

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Environmental Assessment Proposed construction of a 300-foot self-supporting communications tower Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi (MSWIN 20610)

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is considering providing funds through the Mississippi Interoperable Communications Grant Program to the State of Mississippi Wireless Communication Commission (MWCC) for the construction of 300-foot self-supporting communications tower and associated facilities and equipment at a site located off East Fire Tower Road in Meridian, Lauderdale County, Mississippi.

The proposed telecommunications site would be part of the Mississippi Wireless Integrated Network (MSWIN) project, which is intended to provide and enhance interoperable communications uses for a wide variety of government, public safety, and first-responder users within the State of Mississippi.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental planning and historic preservation requirements, a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) has been prepared to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project on the human and natural environment. FEMA has adopted the DEA prepared by a consultant to the MSWIN project. The DEA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

The DEA is available for 15-day public review October 23, 2010 through November 8, 2010 at the City of Meridian Public Library, 2517 7th Street, Meridian, MS 39301. The DEA can also be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm>.

Written comments on the DEA may be submitted to FEMA's Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation as follows:

Email to: laura.shick@dhs.gov
Mail to: Laura Shick
Environmental Program Specialist
FEMA – Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation
1800 S. Bell Street, 7th Floor
Arlington, VA 20598-3020

Comments must be received no later than 5:00 pm November 8, 2010. If no substantive comments are received, the DEA will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice.