

Draft Environmental Assessment

LV02 (Denham Springs) Temporary Group Housing Site

FEMA-4277-DR-LA

Livingston Parish, Louisiana

September 2016



FEMA

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Region 6
800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APE	Area of Potential Effect
BMP	Best Management Practices
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
IA	Individual Assistance
IHP	Individuals and Households Program
MHU	Manufactured Housing Unit
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PL	Public Law
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
USCB	U.S. Census Bureau
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1. Introduction

During the Incident Period of August 11, 2016, to August 31, 2016, prolonged rainfall occurred over the state of Louisiana dropping unprecedented rain, exceeding 20 inches. On August 14, 2016, President Obama declared a major disaster(FEMA-4277-DR-LA) for the State of Louisiana, due to the severe storms and subsequent flooding, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas. FEMA proposes to administer this disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 408 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Individual Households Program (IHP) to provide emergency and temporary housing for eligible disaster victims, whose homes are uninhabitable or destroyed as a result of the declared event.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations to implement NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA's procedures for implementing NEPA (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1). FEMA is required to consider potential environmental impacts before funding or approving actions and projects. This Draft EA will analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed temporary group housing, LV02, Denham Spring Group Site, as part of an expedited review process. FEMA will use the findings in this Draft EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

2. Purpose and Need

Catastrophic damage from severe storms and flooding has resulted in an extraordinary demand for housing assistance in communities within Livingston Parish, one of the hardest hit areas in Louisiana. The August 2016 prolonged rainfall resulted in catastrophic flooding and has been called the worst U.S. natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Thousands of homes and businesses were submerged and officials estimated that 75 percent of homes in Livingston Parish were a total loss. Many rivers and waterways, particularly the Amite and Comity rivers, reached record levels, and rainfall exceeded 20 inches in multiple parishes.

Louisiana's governor, John Bel Edwards, called the disaster a "historic, unprecedented flooding event" and declared a state of emergency. Because of the large number of homeowners without flood insurance that were affected, the federal government is providing disaster aid through FEMA.

The purpose of this action is to fulfill FEMA's mandate under the Individual and Households Program to expeditiously provide temporary housing for eligible disaster victims. As of September 3, 2016, the State has received 135,893 requests for federal assistance and of these requests, approximately 5,283 (total Pre-Placement Interviews) are for temporary housing assistance in the Livingston Parish area. As of September 10, 2016, the population approved and pending for rental resources, private sites, commercial sites, and Multi-Family Lease and Repair Program (MLRP) for Livingston Parish is 1,003.

Most of this demand will be met by repairing and improving existing multi-family housing to be utilized as temporary housing, placing a manufactured housing unit (MHU) on an applicant's

private site, or providing them with a MHU on an available pad leased in a commercial park. However, once these options are exhausted, FEMA estimates many applicants still will remain in need of direct housing, thus supporting the need to develop a temporary group-housing site, hereafter “group site.”

3. Environmental Review Process

In order to meet the urgent needs of disaster survivors requiring temporary housing, FEMA has implemented an expedited environmental review process. The purpose of this document is to assist FEMA in fulfilling its environmental review responsibilities under NEPA and serve as a vehicle to document compliance under other applicable environmental and historic laws. Laws and Executive Orders addressed through this Draft EA include: 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); Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice); Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA); Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and Farmland Protection Policy Act. Agency coordination/consultation is being conducted on a site by site basis as necessary.

The scope of FEMA’s environmental review includes evaluating project alternatives, characterizing the affected environment, identifying potential environmental impacts, and outlining ways to reduce or minimize adverse effects. This Draft EA examines the site-specific environmental impacts associated with building a proposed FEMA group-housing site on private or publicly owned land to be leased by the General Service Administration (GSA) for this purpose.

This Draft EA was prepared based on a site evaluation, document research, and resource agency information. The public participation period will be brief as necessitated by the emergency circumstances. Agency coordination and consultation will be deemed complete at the end of the public comment period. FEMA believes that this process will allow for sufficient action analysis and meet the goal of providing timely federal assistance to disaster survivors.

4. Site Selection Process and Alternatives

NEPA requires investigation and evaluation of reasonable project alternatives as part of the project environmental review process. At a minimum, FEMA’s NEPA implementing regulations require the No Action and Proposed Action be evaluated. Concurrent to the Proposed Action, other federally assisted housing options are being utilized first. These options include minor home repairs, rental assistance, and installing a manufactured housing unit on a private site or in an existing commercial site but these options are rapidly depleting due to the high demand. Therefore a remaining alternative is to build an emergency and temporary group-housing site when the above options do not satisfy the demand.

In order to expedite the group housing site selection process, FEMA is working closely with local officials and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to identify potential sites, followed by a site reconnaissance and research to determine site suitability. Important factors considered in choosing a site include: demand for temporary housing in that area, group acceptance, proximity of group services/amenities (schools, healthcare facilities, public transportation, etc.), engineering and construction feasibility, access to utilities, land use

compatibilities, property owner terms, costs to develop and maintain the site, and environmental/cultural resource sensitivities. FEMA will continue to evaluate alternative sites in Livingston Parish. Although various alternatives have been and continue to be identified, the amount of needed housing has limited this Draft EA to analysis of one suitable site alternative at this time. The LV02 Denham Springs Site was selected for further detailed analysis because it meets the basic site feasibility and selection criteria.

Alternative 1 – No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, FEMA would not develop a temporary group housing site at this location. Displaced residents would continue to stay with relatives/friends, in hotels, or other temporary locations until they resolve their own long-term housing needs.

Alternative 2 – Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with MHU’s (Proposed Action)

The Proposed Action would provide temporary housing for eligible disaster victims displaced by August floods in southeastern Louisiana. Disaster survivors would be temporarily relocated to the site with an expected occupancy up to 18 months (which includes a site deactivation period) while they resolve their permanent housing solution.

Project Location and Site Description

The proposed site is located at 7800 Florida Boulevard, Denham Springs, Livingston Parish, Louisiana (Figure 1 Area Map). The site consists of approximately 14 acres of land bordered on the north by Florida Boulevard with typical business and residential areas nearby. The eastern, western and southern boundaries are characterized by forested areas comprised of pine and live oak trees with additional large shrub species. Greys Creek, a channelized drainage ditch, is adjacent to the western border of the site. (Figure 2 Location Map from Areal Photo).

Power lines exist in the central portion of the site; likely a remnant from a previous mobile home park on the site. (Figure 3). There is an old, large concrete slab in the northeast quadrant of the site that was the foundation for a small bowling alley in the 1980’s. There were other smaller concrete slabs interspersed throughout the site which were likely associated with an earlier mobile home park located on the site. There is a shallow drainage ditch stretching from the central portion of the property to the eastern border.

The herbaceous cover of the site is dominated primarily by upland herbaceous grass species. More hydrophilic species are present in depressions along the fringe of the site. The vegetation bordering the site to the east, south, and west consist of very large old pine and live oak trees with a well-developed shrub understory. Typical site conditions are depicted on Figures 4 and 5.

Site Description

The action would place up to 37 mobile home units, built in two phases on the proposed project site. (Figure 6). Phase 1 would be built for 15 units of which 4 units of these would be designed under Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard (UFAS) features. Phase 2 would be built for 22 mobile home units.

Development of the site would require the installation of utilities on the site, asphalt for the roads and handicap parking lot and crushed rocks for trailer pads and residents parking.

The following specific site development components would be included with this project:

- Site preparation would include clearing, grading, and removal of woody vegetation and debris.
- Infrastructure for water, sewer, and electrical services exist off of Florida Boulevard but would have to be extended onto the site.
- New lines and hydrants will be installed on the property for all units.
- Storm water drainage will be developed within the site as well.
- Site UFAS features include 20% of the units meeting UFAS, and 100% of onsite essential services/facilities (such as mailbox kiosk) would be UFAS compatible.
- The site will also have designated green space within the common areas.
- Erosion control would be established during the construction period and a perimeter fence would be constructed around the project site.

FEMA will operate and maintain the site during the term of occupancy. When the temporary housing need has ended, FEMA expects that the MHUs would be hauled from the site and returned to a FEMA storage facility. The project site would then be seeded and reasonably restored to its previous conditions, per the lease terms with the landowner.

