

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
PORT OF LAKE CHARLES INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY
TEMPORARY HOUSING SITE,
CITY OF LAKE CHARLES, CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a proposed mobile home site. The site would house disaster victims displaced by major home damage caused by Hurricane Katrina on August 29, 2005 and Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005. A Presidential Disaster Declaration, FEMA-1603-DR-LA, was signed on August 29, 2005 for Hurricane Katrina and on September 24, 2005 for Hurricane Rita (FEMA-1607-DR-LA).

The proposed action includes developing an approximately 55-acre site (termed “port of Lake Charles Industrial Property”) for approximately 300 mobile homes and 190 travel trailer units to be located adjacent to and west of Louisiana Highway 397 in the City of Lake Charles. This property is contained within the Lake Charles Industrial Park. Activities would include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, road construction, the placement of utilities (electricity, telephones, water, and sewer), and the transport and hook-up of manufactured homes 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 – November 17 to 19, 2005. 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) 376-5270 and TTY for hearing or speech-impaired at 800-462-7585; between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. The Draft EA 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 Central Branch Public Library at 301 West Claude Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana, 70605 and the FEMA Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) located at the Leadership Center, 1701 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601. The library hours are 8:30 AM to 9:00 PM, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM on Friday. The DRC hours are 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, 7 days a week.

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.