



**FEMA**

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**

**FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEM (IPAWS)  
CONSTRUCTION ACTIONS**

**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10, and the President's Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, FEMA prepared a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to evaluate the potential impacts to the human environment resulting from construction actions under FEMA's IPAWS program. IPAWS implements Executive Order 13407's mandate to establish "an effective, reliable, integrated, flexible, and comprehensive system to alert and warn the American people in situations of war, terrorist attack, natural disaster or other hazards to public safety and well being." The PEA is incorporated in this FONSI by reference.

The purpose of the PEA was to evaluate IPAWS typical construction activities and facilitate and streamline FEMA's compliance with NEPA by providing a framework to address the potential environmental impacts of these projects. The alternatives evaluated included Alternative 1: no action, Alternative 2: facility upgrades and minor construction in previously disturbed areas, and Alternative 3: facility upgrades and minor construction in undisturbed areas. FEMA will develop Tiered Site-specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) from the PEA for those IPAWS construction actions requiring evaluation under areas of concern not evaluated in this PEA, having impacts beyond those described in the PEA, or requiring mitigation to reduce the level of impacts below significance.

Notice of the availability of the PEA was published in the Federal Register on May 11, 2010, for a 30-day public comment period. FEMA did not receive any comments.

**CONDITIONS**

Actions under this PEA and FONSI must meet the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions would make the FONSI determination inapplicable.

1. Excavated soil and waste materials will be managed and disposed of in accordance to applicable local, state, and federal regulations. If contaminated materials are discovered during the construction activities, the work will cease until the appropriate procedures and permits can be implemented.
2. FEMA will follow applicable mitigation measures as identified in Section 7 of the PEA to the maximum extent possible.
3. In the event that human remains or archeological deposits, including any Native American pottery, stone tools, are uncovered, the project shall be halted. FEMA, its contractors and/or partners for these projects shall stop all work immediately in the vicinity of the discovery and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archeological findings will be secured and access to the sensitive area restricted. FEMA will consult with the applicable State coroner's office for human remains. If the human remains are of historic significance FEMA will coordinate with the applicable State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and Tribes for appropriate to ensure that the project is in compliance with the NHPA and State burial laws. Work in sensitive areas cannot resume until consultation is completed and appropriate measures have been taken.
4. FEMA and its contractor are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, State and Federal permits and approvals.

## **FINDING**

Based upon the information contained in the Final PEA, the potential impacts resulting from the alternatives analyzed in the PEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA finds that the implementation of Alternatives 2 and 3 will not have significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

## **APPROVAL**



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Date 6/15/2010