5. Affected Environment and Potential Impacts

This section is organized by individual resources. It includes a description of the existing conditions at the project area and provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts for each alternative. Definitions of the impact intensity are described below. Impacts to the following resources as a result of the Proposed Action were found to be discountable and are not evaluated further in this Draft EA: geology, soils, and seismicity; air quality; climate change; coastal zones; wildlife and fish; noise; traffic; public service and utilities; and public health and safety. Where potential impacts exist, conditions or mitigation measures to offset these impacts are detailed. Table 1 summarizes the results of the environmental review process.

Access to the site is off Florida Boulevard, a multi-lane, heavily traveled local road. No safety issues were identified on the project site. There are however two transformers left on the property from previous use that may need to be evaluated for PCB's.

5.1 Water Resources

This section provides an overview of the affected area and potential environmental effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on water resources, including water quality, streams, wetlands, and floodplains.

5.1.1 Water Quality

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was established under the Clean Water Act and regulates wastewater discharges from point sources. NPDES regulations require that construction sites resulting in greater than one acre of disturbance obtain a permit from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or the corresponding state agency where the permitting role has been assumed by the state. In Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is the state agency that has assumed this responsibility.

Alternative 1- No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to water quality.

Alternative 2 - Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with MHUs (Proposed Action)

Under the Proposed Action alternative, impacts to water quality, if any, would be minor. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff would be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil would be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. If fill is stored on site, the contractor should appropriately cover it to prevent erosion. In order to control storm water runoff, the contractor will be required to design drainage features so that flows will not cause nuisance flooding during heavy rainfall events. The drainage system will be required to meet local and parish requirements.

These actions would prevent any degradation of water quality as a result of silt-laden runoff from the construction site. The Proposed Action alternative would have no significant impacts to water quality in the area of the site.

5.1.2 Wetlands

The CWA and Executive Order 11990 define wetlands as “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.”

Alternative 1- No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to wetlands.

Alternative 2 - Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with MHUs (Proposed Action)

Under the Proposed Action alternative, based on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory map accessed on September 20, 2016, available online at (<https://fws.gov/wetlands/>), no wetlands were identified in the project area. During the field review, two large saturated areas with hydrophytic vegetation were identified. Much of the vegetation in these two wetland areas consisted of Carex sp. and other unidentified wetland plants. One of the areas is a 100-foot strip along the northeastern boundary of the site that would be avoided by proposed construction of infrastructure. The other wetland area is located in the southern end of the site and would not be impacted by the proposed project.

A review of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) online mapper, accessed on September 20, 2016, for the site indicates that the area is not located within nor does it affect a designated wetland. Based on field observations, mitigation of avoiding construction in the wetland areas, and the National Wetlands Inventory map, the Proposed Action will not affect any wetlands

5.1.3 Floodplains

EO 11988 Floodplain Management was issued to avoid or minimize long and short- term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains.

Alternative 1- No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to floodplains.

Alternative 2 - Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with MHUs (Proposed Action)

Based on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel number 22063C0235E, dated 04/03/2012, Zone X, accessed on September 23, 2016, at (<https://msc.fema.gov/portal>), the proposed project is located outside the flood zone therefore does not adversely affect floodplain values.

5.2 Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 directs federal agencies to utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of listed species or designated critical habitats. The USFWS is the agency that regulates compliance with the ESA. Furthermore, birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Any activity that results in the take of migratory birds or eagles is prohibited unless authorized by the USFWS. There are no provisions for allowing the take of migratory birds that are unintentionally killed or injured. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in the take of migratory birds is responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations and implementing appropriate conservation measures.

Alternative 1- No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no short- or long-term impacts to threatened and endangered species or critical habitat.

Alternative 2 - Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with MHUs (Proposed Action)

The entire project site has been cleared within the last several years and is now vegetated by a variety of pioneer herbaceous species. Soils consist of sand and silt. No fauna was observed on the site although bird species were observed in adjacent vegetation.

The USFWS's Information for Planning and Conservation website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) accessed on September 16, 2016 was reviewed for a list of threatened and endangered species in the project area. While there are four listed species and 25 migratory birds that occur in the Livingston Parish, the proposed housing site does not contain suitable habitat for any of these listed species. The entire project site has been essentially cleared cut within the last several years and is now vegetated by a variety of pioneer herbaceous species.

A search of the USFWS Critical Habitat online mapper accessed on September 16, 2016 at (<http://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/table/critical-habitat.html>) resulted in a finding of no designated critical habitats in the project area.

Based on the scope of work and lack of suitable habitat at the proposed site, FEMA has made the determination that the Proposed Action alternative will have no effect to federally listed species and will not adversely modify critical habitat.

5.3 Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA, 16 U.S.C. §470 *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), require federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

Alternative 1- No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, there would be no impacts to historic properties.

Alternative 2 - Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with MHUs (Proposed Action)

FEMA has defined the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the proposed undertaking as the maximum horizontal and vertical limits of excavation and construction, as well as all areas of ground disturbance, clearing and grubbing, staging, or equipment operation. Based on FEMA's review of the Louisiana Cultural Resources Mapper and site reconnaissance, FEMA has determined that the APE does not include any above or belowground historic properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). FEMA has determined that there will be No Historic Properties Affected as a result of the Proposed Action. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with this determination on September 16, 2016, and the letter is provided at attachment 1.

If ground-disturbing activities occur during construction, the contractor will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the state and FEMA.

5.4 Socioeconomic Resources

The project site is located in Livingston Parish, Louisiana. According to the United States Census Bureau Census, the population as of July 1, 2015 was 137,788 with a total of 52,104 housing units. The median household income was estimated at approximately \$57,478 (based on 2010 -2014 American Survey 5-year Estimates). According to the 2010 -2014 American Survey 5-year Estimates, approximately 13.7% of population lives below poverty levels.

According to the United States 2010 Census Bureau, the population in the town of Denham Springs where the project site is proposed was 10,215 with a total of 4,241 housing units prior to the disaster. With the establishment of the site, up to approximately 95 residents could be temporarily relocated to the LV02 Denham Springs Group Site area (37 units x estimated 2.55 people per unit). The potential site residents will be from within the Parish areas which have been impacted by the flooding. The local community is aware of this action and may experience a slight localized increase in the need for public services, such as schools, fire and police services, childcare, and medical services. However, the overall demand for public and commercial services is not expected to be greater than the pre-disaster demand and potential impacts are expected to be minimal.

5.4.1 Environmental Justice

EO 12898 requires that each federal agency identify and address the effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. The function of this EO is to avoid disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental impacts to the target populations.

The population within the Livingston Parish, Louisiana is comprised of about 91.9% Caucasian, 5.1% African American, .4% American Indian and Alaska Native, .5 % Asian, and 2.8% Hispanic.. In comparison, the town of Denham Springs in Livingston Parish is comprised of 81.3% Caucasian, 14.9% African American, .4% American Indian and Alaska Native, .5% Asian, and 4.1% Hispanic.

Alternative 1- No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, there would be short- and long-term impacts to environmental justice as flood protection is needed for this area, which encompasses minority and low-income populations.

Alternative 2 - Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with MHUs (Proposed Action)

The Proposed Action is not expected to pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

The availability of federal assistance, including temporary housing for displaced individuals, is consistent with EO 12898. All forms of FEMA disaster housing assistance are available to any affected household that meets the conditions of eligibility and demographics are not among the eligibility requirements. The MHUs unit's sites are a temporary housing solution and will be installed in the proposed sites for 18 months, therefore no long-term adverse effects to public health or to the environment are expected.

The specific demographics of group site occupants are not available at this time because specific individuals or families are in the process of being identified for this site. However, the demographic makeup of the group site residents is expected to be similar to the community as a whole. Further, the availability of temporary housing would result in a positive impact to displaced individuals, regardless of whether they are minority and/or low income.

5.4.2 Hazardous Materials

Two of the main federal laws that address hazardous and toxic materials issues are the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). CERCLA, commonly known as Superfund, has the major objectives to identify hazardous and toxic material sites, determine liability, and oversee the cleanup. RCRA addresses the handling, disposal and recycling of debris and solid waste, including hazardous materials.

Upon review of the EDR Radius Map Report with GeoCheck (EDR) on September 14, 2016, there are 6 sites identified at higher elevation than the target property that have environmental concerns. There was one underground storage tank leaking within .031 mile of the proposed group site which has since been remediated. There were two UST's within .25 miles of the proposed group site which were subsequently removed. There are no facilities or activities of concern on the targeted group site.

No potential hazardous materials problems were observed on the site. A review of the EPA NEPA Assist accessed on September 16, 2016 at (<https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepaassist>) indicated that there are no RCRA hazardous waste sites or Superfund sites at the project location.

6. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined as environmental effects that are greater in magnitude, extent, or duration than the direct and indirect effects of the proposed FEMA-associated action when combined with the effects of other current and future actions, regardless of the proponent. Given the Proposed Action is temporary, long-term (up to 18 months) cumulative affects to the area surrounding the site as a result of site development and occupancy are not anticipated.

Table 1: Summary Table—Affected Environment, Impacts, and Mitigation

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Alternative 2 Proposed Action: Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with Mobile Home Units	Mitigation	Agency Coordination/Permits
Water Quality	No change from current conditions.	There is potential for localized increase in sedimentation as a result of site preparation activities. Potential impact to water quality in downstream swales, ditches, and streams (e.g., turbidity, siltation, biological oxygen demand).	Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff would be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil would be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. If fill is stored on site, the contractor should appropriately cover it to prevent erosion. In order to control storm water runoff, the contractor will be required to design drainage features so that flows will not cause nuisance flooding during heavy rainfall events. The drainage system will be required to meet local and county requirements. These actions would prevent any degradation of water quality as a result of silt-laden runoff from the construction site. The Proposed Action alternative would have no significant impacts to water quality in the area of the site.	<p>Applicant must coordinate with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and obtain required permits prior to initiating work.</p> <p>All coordination pertaining to these activities and applicant compliance with any conditions should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA for inclusion in the permanent project files.</p>
Wetlands	No change from current conditions.	Two wetland areas were identified but will be outside the area of disturbance,	No MHUs will be installed on the areas of the Project site where wetlands occur..	

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Alternative 2 Proposed Action: Develop the LV02 Group Site at Denham Springs with Mobile Home Units	Mitigation	Agency Coordination/Permits
Floodplains	No change from current conditions.	A small section of the Project site lies within the 100-year floodplain but no MHUs will be installed on this area.	No MHUs will be installed on the area of the Project site that lies within the 100-year floodplain.	
Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat	No change from current conditions.	No Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat on the Proposed Site.	None.	
Cultural Resources	No change from current conditions.	FEMA has determined that there will be No Historical Properties Affected as a result of the Proposed Action. The SHPO concurred with this determination on September 16, 2016.	The contractor will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the state and FEMA.	FEMA has consulted with SHPO and obtained concurrence on 9/16/16
Environmental Justice	No change from current conditions.	The Proposed Action is not expected to pose disproportionately high and adverse public health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.	None.	
Hazardous Materials	No change from current conditions.	Under the Proposed Action alternative, there are no anticipated impacts from hazardous materials and hazardous substances.	None. Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of prior to occupancy in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, the contractor shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.	

7. Public Involvement

Public involvement is being performed in compliance with NEPA, FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, and Executive Orders 12898, 11988, and 11990. A Notice of Availability of the Draft EA will be published in the local newspaper of record, the Livingston Parish News, and on FEMA's website at (<https://www.fema.gov/library>) requesting public comments. Additionally, the Draft EA will be made available for review at the Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security and Security Preparedness, 20355 Government Blvd. Suite D, 2nd floor, Livingston, LA 70754. Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be limited to 3 days. FEMA will consider and respond to all public comments in the Final EA. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project.

8. Mitigation

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented during site development to minimize sediment migration from the site into nearby water bodies. Surface runoff would be controlled by using siltation controls such as silt fencing around the construction site to minimize erosion of materials into adjacent wetlands and/or waterways. Any disturbed soil would be protected with seed or sod after construction in order to decrease the amount of soil eroded by rainfall and runoff. If fill is stored on site, the contractor should appropriately cover it to prevent erosion.
2. In order to control storm water runoff, the contractor will be required to design drainage features so that flows will not cause nuisance flooding during heavy rainfall events. The drainage system will be required to meet local and county requirements
3. If ground-disturbing activities occur during construction, the contractor will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.
4. Unusable equipment, debris and material shall be disposed of prior to occupancy in an approved manner and location. In the event significant items (or evidence thereof) are discovered during implementation of the project, the contractor shall handle, manage, and dispose of petroleum products, hazardous materials and toxic waste in accordance to the requirements and to the satisfaction of the governing local, state and federal agencies.
5. To minimize dust, site soils should be wetted during site preparation activities, and seeded following construction.
6. If necessary to reduce construction noise impacts, where there are adjacent sensitive noise receptors such as residential areas, construction activities with elevated noise levels

should be limited from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Equipment and machinery used during construction must meet all local, State, and federal noise regulations.

