

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW ADDITION TO THE
PROVIDENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY BUILDING AT
591 CHARLES STREET, PROVIDENCE, RI
LATITUDE: 41.851966°, LONGITUDE: -71.420401°**

**Department of Homeland Security
FEMA – 2009-EO-MX-0029(01)**

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA), is providing funding for the construction of an addition to the Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Building under the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant Program (Award # 2009-EO-MX-0029(01)). The building addition will be located at 591 Charles Street in Providence, Rhode Island. This Fiscal Year 2009 proposed project represents Phase II of EOC development; FEMA funded Phase I of the EOC in Fiscal Year 2008.

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 (NEPA) 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 is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In the EA process, FEMA considered two alternatives, the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. The EA was made available for public review for a period of 30-days.

This proposed project, as described in the EA dated August 2010, was evaluated for any potential significant adverse impacts to existing land use, water resources (surface water, groundwater, waters of the United States, and floodplains), air quality, noise, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, State and Federally listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitat), and cultural resources. It was also evaluated for safety and hazardous materials issues as well as for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low-income populations. The project was coordinated with the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, the City of Providence Archivist, and the Providence Historic District Commission, and PEMA. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, water quality, and noise are anticipated. All short term impacts require applicant compliance conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

CONDITIONS

PEMA shall comply with all prescribed conditions set forth in the EA, including but not limited to the following project conditions. Failure to comply with these project conditions may jeopardize the receipt of Federal funding.

1. Obtaining and complying with all required local, State and Federal permits and approvals, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits and the necessary building permits.
2. Managing and disposing of excavated soil and waste materials in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. If hazardous/contaminated materials are discovered during

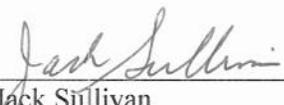
the construction activities, the work shall cease until the applicant can implement appropriate procedures and secure additional permits.

3. Using qualified personnel, in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations, to complete all construction activities. Construction shall take place during normal business hours and equipment installed and used will meet all local noise regulations.
4. Monitoring ground disturbance during the construction phase of this project. Should archaeological materials or human remains be discovered during construction, all ground-disturbing activities on the project site shall cease and the applicant shall take reasonable measures to secure the discovery and limit access to the finding. The applicant shall notify FEMA and the State Historic Preservation Officer at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission.
5. Notifying FEMA should the scope of work change to include substantial design changes, additional ground disturbance, further vegetation removal, or other unanticipated changes to the physical environment.

FINDING

Based on the findings of the attached EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in the EA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations for environmental consideration (44 CFR Part 10) and Presidential Executive Orders on floodplains (EO 11988), wetlands (EO 11990) and environmental justice (EO 12898), FEMA has determined that the proposed action will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the natural or human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVED

 10/21/10

Jack Sullivan Date
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 1