



FEMA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SUMMERSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
CITY OF SUMMERSVILLE, NICHOLAS COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
FEMA-4273-DR-WV

BACKGROUND

The West Virginia School Building Authority (WVSBA) with the Nicholas County Board of Education (NCBOE) as a client, has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance (PA) grant program for funding assistance, under the Presidentially Declared Disaster FEMA-4273-DR-WV. 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).

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), central West Virginia experienced intense convection storms along a stationary front on June 23, 2016. The stationary movement of the storms led many areas to receive up to 10 inches of rainfall within 24 hours, producing a 1,000-year storm event. The intense rainfall resulted in widespread flash flooding crippling the state with substantial damage to residences, commercial buildings, and public infrastructure. The areas that were impacted the greatest were primarily in the Greenbrier, Elk, and Gauley River watersheds (USGS, 2016). In Nicholas County, the Gauley River watershed includes the communities of Summersville and Richwood, which were both significantly impacted by the flood event. Statewide, the flood event damaged more than two dozen schools in 10 counties, including three schools in the Gauley River Watershed of Nicholas County: Summersville Middle School, Richwood Middle School, and Richwood High School. These three schools were determined to be destroyed and, as such, they could not be repaired and were deemed eligible for replacement under the FEMA PA program. Due to the severity of the damage, an agreement between FEMA, NCBOE, and the WVSBA was signed for the reconstruction of the three damaged schools at a total combined cost of \$178 million under the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act of 2013 (SRIA). A portion of this funding will be used for the redevelopment of Summersville Middle School, while the remaining funds will be used for the redevelopment of Richwood Middle and Richwood High School. This undertaking is addressed under a separate EA. The subject EA addresses the replacement of Summersville Middle School only and does not address the construction in Richwood.

Due to a combination of factors, including decreased enrollment due to population declines, WVSBA and NCBOE have elected to pursue the consolidation of several facilities onto one consolidated campus, with the replacement of Summersville Middle School being among them. As part of the planned consolidation, the existing Nicholas County High School and Career Technical Education Facility would be combined into a comprehensive high school and would be co-located on the campus with the new Summersville Middle School. The purpose of the planned consolidation is to lower operating costs for the schools in Nicholas County, while providing state of the art learning facilities that would serve the current student bodies attending the existing middle school, high school and technical education center. This project is necessary to provide permanent learning facilities for the middle-school aged population in a significant portion of Nicholas County.

In accordance with federal laws and FEMA regulations, the EA process for a proposed federal action must include an evaluation of viable alternatives and a discussion of the potential environmental impacts. This EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and FEMA's implementing procedures for NEPA, including those in FEMA Instruction 108-1-1. As part of this NEPA review, the requirements of other environmental laws and executive orders were evaluated. This EA informed FEMA's decision on whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The EA evaluated several alternatives for the replacement of Summersville Middle School including No Action; the Proposed Action, consolidation of several schools; and redevelopment on-site.

Under the No Action Alternative, Summersville Middle School would not be redeveloped. The middle school age students would continue to attend school in the temporary classroom facilities located at the site of the former Summersville Middle School along Grizzly Lane and adjacent to Nicholas County High School, and the former middle school site would be retained as open space. The primary impacts from the No-Action Alternative would be the lack of a permanent school facility for the students attending Summersville Middle School.

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Summersville Middle School would be replaced with a new facility at a new location with expanded acreage that would allow for the development of a consolidated school complex consisting of Summersville Middle School, Nicholas County High School, and Nicholas County Career Technical Education Center. The proposed 110-acre site, selected as the most viable location based upon West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) Policy 6200, is located at the Glade Creek Business Park at 395 Mable Lane in Summersville and consists primarily of gently sloping, undeveloped, cleared land outside of the SFHA. Site development would be limited to approximately 80 acres and include school structures, parking, and athletic fields. Additionally, West Virginia Route 41 (West Webster Road) would be widened to accommodate new traffic.

Under the Redevelopment Alternative, Summersville Middle School would be redeveloped on the former site, located on Grizzly Lane in Summersville, West Virginia. Although the school building would be elevated above BFE during redevelopment, this alternative would have long-term impacts to the safety and security of the school and children due to the location of the building, ingress and egress routes for the school, and surrounding areas being within the floodplain.

A public notice was posted in the local newspaper of record, the *Nicholas Chronicle*, and on FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4273>. The draft EA was made available for public

comment at the Summersville Public Library, located at 6201 W Webster Rd, Summersville, WV 26651. 48 Comments were received during the public comment period and addressed in Appendix E of the EA.

