

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Pre-Disaster Mitigation Floodwall Projects**  
**Cities of Marseilles, Ottawa, and Peru and Village of DePue**  
**Bureau and LaSalle Counties, Illinois**  
**Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program**  
**Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing funding to four communities in Central Illinois for assistance with the construction of floodwall construction or expansions to protect infrastructure. FEMA proposes to provide funding assistance for this project through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM). The Action Area encompasses a roughly 45-mile stretch of the Illinois River, with project subareas at the Marseilles wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), Ottawa Township High School (OTHS), Peru east WWTP, and DePue WWTP. All subareas are adjacent to the Illinois River, which has a history of flooding events.

The PDM Grant Program, authorized by Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law [Pub. L.] 93-288 [1974], as amended, 42 United States Code [U.S.C.] § 5133), is designed to assist States, United States Territories, federally-recognized tribes, and local communities in implementing a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program. The goal is to reduce overall risk to the population and structures from future hazard events, while also reducing reliance on Federal funding in future disasters. The PDM program awards planning and project grants and provides opportunities for raising public awareness about reducing future losses before disaster strikes. PDM grants are funded annually by Congressional appropriations and are awarded on a nationally competitive basis. The Cities of Marseilles, Ottawa, and Peru (LaSalle County, IL) and the Village of DePue (Bureau County, IL) have projects selected for further review under the PDM program during the 2016 cycle. This Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) has been prepared to analyze the potential environmental consequences associated with the four projects under consideration for funding under FEMA's PDM program.

The City of Marseilles, LaSalle County, IL, proposes to construct a floodwall atop an existing berm at the city's waste water treatment plant (WWTP). The Marseilles WWTP is on the west side of the city, north of Bell's Island, on the north shore of the Illinois River at 2 Spicer Lane (41.328911, -88.723478).

The City of Ottawa, LaSalle County, IL, proposes to raise and extend an existing floodwall at the Ottawa Township High School (OTHS). The school is on the northeast corner of the confluence between the Fox and Illinois Rivers at 211 East Main Street (41.345106, -88.838297).

The City of Peru, LaSalle County, IL, proposes to construct a floodwall on an existing earthen berm surrounding the city's east WWTP. The Peru east WWTP is on the bank of the Illinois River south of Water Street and west of River Dock Road (41.325926, -89.115699).

The Village of DePue, Bureau County, IL, proposes to raise an existing levee at the village's WWTP. The DePue WWTP is on the west side of the village, on the northwest shore of Lake DePue, adjacent to the Illinois River, just off of West 2nd Street (41.321912, -89.315304).

In accordance with FEMA Directive 108-1, *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements* (Aug. 22, 2016) and DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, *Implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act*, (rev. 01) (Nov. 6, 2014), a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 – 4347 (2000), as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (40 Code of Federal Regulations [C.F.R.] 30 §§ 1500 – 1508). The purpose of the PEA was to analyze the potential individual and cumulative environmental impacts of the construction of the four individual projects and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The Proposed Action, as described in the PEA, will not result in any significant adverse impacts to geology, seismicity, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, zoning and land use, visual resources, public services and utilities, public health and safety, traffic and circulation, low income or minority populations, or cultural resources. During the construction period, short-term impacts to soils, water quality, floodplains, air quality, wetlands, and noise are anticipated. All short-term impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas. The project was coordinated with the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and federally recognized Indian tribes with interests in the area.

## **CONDITIONS**

The subgrantees are responsible for compliance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, including obtaining any necessary permits prior to beginning construction activities, and adhering to any conditions laid out in these permits. Any substantive change to the scope of work would require re-evaluation by FEMA for compliance with NEPA and any other laws or Executive Orders.

Subgrantees must adhere to the following conditions should the Preferred Alternative be implemented. Failure to comply with FEMA grant conditions may jeopardize Federal funding.

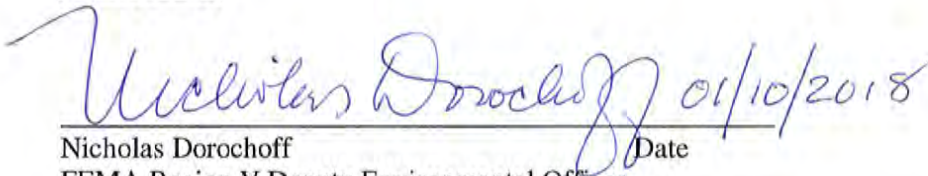
1. All State, local, and county ordinances would be followed.
2. Any proposed construction within the floodplain must be coordinated with the local floodplain administrator and comply with Federal, State, and local floodplain laws and regulations.
3. Construction activities at the DePue WWTP would not take place between December and March (the most sensitive portion of the nesting period for bald eagles).
4. If bald eagle nests are identified in the vicinity of any of the project sites, construction would comply with requirements the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 668 – 668d) (including guidance at <https://www.fws.gov/midwest/midwestbird/eaglepermits/baeatake/step1.html>).

5. All equipment would be properly maintained with applicable noise controls in place.
6. Excavated soil and waste materials must be managed and disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
7. All clean construction or demolition debris shall be disposed of in compliance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) clean construction or demolition debris regulations.
8. If applicable, the subgrantees must have in place and comply with State Construction and Operating Permits from IEPA.
9. If applicable, the subgrantees must have in place and comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Stormwater Permits from IEPA.
10. In the event unmarked graves, burials, human remains, or archaeological deposits are uncovered, construction work must immediately cease. The subgrantee must secure the site and take reasonable efforts to avoid and restrict access to the finds. The subgrantee shall inform the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), FEMA, and the SHPO immediately. Construction in sensitive areas shall not resume until the appropriate consultations are completed or until an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualification Standards has determined the extent and significance of the find. Construction may not resume until the subgrantee is notified by IEMA and FEMA to proceed.
11. Site fill may only be obtained from a permitted commercial supplier or a locally municipally owned source.
12. Copies of all permits must be submitted to IEMA and FEMA prior to grant close-out.
13. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards must be followed to avoid impacts to worker health and safety.
14. Industry-standard construction Best Management Practices are to be used, for example: sedimentation and erosion control; dust control; and noise abatement.
15. Subgrantees must restore disturbed construction and staging areas with native seed and/or plants typical of the area at project completion.
16. Subgrantees must not initiate construction activities until 15 days after approval and official signing of this FONSI.

## **FINDINGS**

Based upon the conditions and information contained in the PEA for the floodwall projects and in accordance with FEMA Directive 108-1, *Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Responsibilities and Program Requirements* (Aug. 22, 2016), and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management), 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and 12898 (Environmental Justice), FEMA has determined that the proposed actions would not have any significant impacts on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared.

**APPROVAL**

 01/10/2018

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 01/10/2018

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