



**FEMA**

**DRAFT**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**for**  
**HENRY FIRE STATION RELOCATION**  
**VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA**  
**FEMA-1607-DR-LA**

**BACKGROUND**

On September 24, 2005, the tidal surge from Hurricane Rita resulted in extensive damage to the Vermilion Parish Henry Fire Station (District 15), located at 6124 State Road 330 in Erath, Louisiana. The fire station is owned by the Vermillion Parish Police Jury. It consists of a pre-engineered steel building (48 feet x 62 feet) with three (3) fire apparatus bays, equipment storage, restrooms, kitchen, meeting room, and other finished space totaling 960 square feet. Brackish water inundated the building and did not recede for more than twenty-four (24) hours, resulting in interior and exterior damages to pre-finished plywood and crown molding, walls, plumbing and fixtures, electrical receptacles, floors, contents, insulation, paneling, a central AC unit, an electric breaker box, a propane tank supply line, a flagpole, a septic tank, and a water well building (plywood, electric components, and storage tank for water well). This fire station is currently being used to house three (3) fire trucks as the remainder of the station is inoperable. As a result, firefighting equipment is stored at the volunteer firefighter's residences. This arrangement causes delays in firefighter's responses to local emergencies, thereby reducing fire protection for District 15.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation of an existing fire station to a newly constructed facility and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The purpose of the proposed action is to allow Vermilion Parish Henry Fire Station (District 15) to provide effective fire protection services for the population it serves. The Vermilion Parish Police Jury has determined that a new facility, with upgrades to current codes and standards of enforcement requirements, is necessary to replace the existing Henry Fire Station. The alternatives considered include 1) No Action, and 2) Construction of a New Fire Station Relocating Henry Fire Station (Proposed Action).

The proposed project location is on a parcel currently owned by the Vermilion Parish School Board. This parcel covers an area of approximately 1.5 acres located in the northwest quadrant of the intersection Frank Road and Louisiana State Highway 331, in Erath, Louisiana, in Vermilion Parish. The parcel consists of a flat field, covered in ornamental grasses with no trees. The site is currently not in use.

The proposed action includes the construction of a new one-story structure with three (3) fire apparatus bays, equipment storages, restrooms, a kitchen, meeting room, and other finished space totaling 960 square feet, as well as installation of appurtenant structures to include a driveway, access culvert, utilities, and a sewage treatment plant. The total building area for the proposed new facility is 3,523 square feet.

Site preparation will consist of on site excavation and deposition of approximately 4,445 cubic yards of native earthen material to elevate the building pad to an elevation of 14.00 linear feet above mean sea level. The existing ground elevation is approximately 8.0 feet above mean sea level. Building construction will require excavation for footings and the installation of utilities with site grading for drainage. The entire site will be graded to prevent pooling of water on the site, and to achieve positive drainage run off. Utilities such as electrical, water, telephone and cable television are available at the site in public rights of way. Approximately 80 linear feet of trenching will be required to connect the proposed site utilities to existing utility corridors. Sewage treatment will require installation of a below grade, limited use, mechanical treatment plant (on site); this will be installed by excavating eight (8) cubic square yards of native earthen material.

#### PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

A legal notice will be posted in the local newspapers, The Abbeville Meridional Newspaper and The Baton Rouge Advocate Newspaper, and the Draft EA was made available for public review at Vermilion Parish Library and the Erath City Hall from November 8, 2007, to November 23, 2007. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the Final Public Notice.

#### FINDINGS

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources (surface water, groundwater, and wetlands), floodplains, coastal resources, air quality, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, Federally listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats), cultural resources, socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations), safety, noise, hazardous materials, and traffic. The results of these evaluations as well as consultations and input from other Federal and state agencies are presented in the draft EA. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and

reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed.

### CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize Federal funds:

- If the discharge of treated effluent from the wastewater treatment plant is to a drainage ditch that is connected to a surface water body (waters of the U.S.), then project implementation would require a permit from Louisiana Department Environmental Quality (LDEQ) water quality program under Section 401 of Clean Water Act. A storm water pollution prevention plan must be prepared and Best Management Practice's for storm water management must be implemented in accordance with Federal and LDEQ regulations to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate any detrimental effects to water quality resulting from project implementation.
- The proposed project should be coordinated with the Vermilion Parish floodplain administrator to insure compliance with Federal and local floodplain regulations and ordinances. Elevations should be in compliance with ABFE maps dated March 2006. Elevation information, signed and sealed by a licensed surveyor, engineer, or architect should be obtained and filed for verification of compliance. All permits and certificates, and all coordination pertaining to these permit(s), should be documented and provided to the local floodplain administrator, LA Governor's Office of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), and FEMA as part of the permanent project file.
- If, during the course of construction, unanticipated archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, the applicant must immediately stop work within 100 feet of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid and minimize harm to the finds. The applicant will inform their PA contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation staff. The applicant cannot proceed with work until FEMA Historic Preservation staff has completed consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Native American Tribal Representative, as appropriate. In addition, if unmarked graves are discovered, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act (R.S. 8:671 et seq.) is required. The applicant must notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four (24) hours of the discovery. The applicant must also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology by calling 225-342-8170 within seventy-two (72) hours of the discovery. Work must not begin within the area of discovery until the cultural affiliation of the remains and their ultimate disposition are determined in consultation with FEMA, SHPO, and Native American Tribal Representatives, and other interested parties.
- The contractor must comply with local noise ordinances for Vermilion Parish as stated in Vermilion Parish Code. (see Appendix C).

- All construction activities should be conducted in a safe manner, and in accordance with OSHA requirements.
- Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials should be taken, and any hazardous and non-hazardous wastes generated should be disposed of in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local requirements.

APPROVAL

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Brent Paul  
FEMA Environmental Officer  
FEMA Headquarters

Date

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Howard R. Bush, Environmental Liaison Officer  
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office  
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Date

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James Stark, Director  
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office  
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Date