

Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice of the Availability of the Environmental Assessment for
Global Terminal and Container Services Imaging System Port Facility Security Enhancements
Jersey City, Hudson County, NJ

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, as grantee, and Global Terminal and Container Services, L.L.C. (Global), as sub-grantee, for the construction of new truck imaging portals at 302 Port Jersey Blvd. Jersey City, NJ, 07305. The proposed project would be funded through the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP), under the authority of the *Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002*, as amended (46 U.S.C. §70107) and consistent with the SAFE Port Act (Public Law 109-347).

The scope of work for the proposed project would consist of the installation of (6) truck imaging portals and associated work. This would include the construction of three prefabricated metal enclosures which would be placed at the inbound and outbound gates as well as the entrance/exit to the rail facility which would have nominal respective footprints of 30 x 60 ft and two imaging portal lanes each; the installation of two area scan cameras and five line scan cameras with associated mounting hardware within the portals; the installation of electrical power generators; and approximately 9,000 ft of utility trenching to a depth of 48 inches to provide power and communication connectivity between the six imaging portals and the primary/backup server rooms. All associated activity would occur within existing paved area which would be restored in kind. No additional impervious area would be created as a result of this project.

The project site is within the Special Flood Hazard Area of the Upper Bay, as shown on the Jersey City Flood Insurance Rate Map (Community Panel Number 34017C0112D). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and 44 CFR Part 9, DHS-FEMA evaluated practicable alternatives to locating the project outside the floodplain and alternatives to construct the facility with risk minimization measures. DHS-FEMA concluded that the port-security function must be located at the planned locations within the 100-year floodplain. The lowest floor of the structure, and above-ground utilities, will either be elevated at or above the 100-year base flood elevation (BFE) or the facility will be flood-proofed to the BFE.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. This includes a Programmatic EA that addresses general environmental analysis of DHS-FEMA Grants Program Directorate grant projects, and a tiered EA that specifically addresses this project. The tiered EA summarize the project's purpose and need, project alternatives, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for considered alternatives. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated with the tiered EA. The PEA and EA are available for public comment and can be viewed and downloaded from DHS-FEMA's website at: www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/programmatic-ehp.shtm (PEA) and www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region2.shtm (Tiered EA). The tiered EA can be viewed in hard copy at the following location:

Jersey City Public Library located at 472 Jersey Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07302.

The comment period will end on 15 days from the date of this legal notice publication in the Jersey Journal newspaper. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. Contact: DHS-FEMA Region II, Mitigation Division, Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation, Floor 13, 26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278 or via fax at 212.680.3602.