Pursuant to Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, and Executive Order 11990, *Protection of Wetlands*, the United States Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that the Navy is conducting an evaluation of a proposed action which may involve activity in a floodplain and wetland to determine the potential effects that its activity would have on the human and natural environment. The Navy will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetland and the potential impacts from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990.

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, located in Escambia County, Florida, has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. The proposed action is to complete repairs on various components of hurricane damaged structures and facilities throughout the NAS Pensacola complex. This notice includes the repairs to or replacement of electrical systems and facilities, stormwater infrastructure, seawall infrastructure, boardwalks, bridges, and boat piers, docks and basins. As required by EO 11988 and EO 11990, a more detailed description of the proposed action is available below.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Interested parties may submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM Central Time on November 27, 2021 by email to joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than November 27, 2021 to:

Naval Air Station Pensacola
Joelle O’Daniel-Lopez, NEPA Program Manager
310 John Towers Road, Building 3560
Pensacola, FL 32508
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola, located in Escambia County, Florida, has been recovering from the effects of Hurricane Sally since landfall occurred on September 16, 2020. The proposed action is to complete repairs on various components of hurricane damaged structures and facilities throughout the NAS Pensacola complex. This notice includes the repairs to or replacement of electrical systems and facilities, stormwater infrastructure, seawall infrastructure, boardwalks, bridges, and boat piers, docks and basins. Individual project component details are provided below.

SUBSTATIONS

Hurricane damage assessments indicate that several unit substations were identified as damaged or compromised during Hurricane Sally. Fourteen substations will be replaced as part of this project. This portion of the project includes, but is not limited to, constructing new concrete equipment pads with ground loop, new concrete-encased duct banks, new substation and equipment pads, new 15kV cables spanning from each unit substation to the nearest manhole, new 480V or 208V feeders from each unit substation to service equipment, wireless power measurement equipment, and electrical connections. In addition, the existing damaged wireless power measurement equipment, unit substations, concrete equipment pads, 15kV cables, 480V or 208V feeders, and underground duct banks will be demolished and removed. This provides a long-term permanent solution for replacing unit substations by replacing failing substations with modern units capable of withstanding the harsh conditions prevalent to NAS Pensacola.

OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

The overhead electrical systems provide electricity throughout NAS Pensacola. Electrical Assessment Surveys indicate that hurricanes have compromised the NAS Pensacola overhead power distribution system and a large percentage of existing electrical poles need replacement, repairs to equipment on the poles, and vegetation cleaned and cleared around the base of the poles. This portion of the project includes, but is not limited to, replacement of 235 electrical poles, repair of 255 electrical poles, and vegetation clearing around 157 poles. The repair and replacement of these power poles and equipment will provide a more functional and secure utility power source for many facilities on the base and help the utility system sustain future storms.

UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

The underground electrical distribution system provides electricity throughout NAS Pensacola. Electrical Assessment Surveys indicate that hurricanes have comprised the NAS Pensacola underground power distribution system and that certain existing manholes, handholes, and underground circuits need replacement. Repairs to manholes and handholes include, but is not limited to, evacuation of water from manholes, removal and disposal of abandoned paper insulated lead covered cables, cable capping, installation of missing cable circuit tags, replacement of missing cable rack insulators, reracking of circuit cables, and installation of bonding jumpers. Manhole replacement includes, but is not limited to, excavation for duct banks and manholes, dewatering of trench areas and manholes, installation of concrete covers, core drilling of manholes for conduit penetrations, installation of PVC for duct banks, installation of grounding conductors, installation of concrete duct banks, installation of cables, backfilling and compacting of open trenches and around manholes, and replacing asphalt in roadways.
This work will replace damaged and end-of-life underground electrical distribution system equipment and also help the utility system sustain future storms.

AIRFIELD ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Electrical Assessment Surveys indicate that hurricanes have compromised the NAS Pensacola underground power distribution system, including a portion of the NAS Pensacola airfield underground electrical distribution system. This portion of the project will modernize a portion of the airfield lighting circuit with new ethylene propylene rubber-insulated conductors installed in a new underground concrete encased duct bank with pad mounted sectionalizing cabinets and manholes. The existing airfield lighting cable was originally installed in 1955 when the airfield was constructed. Since the original installation, the cable has failed and been repaired several times. This will provide a more functional and secure utility power source for the airfield lighting and improve the reliability of the airfield lighting and navigation systems to enhance flight safety.

