

PUBLIC NOTICE – AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED PITTSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE DEPARTMENT NEW FIRE / RESCUE STATION # 3 – CHATHAM COUNTY, N. C.

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed new fire station / rescue building to be constructed by the Pittsboro Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Inc. (PVFRD) within the Asbury Community of southern Chatham County, N. C. The preferred alternative is the construction of a 3-bay metal building of approximately 6000 square feet in size at the intersection of Highway NC 87 and Walter Bright Road. Also included in the facility will be a kitchen, bedrooms, a dayroom, and training areas for personnel manning the facility. A minimum of two personnel will man the station full-time. The PVFRD already owns the land on which the new building will be constructed. The new fire station / rescue building will allow the PVFRD to decrease firefighting and emergency response times to the Asbury Community by one-half or more as compared to present conditions. Activities would include clearing, grading, construction of the building, parking lot, and driveways, and placing of utilities on 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 18, 2010 – December 2, 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: Chatham County Public Library – 197 NC 87 North, Pittsboro, N. C. (Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. ; Friday 9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. ; Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) and at the Pittsboro Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department – 150 Sanford Road, Pittsboro, N. C. (Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 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 December 2, 2010 to be considered.