

**Environmental Assessment
Fire Station Facility Construction
Wellsburg, Chemung County, New York**

4031-DR-NY

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FEMA

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region II, 26 Federal Plaza, NY, NY 10278**

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AD	Area of Disturbance
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAF	Environmental Assessment Form
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
EO	Executive Order
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
HEC-RAS	Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Services
NYS	New York State
NYSBC	New York State Building Code
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSEG	New York State Electric & Gas
NYSOEM	New York State Office of Emergency Management
OPRHP	Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
SF	Square Foot
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SPDES	State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
USACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WBDG	Whole Building Design Guide
WVFD	Wellsburg Volunteer Fire Department

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Village of Wellsburg Volunteer Fire Department, herein referred to as the Subgrantee, has requested federal funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to construct a new fire station facility and relocate its fire emergency services from an existing repetitively flood damaged facility to a new site that would be located at 147 Main Street in Wellsburg, Chemung County, New York. The Village of Wellsburg experienced storm damages and flooding from Tropical Storm Lee that occurred September 7, 2011 to September 11, 2011. The storm incident period was declared a major declaration by President Obama on September 13, 2011 (amended September 23, 2011). Federal Public Assistance was made available to affected communities and certain non-profit organizations per FEMA 4031-DR-NY and in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5172), as amended. The New York State Office of Emergency Management is the grantee partner for the proposed action. The existing fire station facility at 3661 Front Street was severely flooded during the Tropical Storm Lee event, and has had a past history of flood damages. In order to provide necessary emergency services to the residents of the Village and the surrounding area, a goal of the project is to construct a fire station facility that would be accessible during a major storm event and that would have incorporated structural flood damage risk reduction measures to avoid or minimize potential future damages and associated costs and avoid disruption of the emergency function of the facility. The Public Assistance sub-grant application (SA) reference number for this project is PA-02-NY-4031-PW-01100.

FEMA is required as a federal agency to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of its proposed actions, and alternatives to proposed actions, in order to make an informed decision in defining a proposed project for implementation. FEMA must consider and incorporate, to the extent practicable, measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse impacts to the human environment. The environmental analysis is conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and its implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 and FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10. FEMA evaluates financial assistance projects prior to grant approval.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) serves as documentation of FEMA's analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the proposed fire station facility project, including analysis of project alternatives, and identification of impact minimization measures. The document serves as written communication of the environmental evaluation for public and interested party comment. Public involvement is a component of NEPA to inform an agency's determination of whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

The objective of the Public Assistance Grant Program is to provide assistance to State, Tribal and local governments, and certain types of Private nonprofit organizations so that communities can

quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. The purpose of this project is to provide emergency services to the residents of the Village and the surrounding area by providing a fire station facility that structurally has incorporated flood damage risk reduction minimization measures to enable the facility to be accessible and operational during flooding events. The need is to maintain public safety and operability of first responders during an emergency event. The need is also due to the flood damage sustained to the existing fire station as a result of Tropical Storm Lee and the repetitive flooding of the existing facility that occurred in past history.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

NEPA requires the analysis of practicable alternatives as part of the environmental review process for the proposed project. Inclusion of a No Action Alternative in the environmental analysis and documentation is required under NEPA. The No Action Alternative is used to evaluate the effects of not providing eligible assistance for the project, thus providing a benchmark against which “action alternatives” may be evaluated. FEMA reviewed all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and Executive Orders for each alternative considered. FEMA is considering the following alternatives:

3.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative would be to retain and repair the flood damages at the existing fire station located at 3661 Front Street (at the intersection of Front Street and Church Street) (*See Appendix A Map and Site Photographs*). The Subgrantee is currently operating out of the flood damaged facility. The No Action Alternative is not the Subgrantee preferred alternative, as the existing fire station sustained damage and disruption of critical emergency services not only during Tropical Storm Lee, but also with other past flooding events as documented in the “Flood Mitigation Action Plan Village of Wellsburg Chemung County, New York” dated July 1999 (*Appendix C*) as follows: “*The Village of Wellsburg sustained severe flooding from the Chemung River and Bentley Creek in 1946, 1972 (Hurricane Agnes flood), and 1975 (Hurricane Eloise flood). Flooding from the Bentley Creek caused damage within the Village in 1984, June 1994, August 1994 (Hurricane Beryl), January 1996. The January 1996 flood caused an estimated \$1.68 Million in damage within the Village. Documented high water depths inside the Wellsburg Fire Station were 87 inches in 1972, 43 inches in 1975, and 57 inches in 1996. In addition to these flood events, many additional heavy rainfall events have caused localized drainage problems, ponding, streambank erosion and other difficulties.*”

According to the construction cost estimates provided by the Village Engineer, the existing facility’s estimated repair costs exceeds the assessed value. The Subgrantee has determined that the construction of a new facility to be a preferred and cost-effective measure.

Further, the Subgrantee has determined that it would not be feasible to construct a new fire station at the existing site because of spatial constraints that would make it impracticable to raise the new structure above the 500-Year Base Flood Elevation (BFE). The finish floor elevation (FFE) is 4.56 feet below the 100-Year BFE. The Village Engineer has determined that a new

facility at the existing location would be located a least 3 feet above the 100-year BFE, therefore effectively raising the new facility by 8.9 feet above the current FFE. As a critical facility, additional fill may be necessary to raise the facility to an elevation at or above the 500-year BFE. As new construction at the existing site was not determined to be feasible from an engineering perspective, the following two (2) alternate sites were considered for construction of a new facility.

3.2 Proposed Alternative

The Proposed Alternative would be the construction of a new fire station facility at 147 Main St., Wellsburg, NY 14894. The proposed parcel is a 3.50 acre lot owned by the Village of Wellsburg. As shown on the Village of Wellsburg tax map the Main Street site (Parcel #118 & #147) fronts on Main Street (a.k.a. New York State Route 367), which forms the properties eastern border. The majority of the site is bordered by residential lots/woods. The exception to this is to the north where the property borders Bentley Creek. The property is currently vacant. Parcel #147 was given to the Village of Wellsburg by Chemung County in 2007 for purposes of relocating the fire station. Parcel #118 was purchased by the Village in 2011. The Proposed Alternative is the Subgrantee's preferred alternative. The proposed site is in the 100-year floodplain, as well as the regulatory floodway. The site will be raised with approximately fifteen feet of fill in order to bring it to an elevation comparable to the adjoining roadway and above the 500-Year floodplain elevation.

