

CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER QUALITY: A FEDERAL OVERVIEW



Norfolk Drone Video and Photography
9/12/2020



WETLANDS
WATCH

WWW.WETLANDSWATCH.ORG

Chesapeake Bay Commission
May 6, 2021



Overview

Wetlands Watch – Norfolk, VA- based, work statewide on sea level rise/flooding/climate change.

Work with local governments – responsible for land use decisions but also integrate/administer numerous federal programs.

US Army Corps of Engineers

FEMA – NFIP and Hazard Mitigation Assistance

NOAA – data and funding

DoD – Joint Land Use Study and Assistance

Federal Programs Lag in Considering Future Conditions

Only USACE in its Civil Works Division construction programs considers future conditions = sea level rise.

A “Federal Flood Risk Standard” that went beyond today’s 100-year floodplain was proposed and started on but it was repealed (2017).

FEMA

Risk Rating 2.0 just released

- First update of risk rating for insured properties for 50 years.
- Will result in rate changes:
 - MD – 61% lower premiums/36% up to \$120 increase
 - PA – 30% lower premiums/56% up to \$120 increase
 - VA – 45% lower premiums/48\$ up to \$120 increase

FEMA

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

- 6% set aside of disaster funds to be used to do pre-disaster flood mitigation. FY 20 - \$500 million.
- Has broader eligibility than traditional FEMA HMA programs – can be used to address future conditions.
- Takes sophistication to apply. Low-resource communities may have problems.

USACE

Major funder of flood control projects but...

\$90 billion in approved projects and only \$2 billion/yr. in appropriations.

Series of storm surge studies underway (3x3x3) leading to projects to protect against storm surge damage (but not flooding from normal storms, increased rainfall, etc.)

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, S. 1811, With Amendments

(The amendments strike all after the enacting clause and insert a new text and a new title)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1811

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2019

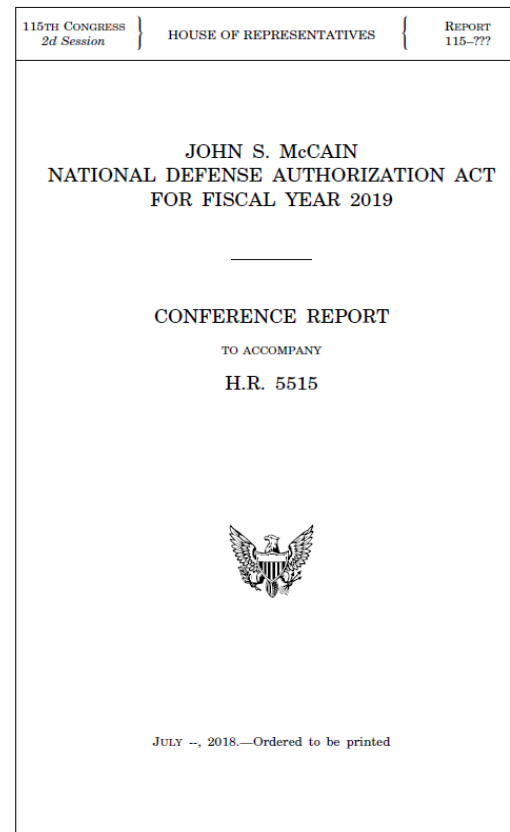
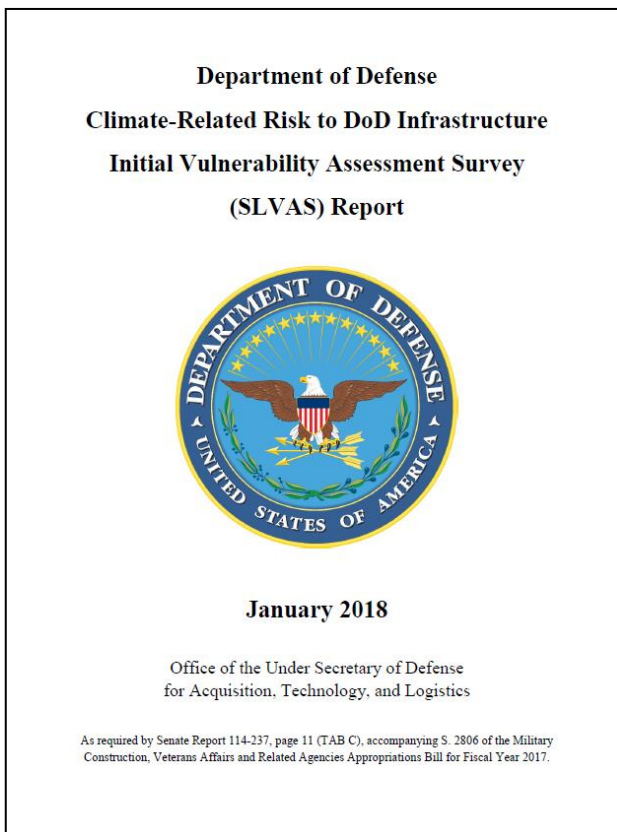
Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

AN ACT

To make technical corrections to the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

Department of Defense



Department of Defense

SEC. 2805. UPDATES AND MODIFICATIONS TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FORM 1391, UNIFIED FACILITIES CRITERIA, AND MILITARY INSTALLATION MASTER PLANS.

