

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR DRAFT COMMENTARY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SPEA)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing notice of its intent to prepare a Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) to evaluate the housing mission for the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. 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 planning process. These actions are part of our effort to comply with the general provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); NEPA regulations; other Federal laws and regulations, Executive Orders; and policies for compliance with those laws and regulations including 44 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 9 and 10.

On August 7th, 2015 U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced that Federal disaster aid has been made available to the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and ordered Federal aid to supplement recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding during the period of May 8-29, 2015. The President's action makes Federal funding available to the affected members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Assistance can include grants for semi-permanent housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

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 not be limited to reviews under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice).

The SPEA assesses environmental compliance for the following types of housing projects:

- Leased Community Sites

You can obtain more detailed information about the SPEA and PEA from Steven Hardegen, FEMA Region VIII, Regional Environmental Officer, Denver, Colorado (steven.hardegen@fema.gov). U.S. Department of Homeland Security ~ FEMA, Region VIII Denver Federal Center Building 710, Box 25267 Denver, Colorado 80225-0267. Charles Bello is the local contact on the Pine Ridge Reservation (720-245-1400; charles.bello@fema.dhs.gov).

Comments should be made in writing to the FEMA point of contact listed above and post-marked within three (3) days of publication of this notice.