The proposed new facility building would be 164-feet wide (north-south direction) by 84-feet deep (east-west direction), calculated to be 13,776 square feet. The building would be one story and the maximum height of the building would be 22 feet to the peak of the roof. The building would be a steel frame building with a concrete wall extending a few feet above the ground. The lower portion would have brick veneer and there would be full brick walls around the main doors. The finish floor elevation would be 861.5 feet. Please refer to plans provided in *Appendix D*. The building construction would take approximately 12 months to complete.

The Subgrantee would be responsible for securing the original facility and site. It is not known at this time if the existing facility would be demolished or not.

3.3 Alternative Action

An alternative site reviewed would be located on Terrace Street., Wellsburg, NY 14894. The parcel is a 4.50 acre lot reputedly owned by the Village of Wellsburg. The fire station would occupy approximately 1.8 acres of the entire parcel. The other 2.7 acres is a baseball diamond. As shown on the Village of Wellsburg tax map (*Appendix A*) the Terrace Street site (Parcel #226) fronts on Terrace Street, which forms the parcel's eastern border. The majority of the site is bordered by residential lots while the north side is bordered by a commercial type building.

The Terrace Street site is located partially within the 500-year floodplain and would require seven to eight feet of fill to raise it to an elevation at of above the level of the road. Terrace Street is a twenty foot wide local road in a generally residential area, but with a commercial land-use immediately adjacent. The site would support the construction of a fire station building; however

future expansion would be difficult without compromising the existing baseball field. Another site constraint with the Terrence Street site is the dimensions of the site. With the large turning radius of the emergency vehicles and the small site, there would be limitations on the building layout. These limitations would impact the amount of available parking spaces and would not meet the fire department needs. Additionally, use of the site for this purpose would forego the opportunity for future expansion of the adjoining commercial business, according to the Subgrantee. With the Alternative Action, the Subgrantee would be responsible for securing the original facility and site. It is not known at this time if the existing facility would be demolished or not.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CONSIDERED ALTERNATIVES

Table 1 on Page 5 summarizes potential impacts of the No Action, Proposed Action and Alternative Site alternatives. The following sections provide a more detailed description of the affected environment and potential environmental impacts of the No Action, Proposed Action and Alternative Site alternatives.

4.1 Topography, Geology and Soils

4.1.1 Existing Conditions

Topography

The proposed project site (Main Street) is located within the Bently Creek valley. Within the proposed area of disturbance (AD), there is a significant drop in elevation (approx. 10 ft.) from Main Street to the base. A significant slope in excess of 25 ft exists along the southern perimeter of the proposed AD. The AD itself is relatively level with only a one to three-foot change in elevation. Significant grade changes exist both east and west of the Bently Creek valley. The Alternative site off Terrace Street, also in the Bently Creek valley within the relatively flat area of the Village of Wellsburg, is also quite level. The grades within the Alternative site and prospective AD drop from as little as two to upwards of eight feet off Terrace Street.

Soils

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) operates the Web Soil Survey, which includes the soils of Chenango County. The preferred and alternative project sites consist predominantly of one soil type: Chenango Channery Silt Loam (*See Appendix D*). Chenango soils are well-drained with moderately high to high permeability. The Chenango soils are well suited for development including pavement, building foundations and infiltration. The sites are located outside the designated Town of Ashland Agricultural District #4. As the project area, inclusive of all project alternatives is mapped as "urban" on the Census Bureau Map, by regulation at 7CFR§658.2, development of soils/land in the area would not be subject to the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

TABLE 1 ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING, POTENTIAL IMPACTS, COORDINATION & PERMITS and MINIMIZATION MEASURES

Resource	Potential Impacts			Agency Coordination/ Permits	Impact Minimization Measures
	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action	Alternative Action		
Topography, Geology and Soils	No impact.	Moderate impact. Approx. 3.0 acres of soil/topography to be modified for project construction. No impact to the site's geology. No impact to prime or protected farmland soils.	No significant impact. Approx. 1.8 acres of soil/topography to be disturbed for project construction. No impact to the site's geology. No impact to prime or protected farmland soils.	NYSDEC/MS4 SPDES Permit	BMPs for erosion and sediment control.
Contaminated Materials	No impact.	No significant impact.	No significant impact.		Subgrantee responsible for securing existing facility. Construction BMPs.
Air Quality	No impact.	Temporary, minor impacts.	Temporary, minor impacts.		Construction BMPs
Water Resources and Water Quality	No significant impact.	No significant impact	No impact	NYSDEC/MS4 SPDES Permit	Compliance with SWPPP and SPDES. Maintain vegetated streamside buffer. Use of pervious paving materials.
Wetlands	No significant impact.	No significant impact.	No Impact.		Maintain vegetated streamside buffer. See above.
Floodplains	Adverse impact may result as the fire hall building would remain in the floodplain.	The 100-Year and 500-year floodplain would be adversely impacted as a result. Floodplain development and occupancy.	The 500-year floodplain would be impacted as a result. Floodplain development and occupancy.	Village of Wellsburg Floodplain Development Permit.	Establish final grades above the 500-year floodplain elevation. Limit fill to only that necessary to establish final grades.
Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat	No impact.	Moderate impact.	No impact.	NYSDEC/MS4 SPDES General Permit	Maintain vegetated streamside buffer. Use of pervious paving materials. Minimize use of or deposits of possible contaminants.
Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat	No impact.	No effect.	No effect.	NYSDEC NHP	
Vegetation	No impact.	Moderate impact. Area of disturbance includes a total of approx. 3.0 acres	No significant impact. Area of disturbance includes a total of 1.8 acres. This area's vegetation was previously managed as lawn by the Village		In accordance with EO13112 Invasive Species, adherence to Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine Zone Protocols. Native plant species will be selected for site landscape plantings to the extent practicable.
Cultural Resources	No impact.	No impact.	No known impacts. Site not fully assessed for potential impacts.	NYSHPO	
Socioeconomic Resources	May affect ability to provide emergency services and incur expenses related to future disaster repair.	No impact	May limit future expansion possibility. May limit potential expansion of adjoining commercial land-use.		
Aesthetic Resources	No impact.	Moderate adverse impact	Moderate adverse impact		
Environmental Justice	No impact. No low income or minority population in, near or affected by the project.	No impact. No low income or minority population in, near or affected by the project.	No impact. No low income or minority population in, near or affected by the project.		
Noise	No impact.	Temporary during construction. No permanent impact.	Temporary during construction. No permanent impact.		
Traffic	No impact.	No significant impact.	No significant impact.	NYSDOT Curb Cut	Traffic safety measures during construction and operation
Infrastructure	No impact.	No significant impact.	No significant impact.		
Public Health and Safety	Adverse impact.	Positive impact.	Positive impact.		
Climate Change	No impact.	No significant impact.	No significant impact.		Construction codes and design for facility energy use reduction.

