

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR
RELOCATION OF FIRE STATION
CITY OF HIGHLAND, SHARP COUNTY, ARKANSAS
FEMA 1744-DR-AR
Project Worksheet # 101**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Authority

In accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Subpart B – Agency Implementing Procedures, Section 10.9, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The EA addresses site-specific impacts associated with the relocation of the Highland City Fire Station in Sharp County, Arkansas. The results of this EA will be used to decide whether to initiate preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

1.2 Project Location

Sharp County is located in the northeastern portion of Arkansas, bordering the Missouri state line and is approximately 604 square miles. The county's elevation ranges from 561 feet in the southern section to 1,000 feet in the northwestern part, which lies within the Ozark National Mountains. Sharp County is crossed by the Strawberry River, which forms in Fulton County, ends in Lawrence County at its confluence with the Black River (Figure 1.0). Sharp County is served by U.S. Highways 63, 167, and 62/412, and by State Highways 56, 58, 115, 230, 175, 175-S and 342. Sharp County is roughly rectangular with a large panhandle to the north. Sharp County was previously a part of Lawrence County, which, before 1868, comprised about half of the present state of Arkansas. Ash Flat is the county seat and is located in the center of the county.

The city of Highland is located in the far northern part of the county on Hwy 62/412 (Figure 1.1) with the proposed location of the new fire station to be placed on a site previously known as the Midway Plaza. This shopping center was completely destroyed/removed by the series of tornados that moved through the area on 5 February 2008. This same storm event destroyed the existing fire station located on Louann Drive, approximately two blocks from the proposed relocation site (Figure 1.2).

