

**Verbatim Excerpts from the Latest EPA Report on the Effects of Sea-level Rise on the Mid-Atlantic States (page numbers for each passage in parentheses)**

**Highlights:**

*Many coastal areas in the United States will experience an increased frequency and magnitude of storm-surge flooding and coastal erosion due to storms over the next century, in response to sea-level rise. (537)*

*In the mid-Atlantic, between approximately 900,000 and 3,400,000 people (between 3 and 10 percent of the total population in the mid-Atlantic coastal region) live on parcels of land or city blocks with at least some land less than one meter above the monthly highest tides. (331)*

*Rising sea level, combined with the possibility of an increase in the number of hurricanes and other severe weather related incidents, could cause increased inundation and more frequent flooding of roads, railroads, and airports, and could have major consequences for port facilities and coastal shipping. (357)*

*Seawalls, bulkheads, dikes, sewers and drainage systems are designed based on the waves, water levels and rainfall experienced in the past. If conditions exceed what the designers expect disaster can result \_ especially when sea level rises above the level of the land surface. (314)*

*Rising sea level can elevate the water table (ground water) to the point where septic systems no longer function properly. (520)*

*Some low-lying railroads, tunnels, ports, runways, and roads are already vulnerable to flooding and a rising sea level will only exacerbate the situation by causing more frequent and more serious disruption of transportation services. (354)*

*Short-term thinking often prevails. The costs of planning for hazards like sea-level rise are apparent today, while the benefits may not occur during the tenure of current elected officials. (495)*