

PUBLIC NOTICE

FEMA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT SEVENTH WARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FLOOD PROTECTION EMBANKMENT PROJECT ABBEVILLE, VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the EA and FONSI is to assess the effects on the human and natural environment from the construction of a concrete flood wall and earthen berm for flood protection around the Seventh Ward Elementary School on Audubon Road, Abbeville, LA, a proposed action for which FEMA is considering providing funding assistance.

The purpose of the draft EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with construction of the flood protection concrete flood wall and earthen berm. The draft EA evaluates a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action, which is to construct the flood protection concrete flood wall and earthen berm around the Seventh Ward Elementary School building. The FONSI will be FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment, if no additional substantive information is discovered during the comment period.

The location of the site is 12012 Audubon Road, Abbeville, LA, 70510, Vermilion Parish. The proposed action involves constructing a ring concrete flood wall and earthen berm around the Seventh Ward Elementary School building. The Seventh Ward Elementary School was constructed in 1968, and an addition was constructed on the east side of the original structure. The Seventh Ward Elementary School was constructed on grade, and is located in the floodplain. The Seventh Ward Elementary School flooded during Hurricane Rita.

A draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

The draft EA and draft FONSI are available for public review at Vermilion Parish Library (Abbeville Branch) – 405 East St. Victor Street, Abbeville, Louisiana 70510, from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday and Thursday; 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday; and 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Saturday. The documents can also be downloaded and viewed from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm.

The Public comment period will begin on Tuesday, June 29th and will end on Tuesday, July 13th at 4 pm.

Comments on the proposal may be mailed to:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Environmental/Historic Preservation Department
Seventh Ward Elementary School Flood Protection Project
1 Seine Court, 4th Floor, Office 4049
New Orleans, Louisiana 70114

Comments may also be emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to: 504-762-2353. Verbal comments will be accepted at 504-762-2205 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice for work in the floodplain in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9.12.