



FEMA

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE DIVISION CENTRAL MAINTENANCE AND
FUEL FACILITY
NEW ORLEANS, ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
*FEMA-1603-DR-LA***

Introduction

As a result of damages from Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Louisiana. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93288) Section 406 authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of the EA was to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with addition of a building at Emergency Maintenance Division (EMD) Central Maintenance and Fuel Facility and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Community services were lost on August 29, 2005, as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, EMD Central Maintenance and Fuel Facility served as a maintenance, fuel, and storage facility for the New Orleans Police and Fire Departments. Currently the fuel facility is not in use.

In order to restore the services, facilities, and resources that were lost as a result of Hurricane Katrina, and to expand and upgrade capacity for storage and upkeep of city vehicles, CNO seeks federal grant funds to construct a 16,900 square foot facility at 3900 Alvar. The new building will function as a storage and repair site for damaged equipment and vehicles of the Police Department, Fire Department, and will service city maintenance vehicles. Restoration of essential maintenance, fuel, and storage services with improvements is needed for FEMA PA to achieve its objective. The alternatives considered include 1) the No action alternative, 2) Repair the existing building to current codes and standards, and 3) Construction of an additional building at 3900 Alvar Street (Proposed Action).

Findings

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to water resources (wetlands and floodplains), coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, hazardous materials and environmental justice. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. The proposed alternative is not anticipated to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x). As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed action as described in the EA may proceed.

Conditions

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize federal funds:

- In accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the applicant would be responsible for acquiring any necessary permits prior to commencing construction at the proposed project site.
- Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservation Act:
If human bone or unmarked grave(s) are present within the project area, compliance with the Louisiana Unmarked Human Burial Sites Preservations Act (R.S. 8:671 ET SEQ.) is required. The applicant shall notify the law enforcement agency of the jurisdiction where the remains are located within twenty-four hours of the discovery. The applicant shall also notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery.
- Inadvertent Discovery Clause:
If during the course of work, archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the applicant shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. The applicant shall inform their Public Assistance (PA) contacts at FEMA, who will in turn contact FEMA Historic Preservation (HP) staff. The applicant will not proceed with work until FEMA HP completes consultation with the SHPO.
- Contractor and/or Subcontractors will properly handle, package, transport and dispose of hazardous materials and/or waste in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations, laws and ordinances including all OSHA worker exposure regulations covered within 29 CFR 1910 and 1926.

- All waste is to be transported by an entity maintaining a current "waste hauler permit" specifically for the waste being transported, as required by Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) and other regulations.
- Project construction would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials (*e.g.*, petroleum products including but not limited to gasoline, diesel, brake and hydraulic fluid, cement, caustics, acids, solvents, paint, electronic components, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, treated timber) and may result in the generation of small volumes of hazardous wastes. Appropriate measures to prevent, minimize, and control spills of hazardous materials must be taken and generated hazardous and non-hazardous wastes are required to be disposed in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations.
- The project has been found by the LDNR to be inside the Louisiana Coastal Zone; therefore, LDNR requires that a complete Coastal Use Permit Application package (Joint Application Form, locality maps, project illustration plats with plan and cross section views) along with the appropriate application fee be submitted to their office prior to construction.
- If any asbestos containing materials, lead based paint, and/or other hazardous materials are found during remediation or repair activities, the applicant shall comply with all local, state and federal abatement and disposal requirements under the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and Louisiana Administrative Code 33:III 5151. Demolition activities related to Possible Asbestos-Containing Materials (PACM) must be inspected for ACM/PACM where it is safe to do so. Should asbestos containing materials (ACM) be present, the applicant is responsible for ensuring proper disposal in accordance with the previously referenced regulations. LDEQ must be notified of demolition activity prior to work commencing. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be documented and copies forwarded to the state and FEMA as part of the permanent project files.

Conclusion

The results of these evaluations, as well as consultations and input from other federal and state agencies, are presented in the EA. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (per 44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed once finalized.

Public Review and Comment

The DEA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be available for public review at the Orleans Parish Main Library at 219 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana

70112 (hours are 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Mon.-Thurs. and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Fri. & Sat.) and the Alvar Branch at 913 Alvar Street 70117, New Orleans, Louisiana 70117 (hours are 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Mon.-Thurs. and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Sat.). Additionally, a public notice regarding the proposed action will be published in the Times-Picayune newspaper for three (3) publishing days: May 22, 24, and 26, 2013. The comment period will be fifteen (15) days, concluding on June 10, 2013. Written comments on the DEA/Draft FONSI or related matters can be faxed to FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office at (504) 762-3232; or mailed to FEMA Louisiana Recovery Office, EHP – EMD Central Maintenance and Fuel Facility EA, 1 Seine Court, New Orleans, Louisiana 70114. The DEA can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website: <http://www.fema.gov/environmental-planning-and-historic-preservation-program/environmental-documents-public-notice-2>

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 a no adverse effect determination, then FEMA would revise the findings and issue a second public notice allowing time for additional comments. However, if there are no changes, this DEA will become the Final EA.

Approval:

Katherine Zeringue, Environmental Liaison Officer Date
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Andre Cadogen, Deputy Director of Programs Date
Louisiana Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA