

Welcome

to the U.S. Coast Guard's

Public Meeting

We appreciate your involvement in tonight's meeting.

Thank You!

Search and Rescue

The U.S. Coast Guard is recognized as a worldwide leader in search and rescue.

Coast Guard Accomplishments:

- ✓ Saves 5,000 lives annually
- ✓ Responds to 60,000 calls per year
- ✓ Protects more than 78 million boaters using U.S. waterways
- ✓ Responsible for 95,000 miles of coastline
- ✓ Enforces laws, prevents terrorism and security threats
- ✓ Represents a world-class rescue organization

Search and Rescue

The U.S. Coast Guard is recognized as a worldwide leader in search and rescue.

Mission:

Search and Rescue (SAR) is one of the Coast Guard's oldest missions. To meet this mission, the Coast Guard's SAR response system uses multi-mission stations, cutters, aircraft, and boats linked by a complex communications network.

Goals

- Minimize loss of life, personal injury, and property loss and damage.
- Improve search and rescue using technology and education.
- Maintain world leadership in maritime search and rescue.

Search and Rescue

The U.S. Coast Guard is recognized as a worldwide leader in search and rescue.

Search and Rescue and Law Enforcement (LE) Incident Statistics

	Shinnecock	Montauk	Fire Island	Jones Beach		Total
	SAR / LE	SAR / LE	SAR / LE	SAR / LE	TOTAL SAR	SAR / LE
2001	144 / 237	105 / 100	437 / 129	329 / 17	247	1262 / 483
2002	185 / 611	97 / 183	404 / 171	284 / 74	276	1246 / 1039
2003	167 / 420	102 / 185	342 / 152	251 / 192	191	1053 / 949
2004	170 / 468	144 / 186	345 / 184	209 / 145	174	1042 / 983
TOTAL	666 / 1736	448 / 645	1528 / 636	1073 / 428	888	4603 / 3454

Search and Rescue

The U.S. Coast Guard is recognized as a worldwide leader in search and rescue.

Hoaxes hurt everyone:

- ***Those really in distress*** at sea by interfering with legitimate search and rescue cases
- ***The taxpayer*** by wasting hundreds of thousands of dollars annually
- ***The U.S. Coast Guard*** by placing our people in danger by operating ships, boats, and aircraft in response to these false distress calls

Tower Site Selection

STEP 1

DETERMINE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATION



- ✓ For coastal areas, communications shall extend 20 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline
- ✓ Bounded area percent coverage for each region shall be $\geq 98\%$ with no exclusion zones.

Tower Site Selection

STEP 2

INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF CO-LOCATION ON EXISTING TOWER

- ✓ Identify all registered towers in region.
- ✓ Perform 2-level screening process:

1 Data Screening

Search for height & frequency/
antenna compatibility.

2 Field Screening

Visual screening for
acceptable site.

Existing towers eliminated due to:

- ✓ structural overload
- ✓ frequency interference at required height
- ✓ no room at required height
- ✓ owner unwilling to lease space

Tower Site Selection

STEP 3

IF CO-LOCATION IS IMPOSSIBLE, LOOK FOR AVAILABLE LAND

Considerations: Construction Cost; Long-Term Maintenance Cost; and Implementation Difficulty.

Best Choice Land already owned by Coast Guard

Next Choice Other federally owned land

Next Choice Private land to lease

Last Choice Acquire new land

Tower Site Selection

Existing Towers At Shinnecock Considered for Co-Location

Tower Option	Height	Screening Evaluation
ASR # 1056731 Owner: Barnstable Broadcasting	325 ft	Existing guyed tower is not structurally sound. Implementation would require building a taller 400-ft self-support tower.
ASR # 1014849 Owner: American Tower Corporation	325 ft	Does not meet coverage objectives. No space on tower. RF interference issues.
ASR # 1004116 Owner: SBA Towers	579 ft	There is no available space on the tower. RF interference issues.
Legacy HLS Shinnecock Owner: USCG	200 ft	The tower is not tall enough to meet the coverage objective and cannot be extended to the height required.
ASR # 1003627 Owner: CSC Acquisition	360 ft	Does not meet coverage objectives.
ASR # 1003630 Owner: CSC Acquisition	326 ft	Site is located too far east. Does not meet coverage objectives.
ASR # 1002509 Owner: Long Island Light	420 ft	Site is located too far north. Does not meet coverage objectives.
ASR # 100270 Owner: NYNEX	263 ft	Does not meet coverage objectives.

What is NEPA?

NEPA – Created to safeguard our nation's environment.

