

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
FOR  
CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW D'IBERVILLE HIGH SCHOOL  
HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI  
FEMA-1604-DR-MS

BACKGROUND

At the request of the Governor of the State of Mississippi, a Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1604-DR-MS, was issued due to the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005. The extraordinary storm surge associated with Hurricane Katrina caused extensive damage to the D'Iberville Middle School, located at 1000 Gorenflo Street in D'Iberville, Harrison County, Mississippi. Eight feet of water inundated the six school buildings on the campus, causing complete destruction of all interior furnishings and equipment, as well as plumbing, wiring and flooring. Due to the extent of the damages, the buildings were demolished.

The city of D'Iberville has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Public Assistance 406 funding under the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to permanently relocate the D'Iberville Middle School to the existing D'Iberville High school building located on 43 acre site on the west/northwest side of Lamey Bridge Road in Section 19, Township 6 South, Range 9 West in a rural area of Harrison County, Mississippi and to construct at the same site, as an improved project, a new D'Iberville High School. In addition Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding will be used to enhance the new high school's two story classroom wings to meet FEMA 361 Emergency Shelter requirements.

An Environmental Assessment (EA), attached, was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations ( 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) to implement NEPA, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations ( 44 CFR § 10.9) to implement NEPA. This EA analyzes the potential impacts of the construction of a new D'Iberville High School in order to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

FINDINGS

The proposed project as described in the EA was evaluated for any potential significant adverse impacts to existing land use, water resources (surface water, groundwater, waters of the United States, and floodplains), air quality, noise, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, State- and Federally-listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats, ), and cultural resources. It was also evaluated for safety and hazardous materials issues as well as for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations.

Based on the input and consultations with Federal and State resource agencies, the attached EA and other sources, FEMA has determined that the proposed project with the conditions summarized below qualifies as a major Federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the proposed project, having met the FEMA's environmental/historic

