

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 of a temporary Responder Support Camp in Ward County, North Dakota. Due to the severe flooding that struck the city, rental resources 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): Under the No Action Alternative, FEMA would not fund the Proposed Action. Under the Preferred Alternative, a Responder Support Camp (RSC) is recommended to house disaster responders working in the immediate vicinity of Minot, North Dakota. The RSC is needed due to severe limitations on available housing as a result of damage and destruction of more than 4000 residences and businesses in Minot and Ward County, North Dakota. The preferred action alternative was chosen because it:

- Will have no significant adverse impacts on the human or natural environment;
- Will provide temporary housing for federal, state, and local responders assisting with the response and recovery underway as a result of flooding in Minot and Ward County, North Dakota, without affecting those disaster survivors in Minot and Ward County needing temporary housing as a result of the flooding, 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), North Dakota State Water Commission, North Dakota Game and Fish, North Dakota Department of Health, North Dakota Department of Transportation, and North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) which 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 600 South 2nd Street, Bismarck, ND 58504. A copy of the Draft EA may be reviewed on FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>. Requests can also be made to the

Environmental Advisor at (701) 221-8697 or at Charles.Bello@fema.dhs.gov. If you have a speech disability or hearing loss and use a TTY, call 1-800-462-7585 TTY directly, or if you use 711-Relay or Video Relay Service (VRS), call 1-701-221-5105. Responses must be received no later than Monday, July 18, 2011.