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires Federal Agencies to ***integrate environmental values*** into their decision-making process
- To meet this requirement, the U.S. Coast Guard prepared an ***Environmental Assessment***

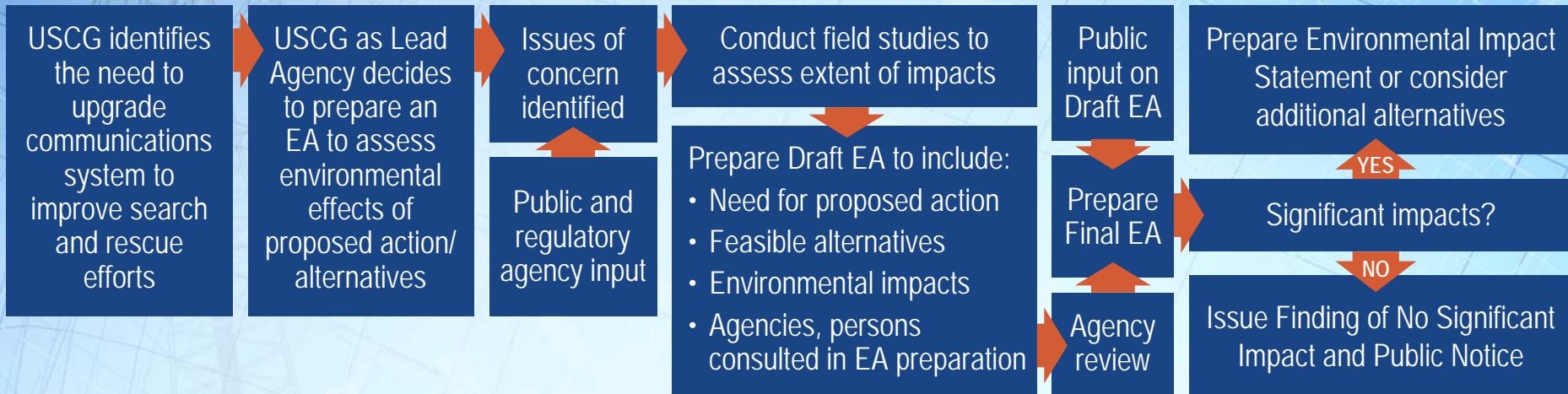
What is NEPA?

NEPA – Created to safeguard our nation’s environment.

- NEPA also requires the agency to ***involve the public***
- The Coast Guard ***invites the public to provide comments*** and information that will assist them in assessing the full range of impacts associated with our project

What is NEPA?

NEPA – Created to safeguard our nation’s environment.



RFF Shinnecock

Siting Considerations

What we consider:

- Environmentally sensitive areas
 - ▶ Wetlands and endangered species habitat
- Cultural resources
 - ▶ Historic and archaeological properties
- Other
 - ▶ Existing utilities, septic, etc.