Geology

Executive Order 12699 requires Federal agencies assisting in the financing, through Federal grants or loans, or guaranteeing the financing, through loan or mortgage insurance programs, of newly constructed building to initiate measures to assure appropriate consideration of seismic safety (WBDG, 1990). The United States Geological Survey (USGS) Percent Peak Ground Acceleration Seismic Hazard Maps (USGS, 2009) adopted by the New York State Building Code (NYSBC) indicate that the project site is located within a moderate seismic hazard area, as is most of New York State. The only area in New York State that has a higher hazard is located in the Central Adirondacks and further toward the Canadian border. Since seismic activity is so low within an area categorized as a moderate seismic hazard area, the construction of buildings would not have to meet any higher standards.

4.1.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

The "no action" alternative would have no significant adverse effect on topography, geology or the soils.

Proposed Action

Moderate impacts to soils and topography (ground disturbance) during construction would be expected. The floodplain site will be filled with approximately fifteen (15) feet of gravel and sediment fill material excavated from a nearby Seeley Creek location (as a beneficial reuse debris removal action). The AD is relatively small however, estimated at approximately 2.97 acres. Erosion and sedimentation impacts would be minimized through the implementation of an approved erosion and sediment control plan for construction activities. This stormwater plan would be developed as part of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit for the proposed project, and submitted to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4, Village of Wellsburg) prior to project construction. Designated MS4 communities can be found online at the NYSDEC Stormwater Mapper web site, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/imsmaps/stormwater/viewer.htm>. Best management practices for soil erosion and sediment control would be established, such as the installation of perimeter silt fences to control the migration of silt from the site. All construction activities are subject to the requirements of the storm water SPDES General Permit. All disturbed areas will be reseeded with permanent grass mixture consisting mainly of ryegrass. The proposed fire station embankment slopes will be protected with either rip-rap or turf reinforcing matting (TRM).

Alternative Action

No significant impact to soils and topography (ground disturbance) during construction would be expected. It has been confirmed that in order to bring the site to a suitable topographic condition for access and flood protection, it would need to be filled to a depth of seven to eight (7-8) feet. The AD is relatively small as well, estimated at approximately 1.8 acres. The site would be raised with compacted lifts of stream gravel deposits from another location as described above in Proposed Action. There are several additional physical restraints to the Terrace Street site that impact the utilization of that site. Terrence Street elevation is up to approximately 8 feet higher than the majority of the site. In order to have driveway entrances from Terrence Street, up to approximately eight (8) feet of fill will be needed. Due to site

restraints, a retaining wall would be required along the western property line of the site. The 8-foot of fill would have a visual impact of the adjacent homes and businesses. It will also have a visual impact on the adjacent park site. The site development work would be subject to the SPDES requirements as described above in Section 4.1.2.

4.2 Contaminated Materials

4.2.1. Existing Conditions

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted by Environmental Data Resources, Inc. There are only two environmental records related to potential contamination within ½ miles of the Main Street site (*See Appendix G*). One record is for a tank leak that is located at Main Street and Front Street. This tank site is located approximately ½ mile north of the site and over ten (10) feet lower than the Main Street site. There are two creeks that are located between the tank site and the Main Street site. According to the ESA, this record will not impact the alternative actions. The second record is on the RCRA NonGen/ NLR list (Non-Generator/No Longer Regulated). It is NYS Department of Transportation Bin 1046800 and it is located on the bridge over Bentley Creek which is adjacent to the Main Street site. It was a “one time” notification that occurred at the time the bridge decking was replaced and it has been closed.

4.2.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

No impacts from contaminated materials is expected. The existing site is located approximately 350-feet from an environment record for a tank leak/spill.

Proposed Action

No impact from contaminated materials. However, during construction activities, hazardous materials may be present on-site. Best management practices (BMPs) would be used for any storage or handling of potential contaminants. The Subgrantee would be responsible to secure the existing fire station facility and site.

Alternative Action

There are no environmental records on or near the Terrace Street site. Like the proposed action, this action would also implement BMPs during construction as described above. The Subgrantee would be responsible to secure the existing fire station facility and site.

4.3 Air Quality

4.3.1. Existing Conditions

The Federal Clean Air Act requires each state to attain and maintain specified air quality standards. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been promulgated by the Federal government and by NYS for carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), total suspended particulate (TSP), sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and lead. The New York standards are generally the same as the Federal standards for these pollutants. Primary air quality standards are set to protect human health and secondary standards are set to protect human welfare. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is presently implementing the 2008 ozone standards as

required by the Clean Air Act and meeting these standards would provide important public and environmental health benefits. Chemung County, is an unclassifiable/attainment area (EPA-Ozone, 2013).

4.3.2 Potential Impacts and Mitigation

No Action Alternative

The "no action" alternative would have no effect on air quality.

Proposed Action

Temporary impact to air quality is anticipated during construction; no long-term impacts are expected. Construction activities on the project site may have a potential impact on the local air quality through the generation of fugitive dust or airborne dust. Fugitive dust is generated during ground breaking and excavation activities. Emissions from diesel construction vehicles are also a potential source of air pollution and impact. With proper site maintenance and careful attention to construction activities BMPs, impacts from dust and vehicle emissions can be minimized.

Alternative Action

Temporary impact to air quality anticipated during construction (see Proposed Action above); no long-term impacts are expected.

4.4 Water Resources and Water Quality

4.4.1. Existing Conditions

The Village of Wellsburg is situated along Bentley Creek just south of the confluence with the much broader Chemung River valley. Bentley Creek is a NYSDEC Class C stream. The Classification C is for waters supporting fisheries and suitable for non-contact activities. Bentley Creek is not listed with the Nationwide Rivers Inventory. Groundwater is listed by the Web Soil Survey as being four to five feet below the surface. Based upon the proposed grades it is estimated that the groundwater depth will increase to as much as twenty feet on the preferred site and up to eight feet on the alternative site due to involved fill placement. A public water system is available on the preferred and alternative action sites.