OVERHEAD POWER TO UNDERGROUND

Electrical Assessment Surveys indicate that hurricanes have compromised the NAS Pensacola overhead power distribution system. This portion of the project will replace an existing overhead circuit with an underground circuit. This particular circuit has reached the end of its useful life and, in severe weather, experiences damage that results in curtailments to electric service to the U.S. Coast Guard Station and Fuel Farm. This is one of the longest circuits on NAS Pensacola and consists of 167 electrical poles. This will replace damaged and end-of-life overhead electrical distribution system equipment with underground systems and provide a more functional and secure utility power source for many facilities on the base. This upgrade will also help this utility system sustain future storms.

SUBSTATION M AND SUBSTATION E FEEDER

Substation M is the main electrical substation for NAS Pensacola and feeds all substations on the installation. Substation E is one of five electrical substations fed from Substation M by two 15 kV circuits in one underground direct buried duct bank system. This portion of the project will install a new reinforced concrete duct bank between Substation M and Substation E and demolish and replace concrete/asphalt at all places where the duct bank runs under sidewalks and roads. This will increase the resiliency of the electrical distribution system by separating the circuits that provide power from Substation M to Substation E into separate pathways and provide greater reliability for the power feed.

STORMWATER

Hurricane Sally caused widespread damage from high winds, rainfall induced flooding, and riverine and coastal erosion to several areas throughout the base, including stormwater systems that act as critical stormwater collection systems at various locations throughout NAS Pensacola. Damage assessments following the hurricane identified specific stormwater infrastructure areas needing repair or replacement. This portion of the project will replace existing damaged structures in-kind, with similar systems, incorporating current standards to restore the performance and improve the reliability of existing stormwater systems at selected locations that were damaged by Hurricane Sally.
Charlie Pier provides large ship mooring capability at NAS Pensacola and requires necessary repairs due to damage caused during Hurricane Sally. This portion of the project consists of in-kind repair and replacement of two storm damaged concrete access trestle spans to the mooring bollards located at the southern end of the Pier Allegheny at NAS Pensacola. The work includes, but is not limited to, repair of the existing access trestle, replacement of missing access trestle spans, repair of damaged concrete overlay and along the bottom of existing access trestle spans, removal and disposal of access trestle spans from bay bottom, and replacement of guardrails and lighting.

SEAWALL NORTH OF ALPHA PIER (B302C)

The seawall located north of Alpha Pier retains fill and provides shoreline protection and stabilization and requires necessary repairs due to damage caused by Hurricane Sally. This portion of the project consists of the backfill, regrading, and protecting of the uplands behind the existing concrete seawall located north of Pier Alpha and along Pensacola Bay at NAS Pensacola. The work includes, but is not limited to, removal and disposal of approximately seven existing concrete mooring blocks, clearing of debris, placement of rock rip rap armor stone over bedding layer over geotextile filter fabric, and seeding of areas without armor stone.

NAVY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER JET BOAT DOCK

The Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Jet Boat Dock requires repairs due to damages caused by Hurricane Sally. The structure is used by the NOSC for the berthing of small jet boats. This portion of the project consists of the removal and replacement of the damaged gangway located between the bulkhead and the floating jet boat dock located in the Bayou Grande Sailing Marina. The work includes, but is not limited to, removal and disposal of the existing damaged gangway and bulkhead hangers, removal and replacement of damaged fabric canopy over the entrance gate, and construction of new gangway, including new bulkhead hanger pivots.

SEAWALL

The Seawall is approximately 5,860 feet in length and was originally constructed in 1924 to retain fill and provide shoreline protection and stabilization. Repair of the Seawall is necessary due to damages caused by Hurricane Sally. Damages from Hurricane Sally consist of damaged sidewalks, upland scour and erosion, damage to the concrete seawall, and damaged lighting. The work for this portion of the project includes the repair or replacement of damaged sidewalk sections and pavers, repair of damaged concrete seawall, addition of rubble riprap between seawall and sidewalk, grading and seeding of scoured areas between the seawall and sidewalk, replacement of damaged lighting, and repair of a damaged brick wall. In addition, work for this portion of the project includes removal and disposal of potentially contaminated soil and repair of damaged monitoring wells.

NAVAL AIR TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER BOARDWALKS

The Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) boardwalks consist of two boardwalks which serve as a Nature Trail and Beach Walkover and beach access from nearby NATTC facilities and barracks. This portion of the project consists of the in-kind repair and replacement of the storm damaged boardwalks.
Works includes, but is not limited to, removal and replacement of damaged timber posts, guard rails, deck planks, access stair/ramp, and foundation posts, caps, and deck stringers.

RV BOARDWALKS

The RV boardwalks consist of three boardwalks which serve as beach access from the nearby RV facilities to the beach. This portion of the project consists of the in-kind replacement of the storm damaged boardwalks. The work includes, but is not limited to, complete removal of the damaged boardwalks, including posts and debris and in-kind replacement of each boardwalk, ramps, and railings.

