

DESIGN FOR THE IMPACTS OF SEA LEVEL RISE (SLR)

STANDARDS ALERT

1. ISSUE: VA is required to incorporate climate change adaptation considerations into the design of its facilities. As part of this effort, VA has determined that SLR is a major threat to VA facilities.

2. BACKGROUND: In November 2013, the President signed Executive Order 13653, *Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change*. The Executive Order increases requirements for agency adaptation in response to climate change.

In response to previous climate change adaptation requirements, VA conducted a preliminary vulnerability assessment and determined that facilities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change-induced SLR.

VA's Office of Construction & Facilities Management (CFM) developing detailed guidance for adapting facilities to the impacts of climate change and SLR. This *Standards Alert* serves as interim guidance for incorporating SLR planning into major construction projects.

3. NEW STANDARD: Incorporate SLR considerations into the planning and design of construction and renovation projects. Consider alternate site locations and physical modifications necessary to reduce the threat of SLR on facilities and infrastructure. Coordinate facility planning with local and regional climate change adaptation plans.

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Sources:

[Executive Order 13653, Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change](#), Nov 2013.

[VA Directive 0065](#), Jun 2012.

[VA Policy Statement on Climate Change Adaptation](#), Jun 2011

Draft Final VA Preliminary Vulnerability Analysis, Sep 2011