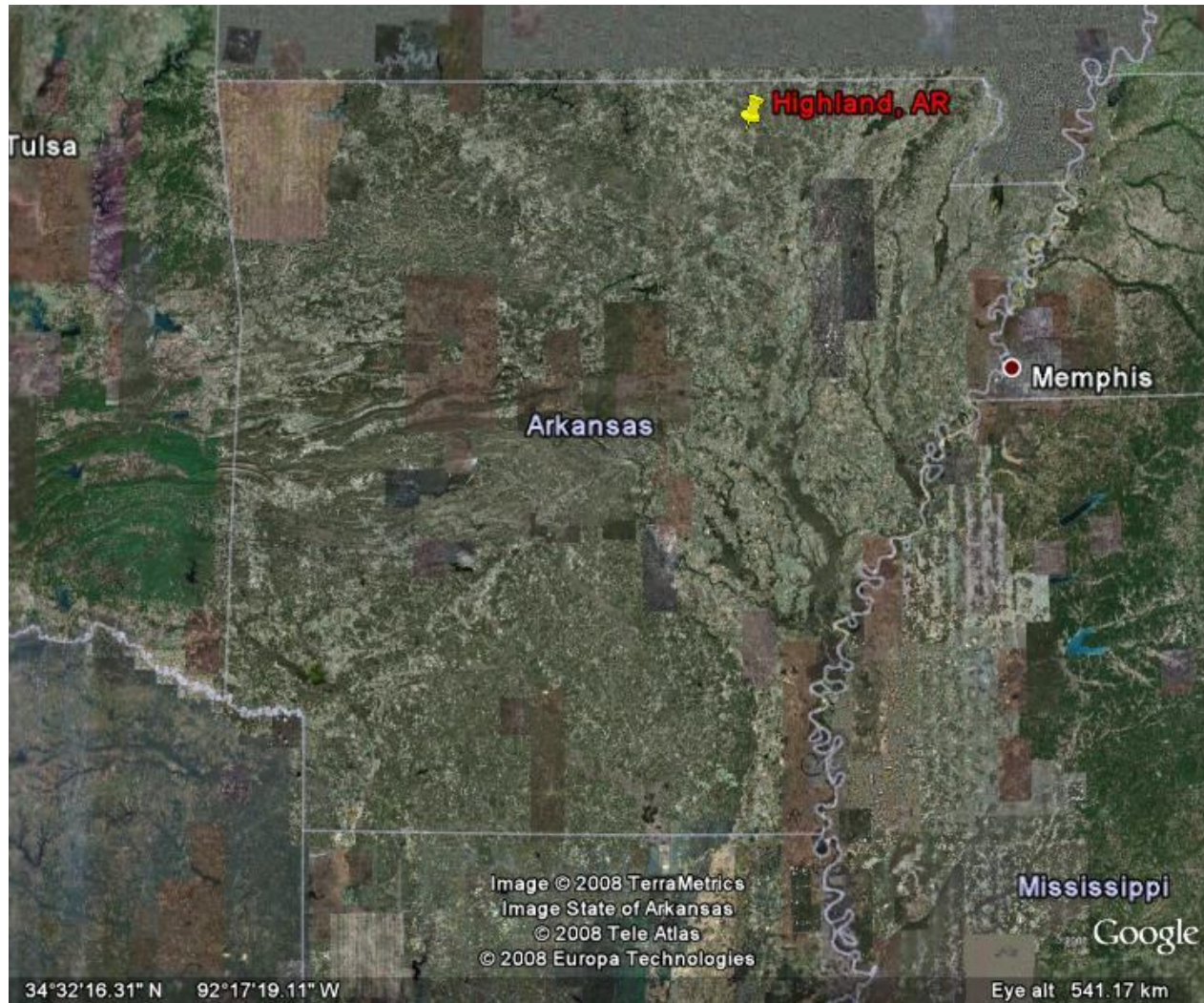


Figure 1.1 Highland Site Map



Figure 1.2 Original Site and Proposed Site

1.3 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

On 5 February 2008, a series of tornados moved through Arkansas causing extensive damage. On 7 February 2008, following a request from Governor Beebe to the President, a Presidential Disaster Declaration (FEMA-1744-DR-AR) was issued due to severe storms and tornados for 12 counties and amended on 8 February 2008, 11 February 2008, 12 February 2008, and 20 February 2008, to include a total of 20 counties.

During the incident period, a tornado destroyed the City of Highland's fire station, a 5,112 square foot metal building containing six bays, an office, meeting room, kitchen, rest room, and overhead storage. This city owned structure, was located on Louann Drive on a privately owned lot not controlled by the city. This project is classified as an Improved Project. It is proposed to relocate the fire station to a site at 1998 Hwy 62/412, Highland, AR. This site was previously a shopping center, also destroyed by the tornado. Following the event, all that remained was a concrete and asphalt slab. The city of Highland purchased the above mentioned property in order to maintain ownership and proposes to build the new fire station at this location.

In order to restore the facility that was destroyed as a result of the tornado, FEMA is proposing to participate in funding the relocation of the fire station up to the limits of repairing the facility to pre-disaster conditions at the original location. The remaining required funding will be the responsibility of the City of Highland.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

2.1 No Action

Implementation of No Action Alternative would entail no construction or replacement of the facilities destroyed by the tornado. As a consequence, the city of Highland would be without a fire station, therefore unable to provide fire protection to the 1,600 residents that it services. The nearest response agency that could react to a fire or emergency is the city of Hardy which is approximately 5 miles away.

2.2 Reconstruction at Original Site

This alternative would be to reconstruct the destroyed fire station on the original site to pre-disaster configuration, function and capacity. The new facility would be constructed on the same concrete slab as existed before the storm. It would be a freestanding 5,112 square foot metal building and a corrugated metal roof with six bays. The previous site was leased under a land use agreement and was not owned by the city. Additionally, the driveway of the existing facility was inclined, causing difficulty in accessing the highway from the station.

2.3 Construction of an Improved Fire Station at an Alternate Location-Proposed Action

The proposed action is construction of an improved fire station at a site approximately two blocks from the original location. The city owns a four-acre lot adjacent to the existing facility and proposes to relocate the station to this larger, more level site. The new fire station would be constructed on an existing concrete slab (Figure 1.3) that is approximately 5,388 square feet with office space, a meeting room, four larger bays, a kitchen, two rest rooms, storage rooms and overhead storage. Site preparation would be minimal as the foundation is already established. The building will be constructed of metal siding with brick along the bottom. There is an existing drainage system and access to necessary utilities. Upon completion, this facility will house three pumper trucks, two brush trucks, one rescue truck and one boat.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACTS

3.1 Land Use and Zoning

In Sharp County, Arkansas, the majority of the land use and economic base of the county is agriculture; cattle, chickens, hay, and watermelons, and some light manufacturing. Tourism is the fastest growing segment of the economy. With the rise in tourism and retirement-age households, the majority of the city is residential, both zoned in R-1 and R-2. The city is zoned HC (Highway Commercial) along the main highway through the town. The proposed location for the fire station will be within the area zoned HC. (General Plan 2000)

3.2 Geology, Seismicity and Soils

Because the proposed project involves the construction of a new building, Executive Order 12699, Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated New Building Construction, applies to the proposed project. According to the Executive Order, the construction of the proposed project must use appropriate seismic design and construction standards and practices. The 1997 Uniform Building Code and American Society of Civil Engineers Standard 7-95 are the only model codes that are substantially equivalent to Federal recommendations for new building seismic design and construction. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) National Seismic Hazard Mapping Project, there is low to moderate probability of seismic activity within the project area (USGS 2008).

According to the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS), the soils on the proposed site are known as Gepp. It is a very gravelly silt loam with a 3-8 % slope and is well drained. Depth to water is approximately 80 inches and area has a mean temperature of 46-72 degrees Fahrenheit with mean annual precipitation of 39-56 inches.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (P.L. 97-98, Sec. 1539-1549; 7 U.S. Code 4201, et seq.) was enacted to minimize the unnecessary conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses as a result of federal actions. The Act requires federal agencies to evaluate the adverse effects of their activities on prime and unique farmland as well as farmland of statewide and local importance. NRCS is responsible for protecting significant agriculture lands from

irreversible conversions that result in the loss of an essential food or environmental resource. Prime farmland is characterized as land with the best physical and chemical characteristics for the production of food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. This land is either used for food or fiber crops or is available for those crops, but is not urban, built-up land, or water areas. Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality, high yields or specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. The Gepp gravelly silt loam is not classified as a prime or unique farmland soil (NRCS WSS 2008).

3.3 Water Resources and Water Quality

3.3.1 Surface and Groundwater

There are no rivers, creeks or other defined drainages on the proposed project site. The major surface water feature of the area is the Spring River which is approximately two miles from the city of Highland. Wild Plum Lake is the closest large surface water located in Hidden Valley. Turkey Creek is an intermittent creek that has a number of small unnamed impoundments in the area. Other large surface water areas are Lake Thunderbird, Lake Omaha, Lake Sequoyah, Lake Cherokee and Lake Mirandy which are approximately one half to one mile to the north. The city of Highland receives its drinking water from local ground water wells, as there is not an impoundment large enough to service the city. According to the form FmHA 1940-20, *Request for Environmental Information*, completed by Jerome Norwood, the Mayor of Highland there are no aquifer recharge areas in the vicinity of the project site. The form is attached in the Appendix A.

3.3.2 Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Wetlands are identified as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. In addition, Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, directs federal agencies to take actions to minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the values of wetlands on federal property.

Relocation of the fire station to the proposed location would not destroy or modify wetlands, have an adverse effect on the natural values of wetlands, or directly or indirectly support new development on wetlands. A USGS quadrangle map of the area and an aerial photograph confirm that there is no potential to impact wetlands and/or other waters of the U.S. on or near the site. A review of the National Wetlands Inventory also indicates there are no wetlands located near the project site (Figure 3.1) (NWI Sept 08).