COTTAGE BOARDWALKS

The Cottage boardwalks consist of five boardwalks which serve as beach access from nearby facilities to the beach. This portion of the project consists of the in-kind repair and replacement of the storm damaged boardwalks. The work includes, but is not limited to, complete removal and replacement of portions of boardwalk, including posts and debris, boardwalk inspections, removal and replacement of damaged railings, removal and replacement of damaged deck boards, and removal and replacement of sand fence.

GOLF COURSE CART BRIDGE

The golf course cart bridge is located about and under the main gate bridge at NAS Pensacola and spans a waterway to provide golf cart access to the areas of the golf course located on either side of Duncan Road. Replacement of the golf course cart bridge is necessary due to damages caused by Hurricane Sally. This portion of the project consists of removing and replacing the existing storm damaged golf course cart bridge. The work includes, but is not limited to, complete removal of the existing bridge, including foundation piles, replacement of the bridge along similar alignment, and construction of ramps from the existing adjacent concrete pathways to the bridge.

MAIN GATE BRIDGE

The main gate vehicular bridge provides access to NAS Pensacola across Bayou Grande. Repair of the main gate bridge is necessary due to damages caused by Hurricane Sally. This portion of the project consists of the repair or in-kind replacement to damaged portions of the pile cap cheek wall.

SMALL BOAT BASIN AND ROCK JETTY (SBB JETTY)

The small boat basin is a berthing area for small vessels and serves as a parking and staging area for the Port Operation Building and the rock jetty, originally constructed circa 1900, is located at the southwest end of the quay wall. Repair of the small boat basin is necessary due to damages caused by Hurricane Sally. This portion of the project consists of repairs to the stone block quay wall (or bulkhead) about the small boat basin and the replacement of the adjacent jetty. The work includes, but is not limited to, removal and replacement of damaged masonry mortar joints, repair of damaged stone blocks, replacement of missing blocks, repaving of the damaged asphaltic concrete apron, repairs of sinkholes and erosion, repair of concrete base of light poles, removal and replacement of the jetty, and construction of battery-powered, solar-charged navigation hazard lighting along the top of the jetty.
QUAY WALL

The quay wall serves as a temporary berthing facility for visiting vessels and other support craft and is in need of repairs due to damages caused by Hurricane Sally. This portion of the project consists of repairs to the concrete cap, recoating of the bulkhead, and the replacement of the existing timber fender system along the full length of the quay wall.

PIER BRAVO 303B

Pier Bravo is used as a berthing facility for U.S. Coast Guard vessels and other visiting vessels and is in need of repairs due to damages caused by Hurricane Sally. This portion of the project consists of repairs to the timber piles, repairs to open holes in the sheet piles, and the backfill and paving of sinkholes located behind the bulkhead. A hurricane damaged unit substation located on Pier Bravo will also be replaced as part of this project, including demolition of the existing unit substation, concrete equipment pad, cables and feeders and construction of a new concrete equipment pad, new concrete-encased duct banks, secondary switchgear, new substation, new 15kV cables, electrical connections, and electrical meter. This will replace the failing unit substation with modern equipment capable of withstanding the harsh conditions prevalent to NAS Pensacola.

SUBSTATION A AND B ROOFS

Substation-A consists of one structure used to house switchgear equipment and Substation-B consists of three free-standing structures used to house switchgear equipment, miscellaneous storage, and battery storage. Repairs to these structures are necessary due to damages caused by Hurricane Sally. The work for this portion of the project includes, but is not limited to, removal of temporary roof covering and existing metal roof assembly and flashing, removal and re-installation of wall-mounted lighting fixtures, antenna, or security cameras, removal of standing seam metal roof assembly, and construction of permanent seam metal roof assembly and associated flashing and soffit.

Restoring these structures and facilities to fully functional conditions is essential to meeting military mission requirements for NAS Pensacola. The Navy is proposing the action in a floodplain because repair and in-kind replacement of the existing structures and facilities is the most cost-efficient, feasible, and least destructive alternative for restoring these structures to fully functional conditions. If no action is provided, the above structures would continue to deteriorate and eventually become inoperable. This will incur extra costs and negatively affect military missions. Repair and in-kind replacement of the existing structures and facilities is the most cost-efficient alternative, will ensure that short and long-term military mission requirements are met, and allow for minimal effects to the floodplain and the natural environment.

Interested parties may submit written comments no later than 5:00 PM Central Time on November 27, 2021 by email to joelle.odaniellopez@navy.mil or by mail postmarked no later than November 27, 2021 to:

Naval Air Station Pensacola
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