



North Carolina Department of Public Safety

Office of Recovery and Resiliency

Roy Cooper, Governor
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Laura H. Hogshead, Director

EARLY NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

MAXTON SEWER LIFT STATION GENERATORS FOUR EXISTING SEWER LIFT STATIONS IN MAXTON, ROBESON COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA 28364 JUNE 7, 2023

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) has received an application from Robeson County to use Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding from the Infrastructure Recovery Program to implement the Town of Maxton Sewer Lift Station Generators (hereinafter, the “Proposed Activity”) and is conducting an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 in accordance with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations (24 CFR Part 55). There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, to provide the public an opportunity to express their concerns and share information about the Proposed Activity, including alternative locations outside of the floodplain. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains facilitates and enhances governmental efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

The State of North Carolina was adversely impacted by the landfall of Hurricanes Matthew (October 8, 2016) and Florence (September 14, 2018). Hurricane Matthew caused widespread power outages in Maxton and throughout Robeson County causing functional failures at all eleven sewer lift stations, which resulted in waste back-ups throughout the Town’s sewer system due to the lack of auxiliary power availability at the sewer lift stations. The presence of auxiliary power capability at even four of the lift station sites would have offset the harmful effects of primary power loss; however, the Town did not have generators, either fixed or mobile, available for use, until days following the storm. These four sewer lift stations have been prioritized as sites requiring auxiliary power sources and automatic transfer switching (ATS) capability. The generators will provide auxiliary power at the four sewer lift stations during power outages, such as those experienced during Hurricane Matthew. Providing this critical infrastructure will ensure

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 110465
Durham, NC 27709



Phone: (984) 833-5350
www.ncdps.gov
www.rebuild.nc.gov

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that sewage treatment may continue in the event of loss of primary power and alleviate severe threats to public welfare during and after future storm events.

The Proposed Activity entails the purchase of four generator packages, including integrated diesel fuel tanks, ATS, wiring connections, electrical panels, mounting pads, and generators and installation at Maxton Sewer Lift Station (SLS) No. 5, at 303 N. Hooper Street; SLS No. 7 at 904 US 74 BUS; SLS No. 10 at 627 NC Highway 71N; and SLS No. 11 at 2074 NC Highway 71N in Maxton, NC 28364. SLS No. 7 is the only site where the existing fence will be extended to accommodate the generator placement. At all sites, generator equipment will be placed on concrete pads above surrounding ground elevation with SLS No. 11 improvements placed at least two feet above base flood elevation (BFE).

The Proposed Activity will result in temporary impacts to 0.03 acres of 100-Year Floodplain and permanent impacts to 0.002 acres of 100-Year Floodplain. These impacts will include site preparation and installation of the ATS adjacent to the new control panel and circuit breaker equipment, 6 feet above-grade, and connected to the generator equipment set via underground conduit. The generator package and electrical panels and circuitry will be mounted on a steel frame 2 feet above BFE. The steel frame will be mounted on steel posts, anchored 4 feet below current grade. Electrical connections from the control panel and ATS equipment will be made at the terminating panels within the lift station via underground conduit, installed by directional drilling. The Proposed Activity will comply with a Floodplain Development Permit and all applicable federal, State and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements and conditions which shall be obtained before commencing work. Floodplains are beneficial by providing natural moderation of floods, surface water quality maintenance, groundwater recharge, diverse wildlife habitat, cultural resources (archaeological, historic, and recreational), and agricultural, aquacultural, and forestry resources. The Proposed Activity is occurring at regularly maintained, mowed parcels with fenced-in sewer lift stations. Due to the previous, significant site modification including fill and development for the sewer lift station, there will be minimal impacts on the natural and beneficial functions and values of the 100-Year Floodplain at SLS No. 11. The project activities at SLS No. 11 will not result in additional fill within the 100-Year Floodplain.

Floodplain maps based on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and Preliminary FIRMs are available for review at <https://www.rebuild.nc.gov/about/plans-policies-reports/environmental-reviews>. A full description of the Proposed Activity may also be viewed in person, by appointment only, at: NCORR, 200 Park Offices Drive, Durham, NC 27709. Call (984) 833-5350 to make an appointment.

Written comments must be received by NCORR at the following address on or before June 22, 2023: Laura Hogshead, Director, NCORR, ATTN: Maxton Sewer Lift Station Generators, P.O. Box 110465, Durham, NC 27709. Comments may also be submitted by email to publiccomments@rebuild.nc.gov with “ATTN: Maxton Sewer Lift Station Generators Comments” in the subject line.