

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

Lincoln Elementary School

City of Minot, ND

DR-1981-ND

June 4, 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, Lincoln Elementary School, located at #1 7th Street Southwest, where approximately 276 Kindergarten through 5th 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 16,693 Square Feet of building space in the existing 1st Presbyterian Church facility, located at 1000 3rd Street NE, Minot, ND. The lease commenced on August 23, 2011, with an expiration date of July 1, 2012.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is to construct an addition to the Longfellow Elementary School facility will provide a new home for the displaced Lincoln Elementary School students. The proposed construction will be added to the southeast, southwest, and northeast portions of the existing Longfellow Elementary School. The proposed southwest addition consists of a new gymnasium addition, while the southeast and northeast additions consist of new academic wings. A hard surface playground would separate the two new academic wings (See Appendix A for the Preliminary Schematic Design Manual).

The new addition will provide a total gross area of 41,819 square feet (sf). Specifically, the existing facility is proposed to be renovated and increased to facilitate four sections for each Kindergarten through 5th grade level, and two Pre-Kindergarten classrooms. The renovated areas will include an expanded Lobby with a secured access main entrance, and conversion of the existing Gymnasium into a Multi-Purpose Room/Cafeteria with serving line. In addition, the entire first floor area will be renovated to like-new condition including new finishes such as flooring, wall surfaces, paintable surfaces, suspended acoustical ceilings and gypsum board, as well as new doors, windows, and built-in casework.

On the second floor, one classroom will be remodeled to allow for the corridor access to the addition and for Title 1 use, another will be repurposed as a Team Resource Room (as a design deductive alternate), and the Multi-User Toilets are proposed to be renovated (as a design deductive alternate).

The new additions will include a single story wing with nine classrooms and Multi-User Toilets, a two story wing with 12 classrooms, three Team Resource areas (as a design deductive alternate), with stairways and elevator, and another single story addition with Gymnasium with two section capability, Multi-User Toilet Rooms, two Music Rooms, and miscellaneous accessory spaces. The additions have been placed to maintain existing window locations and allow new classrooms to have windows. The site will have reconfigured and expanded paved parking to facilitate increased staff and visitor's needs.

MITIGATION AND STIPULATIONS

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

- Longfellow Hockey Rink and School Park a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) project site: If property is taken from within the six foot boundary of the site for non-recreational use, it will be replaced with property of equal market value. Additionally, should any public or private utilities need to be added or relocated on the LWCF land, the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) will be consulted prior to taking any action.
- 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:

06/04/2012

Region VIII Environmental Officer