



**FEMA**

*Draft*  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
**City of Titusville Flood Protection Project**  
**Crawford County, Pennsylvania**  
***FEMA-1485-DR-PA***

As a result of damages from a tornado in 2003, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) was authorized under a Presidential disaster declaration (FEMA-1485-DR-PA) to provide Federal assistance to designated disaster areas in Pennsylvania. Section 404 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to provide grant funding to reduce vulnerabilities of the built environment from a variety of hazards. The City of Titusville has requested FEMA grant funding assistance via the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, which administers the grant program. Additional project funding is provided by the City and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). An initial public notice of this project was published in the Titusville Herald in July 2005, no comments were received.

An Environmental Assessment (EA), dated February, 2006 was drafted by the PDEP pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and FEMA regulations for NEPA compliance (44 CFR Part 10). The EA's purpose is to analyze and document the proposed action and alternative's potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures, serve as a vehicle to document 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.

The Preferred Alternative (B) involves constructing a detention dam to reduce Church Run flood flows, and a suitable site for a detention dam is located immediately upstream of the City Titusville boundary in Oil Creek Township off Highway 89. The proposed site is currently used as pasture. The detention dam would detain floodwaters up to and including the 100-year flood and release them at a reduced rate. There would be no permanent retention upstream of the dam. The dam would be constructed of roller compacted concrete, which can safely be overtopped, and have a maximum height of 26 feet. A 150 foot conduit would be installed within the existing stream channel to allow normal and peak flows to pass through the dam. Another alternative considered in the EA was to modify the existing Church Run channel in Titusville to a U shaped channel, which would be deeper and wider; remove some of the structures along the stream, and replace most of the downtown bridges to accommodate the channel modifications.

**FINDINGS**

FEMA has made the following determinations from the information contained in the Project EA:

The above described action 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. The preferred alternative has been reviewed and, to the best of FEMA's 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 following reiterates what is outlined in the EA's mitigation section and are the conditions that must be met to ensure no significant impacts occur and are part of implementing this preferred action alternative:

1. The City and or PA DEP would be required to obtain and comply with all applicable Commonwealth and federal water resource and construction permits, including PA DEP National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit, Water Quality Certification, and Chapter 105 dam permitting; and USACE Clean Water Act Section 404 permit.
2. Of particular concern is adherence to site work best management practices (e.g., work during low flow periods, install of silt fences and straw bales) to reduce soil erosion and stream sedimentation. If fill is stored on site, the contractor should appropriately cover it to prevent erosion.
3. Short-term adverse affects to on-site and nearby air quality from fugitive dust caused by site preparation (vegetation removal, clearing and grading) can be reduced by periodically wetting the construction area.
4. Unavoidable but minor on-site wetland impacts will be compensated with 3 acres of wetlands restoration.
5. Although no historic properties were identified at the site, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, if unanticipated historic or cultural materials are discovered during construction, all construction activities shall immediately cease within 100 feet of the materials until their cultural affiliation and ultimate disposition are determined in consultation with the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, FEMA Regional Environmental Officer and other interested parties.
6. Although there was no information to suggest the presence of hazardous materials at the site, if any hazardous materials are found during construction, they shall be remediated, abated, or disposed of as appropriate, and otherwise handled in accordance with applicable local, Commonwealth, and federal laws and regulations.
7. The contractor will post appropriate signage and fencing to minimize potential adverse public safety concerns. Access to unsafe areas or heavy equipment during the construction period should be restricted, and signage posted to warn of potential unsafe conditions. Appropriate signage and barriers should be in place prior to construction activities in order to alert pedestrians and motorists of traffic pattern changes.

