

Draft
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
Replacement of Escambia County Mosquito Control Facility
Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida
FEMA-1551-DR-FL

As a result of Hurricane Ivan, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized by Presidential Disaster declaration (FEMA-1551-DR-FL) on September 16, 2004 to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Florida. The areas that received the most damage were concentrated in the Panhandle region of Florida and included Escambia County. The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (PL 93-288) Section 406 authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Program to provide financial and other forms of assistance to State and local governments to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following Presidentially declared disasters. Escambia County has applied for funding from FEMA to replace their Mosquito Control Facility. Escambia County is proposing to relocate the facility out of the City of Pensacola to a county-owned facility 15 miles north of Pensacola; the facility is located in an unincorporated section of the county that currently is home to the Road Department and a prison camp.

Prior to Hurricane Ivan, the county's Mosquito Control Facility was composed of seven buildings, including an entomology laboratory, chemical storage, vehicles, and vehicle maintenance. The structures, located in a residential neighborhood, were mostly constructed in 1956. Most of the buildings were damaged beyond repair by the event, and Escambia County was forced to demolish the structures for safety reasons. Currently, the mosquito control operations are being carried out from rented mobile trailers. The proposed facility will consist of four structures to be constructed at 601 Highway 297-A in Escambia County, FL. The structures will house office space, storage, an entomology laboratory, chemical storage, vehicles, and vehicle maintenance. The proposed location for is more centrally located within Escambia County and it is located in a more rural part of the County where there are no nearby residential properties. The proposed location is a county-owned property that currently contains a county Road Department facility and a prison camp.

An Environmental Assessment (EA), dated July 2006, was prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1500-1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10). The purpose of the EA was to analyze and document the proposed alternative's potential environmental impacts, serve as a means to document the proposed alternative's compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

FINDINGS

FEMA has made the following determinations from the information contained in the Replacement of Escambia County Mosquito Control Facility EA:

The above action is not in an identified Coastal Barriers Resource Act unit and it will not result in any significant adverse impacts related to geology and soils; hydrology and floodplains; wetlands and jurisdictional waters of the U.S.; water quality; air quality; vegetation and wildlife; state and federally listed threatened and endangered species; cultural resources; socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations); safety and security; hazardous materials and toxic wastes; and traffic and transportation. Additionally, the safety of Park occupants would not be adversely impacted by hazardous environmental conditions. The proposed project alternative has been reviewed and, to the best of our knowledge, does not have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions in accordance with 44 CFR Part 10.8 (d)(3)(x). The public

comment period was from July 7, 2006 to July 24, 2006, with notice published in the local paper. The Draft EA was available for viewing at the Pensacola Public Library Lucia M. Tryon Branch Library. Additionally, the Draft EA was made available on the FEMA website.

The following summarizes what is outlined in the EA and are the conditions that must be met as part of implementing this proposed action alternative:

1. Appropriate erosion control and BMPs will be utilized to minimize any impacts resulting from disturbance of approximately 1.82 acres of land. Areas of equipment and storage and parking will incorporate erosion and sediment control structures per Florida Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards for runoff, erosion and/or sedimentation transport during construction.
2. Dust and airborne dirt generated by construction activities shall be controlled through general dust control BMPs or a specific dust control plan could be developed if warranted. The contractor and Escambia County personnel will meet to review the nature and extent of potential and known dust-generating activities and will cooperatively develop specific types of control techniques appropriate to the project and local situations.
3. If an accidental spill occurs during construction, the contractor will be responsible for minimizing the amount spilled and any clean-up required. Federal and state regulations regarding the reporting and clean-up of accidental spills will be adhered to.
4. To minimize risks to safety and human health, all construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel trained in the proper use of the appropriate equipment, including all appropriate safety precautions; additionally, all activities will be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) regulations.
5. To ensure that during the construction process any items of archaeological, historical or architectural interest are protected, Escambia County and its contractors shall monitor excavation activities. In the event any items of interest are discovered, FDEP will make all reasonable efforts to protect the items and to avoid further harm to the items until the significance of the discovery can be determined. The FDEP shall notify FEMA and the FL SHPO immediately.

CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the incorporated EA, and in accordance with NEPA, FEMA has determined that the proposed action, implement with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined above and in the EA ,will not have a significant adverse effect on the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8) and the proposed action alternative as described in the EA may proceed. Furthermore, FEMA has determined that the proposed project would comply with Executive Orders 11988, 11990, and 12898.

APPROVAL

Brent Paul
Environmental Officer
DHS/FEMA Headquarters

Date: _____