FINDINGS

The Proposed Action would not impact floodplains, hazardous materials, environmental justice, or historic and cultural resources and would not adversely impact threatened and endangered species. During construction, negligible to moderate, short-term impacts to soils and geology, water resources and water quality, air quality, noise, public service and utilities, traffic and circulation, and safety and security are anticipated. The project would be required to follow all applicable restrictions and regulations and implement best management practices (BMPs) during construction to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to resources.

The Proposed Action would have negligible to moderate, long-term impacts on soils and geology, air quality, wetlands, terrestrial and aquatic environment, zoning and land use, noise, and traffic and circulation. Implementation of mitigation procedures would minimize long-term effects to water resources resulting in minor impacts. Because frameworks are in place to manage potential environmental impacts, no significant impacts are anticipated from the incremental impact of the Proposed Action in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions near the former school site and the site of the consolidation of Summersville Middle School and the proposed new school facilities.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

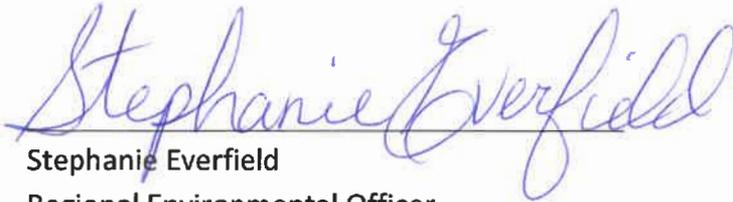
1. If deviations from the proposed scope of work result in substantial design changes, the need for additional ground disturbance, additional removal of vegetation, or any other unanticipated changes to the physical environment, prior to the start of work the applicant (SBA and NCBOE) must contact FEMA so that the revised project scope can be evaluated for compliance with NEPA and other applicable environmental laws.
2. The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, state and federal permits and approvals.
3. Terms and conditions set by USACE and WVDEP to minimize effects to water quality will be abided by the applicant.
4. NCBOE will abide by all required Compensatory Mitigation Plans for stream impacts submitted in compliance with USACE and WVDEP.
5. Construction BMPs, as identified in the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan prepared for the Proposed Action, will be utilized and maintained throughout construction to control soil erosion and sediment, reduce spills and pollution, and provide habitat protection.
6. The project applicant would include BMPs during or after construction such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Soil erosion monitoring at the project site;
 - b. Installation of temporary silt fences and/or straw bales;
 - c. The staging of construction equipment in existing developed areas, such as paved parking lots;

- d. If project activities include the stockpiling of soil or fill onsite, the project applicant would maintain these soils by covering or other means to help prevent fugitive dust and soil erosion and dispersion offsite into stormwater pathways or streams;
 - e. All short-term soil storage would not occur within floodplain areas;
 - f. Erosion control fiber mesh would be utilized for disturbed and seeded lawn impact areas; and
 - g. Following construction, any bare or exposed soils would be vegetated to prevent future soil erosion and compacted soils would be aerated and revegetated.
7. Erosion controls will be in place prior to any ground disturbing activity.
 8. Avoided wetland and streams will be fenced during construction as no-work areas.
 9. Site soils will be covered and/or wetted during construction to minimize fugitive dust.
 10. Construction activities will be conducted during the daytime hours to reduce adverse noise impacts.
 11. All ground disturbing activities, including grading, must occur outside of a 100-foot buffer zone around the Rader Family Cemetery.
 12. The applicant will monitor ground disturbance during the construction phase; should human skeletal remains, or historic or archaeological materials be discovered during construction, all ground-disturbing activities on the project site shall cease and the applicant shall notify the coroner's office (in the case of human remains), FEMA, and the State Historic Preservation Office.
 13. Any hazardous materials discovered, generated, or used during construction would be disposed of and handled in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, with WVDEP being the lead agency regarding compliance. During all activities, appropriate measures to remove, prevent, contain, minimize, and control spills of any potentially hazardous materials will be employed. Hazardous materials would be stored in a locked, covered, facility wherever possible.
 14. Heavy machinery and equipment to be used for the Proposed Action will meet federal clean air standards. In addition, all equipment used shall have sound control devices no less effective than those provided on the original equipment. No equipment shall have un-muffled exhaust.
 15. All equipment shall comply with pertinent equipment noise standards of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, comments from the public, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1) and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL



Stephanie Everfield
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 3

Date 12/17/19