the NACCS, USACE will develop updated ADCIRC modeling from VA to ME to establish a baseline model from which future detailed investigations would use and apply to a site-specific study location.

**Q13: Does the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study look at retreat and if so, how drastically?**

A13. 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. Combinations of measures may be appropriate and the level of application of the measures will be the decision of state and local entities.

**Q14: Will the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study predict precipitation out into the future?**

A14: The study will forecast future conditions and anticipated changes, incorporating risk and uncertainty, as appropriate.

**Q15: Are we envisioning that this is an opportunity to bring up strategy recommendations that come through New York City and State (e.g. New York State 2100 Report)?**

A15: Yes. It is important that this study be consistent with, and inform, ongoing plans and strategies by others.

**Q16: The slides show that the PMP was due on March 15, 2013. Is this already completed? Can it be shared?**

A16: A summary of the scope of work is available on the NACCS website (www.nad.usace.army.mil/CompStudy).

**Q17: Are there any studies being conducted to look at rebuilding higher and/or stronger?**

A17. There are many ongoing initiatives and studies by other agencies. Each study has its charge and/or goals and may include looking at a range of rebuilding options.

**Q18:** **Is there less willingness of Congress to provide funds for beach nourishment?**

A18: USACE cannot speculate on congressional intent to fund, or not, specific projects or mission areas.