4.4.2. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

No Action Alternative

There will be no significant impact to water quality. During future flood events, materials within the existing fire station could become waterborne pollutants.

Proposed Action

According to the EPA, the project is not located on a sole source aquifer. As an outcome of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) process (*See SEQR form in Appendix F*), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) suggested a number of protective measures to ensure Bentley Creek is not adversely impacted by the proposed fill and development activity as follows:

- Maintain a healthy, vegetated streamside buffer by preserving trees and shrubs along the stream edge and limiting logging to removing large branches that fall into the stream and divert stream flow and cause erosion.
- Control water flow through the streamside buffer to filter contaminants and reduce erosion by managing stormwater runoff from dwellings to prevent channelized flow; minimizing impervious areas near the streamside by using stone or brick instead of pavement for driveways and walkways; and excluding vehicles, livestock, or excessive pedestrian traffic.
- Prevent contaminants from entering the stream corridor by minimizing or eliminating buffer area exposure to fertilizer, herbicides, pesticide, animal waste, household and automotive chemicals, trash, debris, and piles of leaf litter and by maintaining septic systems.

Erosion and sedimentation impacts would be minimized through the implementation of an approved erosion and sediment control plan for construction activities. This stormwater plan would be developed as part of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit for the proposed project, and submitted to the MS4 prior to project construction. Best management practices for soil erosion and sediment control would be established, such as the installation of perimeter silt fences to control the migration of silt from the site. All construction activities are subject to the requirements of the stormwater SPDES permit.

A septic system with a leach field would be constructed to treat the sanitary sewage from the fire station. The septic tank and leach field would be designed and installed per the Chemung County Health Department requirements. The site is serviced by the Village of Wellsburg Water System. There is an 8-inch water main located adjacent to the site and would provide sufficient flows and pressure to service the proposed development.

Alternative Action

Erosion and sedimentation impacts would be minimized through the implementation of an approved erosion and sediment control plan for construction activities. This stormwater plan would be developed as part of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit for the alternative site project, and submitted to the MS4 prior to project construction. Best management practices for soil erosion and sediment control would be established, such as the installation of perimeter silt fences to control the migration of silt from the site. All construction activities are subject to the requirements of the stormwater SPDES permit.

A septic system with a leach field would be constructed to treat the sanitary sewage from the fire station. The septic tank and leach field would be designed and installed per the Chemung County Health Department requirements.

The site is serviced by the Village of Wellsburg Water System. There is a 8-inch water main that is located adjacent to the site and would provide sufficient flows and pressure to service the proposed project.

4.5 Wetlands

Executive Order 11990 “Wetlands Protection” requires that Federal agencies take actions to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the beneficial effects of wetlands.

4.5.1. Existing Conditions

Based on the wetlands review of the proposed project site for the presence of NYS regulated freshwater wetlands conducted at the NYSDEC’s “Environmental Resource Mapper” website; no state regulated wetlands are mapped within the AD. Based on a review of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory website; no Federally regulated wetlands are mapped within the AD (*See Appendix B*).

4.5.2. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

No Action Alternative

No impact to wetlands would be anticipated for the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action

The open water & riparian habitat of the nearby Bentley Creek is defined as a wetland per 44CFR§9.4. Potential impacts to the adjacent creek can be avoided or minimized by adherence to the protective measures outlined in Section 4.4.2. and as described by NYSDEC in the SEQ form (*Appendix F*).

Alternative Action

No impact to wetlands would be anticipated for the Alternative Action.

4.6 Floodplains

EO 11988 Floodplain Management requires that Federal agencies avoid funding activities that directly or indirectly support occupancy, modification, or development of the 100-year floodplain whenever there are practicable alternatives. FEMA uses Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to identify floodplains for the NFIP. Federal actions within the 100-year floodplain, or 500-year floodplain for critical actions, require the Federal agency to conduct an Eight-Step process. This process, like NEPA, requires the evaluation of alternatives prior to funding the action. FEMA’s regulations for conducting Eight-Step processes are contained in 44 CFR Part 9.5.

Various studies have been conducted to address the existing floodplain issues in the Village of Wellsburg. The 1999 Flood Mitigation Action Plan (*Appendix C*) states “The Village will pursue the process already initiated to relocate the Wellsburg emergency center (Wellsburg Fire Station, State Police Substation, and Village Offices) to a site that will not be susceptible to flooding (Problem #9). The new site will be farther from the railroad tracks, and thus less susceptible to a hazardous material spill (Problem #32).” The 2011 Draft Watershed Project Plan for Bentley Creek (*Appendix C*) does not specifically identify the emergency center/fire station in the report. It does indicate that a protective dike could protect the Village from flooding thereby allowing emergency services to continue to operate.

4.6.1. Existing Conditions

According to the FIRM (3601570001B, effective June 15, 1981) and latest available information (Draft FIRM 36015C0263F dated November 2010), the existing and proposed sites are located in Zone A8 within the 100-Year floodplain. The Alternative Action site on Terrace Street is located partially within Zone B (Shaded X), or 500-Year floodplain, and partially outside the 500-Year floodplain. Much of the community is mapped in the 100-Year Floodplain.

4.6.2. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

FEMA has prepared a summary document of the Eight-Step Decision-Making Process for the E.O. 11988 review and it is enclosed in *Appendix I*. For more detailed information than is captured below, refer to the summary document.

No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative is currently within a FEMA designated floodplain (See map in Appendix C). A potential adverse impact may result if the fire station is left to remain within the floodplain. From discussion with the village residents, the existing fire station has been flooded at least six (6) times. The 100-year flood elevation is approximately 829 feet. From the Chemung County GIS Portal the existing ground near the current fire station has an elevation of 824 feet. An NRCS Floodplain Elevation Study conducted in 2012 establishes the 500-year floodplain elevation of approximately 830.5 at the existing fire station (Appendix D). Due to site constraints it would not be possible to construct a new fire station on this site with a finished floor elevation at or above the flood elevation and still allow fire trucks to access the building. In addition, the fire station would not be accessible during a flood event. For the fire station to be fully accessible and operational during a flood event, the fire station would need to be reconstructed at a different location.

Proposed Action

This alternative would promote floodplain development, result in loss of floodplain habitat and impact floodplain functions, as the alternative involves fill of floodway and 100-Year Floodplain. HUNT conducted several HEC-RAS models of Bentley Creek. One model consisted of the prospective dike without the fire station embankment and the other model is with the prospective dike and the fire station. The prospective dike is not planned within the foreseeable future. The output from these models shows that the fire station would impact the future 100-Year water surface by approximately 0.5 feet immediately adjacent to the site. The Main Street bridge, located immediately upstream of the site, acts as a control section or a restriction that does not change with minor changes in the downstream water surface. The impact of the Main Street site construction is limited to increasing the water surface along the dike. According to the HEC-RAS output for Bentley Creek with the proposed fire station and the proposed dike on the opposite side, the overbank velocity varies from 5 fps to 5.7 fps for the 500 year storm event (*Appendix E*). No proposed building construction would occur within the FEMA designated floodway. Initial investigation of the proposed site locations for the new fire station revealed that, given the location adjacent to a bridge and roadway approach that already constricts the floodplain, the Main Street site alternative would likely result in no greater flood plain issues than the Terrace Street alternative. Figure O3P in the Flood Insurance Study (*Appendix C*) illustrates the manner in which the existing modified grades have previously affected the

floodplain elevations of Bentley Creek at the bridge a distance of approximately 4,885 feet above the confluence with the Chemung River.

Fill is being brought in to elevate the approximately three (3) acre construction site to elevation 861.5 feet, which is 3-4 feet above the 500-year BFE (See Hunt evaluation of 500-year floodplain elevation in *Appendix D*). The elevation of the site, and hence elevation of the proposed structure at or above the 500-Year BFE would minimize risk of future flood damage to the structure. The proposed project would be consistent with the 1999 Flood Mitigation Action Plan (*Appendix C*). The proposed Main Street site does not conflict with the 2012 Final Watershed Plan for Bentley Creek. The Proposed Action requires a Village of Wellsburg floodplain permit (*Appendix E*) in accordance with the 1987 Local Law for Flood Damage Prevention (*Appendix E*). No practicable alternatives were identified to locating the new facility within a floodplain. The public good of the project was determined to outweigh the adverse impacts associated with the floodplain development.

Alternative Action

According to FEMA Flood Information Mapping, the Terrace Street Project Site is partially located in the 500-year floodplain and partially outside the 500-year floodplain. Because new construction of the fire station would be a critical action, the facility would need to be elevated or floodproofed to at or above the 500-Year floodplain. Approximately 7 to 8 feet of fill would be required to elevate the site. Filling the Terrace Street site would likely displace the floodwaters of a 500-year event and result in a proportionate rise in floodwater on adjacent sites. Similar to the proposed alternative, this site alternative action would promote floodplain development and would result in loss of floodplain habitat and impact floodplain functions, as the alternative would involve fill of the 500-Year Floodplain.

4.7 Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

4.7.1 Existing Conditions

The USFWS's Endangered Species Program webpage was reviewed to determine whether any federally threatened or endangered species were known to be on or near the site. The USFWS website indicated no Federally listed endangered species on or near the site. The Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) may occasionally be found in Chemung County. The NYSDEC Environmental Resource Mapper was reviewed for potential New York State threatened and endangered species or their habitat within the project site. There were no rare or threatened species indicated to potentially exist on the existing or alternative sites (*See Appendix B*)

4.7.2. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

No Action Alternative

No impact to threatened and endangered species and critical habitat.

Proposed Action

Based upon the review of Federal and state sources, proposed construction activities would not impact threatened or endangered species and no critical habitats. It is not anticipated that the proposed action would significantly adversely impact migratory birds or the Bald eagle.

Alternative Action

Based upon the review of Federal and state sources, proposed construction and mitigation activities would not impact threatened or endangered species and no critical habitats. It is not anticipated that the alternative action would significantly adversely impact migratory birds or the Bald eagle.

4.8 Wildlife and Fisheries

4.8.1. Existing Conditions

The AD for both the Proposed and Alternative Actions is predominantly forested and grassland upland. However, approximately 200 ft. north of the boundary of the area to be disturbed on the proposed action site is Bentley Creek, a Class C stream. The area of disturbance is also within a distance of 50 ft. from Bentley Creek's designated floodway channel. Though not a designated trout stream, Class C streams do support fisheries. The proposed Main Street site has had some historical changes associated with residential use, but still provides some suitable habitat for wildlife and birds, such as raccoons, skunks, chipmunks, squirrels, sparrows, wild turkey, whitetail deer, rabbits, grouse, quail, et cetera. The alternative site on Terrace is open lawn with bordering trees and would accordingly be best suited for non game-birds, skunk, mice and voles and other small mammals suited to the residential and park setting.

4.8.2. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

No Action Alternative

No impact to wildlife and fisheries habitat.

Proposed Action

The Main Street site is within a sparsely populated community and contains limited natural habitat for wildlife and fisheries. Therefore, there would be a moderate but insignificant impact to wildlife or fisheries by this action.

Alternative Action

The Terrace Street site is within a populated community and does not provide significant natural habitat for wildlife and fisheries. Therefore, there would be no impact to wildlife or fisheries by this action.

4.9 Vegetation

4.9.1. Existing Conditions

The existing site is developed and largely devoid of vegetation. The proposed action site on Main Street is vegetated with a mix of medium aged trees, shrubs and old field perennials as well as riparian vegetation associated with Bentley Creek. The largest and previously undisturbed vegetation is situated generally outside the AD. The Alternative site at Terrace is largely mowed lawn with a perimeter treed border on the western boundary,

4.9.2. Potential Impacts and Mitigation

No Action Alternative

No impact to vegetation.

Proposed Action

A moderate impact on vegetation and upland habitat is involved as it relates to the amount of clearing associated with the fill that was necessary to elevate the site above the floodplain elevation. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Resource Mapper, there are no rare plants located on this site (*See Appendix B*).

The proposed action would avoid potential adverse impacts related to the invasive Emerald Ash Borer insect through adherence to quarantine zone protocols established by the USDA and New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Any trees to be removed would be chipped on site or not transported outside of the quarantine zone to restrict movement and possible spread of the invasive insect. The introduction and spread of non-native plant materials would be minimized or avoided by reseeding or replanting of any construction-disturbed locations with native or non-invasive plant material as soon as practicable post site disturbance. It is recommended that the proposed project site be landscaped with native plant material to avoid the spread of non-native or invasive plants, which is a recommendation consistent with E.O. 13112 Invasive Species and consistent with sustainable site development practices.

