

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PROPOSED SOUTH GREENVILLE FIRE DISTRICT STATION 7, GREENVILLE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
PROGRAM NAME
ARRA-SCG Grant #EMW-2009-FC-01823**

BACKGROUND

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 (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the proposed project enhance the South Greenville Fire District's (SGFD) response capabilities in order to better serve and protect the community from fire and fire-related hazards by constructing a new fire station in Greenville County, South Carolina that are compliant with national standards. An EA was prepared to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

South Greenville Fire District was awarded a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters Fire Station Construction Grant (AFG) Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for the construction of Station 7 in September 2009, grant number *ARRA-SCG Grant #EMW-2009-FC-01823*. FEMA provides funds under this program for construction activities that help to meet the purpose of enhancing their ability to protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and related hazards.

Two project alternatives were explored in depth in the EA for the construction of SGFD Station 7: 1) No Action and 2) Preferred Action Alternative:

The preferred action alternative will result in construction of South Greenville Station 7 in an underserved area of Greenville County. The preferred action would provide improved response within the northern portion of the South Greenville Fire District, where current response times exceed national standards. The preferred action would also reduce response time to the expanding commercial businesses and industries associated with this area, which is the county's industrial hub and is an area that is expected to experience continued significant population growth. Emergency response times will be drastically reduced following construction of this 6,000 sq. ft. station complete with two pull-through bays and ample space for 24 hr. occupancy by a crew of six firefighters. The No Action alternative would result in no construction of a new fire station in this location. Since the nearest existing fire station is located approximately four miles from the northern portion of the fire district emergency response times within this area of the fire district would remain as they currently exist. Response times are expected to further increase with the predicted population growth and associated increased call-volume. The no action alternative results in a lower level of overall public safety than the preferred action alternative.

A public notice was posted in *The Greenville News* and *The Journal* on November 12, 2010 and the draft EA was available for review for a period of 15 days at the South Greenville Fire District Headquarters, 8305 Augusta Rd., Pelzer, SC 29669; Greenville County Magistrate Office Augusta Rd. Branch, 8150 Augusta Rd., Piedmont, SC 29673; Anderson County Library, 1407 Hwy 86, Piedmont, SC 29673. The draft EA was also available online at the <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea->

region4.shtm website. The public was invited to comment on the proposed action and the draft EA. No comments were received from the public during the 15-day comment period.

FINDINGS

The preferred action as described in the EA will not adversely impact geology, groundwater, floodplains, wetlands, environmental justice, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, hazardous materials, or socioeconomic resources. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soil, downstream surface water, traffic, air quality, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts require utilizing best management practices to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, comments from the public, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major Federal action that will not significantly adversely affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant adverse cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.9) and the preferred actions as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL

William R. Straw, Ph.D.
Regional Environmental Officer

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