



FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
TEMPORARY GROUP HOUSING SITE
LV02 (DENHAM SPRINGS) SITE
LIVINGSTON PARISH, LOUISIANA
FEMA-4277-DR-LA**

BACKGROUND

As a result of damages from severe storms and flooding, a major disaster declaration (FEMA-DR-4277-LA) was issued on August 14, 2016, authorizing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance to designated disaster areas in the State of Louisiana. Pursuant to Section 408 of the Stafford Act, FEMA's Individual and Households Program (IHP) was initiated to provide emergency temporary housing for disaster victims whose homes were identified as uninhabitable or destroyed as result of the disaster.

Due to the scope of the flooding event, there are insufficient rental resources or other temporary housing alternatives available to house displaced disaster victims. Options currently available, such as the use of hotel rooms, shelters, or co-housing with family/friends not affected by the event, is only appropriate for a very limited time period. In response to this need, FEMA is proposing construction of emergency temporary housing sites, known as Group Sites, for residents in Livingston Parish.

In order to implement its IHP mission in a timely and effective manner, FEMA used an expedited process to assess the potential environmental impacts of building emergency temporary housing for displaced disaster victims. In accordance with FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). This EA informed FEMA's decision on whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The proposed site, known as Denham Springs Group Site, is located at 7800 Florida Boulevard, Denham Springs, Livingston Parish, Louisiana. 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. Power lines exist in the central portion of the site; likely a remnant from a previous mobile home park on the site. 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.

A public notice was posted in the local newspaper of record, The Livingston Parish News, and on FEMA's website. The draft EA was made available for public comment at the Livingston Parish Office of Homeland Security and Security Preparedness, 20355 Government Blvd, Suite D, 2nd floor, Livingston, LA 70754.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Action as described in the EA will not impact geology, wetlands, seismicity, coastal resources, biological resources, critical habitat, cultural resources, hazardous materials, and traffic. During construction, short-term impacts to soils, air quality, water quality, noise, and floodplains are anticipated. Long-term impacts to floodplains as the result of the proposed action are not anticipated. Long-term positive impacts to socio-economic resources such as environmental justice are expected. Furthermore, given the Proposed Action is temporary (up to 18 months), long-term cumulative affects to the project site and the area surrounding the site as a result of site development and occupancy are not anticipated.

CONDITIONS

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. 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.
3. 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.

4. In order to control stormwater 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.
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 to 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 will be seeded and restored to previous conditions, to the extent practical, and/or in accordance with site lease terms.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, comments from the public, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1) and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Kevin Jaynes
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 6

Date 10/5/16