

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to assist the Town of Bethel, with renovations to the Bethel Recreation Facility located at 115 Pleasant Street in Bethel, Vermont. The Bethel Recreation Facility was not directly impacted by Tropical Storm Irene, however, the Town of Bethel is utilizing FEMA's Alternate Project policy to provide funding for the renovation and expansion.

To meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate human, historic, and environmental resources that might be affected by proposed construction, mitigation or other actions associated with the renovation and expansion of the Bethel Recreation Facility. As part of its goal to ensure that good management decisions are made, FEMA invites the public to review and comment on the Draft EA and to provide FEMA with information it may not have considered in its review. If FEMA finds that the Proposed Alternative, as defined in the EA, will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment after the public comment period, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by FEMA's Acting Regional Environmental Officer, Lydia Kachadoorian. However, if a change in the scope of work occurs FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment.

Beginning on Friday October 24, 2014, the Draft EA and the Draft FONSI will be posted on the Town of Bethel's website, <http://townofbethelvt.com/> and FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/resource-document-library>. A copy of the Draft EA and Draft FONSI will also be available for public review Friday October 24, 2014, at the Town Manager's Office and Town Clerk's Office located at 134 South Main Street, Bethel, VT 05032 as well as the Bethel Public Library located at 106 Main Street, Bethel, VT 05032. Hours for the Town Manager's Office are; Monday –Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Hours for the Town Clerk's Office are; Monday and Thursday 8:00 to 4:00 pm and Tuesday and Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Hours for the Bethel Public Library are; Monday and Wednesday 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The comment period will last for twenty-one (21) days, ending on Friday November 14, 2014.

Comments on the Draft EA can be submitted by mailing Lydia Kachadoorian, Acting Regional Environmental Officer at, FEMA Region 1, 99 High Street 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, by emailing Lydia.Kachadoorian@fema.dhs.gov, or by sending her a fax at 617-956-7574.