



FEMA

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
FINAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR HAZARD MITIGATION SAFE ROOM CONSTRUCTION**

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10, and the President's Council on Environmental Quality NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, FEMA prepared a draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to evaluate the potential impacts to the human environment resulting from the construction of residential and non-residential (individual) safe rooms and community safe rooms that are proposed for funding under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program. Section 203 (PDM) and 404 (HMGP) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq., authorize FEMA to provide funding to eligible applicants for eligible, feasible, and cost-effective activities that have the purpose of reducing or eliminating risks to life and property from hazards and their effects. One such activity is the construction and installation of safe rooms to protect populations from extreme wind events. The PEA is incorporated by reference into this FONSI.

The PEA evaluated five alternatives: (1) No Action; (2) Retrofit or Renovation of an Existing or Proposed Facility (Type A: Existing Facilities; Type B: New Facilities or Significant Renovation of Existing Facilities); (3) Safe Room Connected to an Existing Building and Beyond Original Footprint; (4) New Stand-Alone Construction in Previously Disturbed Areas; and (5) New Stand-Alone Construction in Previously Undisturbed Areas.

FEMA will develop tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for those safe room projects requiring evaluation under areas of concern not evaluated in this PEA, having impacts beyond those described in the PEA or otherwise requiring a tiered SEA as identified in Table 1 in the PEA. Notice of the availability of the draft PEA was published in the Federal Register on April 27, 2011, for a 30-day public comment period. No comments were received on the draft PEA.

CONDITIONS

Actions under this PEA and FONSI must meet the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions would make the FONSI determination inapplicable for the project and could jeopardize the receipt of FEMA funding.

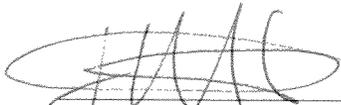
1. Excavated soil and waste materials will be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. If contaminated materials are discovered during construction activities, the work will cease until the appropriate procedures and permits are implemented.
2. The grantee and sub grantee will follow applicable mitigation measures as identified in Section 7 of the PEA to the maximum extent possible.
3. If ground disturbing activities occur during construction, applicant will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the State and FEMA.
4. The grantee and sub grantee must meet any project-specific conditions developed and agreed upon between FEMA and with environmental planning or historic preservation resource or regulatory agencies during consultation or coordination.
5. This review does not address all federal, state and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.

FINDING

Based upon the information contained in the Final PEA, the potential impacts resulting from the five alternatives analyzed in the PEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA finds that the implementation of the proposed action will not have significant impacts to the quality of the human environment.

Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared. This FONSI is based upon proposed safe room projects fitting one of the project types described in the Final PEA and meeting all conditions prescribed for that particular project type.

APPROVAL



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Date JUN 02 2011



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Date 6/1/11