Alternative Action

The lack of native vegetation on the Terrace Street site suggests that there would be no significant impact to vegetation associated with the alternative action. Such development would however, preclude the future re-vegetation of this site. According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Environmental Resource Mapper, there are no rare plants located on this site (*See Appendix B*). As discussed in the above Proposed Action description, Emerald Ash Borer quarantine zone protocols would be followed for this site alternative and use of native material would be utilized as practicable to be consistent with federal and state laws and regulations and E.O. 13112.

4.10 Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, and implemented by 36 CFR Part 800 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on federal projects that would have an effect on historic properties. These actions must take place prior to the expenditure of federal funds. Historic properties include districts, buildings, structures, objects, landscapes, archaeological sites and traditional cultural properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

4.10.1 Existing Conditions

There are no known National Register listed historic sites on or near either the Main Street site or the Terrace Street site. According to the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation National Register Listing Internet Application, neither the proposed Main Street site nor alternative Terrace Street site are within an archaeological sensitive area. Neither the Main

Street site nor the Terrace Street site are known to be of cultural and/or religious significance for any American Indian, Alaska Native, and/or Native Hawaiian tribe or community.

4.10.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

No historic properties, tribal or archeological resources are affected by the No Action alternative.

Proposed Action

FEMA has found that No Historic Properties would be affected by the Proposed Action. The Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation District consulted with the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in 2012 regarding the gravel and sediment removal activities utilized as fill material at the proposed project site. The SHPO concurrence with No Effect upon cultural resources was dated May 30, 2012 (*See Appendix H*).

Alternative Action

No historic properties, tribal or archeological resources are affected by the Alternative Action at Terrace Street.

4.11 Socioeconomic Resources

4.11.1. Existing Conditions

According to the U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Population, the population for the Village of Wellsburg was 580 persons and Chemung County had a population of 88,830 persons. The total number of households located in the Village is approximately 228 whereas the County consists of approximately 35,462 households. The 2010 median household income for the Village is well below that of County, \$29,821 and \$46,589, respectively.

4.11.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

This alternative may have adverse impacts to the socioeconomic resources of the Village of Wellsburg if the Firehouse was flooded again. The possibility and likelihood of future floods, based upon historical events, would carry inevitable adverse financial consequences at the local, State and Federal level.

Proposed Action

This alternative is expected to positively impact the socioeconomic conditions in the Village of Wellsburg. The new location would provide a reliable means of emergency service and refuge during future flood events. The project would also bring temporary construction related jobs to the area. Such jobs also bring ancillary economic benefit to local hospitality, service and supply businesses.

Alternative Action

Positive impacts expected (see Proposed Action above). This site has been determined less preferred for socio-economic reasons, citing the relatively narrow adjacent residential roadway (Terrace Street) of approximately twenty feet width, the acreage available for re-construction

placing limits on future expansion; and from an economic standpoint, preventing the possible expansion of an adjacent commercial business on the adjacent lot.

4.12 Aesthetic Resources

4.12.1. Existing Conditions

The existing aesthetic conditions of the current fire station site are limited, as the site is comprised of a damaged structure with no historic or architectural significance and the associated parking lot. There is little to no vegetation on the site that would soften the views or provide aesthetic relief. The proposed site at Main Street appears from the roadway as a vegetated site, with a portion of it partially cleared for former single family home use. The existing single-family home and outbuilding with associated lawn has been demolished however, leaving an overgrown or old field condition. This is only marginally visible from the adjoining roadway however, as the site's topography drops markedly from the roadway. The Terrace Street site however, is primarily open lawn with a backdrop of mature trees between it and the adjoining residential homes. It is part of a larger ball park facility, which has an aesthetic quality. Overall, none of the sites contain or provide views to an aesthetic resource of local importance.

4.12.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

This action would not change the aesthetics of the site.

Proposed Action

The Main street site is not within a protected viewshed or an area identified by the community as protected. The proposed use of this site would be consistent with local comprehensive plans and zoning regulations. Trees and shrubs have been and would be removed to allow for the construction of the building and a parking lot. The fill placement and construction of the large building would result in a moderate impact on the aesthetic character of the site, but would not impact any existing aesthetic resource of local importance.

Alternative Action

The addition of fill and construction of a large building on the Terrace Street site would result in a moderate impact on the existing aesthetic character but would not impact any existing aesthetic resource of local importance. The site is not within a protected viewshed or an area identified by the community as protected. The proposed use of this site would be consistent with local comprehensive plans and zoning regulations.

4.13 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, entitled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low- Income Populations", guides Federal agencies to "make environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations."

4.13.1. Existing Conditions

The EPA Environmental Justice (EJ) Mapper and NYSDEC map data layer for Environmental Justice indicate that there are no potentially sensitive EJ communities within the Village of Wellsburg.

4.13.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

None of the project alternatives would have a disproportionately high or adverse impacts on human health and human environment of minority or low-income populations. There are no low income or minority populations identified for the project area.

4.14 Noise

The United States Congress' Noise Control Act of 1972 required the EPA to create a noise criteria. In response, the EPA published *Information On Levels Of Environmental Noise Requisite To Protect Public Health and Welfare With An Adequate Margin Of Safety* in 1974 which explains the impact of noise on humans. Noise pollution is in general measured in decibels (dB) which measure the intensity of sound. Day-night average sound level (Ldn) is used to measure the average sound impacts for the purpose of guidance for compatible land use. The EPA report found that the maximum 24-hour Ldn value is 70 dB before causing hearing loss. Maximum outdoor activity interference in a residential neighborhood is 55 dB for Ldn. Maximum indoor activity interference in a residential neighborhood is 45 dB for Ldn. However, impulse noise or peaks can be a maximum of 167 dB before causing hearing loss. Most fire engine sirens are between 100-120 dB at the source, well below the 167 dB maximum impulse noise exposure recommendation. Sirens from fire engines are used infrequently, only during emergencies, and the daily Ldn value would be well below the EPA's recommendation.

4.14.1. Existing Conditions

The ambient noise level in the vicinity of the proposed project site is typical for a rural area. The project site is centrally located within the Village of Wellsburg, Chemung County. Outside the Village, most of land is farmland or forested areas with pockets of residential development. Vehicle noise would also be generated from Main Street/NYS Route 367 roadway and secondary road traffic. The existing free-standing siren is situated immediately adjacent to the east end of the building.