“(e) (8) MILITARY INSTALLATION RESILIENCE.— The term ‘military installation resilience’ means the capability of a military installation to avoid, prepare for, minimize the effect of, adapt to, and recover from extreme weather events, or from anticipated or unanticipated changes in environmental conditions, that do, or have the potential to, adversely affect the military installation or essential transportation, logistical, or other necessary resources outside of the military installation that are necessary in order to maintain, improve, or rapidly reestablish installation mission assurance and mission-essential functions.”

f) ADJUSTMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION ASSISTANCE FOR RESPONDING TO THREATS TO THE RESILIENCE OF A MILITARY INSTALLATION

(Makes threats to resilience eligible for Office of Economic Assistance programs – Joint Land Use Studies, etc.)

Department of Defense

SEC. 2861. DEFENSE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT PROGRAM.
(Grant program with a 70/30 match)

“... to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of a military installation, if the Secretary determines that such assistance will enhance the military value, **resilience**, or military family quality of life at such military installation. “

The term ‘community infrastructure’ means any transportation project; school, hospital, police, fire, emergency response, or other community support facility; or water, waste-water, telecommunications, electric, gas, or other utility infrastructure project that is located off of a military installation and owned by a State or local government.

\$50 million in FY 20, \$60 million in FY 21.

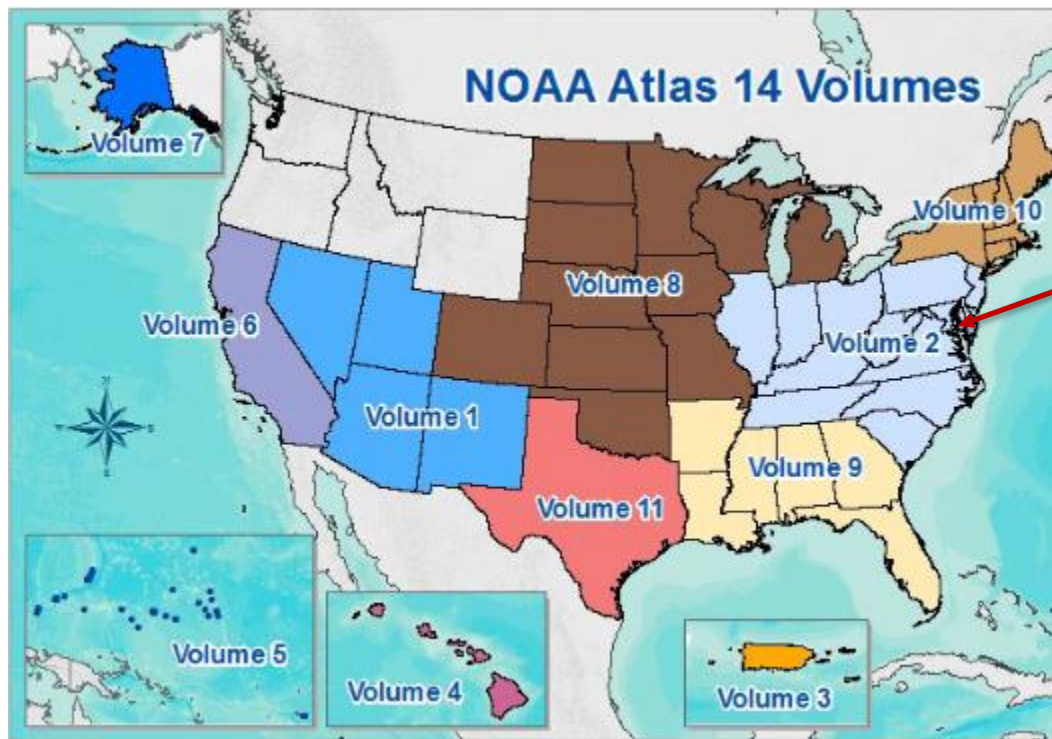
Department of Defense

SEC. 2865. DEFENSE ACCESS ROADS RELATING TO CLOSURES DUE TO SEA LEVEL FLUCTUATION AND FLOODING.

"(i) Beginning in fiscal year 2019, funds appropriated for the purposes of this section shall be available to pay the cost of repairing damage caused to, and for any infrastructure to mitigate the risks posed to, highways by recurrent flooding and sea level fluctuation, if the Secretary of Defense shall determine that continued access to a military installation has been impacted by past flooding and mean sea level fluctuation."

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Atlas 14 – provides standards for rainfall for use in stormwater systems = design storm.



National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Atlas 14 out of date ~ 20% increase in rainfall intensity over last 15 years.

VA, MD, DE, and NC are paying \$1.1 million to have Atlas 14 updated and VA is paying for new Intensity, Duration, and Frequency data (paid for with blend of funds including Chesapeake Bay Program).

Unknowns

Biden Administration regulatory/administrative actions? FFRS?

Congressional Action? Short window until mid-term politics stop action (if not already)!

State Action may be best avenue to make progress.

Flooding has shifted from policy debate to a constituent issue – taking politics out?