7. The contractor will post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of project activities and traffic pattern changes.
8. Once the temporary housing need has ended, the site would be seeded and restored to previous conditions to the extent practical and/or in accordance with site lease terms.

9. List of Preparers

EA Preparer: Judy L. McClendon, Natural Resource Program Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers

Field Team: James Green, Environmental Specialist, US Army Corps of Engineers; Richard Beatty, Environmental Specialist, FEMA Reservist

Reviewers: Kevin Jaynes, Regional Environmental Officer, Region 6 FEMA; Alan Hermely, Environmental Specialist, Region 6 FEMA; Victor M. Bonilla, Environmental Engineer/Industrial Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers

From: [Benz, Emily](#)
To: [DCRT Section 106](#)
Cc: [Nicole Hobson-Morris](#); [Mike Varnado](#); [Chip McGimsey](#); [Rachel Watson](#); [Kristin Sanders](#)
Subject: FEMA-SHPO 106 Consultation - Group Housing Livingston Parish Denham Springs Florida
Date: Thursday, September 15, 2016 5:23:46 PM
Attachments: [DR-4277 LA SHPO Consult Group Housing Sites Livingston Florida.pdf](#)

Good Afternoon,

Please accept the attached consultation regarding emergency temporary housing facilities in Livingston Parish, LA (Denham Spring Florida).

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily J. Benz

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emily.j.benz@fema.dhs.gov

No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. Therefore, our office has no objection to the implementation of this project. This effect determination could change should new information come to our attention.



Phil Boggan
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

109/16/2016

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FEMA-4277-DR-LA
Joint Field Office
415 North 15th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802



FEMA

September 15, 2016

Mr. Phillip E. Boggan II
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Culture, Recreation & Tourism
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Dear Mr. Boggan,

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in response to the Presidentially declared Major Disaster Declaration FEMA-DR-4277-LA (Incident Period- August 11, 2016 to August 31, 2016) will be providing direct temporary housing assistance, or "direct assistance," under the Individuals and Households Program, Sections 408 and 502 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended. Per 44 CFR Part 206, FEMA is authorized to provide temporary housing units directly to individuals and households who, because of a lack of available resources, are unable to make use of rental assistance for temporary housing.

As per the Programmatic Agreement among FEMA, the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer, the Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Caddo Nation, the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, executed August 17, 2009, and amended on July 22, 2011 (2009 Statewide PA as amended) ground-disturbing activities related to the construction of temporary housing sites are not included in the temporary housing activities included in Section 408: Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households (42 U.S.C. 5174) for which FEMA has no further Section 106 responsibilities per Stipulation I.C.1. of the 2009 Statewide PA as amended.

FEMA is initiating consultation for the proposed temporary housing locations, to be used to house individuals and families whose homes were rendered uninhabitable as a result of DR-4277.

Manufactured Housing Units (MHU's) are provided to eligible applicants in parishes only as a last resort when no other reasonable alternative exists for emergency housing. These actions may include placing sets of MHU's at newly developed "Group Sites" located in impacted parishes. Group Sites are only approved when setting individual MHU's on private property, or utilizing a

previously developed commercial site are not available options. Livingston Parish has been identified as eligible for the installation of "Group Sites".

Project Description

For group housing sites, cleared, level locations within close proximity to affected communities are generally selected for consideration. Sites are generally leveled and prepared for the installation of both the MHU's and associated utilities. The MHU's being used for the DR-4277 disaster are different from the housing units used in other Louisiana federal disaster declarations. All units are constructed in accordance to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and FEMA standards, which enhance frame requirements, thermal protection, plumbing and fire safety. All units have smoke detectors, weather radios, and fire extinguishers. MHU's range from one to three bedrooms depended on the size of the occupying family.

The Livingston Denham Springs Florida site sits to the south of Highway 190 (Florida Blvd.), and between Dixie Street and Gray Eagle Drive. This location is a former mobile home park with approximately 13 usable acres. The site is surrounded by neighborhoods, and basic infrastructure may be usable including underground utilities. No mobile home units have been present at this location for at least 14 years. The gravel access road is still intact, as are other gravel side roads and some concrete pads. There is a large concrete pad taking up approximately one half acre on the site. There are also 7-10 large tree that are to be left standing.