4.14.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

The "no action" alternative would have no significant adverse effect on noise levels.

Proposed Action

Temporary impact to ambient noise levels is anticipated during construction. Except for emergencies and daily testing of the siren, no long-term increases in noise levels are anticipated post construction.

Alternative Action

Temporary impact to ambient noise levels is anticipated during construction; no long-term impacts are expected (see Proposed Action above).

4.15 Traffic

4.15.1. Existing Conditions

The existing fire station is situated at 3661 Front Street, State Route 427 approximately 300 feet west of the Main Street (State Route 367). Front Street is a 24 foot roadway with an 8-foot wide parking shoulder on the north side and 6-foot shoulder on the south side. Front Street is a primary east west route through the Village of Wellsburg with a 30 mph speed within the Village limits. Access to and from the site is readily available under normal conditions, but hindered greatly or completely blocked during significant flood events.

The proposed project site, 147 Main Street in the Village of Wellsburg, consists of two parcels 147 and 118. Parcel 118 was once a residential site. Parcel 147 is undeveloped and mainly consists of Bentley Creek and the regulated floodway. The site is located in a residential area along the primary roadway Main Street/NYS Route 367 in and out of the community.

The proposed project site would be accessed from Main Street. Currently, there is an existing driveway that accesses the site. The driveway would be designed to meet the Village of Wellsburg regulations and would have to obtain a New York State Department of Transportation entrance permit. The speed limit on Main Street at this site is 30 mph; thus, the driveway has a clear line of sight approximately 250 feet in each direction needed for the entrance permit.

Site access for the Alternative Action site would be provided from Terrace Street. Terrace Street is a secondary road that has a pavement width of 20 feet. There is currently no driveway and accordingly, one would necessarily be designed in accordance with the Village of Wellsburg regulations. The speed limit on Terrace Street at the location of the site is 30 mph; therefore the driveway must have a clear line of sight for 250 feet in each direction. It was estimated through visual inspection that this location has a sight distance of over 250 feet. The driveway should be placed at the east side of the site.

4.15.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

The "no action" alternative would have no impact on traffic.

Proposed Action

Temporary impact to traffic is anticipated during construction; no long-term impacts are expected. The fire department utilizes volunteers to respond to emergency calls; in which volunteers drive to fire hall and leave to call in emergency vehicles. Calls for emergency services are irregular occurrences in the Village of Wellsburg. Level of Service analysis of Main Street is unlikely to change as the amount of additional traffic generated by the fire hall would be small relative to existing traffic counts along the Village's main road.

Alternative Action

Temporary impact to traffic is anticipated during construction. Level of Service analysis indicates that there would be a small increase in traffic volume along the secondary road post

construction. However, as stated above in Proposed Action, calls for emergency services are irregular occurrences. Thus, a minor but not a significant long-term impact to traffic is expected.

4.16 Infrastructure

4.16.1. Existing Conditions

All sites are served by the Village of Wellsburg Water System. There is an 8-inch water main located adjacent to the proposed building site. On-site septic is necessary to provide sanitary sewer service. Natural gas is also available along Berwick Turnpike. All sites are serviced by New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) electric lines.

4.16.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

The No Action alternative would have no significant adverse effect on public infrastructure.

Proposed Action

There is an existing gas main along Berwick Turnpike which would be sufficient for demands of a new fire station at the proposed location. Electric service is provided by NYSEG. The existing electric lines along Main Street, the adequacy of the power line is unknown and would have to be determined by electric company inspection. A public water system would be available for hook-up.

Alternative Action

Electric service would be provided by NYSEG. The adequacy of the power line along Terrace Street is unknown and would have to be determined by electric company inspection. A public water system would be available for hook-up.

4.17 Public Health and Safety

4.17.1. Existing Conditions

The Village of Wellsburg's public health and safety was negatively impacted by Tropical Storm Lee. The Wellsburg Fire Hall experienced flood damage during this storm event and has been prone to repetitive flood damage.

4.17.2. Potential Impacts and Proposed Mitigation

No Action Alternative

Taking no action would have a potential adverse impact on the public health and safety of the people in the Village of Wellsburg and surrounding areas. As discussed, the fire station would not be accessible or functional (for use as an emergency shelter as well as for fire protection services) during a flood event. The frequency of flood events at this site is a cause for concern. Reliable fire protection capabilities are vital to the health and safety of any community and the existing fire station facility does not provide an adequate level of reliability of emergency services during flood events.

Proposed Action

This alternative would have a positive impact on public health and safety. Flooding potential at this site would be reduced and emergency services from this location would be available, thus improving service to the community. The fire hall could also potentially act as a temporary shelter for flood survivors.

Alternative Action

This alternative would have a positive impact on public health and safety (see above Proposed Action).

4.18 Climate Change

Climate change could potentially increase temperatures in the northeast; cause more severe weather incidents to occur; and cause sea levels to rise. Considerations of climate change does not change the decision-making to implement the proposed project. As stated previously, the Subgrantee has already decided to implement risk reduction measures by bringing in fill to raise the approximate 3-acre site to 861.5 feet above MSL, above the base flood and 4-5 feet above the 500-year BFE. The proposed new facility building would be designed to current codes and standards.

A new fire station facility would not exacerbate potential future climate change impacts. No significant air emissions (pollutant load) are anticipated as a result of the proposed construction or future operations. The new facility would be constructed in accordance with the New York State Energy Code (NYSEC). The code specifies basic mandatory requirements for newly constructed buildings. Requirements apply to heating and cooling systems, hot water systems, electrical systems, construction materials, equipment specifications and building sealing and insulation. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the Public Service Commission promote compliance with Energy Star® and New York Energy Smartsm programs by construction firms, building management firms and homeowners that encourage the use of energy conserving appliances, materials, technologies and building techniques.

4.19 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative effects are defined by the Council on Environmental Quality as the impact on the environment resulting from the incremental impacts of the evaluated actions when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of the source, such as Federal or non-Federal. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taken over time. The potential cumulative impacts from this proposed project would not have an adverse effect to the human environment. However, the potential exists for adverse effects to floodplains, socioeconomic resources and public health and safety through the execution of the No Action alternative. (Table 1, Section 4.0 summarized the potential impacts of the Proposed Action, Alternative Action, and No Action alternatives).

5.0 PERMITS AND PROJECT CONDITIONS

The Subgrantee is responsible to obtain all applicable Federal, state, and local permits for project implementation prior to construction, and to adhere to all permit conditions. The Subgrantee has already completed a SEQRA documentation process with forms provided in *Appendix F*. Any substantive change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation by FEMA for compliance with NEPA and other laws and executive orders. The grantee must also adhere to the following conditions during project implementation:

- 1) The proposed construction in the floodplain will need to be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator and must comply with local floodplain regulations.
- 2) Excavated soil and waste materials will be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state and federal regulations.
- 3) The grantee shall be responsible to comply with the NYSDEC State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit for Stormwater Discharge from Construction Activity or other applicable SPDES permit, in accordance with NYS Environmental Conservation Law. If the NYSDEC General Permit for Stormwater Discharges is determined to cover the proposed action, the applicant shall provide NYSOEM/DHS-FEMA a copy of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and a copy of the Notice of Intent Form at grant project close-out or other time identified by NYSOEM/DHS-FEMA Grant Programs Directorate per grant administrative documentation guidance requirements. If an individual SPDES permit is determined to be required, the applicant shall provide a copy of the obtained permit, as well as supporting Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan to NYSOEM/DHS-FEMA at grant project close-out or other time identified by NYSOEM/DHS-FEMA Grant Program per grant administrative documentation guidance requirements. For more information regarding SPDES, visit <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/43133.html>. It is expected that the grantee and its construction contractor(s) will conduct construction utilizing best management practices to limit noise, dust and sedimentation & erosion during construction.
- 4) The construction and installation of any sanitary sewer and/or septic tank and leach field would need to be coordinated with the Chemung County Health Department.
- 5) In the event that unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or archaeological deposits are uncovered, the grantee and sub-grantee will immediately halt construction activities in the vicinity of the discovery, secure the site, and take reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The grantee, through the sub-grantee, will inform NYSOEM immediately, must secure all archaeological findings, and shall restrict access to the area. NYSOEM must notify FEMA and FEMA will consult with the NYSHPO. Work in sensitive areas may not resume until consultations are completed or until an archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards determines the extent and historical significance of the discovery. Work may not resume at or around the delineated archaeological deposit until the sub-grantee is notified by NYSOEM.
- 6) Chemung County is currently identified as a quarantine zone for the invasive insect Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). It is required that woody tree and shrub material to be removed for the proposed action be chipped on site to chips of less than one inch in two dimensions or not transported whole outside the tribal lands in order to adhere with EO13112 Invasive Species, federal regulations at 7 CFR Part 301.53-1 through 301.53-9 and state regulations at 1

NYCRR Part 141. Invasive insects can devastate the forests of the northeast and it is recommended that communities in the northeast treat or handle wood materials in place to minimize the spread of these non-native insects. For more information concerning this environmental stewardship requirement, visit USDA-APHIS, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and other websites concerning EAB:

- www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/emerald_ash_b/
- www.agriculture.ny.gov/PI/eab.html
- www.nyis.info/?action=news_detail&event_id=306

- 7) Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards shall be followed during construction to avoid adverse impacts to worker health and safety.
- 8) It is recommended that the grant applicant restore disturbed construction areas of the site with native seed and/or plant species to minimize soil erosion and sedimentation, as well as enhance environmental habitat quality of project area. It is recommended that disturbed soil areas be planted with native plant material, as soon as practicable after exposure, to avoid or minimize growth of undesired and potentially invasive plant species that can potentially take hold without competition of native plant materials. Local landscape plant nurseries and soil conservation offices can assist with identification of suitable native plants for site location type. The following websites may also be useful to identification of native plant material for the proposed project site:

- <http://plants.usda.gov/java/>
- www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/plantsanimals/plants/
- www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativeplantmaterials/rightmaterials.shtml

6.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

In accordance with NEPA, this EA Report will be released for a 15-day public review and comment period. Availability of the document for comment will be advertised in *The Elmira Star Gazette* newspaper. A hard copy of the EA will be available for review at the Village of Wellsburg's Village Office at 3663 Sixth Street, Wellsburg, New York 14894. An electronic copy of the EA may be requested by emailing FEMA4020-4031Comment@fema.dhs.gov. The EA will also be made available for download from the FEMA website at www.fema.gov/library/. This EA reflects the evaluation and assessment of the Federal government, the decision-maker for the Federal action; however, FEMA will take into consideration any substantive comments received during the public review period to inform the final decision regarding grant approval and project implementation. The public is invited to submit written comments by mail to FEMA Region 2, Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation, Leo O'Brien Federal Building, 11A Clinton Avenue, Suite 742, Albany, New York 12207, or E-mail to: FEMA4020-4031Comment@fema.dhs.gov.

The EA evaluation resulted in the identification of no unmitigated significant impacts to the human environment. Obtaining and implementing permit requirements along with appropriate best management practices will avoid or minimize potential adverse effects associated with the three alternatives considered in this EA to below the level of a significant impact. If no substantive comments are received from the public and/or agency reviewers, the EA will be adopted as final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued by FEMA. If substantive

comments are received, FEMA will evaluate and address comments as part of Final Environmental Assessment documentation.

Copies of the EA will be sent to:

Village of Wellsburg
Village Clerk's Office
3663 Sixth Street
Wellsburg, NY 14894

NYSOEM
1220 Washington Avenue,
Suite 101, Building 22
Albany, NY 12226-2251

NYSDEC Region 8
6274 Avon-Lima Road
Avon, NY 14414-9516

USDA/NRCS
441 S. Salina Street, Suite 354
Syracuse, NY 13202

7.0 CONCLUSION

FEMA and the Subgrantee through the NEPA and State Environmental Quality Act Review processes have found that the Proposed Action to construct the new fire station at the 147 Main Street site, which is the Subgrantee's preferred alternative, is a practicable alternative that would not significantly adversely impact the human environment. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, surface water, transportation, air quality, and noise are anticipated. Short-term impacts would be mitigated utilizing best management practices, such as silt fences, proper equipment maintenance, and appropriate signage. Environmental impacts of construction would also be minimized per adherence to any required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), adherence to invasive insect quarantine protocols and compliance with building and floodplain development permit requirements. The long-term environmental impacts to soils, topography, vegetation, and the floodplain as a result of the new fire station construction are outweighed by the positive impacts that the new fire station would have for the Village of Wellsburg.

8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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