



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Relocation of Fire Hall #3

Wahkiakum County Fire Protection District

FEMA-DR-1817-WA SGA 436

The Wahkiakum County Fire District applied through the State of Washington Emergency Management Department to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for financial assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, to relocate the Wahkiakum County Fire Protection District #3 fire hall to a new location approximately 1,300 north of the existing site along Hull Road. The destroyed fire station was located at 3751 SR 4 near Grays River, Wahkiakum County Washington. The fire station was destroyed during a flooding event in January 2009, which resulted in Presidential disaster declaration FEMA-1817-DR-WA. The Fire District decided it was in the best public interest to relocate the fire station to an area less prone to flooding after it was flooded in the severe storms that occurred January 6-16, 2009.

The Proposed Action includes construction of a single story 4,400 square foot (sf) structure on a 43,560 sf (1.0 acre) site off Hull Road. It will be 21.5 feet in height. There will be four vehicle bays with rollup doors facing south. The interior will include a multi-purpose area, two baths with showers, a kitchen, main floor storage area, and storage loft. The building will be sprinklered and provided with fire alarms. Utilities will include a pressurized on-site septic system, water and electrical service from the P.U.D., a new hydrant, propane tank and generator, and a storm drainage system. Vehicle bays open onto a 36 ft by 80 ft concrete apron, which is surrounded by a larger asphalt parking area. There will be a total of 8 parking spaces, one of which is wheel-chair accessible. From Hull Road, access is provided by a 50 ft wide, asphalt entrance way. Highway signage identifying the fire station will be provided on Hull Road both north and south of the new facility.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and FEMA's implementation regulations, FEMA prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives presented in the EA and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impacts Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Since a practicable alternative site was located outside the floodplain, only two alternatives were evaluated: A) No Action where the Fire District would continue to operate with vehicles and equipment dispersed at the residences of volunteers throughout the service area and B) construction of a new fire station at the intersection of SR 4 and Hull Road, approximately 1300 feet of the destroyed fire station. The Draft EA was made available for public review and comment from April 22, 2010 to May 24, 2010. FEMA did not receive substantive comments on the Draft EA.

FINDINGS

Based upon the site and building design and attached Mitigation and Conservation Measures; and in accordance with FEMA's regulations in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10 for environmental consideration, including Executive Orders (EO) addressing floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990), and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA determined the proposed project will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the project as described in the Sub Grant Application and final EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Mark G. Eberlein
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region X

6-9-10

Date

Attachment A:

MITIGATION AND CONSERVATION MEASURES

Mitigation and conservation measures refer to actions that would minimize or eliminate potential adverse environmental impacts that could result from the Proposed Action:

- This review does not address all Federal, State, and local requirements. Acceptance of Federal funding requires recipient to secure and comply with all Federal, State, and local permitting requirements. Failure to obtain all appropriate Federal, State, and local permits and clearances may jeopardize Federal funding.
- Any change to the approved scope of work stated in the FEMA grant application and described in this EA as the proposed action will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other laws and Executive Orders.
- The Wahkiakum County Fire District is responsible for selecting, implementing, monitoring, and maintaining best management practices to control erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection during site work.
- Site soils would be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize fugitive dust.
- Mitigation measures associated with wetlands adjacent to the site shall be implemented per Wahkiakum County Critical Areas requirements or other appropriate County requirements.
- In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during site work, activities in the immediate vicinity shall be discontinued, the area secured, and the SHPO and FEMA notified.