Area of Potential Effect

36 CFR § 800.4 requires federal agencies to define the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Summarized project locations with dimensions of disturbance are provided below and attached maps defines limits of the APE associated with this undertaking.

Table 1- Proposed Group Site Housing Location, Livingston Parish.

Location	Northwest Corner	Northeast Corner	Southeast Corner	Southwest Corner
Livingston Florida	30.48416, -90.93935	30.48403, -90.93685	30.48080, -90.93872	30.48068, -90.93739

Identification of Historic Properties

36 CFR 800.4(b) (1) of these regulations states that federal agency officials shall make a "reasonable and good faith effort" to identify historic properties.

FEMA conducted research using the Louisiana Division of Archaeology's Cultural Resource database and associated site files, photographs, and maps to identify historic properties within the vicinity of the APE. The Livingston Florida location lies within the area included in the 1990 "Literature Search and Research Design Amite River and Tributaries Project: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, and Livingston Parishes, Louisiana" by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates,

Inc., for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There are no known archaeological or historic sites within the vicinity of the Livingston Florida location.

Findings of Effect

Based on information gathered through this review process, FEMA has made a determination of **No Potential to Affect Historic Properties** as a result of the proposed undertaking.

To ensure that FEMA-funded activities would not affect significant archaeological resources, FEMA would place the following conditions on the project for the treatment of unexpected archaeological discoveries during debris removal activities:

In the event that human remains or intact archaeological deposits are discovered, work in the vicinity of the discovery will stop immediately and all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds will be taken. The applicant will ensure that archaeological discoveries are secured in place, that access to the sensitive area is restricted, and that all reasonable measures are taken to avoid further disturbance of the discoveries. The applicant's contractor will provide immediate notice of such discoveries to the applicant. The applicant will notify the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development and FEMA within 24 hours of the discovery. Work in the vicinity of the discovery may not resume until FEMA has completed consultation with SHPO, Tribes, and other consulting parties as necessary. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Louisiana Code.

Thank you very much for your assistance with this request. Due to the urgent need to provide safe housing to those affected by the disaster, your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions or need to discuss the proposed activities in greater detail, you may contact Emily Benz, Historic Preservation Specialist at Emily.J.Benz@fema.dhs.gov or 940-218-0883. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Kevin Lyles
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA-4277-DR-LA

