

**WASTEWATER SYSTEM REPAIR IN A FLOODPLAIN**  
**ON THE**  
**NOOKSACK INDIAN RESERVATION**

DATE POSTED: 30 May, 2023

**BACKGROUND:** The Indian Health Service proposes repairing the wastewater system serving six homes on Martin Road. The septic tanks will be repaired or replaced and the drainfield rehabilitated under Indian Health Service Project Number PO-12-B65.

**FLOODPLAIN ASSESSMENT & DETERMINATION:** Four (4) of the existing six (6) homes located in the housing area are located in the 100-year floodplain based on Federal Emergency Management Agency hazards maps. Three (3) of the same four (4) homes are also located within the Federal Regulatory Floodway.

The septic tanks serving the four homes are located below the 100 year-floodplain allowing flood water and sediment to enter them. When this occurs the materials are pumped to the drainfield. The drainfield does not work properly with the materials building up in the leach lines. The drainfield is not located in the floodplain. It is on higher elevation land about one quarter mile away.

A section of 2-inch buried sewer forcemain, approximately 540-ft in length will be installed to allow effluent to be pumped from homes to the drainfield. The forcemain will be located within the floodplain.

The project will replace the current drainfield piping at the drainfield location. Some vegetative growth at the surface above the drainfield will be removed as well.

No fill material will be imported or exported during this project so there will be no net change in the floodplain storage volume or flow restrictions created. The site will be returned to existing surface contours following construction. No effect to the floodplain is anticipated from this wastewater system rehabilitation.

It has been determined this project qualifies for a streamlined class review because the actions are similar to other actions IHS has reviewed and determined there will be no adverse impact on floodplain values, persons or property will not be put at risk, and development will not be increased or encouraged.

**EXECUTIVE ORDER REQUIREMENT:** As required by Executive Order 11988, a floodplains assessment was undertaken to assess the impacts that the proposed action may have on floodplain values. While the assessment revealed that the project is within a floodplain, a determination was reached that the proposed action would have no effect on floodplain values whether directly, indirectly, or cumulatively. The project will not have any adverse effects on natural and beneficial floodplain values and will not result in a change in flood risks. This determination was reached based on a review of FEMA floodplain map and existing land use. As a result of this determination, further consideration of floodplain values has been deemed outside the scope of this document.

Any comments or concerns regarding this determination should be provided no later than June 30, 2023 to:  
Indian Health Service, Olympic District Office, Attn:

Roger Hargrove, District Engineer

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