

THE RESILIENCE DART

Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience Disaster Awareness Report

February 2, 2015

The Parsons Brinckerhoff Resilience DART (Disaster Awareness Report) summarizes key developments related to resilience planning and design across the US, including the region affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Parsons Brinckerhoff's Resilience Information Center: A website established by Parsons Brinckerhoff allows users to track congressional, regulatory, and federal agency funding developments pertaining to Superstorm Sandy and resilience programs. The site provides links to the final Sandy bill, notices of funding availability and funding allocations, Federal Register notices, fact sheets on agency Emergency Relief programs, testimony from Sandy implementation hearings, etc. The website can be accessed via the following link:

http://www.pbtransportationupdate.com/legislation/resiliency_issues_and_hurricane.aspx

State of Affairs:

Washington, DC/National/International

- The recently completed North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS), which has been submitted to Congress, examines coastal flood risks and evaluates a range of strategies to help communities manage those risks (link below).

<http://www.nad.usace.army.mil/compstudy>

- Following the 2015 State of the Union address, the Obama Administration is taking steps to allocate 12 million acres of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, along with four Alaskan rivers, as "wilderness areas" not subject to oil and gas development, while opening up new resources in the Gulf of Mexico (links below).

<http://www.rtcc.org/2015/01/27/obama-bans-oil-drilling-in-9-8-million-acres-of-arctic-ocean/>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/21/us/climate-change-us-obama/index.html>

http://enr.construction.com/policy/washington_observer/2015/0126-critics-blast-obama-plan-to-limit-leasing-in-arctic-refuge.asp

- The Obama Administration's proposed guidelines for how climate change should be considered within the environmental review process may impact the process for reviewing natural gas pipelines (link below).

<http://www.eenews.net/tv/videos/1931/transcript>

- FEMA is seeking applications for its Youth Preparedness Council, which provides opportunities for youths to share ideas on how to make the US more resilient (link below).

<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2015/01/21/fema-encourages-young-people-join-youth-preparedness-council>

- Scientists at the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts and a senior scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research have linked global warming with Sandy and with the violent storms that are becoming more common (link below).

<http://www.wired.com/2015/01/global-warming-blizzard-worse/>

- FEMA administrator Craig Fugate, testifying to the House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee on emergency management, highlighted the importance of rebuilding damaged areas with a risk model that reduces the vulnerability of people and infrastructure (link below).

<http://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/politics/2015/01/27/fema-head-rebuild-wisely-disasters/22431003/>

- Federal funding has been awarded to repair damage Sandy caused to the South Nassau Communities Hospital, an essential facility to the Long Beach community, under FEMA's Alternative Procedures, providing a lump-sum payment rather than incremental funding (link below).

<http://www.longisland.com/articles/01-23-15/funding-for-long-beachs-south-nassau-communities-hospital.html>

Regional (New York/New Jersey/Connecticut/Boston)

- Some Jersey Shore residents are convinced that resiliency measures put in place after Sandy helped lessen the impact of the recent winter blizzard (link below).

http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2015/01/lessons_from_sandy_lessened_impact_from_blizzard_d.html

- New Jersey is preparing to demolish hundreds of homes damaged by Sandy whose owners have not been able to demolish or repair the structures themselves (link below).

<http://www.dailyjournal.net/view/story/924c13ba6fb448a6b50b5eee084702ce/NJ--Sandy-Home-Demolitions/>

- A flood mitigation proposal for the Hoboken area that received an award under the Rebuild by Design competition remains on hold, until funds are disbursed to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (link below).

<http://hudsonreporter.com/bookmark/26406429-DEP-Hoboken-flood-barriers-7-to-10-years-away-br-font-size-2-i-Levees-could-reach-as-much-as-16-feet-above-sea-level-font-i-br->

- New Jersey's energy resilience bank has \$150 million dollars in resiliency projects in the pipeline and \$65 million in the funding pool, and applications are still coming in (link below).

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/01/22/water-wastewater-plants-waiting-to-tap-into-energy-resilience-bank/>

- Public meetings have begun on a Rebuild by Design project for a Manhattan flood protection system ("the Big U"). Related projects include studying integrated coastal protection measures at Hunts Point and improving resiliency at Staten Island University Hospital (link below).

http://ny.curbed.com/archives/2015/01/20/plan_to_protect_manhattan_from_sandy_20_moves_forward.php

Contact:

Parsons Brinckerhoff provided immediate support to help clients and communities in the New York metropolitan area recover and rebuild after Superstorm Sandy, and is currently participating in a range of projects to mitigate the effects of extreme weather and build resilience in the region. For information on the firm's activities and capabilities, please contact:

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