

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (Draft EA)
for the Proposed Construction and Operation of the Clinical Services Wing and Associated Site
Demolition Activities
University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to reimburse eligible applicants for eligible costs to repair and/or replace facilities damaged by Hurricane Ike beginning on September 13, 2008. This notice applies to the Public Assistance (PA) program implemented under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5206.

Interested persons are hereby notified that The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), located at 301 University Boulevard, Galveston, Texas, has applied to FEMA for assistance with the proposed construction and operation of a 6-story Clinical Services Wing (CSW) and associated site demolition activities after sustaining an estimated \$1 billion in damages, including lost revenue due to the closure of UTMB's hospital's facilities.

The proposed UTMB project will involve demolishing 5 buildings (Jennie Sealy Hospital, the Surgical Research Building, former (Old) Shriner Burn Institute, Carpenter's Shop and Physical Plant Storeroom, and the Surgical Research Annex) to prepare the site for construction of the CSW. The CSW would be designed to relocate and elevate major clinical support services components, currently located on the ground level of the existing UTMB hospital complex, which were severely damaged by flooding during Hurricane Ike. The facility is proposed as a 6-story building designed to resist a 132-mph wind load and would consist of approximately 240,000 gross square feet (gsf) of new building construction, 19,800 gsf of new bridge construction, and approximately 2,470 gsf of renovation within the existing hospital complex. This new facility would allow for appropriate state-of-the-art building systems that meet the current building code and FEMA requirements and would provide efficient and effective patient care support services for the clinical environment at UTMB. Building demolition and site preparation is estimated to require approximately 6 months and CSW construction would require approximately 39 months. Preliminary project costs for demolition and new construction are estimated at \$102 million. Operational occupancy of the CSW is anticipated for 2015.

The purpose and need for the project is to restore the critical clinical complex functions at UTMB that were lost or damaged due to Hurricane Ike, and to avoid the loss of essential health care services as a result of future storm events.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the implementing regulations of FEMA, a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternatives, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for the proposed action. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm> or at the UTMB website at <http://www.utmb.edu/>. The Draft EA can also be viewed at the Galveston City Hall, Dickinson Public Library, La Marque Public Library, Friendswood Public Library, Helen Hall Library,

Rosenberg Library, Mae S. Bruce Library, Genevieve Miller Hitchcock Public Library, and the Moore Memorial Public Library.

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date of September 1, 2011. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. Verbal comments are being accepted at (877) 287-9804.

If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

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