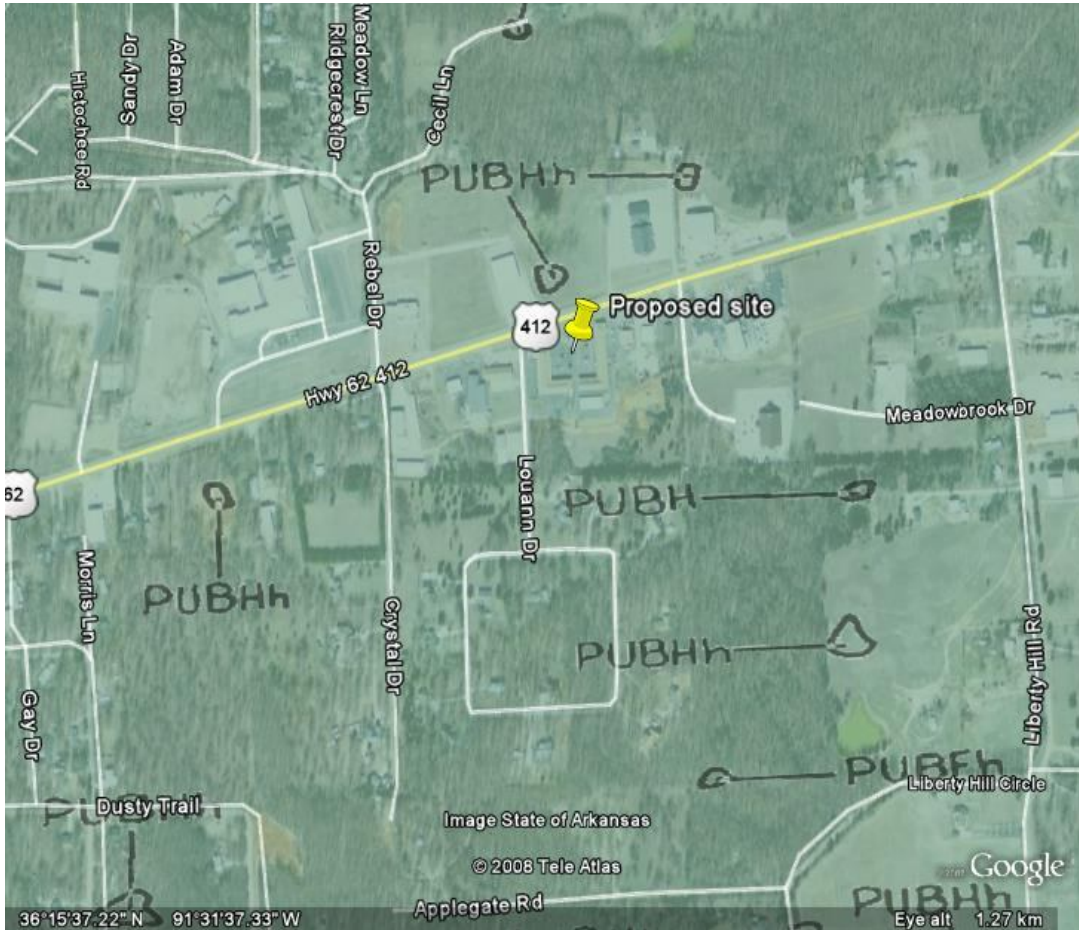


Figure 3.1 National Wetland Inventory Map

3.3.3 Floodplains

In compliance with FEMA policy implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, the project was reviewed for possible impacts associated with occupancy or modification to a floodplain. According to the National Flood Insurance Program's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) 050464A panel 15, dated 21 June 1977 and converted by letter 1 October 2007, sites are located outside the special flood hazard areas. (Figure 3.2) Sharp County enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program on 1 October 2007.

