



FEMA

**Public Notice of Availability**

**Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the  
City of Providence  
Providence Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Operation Center Expansion  
591 Charles Street, Providence Rhode Island**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment for the expansion of the Providence Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to be located at 591 Charles Street in Providence Rhode Island.

The proposed project is located within the northern portion of the City of Providence, Rhode Island. It is bounded to the north by Gillen Street, to the west by Charles Street (Route 246), and to the south by Marietta Street. The 0.67 acre Site currently features a PEMA building and paved parking areas.

The proposed project involves the construction of a two-story building addition and a one-story attached storage facility that will occupy an area of approximately 5,800 square-feet. The City of Providence is providing the land for the expansion. The addition will include training areas, dormitories (locker and shower facilities), cooking areas, new garage, and additional space needed for necessary parking accommodations.

The EOC project began in 2004 with the City designating a permanent site for the exclusive purpose of comprehensive Emergency Management. Phase I upgrades were completed in 2008 with Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grants and City funding. This proposed project represents Phase II of EOC development. In 2006 the Agency was awarded a FEMA Technical Assistance review. Following a detailed on-site analysis by the Technical Assistance Team in 2007, two major shortfalls were identified. First, inadequate space within the existing facility for administrative and emergency operations; and secondly, the lack of adequate force protection-physical security-survivability measures. Grant funding for the facility expansion will allow the Agency to attain a modern efficient and effective EOC capable of coordinating regional emergency response, redundant interoperable communications, and rapid public warning.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. This notice serves as an invitation for public comment on the proposed action and its potential effects on the subject property.

The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environmental, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region1.shtm> or viewed at the following locations:

- 591 Charles Street, Providence RI 02904, c/o Peter Gaynor, Director, Ph: 401-680-8000
- Providence City Hall, Room 311, City Clerks Office, 25 Dorrance Street, Providence RI 02903
- GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., 530 Broadway, Providence, RI 02909, Ph: 401-427-2731

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date of September 1, 2010. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to the contact below (before October 1, 2010). If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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