

Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency

PUBLIC NOTICE

**Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for
Cobleskill Water Supply Protection
Village of Cobleskill, Schoharie County, New York
4085-DR-NY**

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Village of Cobleskill, as subrecipient, for the rehabilitation of both the Dow and Smith reservoirs. The proposed project would be funded through FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for financial assistance pursuant to section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The Proposed Alternative consists of the rehabilitation of both the Dow and Smith reservoirs and is wholly contained within lands owned by the subrecipient. The rehabilitation work will entail improvements to bring the two dams into compliance with current New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regulations and will be designed to provide spillway capacity capable of passing the design flood which is 50 percent Probable Maximum Flood, without over-topping of the dam embankments. The purpose of the proposed is to ensure long term operation of these facilities including the ability to mitigate against the potential flooding of the town downstream from storm and natural disaster threats. The need is due to the undersized spillways from the reservoirs per New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) regulation (6 NYCRR X A 1 Part 673) and the cracked and deteriorating walls of the Smith reservoir spillway which have caused flooding and silt deposits to build up in the reservoirs.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 44 CFR Part 9, DHS-FEMA evaluated four practicable alternatives, including a No Action alternative and the proposed alternative; two alternatives (bracing the failing training walls of the Smith Reservoir Spillway and performing surficial concrete repairs of deteriorated areas on both spillways to address the deterioration and failure of the Smith and Dow reservoirs and the complete demolition and replacement of the existing Upper and Lower reservoirs service spillways) were dismissed.. DHS-FEMA concluded that Water Supply Protection for the Village of Cobleskill was the Proposed Alternative.

In accordance with NEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed project on the human environment. The Draft EA summarizes the project's purpose and need, project alternatives, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for considered alternatives. FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated with the EA.

The Draft EA is available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded from the following website location: <http://www.schohariecounty-ny.gov/CountyWebSite/villcob/>

The EA can be viewed in hard copy at the following location:

Cobleskill Public Library
110 Union Street
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Cobleskill Village Office
378 Mineral Springs Road
Cobleskill, NY 12043

Cobleskill Village Water Department
Barber-Florio Water Treatment Plant Water Treatment Plant
Dow Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043

The comment period will end on 30 days from the date of this legal notice publication in the Times Journal or the final posting of EA, whichever comes later. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or emailed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. Contact: FEMA NY Sandy Recovery Office, Attn: EHP-Cobleskill Water Supply Protection EA Comments, Federal Emergency Management Agency Region II, 26 Federal Plaza, NY 10278 or via email at FEMA-4085-Comment@fema.dhs.gov.