

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Ottawa Intermediate School, Public Assistance Grant
City of Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois
Department of Homeland Security

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA) is provide funding for the construction of a new intermediate school for the City of Ottawa located adjacent to the Shepherd School (N 41° 19' 19.6" and W 88° 49' 45.78"). 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 construction of the new school 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, water quality, air quality, and noise are anticipated. 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 Illinois State Historic Preservation Office, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Illinois Department of Agriculture, 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 including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, building permits, and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
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 Ohio State Historic Preservation Office.
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 a 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.

