

**FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

Ramstad Middle School

City of Minot, ND

DR-1981-ND

July 13, 2012

BACKGROUND

On June 25, during the declared incident period (2/14/11 to 7/20/11), areas in Minot were flooded by the Souris/Mouse River, severely damaging several schools, numerous businesses, and thousands of residences. President Obama declared a major disaster for North Dakota due to damages from the severe flooding and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1981-DR-ND) on May 10, 2011, with seven amendments authorizing FEMA to provide federal assistance in designated areas.

This EA addresses one of the flooded schools, Ramstad Middle School, located at 501 Lincoln Avenue; approximately 505, 6th-grade through 8th-grade students attend school. The magnitude of the damage sustained by this school rendered it inhabitable for the 2011 - 2012 School Year. Schools are a critical facility to the community and the school district's governing body is mandated to provide and maintain facilities for the purpose of the students' continuing education. The Minot School District has leased building space in the existing Minot Municipal Auditorium facility, located at 424 3rd Ave SW, Minot, ND. The lease commenced on August 23, 2011, with an expiration date of July 1, 2012; the lease includes access to the parking lot for the placement of temporary portable units.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is to construct a new school facility that would provide a new home for the displaced 6th through 8th grade students who previously attended the flooded Ramstad Middle School. MSD#1 is considering the purchase of approximately 20 acres of undeveloped agricultural land west of 36th Avenue NW and N Broadway.

The new 103,683 square foot (sf), school facility would be located in the eastern portion of the 20-acre parcel. The new school would provide two sections per grade level for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. Each section would include classrooms for Reading, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Math, plus Teacher Planning and Small Group Instruction rooms. The sections would also include Team Resource rooms, Science Labs with adjacent Prep Rooms; an Art Room with storage and kiln, Family and Consumer Sciences rooms, two Technology Labs, a Band Room, a Choral Room, two practice rooms, and two Special Education rooms with resource and offices.

Additionally, the school would include administration offices with a secured access main entrance, including offices for principal, assistant principal, counselor, etc.; a Media Center with a computer lab/resource center and support areas; a cafeteria/stage with kitchen; a gymnasium and locker rooms with two-section capability, weights/fitness room and a pool; multi-user restrooms, and custodial and miscellaneous accessory spaces. Other site improvements include two softball fields with football/soccer practice fields overlapping the outfields, a 400 -meter track around the football/soccer field, and paved parking areas (including student drop off/pick up areas) to facilitate staff and visitor needs.

MITIGATION AND STIPULATIONS

The resulting mitigation and stipulations upon which this finding is conditioned are:

- Wetland mitigation (in the form of stormwater ponds) on the northwest and southeast portions of the site totaling 0.7 acres. Educational placards will be placed at each of the ponds. The placards will list and/or depict wetland benefits including flood control, habitat, and natural filtration.
- Final site plans will be provided to USFW; the applicant, State, and FEMA will work to mitigate any outstanding non-jurisdictional wetland issue as appropriate.
- If cultural resources are encountered during construction, work would be stopped until appropriate coordination has been completed with FEMA and the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Officer.
- The City of Minot is responsible for obtaining all applicable permits for this project.

FINDINGS

Based on information contained in the attached Environmental Assessment that was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, FEMA's regulations (44 CFR Part 10) for environmental consideration, and Executive Orders addressing Floodplains (E.O. 11988), Wetlands, (E.O. 11990) and Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898), it has been found that the proposed action will have no significant adverse impact to human health or the environment. As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the proposed action with the associated mitigation measures as described above may proceed.

Steven Hardegen



Date: July 17, 2012

Region VIII Environmental Officer