

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT PROPOSED FIRE STATION/EMS FACILITY NEWTON, HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5) provided the Department of Homeland Security with one-time funding for the construction and modification of fire stations. This funding is being administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) under the Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction (FSC) Grant Program. The FSC provides financial assistance directly to fire departments on a competitive basis to build new or modify existing fire stations in order for departments to enhance their response capability and protect the community they serve from fire and fire-related hazards. The FSC seeks to support organizations lacking the tools and resources necessary to effectively protect the health and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards.

The city of Newton has applied for FSC funding to construct a new Newton Fire/EMS Facility located south of U.S. Highway 50 along South Kansas Avenue and within one mile of the regional Newton Medical Center. The city of Newton needs this facility to provide effective and timely fire protection and emergency services to an area that has experienced rapid growth of commercial and residential properties and population.

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared by the city of Newton in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508) to implement NEPA, and the FEMA regulations (10 Code of Federal Regulations Part 10) to implement NEPA.

The city of Newton initiated a public involvement process through Public Notice and consultation with other Federal and state agencies.

The proposed project was evaluated for any potential significant adverse impacts to soils, air quality, water quality, wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, cultural and historic resources, and environmental justice considerations. The project was coordinated with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and the Kansas State Historical Society.

The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, State, and Federal permits and approvals.

FINDING

Based on the EA and in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 11988 (Floodplain Management), FEMA has determined that the proposed action would not have any significant adverse impacts on the human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared and the proposed project may proceed.

Approved:



Kenneth G. Sessa
Environmental Officer
FEMA Region VII

3/31/2010

Date