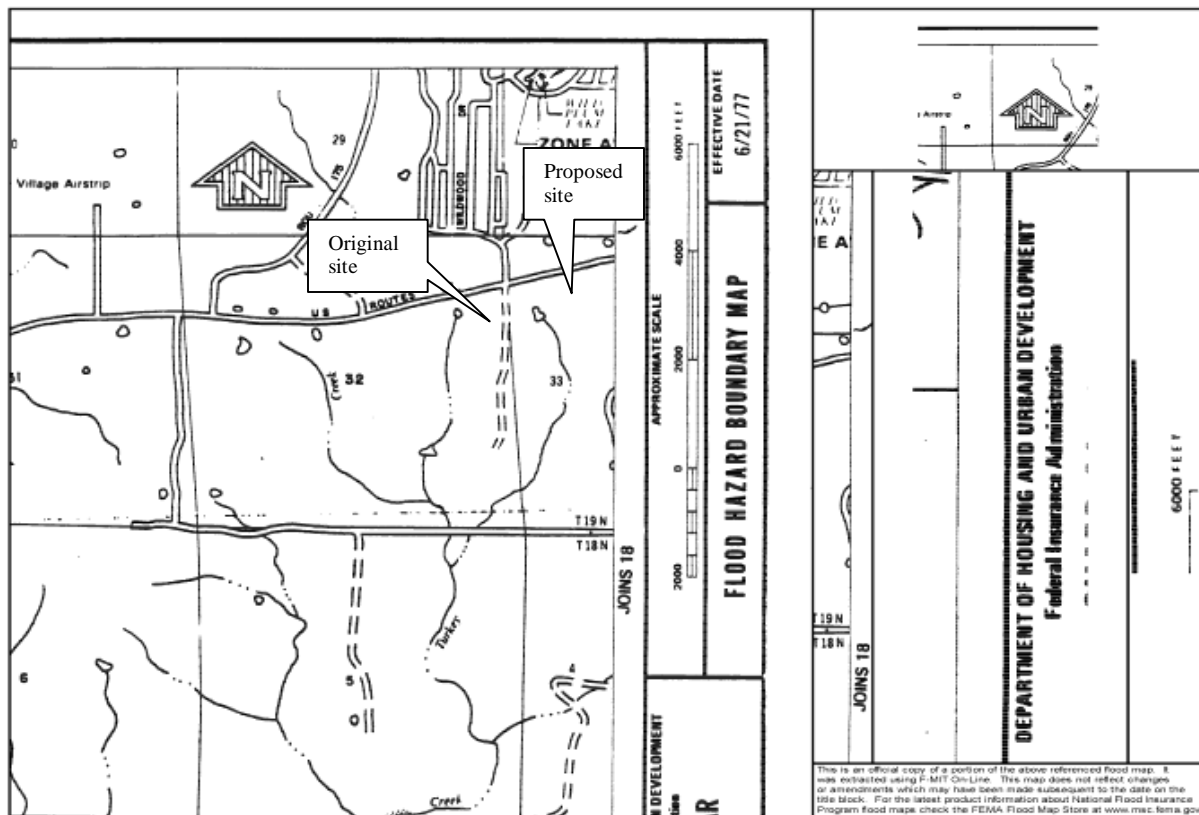


Figure 3.2 Flood Insurance Rate Maps 050464A Panel 15.

3.4 Air Quality

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses six “criteria pollutants” as indicators of air quality, and has established for each of them a maximum concentration above which adverse effects to human health may occur. These threshold concentrations are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

The EPA has designated specific areas as NAAQS attainment or non-attainment areas. Non-attainment areas are any areas that do not meet the quality standards for a pollutant. These areas are subject to corrective actions specified by EPA, including restrictions on certain types of activities. Attainment areas are any areas that meet ambient air quality standards. Per phone conversation with Bill Swafford of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality on 18 September 2008, Sharp County is in attainment for all six criteria pollutants and has no restrictions. Boundary Designations for the 1997 8-Hour Zone Standard for EPA Region 6 as of 2 September 2008 show that Crittenden is the only county in Arkansas that is in non-attainment, which is on the eastern border of the state along the Mississippi River. Construction of the proposed fire station would involve pollutant emissions from construction equipment which could result in minor effects to air quality in the area immediately surrounding the construction activity. Fugitive dust would escape into the

atmosphere during these activities. However, the effects would be localized and of short duration and would not jeopardize the attainment status of Sharp County. The contractor would be required to keep all equipment in good working order to minimize air pollution.

3.5 Noise

Noise is generally described as unwanted sound. Existing ambient noise levels in the area are consistent with rural farming and ranch-related equipment. There is also traffic noise from U.S. Highways 62/412. Noise levels within and adjacent to the project area would increase during the proposed construction activities as a result of construction equipment. The noise levels generated would be limited to workday daylight hours for the duration of the work and not cause long term negative impacts. Although the fire station by nature has noise associated, the new station will not increase noise levels beyond previous conditions.

3.6 Biological Resources

3.6.1 Vegetation

Native vegetation to the area includes Big and Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Virginia Creeper, Muscadine and Beauty berry in addition to native trees such as White Oak, Sweet gum, Black Gum, Elm, Shortleaf pine, Eastern red cedar and Cottonwood. Other plants that have been introduced locally and are commonly used for pastures are Bermuda grass, Fescue, Clovers and Alfalfa. The proposed site is previously disturbed and currently is paved parking areas and concrete slabs. It is void of plant life and therefore no removal of vegetation is required.

