

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
PROPOSED SEISMIC UPGRADE FOR A  
NEW HIGH SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
WATERLOO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 5  
WATERLOO, MONROE COUNTY, IL**

The Waterloo Community Unit School District 5 in Waterloo, Illinois, has applied for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to incorporate seismic building standards into the construction of the new Waterloo High School. The objective of the HMGP program is to reduce the impact of natural disasters on health and human safety and the built environment, thereby reducing costs associated with recovery from damage caused by natural disasters.

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508) to implement NEPA, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations (44 CFR § 10.9) to implement NEPA.

The proposed project as described in the EA was evaluated for any potential significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources, floodplains, air quality, threatened and endangered species, noise, traffic, and cultural resources. It was also evaluated for safety and hazardous materials issues as well as for disproportionately high and adverse effects on minority or low income populations. The project was coordinated with Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resource Conservation Agency, Illinois Department of Agriculture, the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and Monroe County.

**CONDITIONS**

The following conditions were developed to mitigate the potential impacts of this project and must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize Federal funds:

1. Standard construction techniques will be used to mitigate risks associated with the sinkhole-prone soil in the area. Surface water runoff will be directed away from active sinkhole areas to assist in mitigating future subsidence. Mitigation of the risk associated with sink holes related to the construction of the school will be accomplished through appropriate structural reinforcement of any sinkholes encountered during excavation and backfill with structural fill.
2. 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 IHPA immediately.

3. Applicant will mitigate any potential traffic impacts generated by this project through the implementation of traffic control measures as identified in the Traffic Study developed for the project.
4. The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all required local, State and Federal permits and approvals.

In addition, the applicant will adopt best management practices to reduce adverse effects to air quality and water quality.

**FINDING**

Based upon the incorporated EA, and in accordance with Presidential Executive Orders 12898 (Environmental Justice), 11988 (Floodplain Management), and 11990 (Wetland Protection), FEMA has determined that the proposed action implemented with the conditions and mitigation measures outlined above and in the EA would not have any significant adverse effects on the quality of the natural and human environment. As a result of this FONSI, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10.8).

**Recommended:**

**Approved**

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Brent Paul                      Date  
FEMA Environmental Officer

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Norbert Schwartz                      Date  
Flood Insurance & Mitigation Division  
Director