

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
WILLIAM JOHNSTON PROPERTY
TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE
SWEET LAKE, CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed temporary housing site. The site would house disaster victims displaced by major home damage caused by Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005. A Presidential Disaster Declaration was signed on September 24, 2005 for Hurricane Rita (FEMA-1607-DR-LA).

The proposed action includes developing an approximately 12-acre site (termed “William Johnston Property”) for approximately 135 modular structures and 15 travel trailers to be located north of Louisiana Highway 384, between Newell Road and Alfred Duhon Road in the Sweet Lake community. Activities would include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, road construction, the placement of utilities (electricity, water, and sewer), and the transport and hook-up of the modular structures and travel trailers to the site. Per the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), and associated environmental statutes, a draft EA was written to evaluate the proposed action’s potential impacts on the human and natural environment. In order to meet the urgent need of hurricane victims to find temporary housing, FEMA has conducted an expedited environmental review process to identify and address environmental issues. The draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action.

Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be brief – January 4, 2006 to January 6, 2006. Written comments on the draft EA can be faxed to FEMA’s Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge at (225) 346-5848; and verbal comments will be accepted at (225) 376-5137 and TTY for hearing or speech-impaired at 800-462-7585; between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The Environmental Assessment can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA’s website at <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs.shtm>. The draft EA is also available for public review at the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located at the Grand Lake Community Center, 125 Recreation Lane, Grand Lake, Louisiana 70607. The DRC hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Saturday.

If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the final Public Notice. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the Final documents.

All other questions regarding disaster assistance or the availability of emergency housing should be directed to FEMA’s Teleregistration line at 800-621-3362.