3.6.2 Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

In compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies are required to consider the impacts to threatened and endangered species. A search of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service website of threatened and endangered species resulted in a list of ten endangered species in Sharp County. These are the Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Turgid Blossom pearlymussel (*Epioblasma turgidula*), Pink mucket pearlymussel (*Lampsilis orbiculata*), Scaleshell mussel (*Leptodea leptodon*), and the Curtis' pearly mussel (*Epioblasma florentina curtisi*). In addition, the Ozark hellbender (*Cryptobranchus alleganiensis bishopi*) is listed as a candidate species.

The location of the proposed project is within the developed portion of the city and FEMA has determined that this activity is not likely to adversely affect any listed endangered species.

3.7 Cultural Resources

In addition to review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), consideration of impacts to cultural resources is mandated under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended, implemented by 36 CFR Part 800. Requirements include the identification of significant historic properties that may be impacted by the

proposed action or alternatives within the project's area of potential effect. Historic properties are defined as archaeological sites, standing structures or other historic resources listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If adverse effects on historic, archaeological or cultural properties are identified, agencies must consider effects of their activities and attempt to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts to these resources.

On 7 August 2008, FEMA requested concurrence from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Office that the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on Historic Properties. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) responded on 11 August 2008 that no known historic properties would be affected by this undertaking. The SHPO letter is attached in the Appendix B.

3.8 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, entitled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," mandates that federal agencies identify and address, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of programs on minority and low-income populations.

According to the census conducted in 2000, Sharp County has a total population of 17,119. The white population was 97.1 percent and the next highest race/ethnicity was Hispanic or Latino at 1 percent with a median family income of \$29,691. The total population in Highland is 986, which is 5.8 percent of the county. The white population was 98.1 percent and the American Indian and Alaska Native population was .4 percent with a median family income of \$32,788 (US Census Bureau 2000).

The funding of this project will not adversely affect the local populace as it will provide fire and safety support for all of the community. It will also provide a short-term economic benefit for the local population.

3.9 Traffic and Safety

Traffic and safety issues that were considered in this EA include the health and safety of area residents, the public at large and the protection of personnel involved in activities related to the implementation of the proposed project. The proposed location of the facility will have reduced chances of traffic and safety issues as compared to reconstruction at the original site. The site has a large parking area that is level, allowing for access in and out of the compound easily. This minimizes the need for pulling directly into traffic and also allows for movement of the multiple pieces of equipment without leaving the property.

3.10 Hazard Material and Waste

Hazardous wastes, as defined by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, are defined as "a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may (1) cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or

incapacitating reversible illness or (2) pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of or otherwise managed.”

According to the mayor of Highland, there are no hazardous, toxic or radioactive waste sites on or near the proposed location. In addition, a review of regulatory environmental databases was conducted via the Internet. The following is a list of the federal and state databases reviewed for this project: EPA, National Priorities List (NPL), EPA Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) List. The databases were searched by county of Sharp and the state of Arkansas. Fourteen (14) superfund sites were identified in the state of Arkansas. There are no known sites located in Sharp County. No facilities or properties in the proposed construction areas were listed on the databases reviewed.

4.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are those effects on the environment that result from the incremental effect of the action when added to past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. There are no other known projects that, when added to the proposed action, have a cumulative impact on the human environment.

Future plans for the four-acre complex are construction of a joint-use facility consisting of the courthouse, council room, city hall, police station, county 911 and EMS, and a tornado shelter with an evacuation center. This will all share the same land tract as the proposed fire station.

5.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public will be invited to comment on the proposed action. A legal notice will be posted in the local newspapers, *The Villager Journal* and *The News*, and this Draft EA will be made available for review at the Sharp County Public Library and the Sharp County Courthouse for a 15-day period

6.0 AGENCIES CONSULTED

State Historic Preservation Office, Natural Heritage Commission Little Rock, AR
City of Highland, Mayor
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
White River Planning and Development District, INC.

7.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this Environmental Assessment, FEMA concludes that the proposed construction of a fire station in the city of Highland would result in no significant environmental impacts to the human or natural environment; therefore, the proposed action meets the requirements of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under NEPA and the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be required.

Below is a matrix summarizing the applicable laws and regulations affected by this proposed action.

