

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
9221 Ward Parkway, Suite 300  
Kansas City, Missouri, 64114-3372



# FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
KIOWA COUNTY COMMONS  
GREENSBURG, KIOWA COUNTY, KANSAS  
FEMA-1699-DR-KS

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is working with partners at the local and state levels and with other federal agencies to coordinate the response to a devastating tornado that struck Greensburg, Kiowa County, Kansas, on May 4, 2007. The tornado, which topped the measurement scale at an Enhanced Fujita Scale EF5 designation with wind in excess of 200 miles per hour, moved across Greensburg and damaged approximately 90 percent of the city's houses and structures. It was the strongest U.S. tornado recorded in more than nine years, leaving the Greensburg area without housing, businesses, emergency services, or utilities.

FEMA was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1699-DR-KS) to provide Federal disaster assistance to Greensburg, Kiowa County, Kansas, as a result of damages incurred on May 4, 2007. Section 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 USC 5121-5206, as amended (Stafford Act, Public Law 93-288. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that Federal agencies evaluate the environmental effects of their proposed and alternative actions before deciding to fund an action. The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has developed a series of regulations for implementing the NEPA. These regulations are included in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 1500-1508. They require the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) that includes an evaluation of alternative means of addressing the problem and a discussion of the potential environmental impacts of a proposed Federal action. An EA provides the evidence and analysis to determine whether the proposed Federal action will have a significant adverse effect on the human environment. An EA, related to a FEMA program, must be prepared according to the requirements of the Stafford Act and 44 CFR, Part 10. This section of the Federal Code requires that FEMA take environmental considerations into account when authorizing funding or approving actions. This EA was conducted in accordance with both CEQ and FEMA regulations for the NEPA to serve as a vehicle to document compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The proposed project is to replace, upgrade, and consolidate the Kiowa County Library and Kiowa County Historical Museum into one Kiowa County Commons facility in response to a devastating tornado that struck Greensburg, Kiowa County, Kansas, on May 4, 2007. The Kiowa County Commons will be a comprehensive learning and discovery center, blending the library with other complementary services, including the museum, the Kiowa County branch of Kansas State University's Research and Extension office, and a public Media Center. The first floor of the Commons will be shared between the library, museum, and Extension office. The total square footage of the first floor will be 14,338. While each entity will have its own dedicated space, a large portion of the first floor will consist of areas shared by all occupants of the Commons. These shared areas include a lobby/atrium, a large conference room and television studio, various electrical, mechanical, and janitorial closets, and public restrooms.

The building also contains a second story over its southern wing totaling 4,913 square feet, bringing the square footage of the entire building to 19,251. This second story will contain a number of areas that are also shared amongst the occupants of the Commons, including additional building systems rooms, shared office space, a small radio studio, and a small conference room. The second floor also houses the workstations that make up the Media Center which will give the public the opportunity to create and edit their own high-definition multimedia content and share it with the rest of the community.

The EA was evaluated for any potential significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology, land use and planning, noise, public health and safety, socioeconomic, traffic, and water quality. It was also evaluated for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low income populations.

#### CONDITIONS

The following conditions are to mitigate this projects potential adverse impact. The Applicant/Sub-applicant must meet these conditions as part of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize Federal funds:

1. In the event that threatened or endangered species are observed in the project area, the FEMA Regional Environmental Officer shall request a Section 7 consultation with the USFWS.
2. If cultural resources (particularly human remains) are unexpectedly discovered during construction, activities would cease in the immediate area and the Kansas State Historical Society and the FEMA Regional Environmental Officer would be notified before work would continue
3. Best management practices as recommended by the Kansas Department of Health would be implemented during and after construction to control erosion, with the selection of the Proposed Action
4. A General NPDES Permit, or a waiver of the permit, could be required to be obtained from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

#### FINDING

FEMA makes the following determinations from the information contained in the EA for the construction of the Kiowa County Fairgrounds:

Construction of the Kiowa County Fairgrounds will not result in any significant adverse impacts related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology, land use and planning, noise, public health and safety, socioeconomic, traffic, and water quality, and for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low income populations. The proposed action has been reviewed and, to the best of our knowledge, does not have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x). As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.



10/21/2009

Kenneth Sessa  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VII