

Public Notice of the Intent of FEMA to Fund a Project

Notification is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) intent to provide funding for the construction a group housing site in the City of Joplin, MO. Due to the large tornado that struck the town, rental resources, existing pads and mobile home sites were not sufficient to meet the housing need. Funding will be provided in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA is required to review the proposed action and possible alternative solutions to the proposed action. Two alternatives were evaluated in an Environmental Assessment (EA): No-Action, Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not fund the Proposed Action. Because the tornado destroyed approximately 10-20 percent of the houses and a large number of Joplin's residents remain in other locations with their families and friends, in travel trailers, and motels in other surrounding cities such as Carthage and Springfield. This will result in further economic and personal hardships for affected residents, disrupt school attendance and the school system, and further strain the county's social and economic infrastructure. The proposed action alternative was chosen because it:

- Will have no significant adverse impacts on the human environment;
- Will provide temporary housing for families displaced by the tornado in the Joplin vicinity of Jasper County, Missouri, and;
- Will be cost effective

Agencies contacted for comments in the writing of the EA included the: Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Missouri State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) produced "No Effect" determination letters from each agency.

The President of the United States has issued Executive Orders (EO) that require Federal agencies, when considering an action or finding, to focus attention on the environment and on human health with respect to: Floodplain Management, Executive Order (EO) 11988; Wetlands Protection, EO 11990; and Environmental Justice, EO 12898. Compliance with Executive Orders, other environmental laws, and the NEPA have been documented in an EA. The EA has found that the proposed action alternative will have no significant adverse impact on the human environment. As a result of this finding, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and if no comments to the contrary are received, A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be signed after 3 days from the date of this notice. At that time the proposed project as described in the prepared EA may proceed.

Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the action, or request a copy of the FONSI by contacting FEMA's Joint Field Office, which is located at 1512 Heriford Rd., Columbia, MO. Requests can be made to the Environmental Advisor at (816) 872-2014 or at Chelsea.Klein@fema.gov