

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF
NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR
RECONSTRUCTION AT AN ALTERNATE LOCATION OF THE JOSEPH
BARTHOLOMEW MAINTENANCE BUILDING, ORLEANS PARISH,
LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed reconstruction and relocation of the Hurricane Katrina damaged Joseph Bartholomew Maintenance Building located at 4800 Hayne Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana. The proposed action is for replacement of the Joseph Bartholomew Maintenance Building 11,800 SF pre-engineered steel metal facility in a different location approximately 160 feet south of the existing structure at Latitude 30.02829, Longitude - 90.04074. City of New Orleans seeks Federal grant funds for this action eligible for repairs under a Presidential Disaster Declaration, signed on August 29, 2005 (FEMA-1603-DR-LA).

This proposed action would include developing a site adjacent to and approximately 160 feet south of the existing structure. This would include constructing an approximately 11,800 square foot building, to mainly service the current needs in this community and the surrounding areas. Activities would include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, driveway construction, and placement of appurtenant utilities (electricity, telephones, water, and sewer) for the site. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a Draft EA has been prepared to evaluate the action's potential impacts on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, alternative site analysis, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

The public notice will be published for five consecutive days: December 19-23, 2011. The comment period will be 15 days – beginning on December 23, 2011 through January 12, 2012. Written comments on the Draft EA or related matters can be faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office at (504) 762-2323; or mailed to FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office, 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114. The Draft EA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm>. A public notice will be published for 5 days in the local newspaper, *The Times-Picayune* announcing the availability of the Draft EA for public review at the Orleans Parish Main Library at 219 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70112, (hours are 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Mon. - Thurs., 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Fri. & Sat.).

Based on FEMA's findings to date, no significant adverse environmental effects are anticipated. However, if FEMA receives new information that results in a change from no adverse effects then FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice allowing time for additional comments.

If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.