

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of Valley Hill Fire and Rescue Station 4 in Hendersonville, Henderson County, North Carolina. The proposed action is for construction of Valley Hill Station 4 on Valley Hill Fire and Rescue owned land at 1914 Brevard Road (Highway 64) in the City of Hendersonville. The new Valley Hill Station 4 would consist of a 4,320-square foot building and will be one story. The building would be designed for full-time occupancy with both male and female bunkrooms, bathrooms, and showers, a kitchen, a day room, an exercise room, an office, and three truck bays. Activities would include site clearing, grading, and placing utilities (electricity, telephone, water, and sewer) for the site. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.), associated environmental laws, and FEMA implementing regulations for NEPA (44 CFR Part 10), a draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action's and several alternatives' potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the proposed action's purpose and need, several alternatives, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences from the proposed action and its alternatives. The public comment period will be 15 days – November 12, 2010 through November 26, 2010. Written public comments on the Draft EA or related matters may be faxed to FEMA's Region IV Office at (770) 220-5440; emailed to FEMA-R4EHP@dhs.gov; or mailed to FEMA R4 DREO Stephanie Madson, 3003 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta GA, 30341-4112. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm>. The Draft EA will also be available for public review at the following locations:

- Valley Hill Fire and Rescue Head Quarters at 1675 Willow Road, Hendersonville, North Carolina Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Laurel Park Town Hall at 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park, North Carolina Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Henderson County Fire Marshal's Office at 211 1st Avenue East, Hendersonville, North Carolina, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Based on FEMA's findings to date, we anticipate no significant adverse effects on historical properties or the natural environment. If new information is received that results in a change, then FEMA would revise its findings and issue a second public notice for additional comments. If no substantive, contrary comments are received, then the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

All comments must be received by FEMA by midnight on November 26, 2010 to be considered.