

December 28, 2015

Mr. Adam Turner
Executive Director
Martha's Vineyard Commission
33 New York Avenue
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557

Re: **DRI 659 – North Bluff Seawall**

Dear Mr. Turner:

Pursuant to public questions received at and since our MVC DRI hearing last Thursday (12/17/15), please accept this letter in response to your questions received on Wednesday (12/23/15). The responses to these questions are based on the information contained in the CLE project plans and specifications dated October 7, 2015 and recent LUPC & DRI submittals to the MVC and were prepared in collaboration with the Town of Oak Bluffs.

On behalf of the Town of Oak Bluffs and in support for the proposed replacement of an authorized seawall and revetment and the improvement of an existing shoreline path along the North Bluff beach, please see the below stated responses.

DRI 659 - North Bluff Seawall – Post Public Hearing (1) Questions 2015-17-15

1. The project was originally going to take 2 years, then 1, and now it can be done in 6 months. How did that happen?
Pursuant to a request from DCR Waterways in September 2014 to design a more efficient seawall project. CLE proposed a steel alternative sheetpile design with a reduced construction duration of 34 weeks. Northern Construction confirmed by contractor project submittal dated November 18, 2015 their schedule for substantial completion by June 30, 2016.
2. Did FEMA ever come to the conclusion that the wall had “failed”?
The FEMA PW dated October 17, 2013 references the DCR letter dated August 9, 2013, concurs with the condition of the concrete seawall and provides funding for the replacement of said seawall.
3. Has anyone ever asked for an extension for the grants?
I understand the Town of Oak Bluffs previously requested an extension, I further understand no additional extensions will be granted.

4. The maintenance has been estimated at up to \$7,500 a year. Do we have a statement from the DPW that they can do this type of work?

I understand the DPW will contract annual seawall maintenance services starting in FY2019.

5. If the existing concrete wall has lasted over 80 years with little maintenance and the proposed sheet metal wall has a projected life of 20-30 years with annual maintenance, how do you equate the costs?

The A-690 epoxy coated steel has a design life of 40 to 50 years. The existing concrete seawalls built in 1932 were being repaired and replaced in the 1940's. For a new seawall both the aforementioned steel and concrete alternatives have 40 to 50 year design lives.

6. What will the lampposts look like?

The boardwalk lampposts are the same as the new ones on the SSA Ferry Facility, the benches, decking and railings are the same as the OFBA Fish Pier.

7. Letters from FEMA withdrawing funds should be submitted for record.

The revised FEMA PW dated September 12, 2015 provides for a reduction in post-Sandy funding to \$113,318. The Town of Oak Bluffs is currently appealing this revised declaration.

8. The Chairman of the Planning Board said that the first evidence he could find of the sheet metal wall being discussed in public was June 2015. Is there any evidence that the sheet metal wall was discussed publically earlier than June 2015?

I checked through my schedule and noted the following meetings pertaining to the steel sheetpile seawall alternative:

- October 5, 2014: Meeting w/ DCR-Waterways to review the steel alternative in Hingham, MA.
- October 15, 2014: Meeting w/ Town of Oak Bluffs to review the steel alternative in Oak Bluffs, MA
- April 9, 2015: Meeting w/ Town of Oak Bluffs to review seawall project status and schedule.
- June 18, 2015: Amended Order of Conditions (AOOC) hearing with the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission for the steel alternative.
- June 30, 2015: Meeting w/ Board of Selectmen to review steel alternative and project status and progress.

9. What happens if the construction of the sea wall goes past June 2016?

I understand from the Town of Oak Bluffs the funding may be cut off by the state and the extended work may negatively impact the summer tourist season.

10. Can the proposal be staked out so that people can see what is proposed?

As per the CLE project specifications (Section 120-3) dated October 7, 2015, the contractor is required to retain a Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) perform a pre-construction survey and then submit a proposed project layout subject to approval by the Engineer. Once the contractor layout is approved the contractor will stake out the work and begin construction.

11. What will the wall look like between the SSA Pier and Fishing Pier?

The section between the SSA Pier and the OFBA Fish Pier will have a new stone revetment extending over the existing concrete seawall and raised along the existing path and the new Bathhouse Plaza concrete retaining wall to an elevation 12.0' NGVD29 and as shown on the CLE project plans (Section 11-1) dated October 7, 2015.

Please contact me directly (508-801-4506) if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
CLE Engineering, Inc.



Carlos G. Peña, P.E.
Vice President

Cc: Michael Santoro (Town of Oak Bluffs)
Robert Whritenour (Town of Oak Bluffs)
Elizabeth Durkee (Town of Oak Bluffs)
David Lager (NATCO)

Attachments:

- 1) FEMA PW 297 dated October 17, 2013
- 2) FEMA PW 297 dated September 12, 2015