

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (PEA) FOR THE RESTORATION OF UTILITY SYSTEMS IN CHEYENNE, WYOMING

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), is providing notice of its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to evaluate utility projects in the City of Cheyenne, Wyoming (City). We provide this notice to advise other Federal and State agencies, Native American tribes, non-governmental organizations, and the public of our intention as well as to obtain suggestions and information on the scope of issues to consider during the PEA planning process. These actions are in accordance with the general provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); NEPA regulations; other applicable Federal laws, regulations, and Executive Orders; and policies for compliance with those laws and regulations. In accordance with the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act, other Federal agencies may use this document to demonstrate compliance with NEPA at their discretion and under their own authorities.

The PEA will focus on projects proposed by the City that involve the restoration, installation and/or relocation of utilities needed to ensure systems function as designed and to mitigate the potential for impacts to public health and safety, and improved property related to future system inadequacies. A “utility” supplies a community with electricity, gas, water, or sewage (storm and sanitary) services. In an effort to restore these utilities or mitigate future events, FEMA and other federal agencies may provide funds for expansion, enlargement, and other upgrades along with replacement, relocation, or changes in materials. The purpose of the PEA is to provide an assessment of the expected environmental impacts associated with implementing these projects. More specifically, it will address the purpose and need of the proposed projects, project alternatives considered, affected environment, environmental consequences, and impact of mitigation measures. The PEA would not address site-specific impacts, which would be evaluated prior to project approval.

The projects would be performed within existing utility corridors and rights-of-way to the extent practicable. All Federally-funded projects will be completed in compliance with applicable Federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, Executive Orders, etc. Some specific items of work may include, but are not limited to:

- Placement of temporary crossings, utilities, staging areas, access, and safety features.
- Restoration, installation and relocation of production, transmission, and treatment facilities needed in order to provide and enhance utility services.
- Construction, excavation, trenching, and directional boring to allow repair, replacement, and relocation of utilities and ancillary facilities.
- Upsizing, encasing, armoring, and upgrading utilities to improve function and protect from future events.
- Repair and reconstruction of adjacent roadway and other connected infrastructure necessary to restore function.

The comment period for the proposed PEA will remain open for five (5) days following publication of this notice. Comments should be made in writing to the point of contact listed below. After gathering public comments, FEMA will develop a draft PEA that will be available for public review and comment.

You can obtain more detailed information about the proposed PEA from Steven Hardegen, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region VIII, Denver, Colorado, at steven.hardegen@fema.dhs.gov