

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**  
**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment**  
**Hardy County Public Service District Facility, DR-4378 (PW045)**  
**FEMA-DR-4378-WV**

The Hardy County Public Service District (PSD) has applied through the West Virginia Division of Emergency Management (WVDEM) to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grant program for funding assistance, under the Presidentially Declared Disaster FEMA-4378-DR-WV, for the replacement of the Hardy County PSD facility. The project proposes to use the Alternative Procedures for Permanent Work Pilot program under Section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to construct the facility in a new location. In accordance with FEMA Directive 108-1 and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1, this Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508. The purpose of the EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Severe storms and heavy rainfall occurred throughout the Eastern Panhandle of the state of West Virginia over the period May 28, 2018 to June 3, 2018. The storms caused flooding, landslides, and mudslides resulting in damages to public infrastructure within seven counties. During the storm system, all buildings comprising the Hardy County PSD were inundated by 4 inches of standing water resulting in damage to the office building, shop, garage, and associated interior components. After the water receded, the office building was determined to be unsafe for human use due to elevated mold levels.

The Hardy County PSD building was deemed eligible for assistance under the FEMA PA grant program, specifically Public Assistance Alternative Procedures (PAAP) for Permanent Work. The PAAP funding is based on a fixed cost estimate for the repair of the damaged facilities in-kind, back to pre-disaster condition. The objective of the Public Assistance Grant Program is to assist communities in recovering from the damage caused by natural disasters, with PAAP funding allowing the applicant to use funds in a manner that best meets their specific needs for recovery, long-term resiliency, and future preparedness. The PAAP fixed cost funds are eligible for use on an Alternate Project, such as constructing a new facility. The Hardy County PSD and WVDEM propose to fund the replacement of the Hardy County PSD facility with the construction of a facility at a new location. The purpose of the action alternative presented in this Environmental Assessment is to provide a safe facility, which is not affected by repeated flooding, for the Hardy County PSD to conduct necessary administrative, office, storage, and maintenance functions. The need for the project is to address prior flooding and drainage damages and to avoid future risk of flood damage to Hardy County PSD infrastructure.

Alternatives discussed in this EA include no action, the proposed action, and alternatives considered and eliminated from further consideration. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the Hardy County PSD

would be replaced with a comparable facility at a new location. The proposed site is a 4.88-acre parcel (39.070765 latitude, -78.939724 longitude) on Robert C. Byrd Industrial Park Road within the Robert C. Byrd-Hardy County Industrial Park just outside the eastern limits of the Town of Moorefield, West Virginia. Site development would be limited to approximately 3.32 acres and would include the construction of a 6,300-square foot building comprising an office and garage area to serve as the new Hardy County PSD facility. The surrounding land is characterized by similar undeveloped properties and low to medium intensity development.

The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with all requirements of NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988 ("Floodplain Management"), Executive Order 11990 ("Protection of Wetlands"), and the implementing regulations of FEMA, for the purpose of assessing the potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose of and need for the project, alternatives considered, the affected environment, and potential environmental consequences of the project. It is available for review and comment and can be viewed on and/or downloaded from FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4378>.

The comment period will conclude 30 days after the initial publication of this Public Notice on September 2, 2020. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or emailed to the contact listed below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA and associated Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will become final. Substantive comments received will be addressed as appropriate in the Final EA/FONSI.

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ATTENTION: Hardy County PSD, DR-4378 (PW045) NEPA Comments

Email: [FEMA-R3-EHP-PublicComment@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-R3-EHP-PublicComment@fema.dhs.gov)

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