

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
WTMJ transmitter site Underground Storage Tank Upgrade
Racine County, Wisconsin
Department of Homeland Security

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) is funding the upgrade of an underground storage tank (UST) and ancillary equipment at 20101 Church Road, Union Grove, Wisconsin, to provide an emergency power supply during emergency events.

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) for FEMA, Subpart B – Agency Implementing Procedures, Part 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the upgrade of the existing UST system and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The Proposed Action, as described in the EA, will not result in any significant adverse impacts to seismicity, groundwater, floodplains, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, zoning and land use, visual resources, public services and utilities, public health and safety, traffic and circulation, low income or minority populations, or cultural resources. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, air quality, and noise are anticipated. Impacts due to the presence of hazardous materials are not anticipated but could be discovered during the removal of the UST. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas. The project was coordinated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Historical Society, and applicable Indian tribes.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions were developed to mitigate the potential impacts of this project and must be met as a condition of project approval. Failure to comply with these conditions and the conditions contained in the EA may jeopardize Federal funds:

1. The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, State and Federal permits and approvals.
2. The applicant will monitor ground disturbance during the construction phase; should human skeletal remains, or historic or archaeological materials be discovered during construction, all ground-disturbing activities on the project site shall cease and the applicant shall notify the coroner's office (in the case of human remains), FEMA, and the Minnesota Historical Society.
3. If deviations from the proposed scope of work result in substantial design changes, the need for additional ground disturbance, additional removal of vegetation, or in any other unanticipated changes to the physical environment, the Grantee must contact FEMA, and a re-evaluation under NEPA and other applicable environmental laws will be conducted by FEMA.
4. Construction vehicles and equipment would be stored on site during project construction and appropriate signage would be posted on affected roadways. All construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations. Construction would take place only during normal business hours and all equipment will meet local, State and Federal noise regulations.

5. Stockpile and cover the excavated soil on-site to reduce dust. If contaminated soil is discovered, soils would undergo waste characterization (sampled for laboratory analysis) before removal to an approved disposal site certified to accept petroleum contaminated soils, according to state and local requirements.
6. The minimum requirements for underground storage tank installation and removal, as identified by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, must be followed by the contractor overseeing the removal of the existing UST and the installation of the proposed action.
7. A representative of the Union Grove Fire Department is expected to be present during the removal of the existing UST as standard local protocol requires.

FINDINGS

Based upon the conditions and information contained in the EA for the WTMJ transmitter site UST upgrade and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 CFR Part 10 (Environmental Considerations) and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA has determined that the proposed action would not have any significant adverse impacts on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

APPROVAL

Amanda C. Ratliff Date
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region V