

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR  
RIVERSIDE MOBILE ESTATES TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE,  
RESERVE, ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed mobile home site. The site would house disaster victims displaced by major home damage caused by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005 and Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005. A Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1603-DR-LA, was signed on August 29, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina and on September 24, 2005 for Hurricane Rita (FEMA-1607-DR-LA).

The proposed action includes developing an approximately 6-acre site (termed "Riverside Mobile Estates") for approximately 40 mobile home units to be located adjacent and northeast of the Railroad Avenue and 19<sup>th</sup> Street intersection in Reserve, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. Activities would include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, road construction, the placement of utilities (electricity, telephones, water, and sewer), and the transport and hook-up of manufactured homes to the site. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. In order to meet the urgent need of hurricane victims to find temporary housing, FEMA has conducted an expedited environmental review process to identify and address environmental issues. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be brief – November 9 to 11, 2005. Written comments on the Draft EA can be faxed to FEMA's Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge at (225) 346-5848; and verbal comments will be accepted at (225) 376-5270 and TTY for hearing or speech-impaired at 800-462-7585; between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>. The Draft EA is also available for public review at the Reserve Branch, St. John the Baptist Parish Library, 170 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Reserve, Louisiana 70084 and the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located at 160 Belle Terre, La Place, Louisiana 70068. The library hours are 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM, Thursdays. The DRC hours are 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the Final documents.

***All other questions regarding disaster assistance or the availability of emergency housing should be directed to FEMA's Teleregistration line at 800-621-3362.***