

PUBLIC NOTICE
FEMA NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT
DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
EXTENSION OF HMGP PROGRAM EXCEPTION FOR RESIDENTIAL
PROPERTIES IN LOUISIANA

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (SPEA) and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the SPEA is to assess the effects on the human and natural environment from the proposed provision of a limited exception as suggested in Section 602 of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for the funding of any otherwise eligible hazard mitigation activity undertaken by homeowners in Louisiana that was initiated without receiving environmental and historic preservation review and prior FEMA approval. This alternative eliminates the existing cut-off date of March 16, 2008, for grandfathering residential hazard mitigation actions initiated by homeowners without FEMA's prior approval. The hazard mitigation activity must have been undertaken as a result of damages caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The original grace period would remain for commercial, public and private non-profit hazard mitigation actions initiated prior to FEMA review and approval.

The draft SPEA evaluates a No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action stated above, and the Exception for hazard mitigation measures taken by homeowners in Louisiana with an extension of the grace period, with the deadline not determined at this time. This SPEA supplements and updates the first Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the HMGP Program Exception, dated December 2007. The FONSI will be FEMA's finding that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the human and natural environment, if no additional substantive information is discovered during the public review and comment period. FEMA has determined that there is a need to consider taking an action related to the HMGP program exception for residential property owners in Louisiana. The purpose of this action is to make available funds for the hazard mitigation of residences to protect them from future disasters.

The eligible activities under this alternative for residential structures include:

- Retrofits (IMM)
- Elevations
- Mitigation reconstruction
- Demolition where a prospective acquisition or mitigation reconstruction is proposed

This draft SPEA evaluates the proposed action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. It summarizes the purpose and need, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and alternatives.

The draft SPEA and draft FONSI are available for review and can be downloaded from FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm. The comment period will begin August 17, 2011 and ends September 24, 2011 at 4 pm. Comments may be mailed to: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY--FEMA EHP—Draft SPEA Extension of HMGP Supplemental Programmatic Exception for Residential Properties in Louisiana, 1 Seine Court, 4th Floor New Orleans, LA 70114. Comments may be emailed to: FEMA-NOMA@dhs.gov or faxed to: 504-762-2353. Verbal comments will be accepted or recorded at 504-762-2205. If no substantive comments are received, the draft SPEA and associated FONSI will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice for work in the floodplain in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9.12.