FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SPEA) FOR THE OGLALA SIOUX TRIBE HOUSING MISSION

BACKGROUND

On August 7th, 2015 FEMA announced that the President authorized Federal disaster aid to be available to the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and ordered Federal aid to supplement recovery efforts in the area affected by severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding during the period of May 8-29, 2015. A Programmatic Environmental Assessment was completed on 11/18/2015 with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the placement of single MHUs and Repair of Residential Structures. This document is a supplement to the PEA to account for actions not previously described. In addition, this SPEA also provides the public and decision-makers with the information required to understand and evaluate the potential environmental consequences of these actions and to consider these impacts in decision making.

The SPEA assesses environmental compliance for the following types of housing projects:

Leased Community Sites

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, FEMA's regulations for implementing NEPA at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 10, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA implementing regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and in the spirit of Unified Review as outlined in Section 6 of the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act (SRIA) of 2013 FEMA prepared a draft Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) to evaluate the additional potential environmental impacts resulting from FEMA's direct housing mission on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Announcement of the availability of the SPEA were made on KILI Radio 5 times a day over a three day period. Printed copies of the SPEA were made available at the nine Tribal Community Action Program (CAP) Offices and to various Tribal environmental offices. No Comments were received.

CONDITIONS

Actions under this SPEA and FONSI must meet the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions would make the FONSI determination inapplicable for the project and could jeopardize the receipt of funding.

- 1. In accordance with applicable local, tribal, and federal regulations, the Individual Assistance Program would be responsible for acquiring any necessary permits prior to commencing construction at the proposed project site.
- 2. The Individual Assistance Program will avoid and minimize potential impacts to the floodplain and shall not support occupation of the floodway.
- 3. 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. If hazardous substances are released to the project area during construction, these federal, state, and local requirements must be followed in response and cleanup.
- 4. If during the course of work, unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) are discovered, the Individual Assistance Program shall stop work in the vicinity of the discovery, secure the site, and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. All archaeological findings will be secured and access to the sensitive area restricted. The applicant will not proceed with work until HP staff completes consultation with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), to ensure that the project is in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- 5. The Individual Assistance Program must meet any project-specific conditions developed and agreed upon between the federal grant program and environmental planning or historic preservation resource or regulatory agencies during consultation or coordination.

FINDINGS

Based upon the information contained in the Final PEA and Supplemental PEA, the potential impacts resulting from the additional alternative analyzed in the SPEA, and in accordance with FEMA's regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA finds that the implementation of the proposed action will not have significant impacts to the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

APPROVAL

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