

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
HIGHWAY GARAGE FACILITY
TOWN OF AFTON, CHENANGO COUNTY, NEW YORK
FEMA-1650-DR-NY**

BACKGROUND

The Town of Afton (Town), Chenango County, New York has requested federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct a new highway garage facility at a property located at 1418 State Route 7. The Town experienced flooding and storm damages within its community during severe storms and flooding from June 26, 2006 to July 10, 2006. The storm incident period was declared a major disaster by President George W. Bush on July 1, 2006, and federal public assistance was made available to affected communities such as Afton per FEMA 1650-DR-NY and in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) (PL 93-288), as amended. The Town's highway garage on Court Street was significantly damaged during the disaster and was condemned and later demolished in the fall of 2006. After the 2006 flooding, the Town had rented space within an existing commercial building on this property for its highway garage operation. The Town later acquired the property. The proposed project would involve construction of an addition to the existing commercial building and construction of site utilities and amenities to house both the relocated highway garage and Town Administrative offices. The Town's long-term planning for the newly acquired parcel could also involve construction of a future bus garage on the west side of the property. The proposed project is referenced as subgrant application #3608 for FEMA 1650-DR-NY.

The Town is seeking federal financial assistance to apply towards the costs of demolition of the flood-damaged original highway garage facility; rental costs for use of the temporary relocation building; property acquisition; and planning, engineering, design and construction of a the new highway garage facility. The Town is not seeking federal funds for the approximate 4,500 square-foot portion of the new site construction related to the relocation of the Town's administrative offices. The Town's administrative offices were not damaged during the disaster incident and are considered improvements to the FEMA eligible highway garage facility project.

Reconstruction of the highway garage facility at the original location was screened from consideration due to the extensive flood damage experienced at that location. Three alternative relocation sites for the Town's highway garage were also screened from further analysis because of site constraints, building capacity deficiencies and economic considerations. The No Action Alternative was eliminated as it would not fully restore the community's highway garage functions necessary for public safety.

DESCRIPTION

The Town has elected to construct its new highway garage facility at 1418 State Route 7 (Latitude 42.2394, Longitude -75.4849). The new facility will be constructed as an expansion to the existing garage building on the lot. The existing building garage would be renovated and enlarged to accommodate large highway equipment and approximately 7,400 square-feet of garage space. The garage would be outfitted with a truck exhaust system for worker health. The site would be developed with construction of new highway garage office space of approximately 896 square-feet. The site would be developed to include new utilities including a septic system, new sewer/water line, and site amenities such as a parking lot. This property is an approximate 3.47 acre size lot that the Town currently owns. The property would also be developed to include construction of 4,500 square-feet of Town administrative office space, although not a dependent feature or connected action to the eligible highway garage project due to its independent utility. It is anticipated that in the reasonably foreseeable future, a bus garage may also be constructed on the western side of the property.

The original facility at Court Street would continue to serve as a parking lot for nearby recreational fields and community buildings with implementation of the proposed action.

CONDITIONS

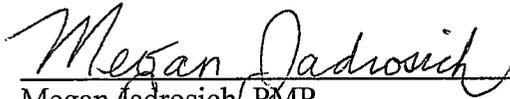
The grant applicant must meet these conditions as part of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize Federal funds:

1. Applicant shall complete SEQR Environmental Assessment Form prior to construction. For information visit NYSDEC website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/357.html>.
2. Applicant shall provide copy of executed SEQR Environmental Assessment Form to NYSOEM/FEMA at close-out.
3. Applicant shall review project plans to determine if a NYSDEC SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity will be needed. If site disturbance for construction is anticipated to exceed one acre, a NYSDEC permit would be required. For more information visit the NYSDEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/43133.html>
4. All applicable permits must be obtained prior to construction.
5. Applicant shall provide copies of all applicable local, state and federal environmental permits to NYSOEM/FEMA at close-out. If a NYSDEC General Permit for Stormwater Discharges is needed for construction, the Applicant shall provide NYSOEM/FEMA a copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and a copy of the Notice of Intent Form at close-out.
6. If cultural resources are unexpectedly discovered during construction, activities would cease in the immediate area and the New York State Historic Preservation Office, the FEMA Regional Environmental Officer and the New York State Office of Emergency Management would be notified before work would continue.

FINDINGS

Based on the findings of the attached Environmental Assessment, coordination with the appropriate agencies, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in the EA, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (44 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508) and FEMA regulations for environmental consideration pertaining to NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10), FEMA has determined that the proposed action will have no significant adverse impact on the quality of the biological or human environments. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVED:

 5-20-2011
Megan Jadowsich, PMP
Regional Environmental Officer
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region II