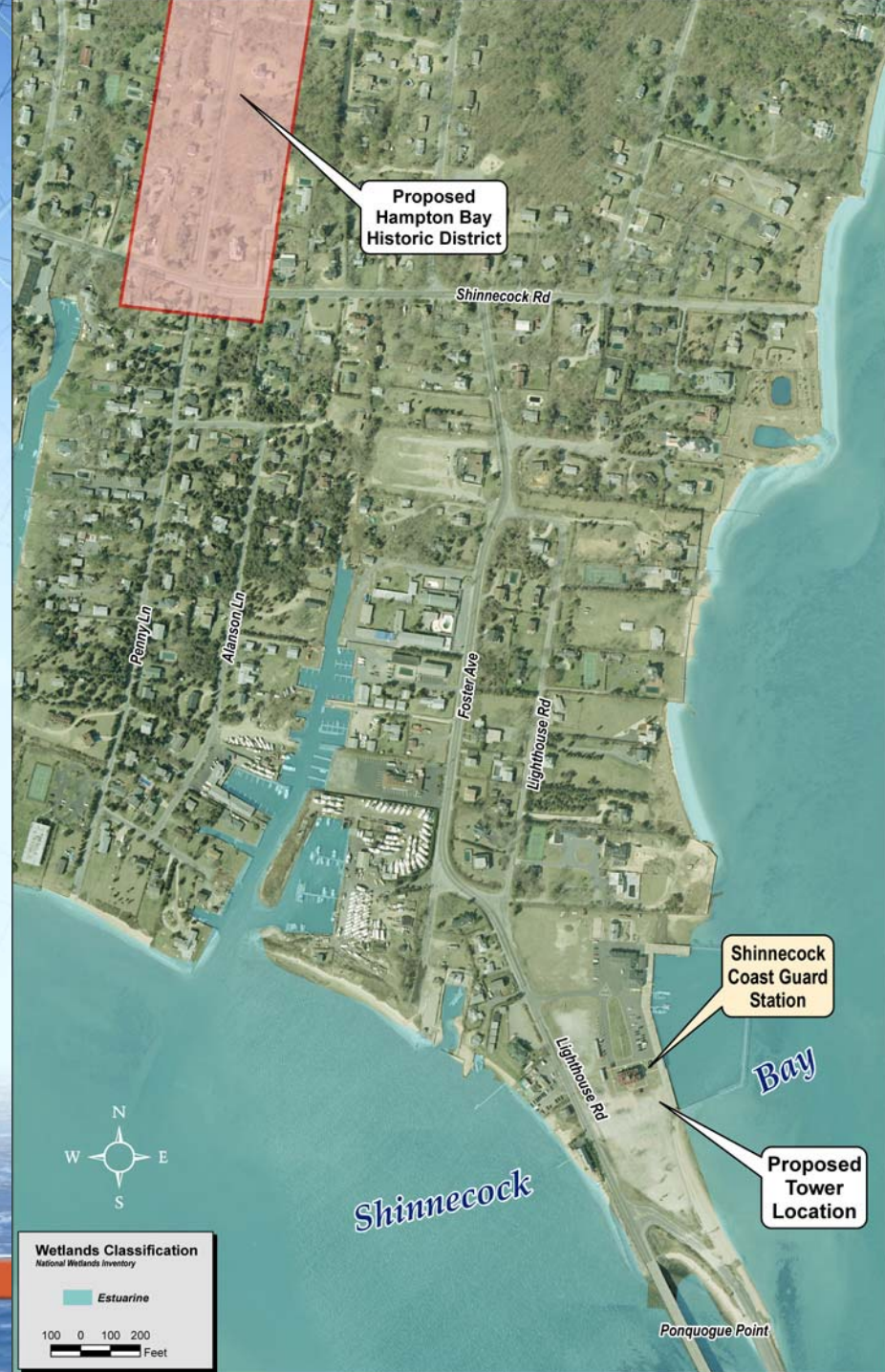
RFF Shinnecock

Siting Considerations

How we lessen environmental impact:

- Identify sensitive areas
- Avoid direct impact
- Coordinate with natural resource agencies to identify protection measures

RFF Shinnecock Siting Considerations



Wetlands Classification
National Wetlands Inventory



Environmental Assessment Impact Evaluation

- Natural, cultural, and socio-economic resources are evaluated:
 - ▶ Wetlands
 - ▶ Cultural resources
 - ▶ Endangered species
 - ▶ Radiation
 - ▶ Visual impacts

Environmental Assessment Findings

Proposed Tower at Shinnecock

RESOURCE AREA	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
Radio Frequency Radiation	Proposed RFF Shinnecock would generate radio frequency radiation; however, the tower would not substantially increase radio frequency radiation in the project area. As a result, no human health effects are expected to occur.
Wildlife	No significant habitat loss or conversion would result from the Proposed Action. RFF Shinnecock would present a potential risk for collisions to migratory birds; however, the tower height would be below the threshold generally thought to pose the greatest risk. Additionally, in accordance with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding, the Coast Guard would implement all reasonable measures to avoid affecting migratory birds.
Threatened and Endangered Species	There is a remote possibility that a protected bird could inadvertently fly into the tower; however, the probability of such an event is so small that it is not considered a significant impact.

Environmental Assessment Findings

Proposed Tower at Shinnecock

RESOURCE AREA	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
Wetlands	Construction would occur within 300 feet of a regulated tidal wetland; however, no impacts to this wetland are expected. A permit would be obtained from the New York Department of Environmental Conservation for this project. Best management practices would be implemented to prevent soil from being transported to wetlands in the area.
Floodplains	Construction would occur within the 100-year floodplain; however, this development would not be considered a significant encroachment and the Proposed Action is not expected to have an effect on upstream or downstream floodplains. Communications equipment would be elevated to prevent flood damage.
Cultural Resources	No impact. If unanticipated archaeological resources are discovered, the Coast Guard would consult with the NY State Historic Preservation Officer regarding appropriate treatment measures.

Environmental Assessment Findings

Proposed Tower at Shinnecock

RESOURCE AREA	POTENTIAL IMPACTS
Recreation	The Proposed Action would have a positive impact on marine recreational users by ensuring a more reliable and efficient response by the Coast Guard in emergency situations. The tower would be visible from local parks and beaches; however, no significant adverse impacts are expected.
Visual Resources	The proposed tower would be visible to residents and visitors in the vicinity of the project area. Tower lighting may pose a slight visual distraction during twilight and nighttime hours.
Coastal Zone	No impact. The Proposed Action is consistent to the extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the New York Coastal Management Program.

Visual Impact

Of Proposed Tower at U.S. Coast Guard Station Shinnecock

Looking south
toward Station
Shinnecock.

NOTE: These photos
show representative visual
impacts. The visual
impacts within a one-mile
area of potential effects
are evaluated in detail in
the Environmental
Assessment.



SAVING LIVES IN THE 21st CENTURY



Visual Impact

Of Proposed Tower at U.S. Coast Guard Station Shinnecock

Looking northeast across Shinnecock Bay from Beach Road.



NOTE: These photos show representative visual impacts. The visual impacts within a one-mile area of potential effects are evaluated in detail in the Environmental Assessment.