Figure 1. Area Map (Map Quest) Showing Major Roads and Streets in Project Area

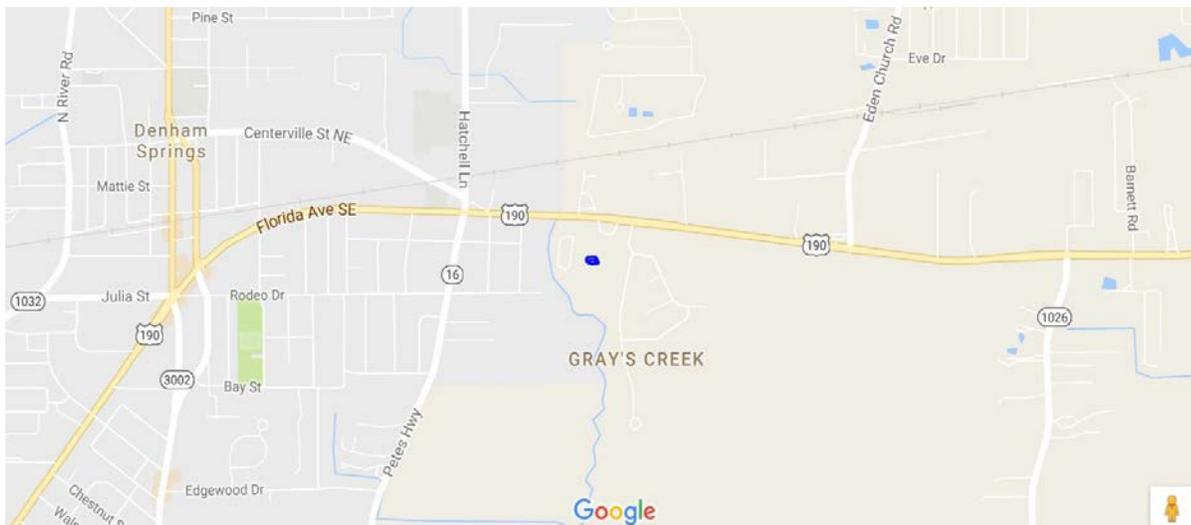


Figure 2. Location Map from Aerial Photo

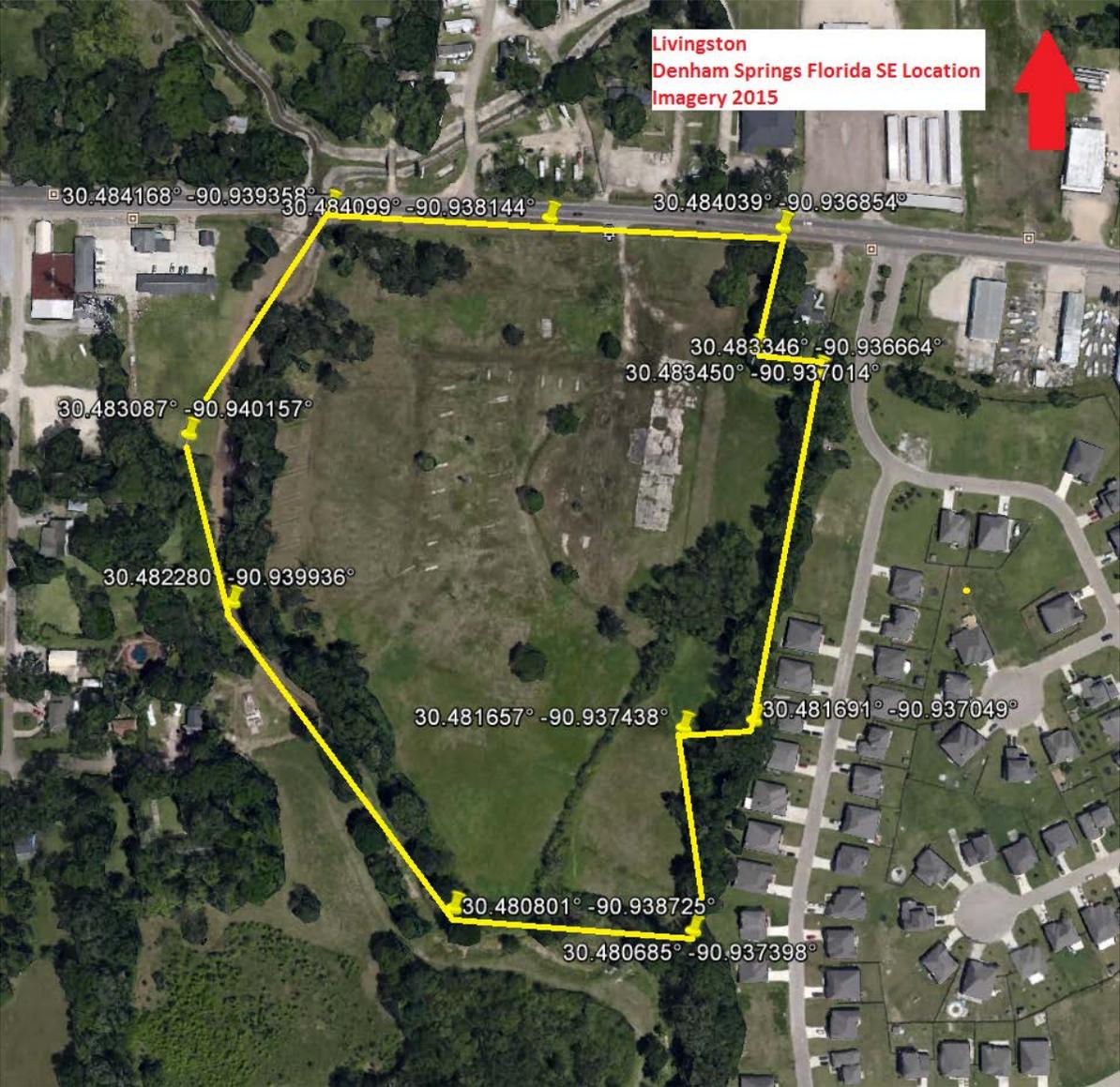


Figure 3: Power Pole is a remnant from a previous mobile home park on the site.



Figure 4. Typical Site Conditions



Figure 5. Typical tree on site



Figure 6. Site Layout from USACE