RESOURCES	LAWS/REGS	FINDINGS
Geology, seismicity and soils	Seismic Safety of Federal and Federally Assisted or Regulated Building Construction, Farmland Protection Act	Minimal Impact
Surface Water and Groundwater	Clean Water Act	No Impact
Wetlands	Executive Order 11990	No Impact
Floodplains	Executive Order 11988	No Impact
Air Quality	Clean Air Act	Temporary Impact
Noise	Occupational Health and Safety Act	Minimal Impact
Threatened/Endangered Species	Endangered Species Act	No Impact
Cultural Resources	National Historic Preservation Act	No Impact
Environmental Justice	Executive Order 12898	No Impact
Traffic and Safety	Occupational Health and Safety Act	Improvement
Hazardous Materials	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act	Minimal Impact

8.0 REFERENCES

City of Highland, AR General Plan; 5 September 2000

Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Sites.

<http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6sf/6sf-ar.htm>

Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality Standards

<http://www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/regions/region6desig.htm>

Environmental Protection Agency National Priorities List

<http://www.epa.gov/superfund/sites/npl/ar.htm>

Google Earth

www.googleearth.com

National Wetland Inventory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

http://wetlandsfws.er.usgs.gov/imf/imf.jsp?site=NWI_CONUS

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Plant List Database

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?navtype=SU&navid=AGRICULTURE

U.S. Geological Survey, National Seismic Hazards Map

<http://gldims.cr.usgs.gov/nshmp2008/viewer.htm>

Web Soil Survey, Natural Resource Conservation Service

<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

9.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Sabrina Kirkpatrick

Environmental Specialist

FEMA Region VI

Denton, TX

Appendix A. Form FmHA 1940-20

USDA-FMHA
Form FmHA 1940-20
(Rev. 1-92)

FORM APPROVED
OMS NO. 0575-0094

REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Name of Project
HIGHLAND FIRE HOUSE
Location
HIGHLAND ARKANSAS

- Item 1a. Has a Federal, State, or Local Environmental Impact Statement or Analysis been prepared for this project?
 Yes No Copy attached as EXHIBIT I-A.
 1b. If "No," provide the information requested in Instructions as EXHIBIT I.
- Item 2. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHOP) has been provided a detailed project description and has been requested to submit comments to the appropriate FmHA Office. Yes No Date description submitted to SHPO NA / /
- Item 3. Are any of the following land uses or environmental resources either to be affected by the proposal or located within or adjacent to the project site(s)? (Check appropriate box for every item of the following checklist).

	Yes	No	Unknown		Yes	No	Unknown
1. Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Beaches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19. Dunes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Residential	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20. Estuary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21. Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Grazing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22. Floodplain	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Mining, Quarrying	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23. Wilderness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(designated or proposed under the Wilderness Act)</i>			
8. Recreational	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	24. Wild or Scenic River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(proposed or designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)</i>			
10. Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	25. Historical, Archeological Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Hospitals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(Listed on the National Register of Historic Places or which may be eligible for listing)</i>			
12. Schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	26. Critical Habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Open spaces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>(endangered/threatened species)</i>			
14. Aquifer Recharge Area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27. Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Steep Slopes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Wildlife Refuge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	29. Solid Waste Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Shoreline	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30. Energy Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				31. Natural Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
				<i>(Listed on National Registry of Natural Landmarks)</i>			
				32. Coastal Barrier Resources System	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- Item 4. Are any facilities under your ownership, lease, or supervision to be utilized in the accomplishment of this project, either listed or under consideration for listing on the Environmental Protection Agency's List of Violating Facilities? Yes No

7-10-08
(Date)

Signed: [Signature]
(Applicant)
[Signature]
(Title)

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 to 40 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Agriculture, Directorate for Information Operations and Services, Room 1818, Washington, D.C. 20503, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0575-0094), Washington, D.C. 20503. Please DO NOT RETURN this form to either of these addresses. Forward to FmHA only.

Appendix B. SHPO Response Letter.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
DR-1751-AR Joint Field Office
14901 Cantrell Road (Highway 10)
Little Rock, Arkansas 72223



FEMA

67323

FEMA

August 7, 2008

Mr. George H. McCluskey
Senior Archaeologist and Section 106 Review Coordinator
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 73201

AHPP

AUG 08 2008

RE: Section 106 Review: City of Highland Fire Department Relocation, Sharp County

Disaster: FEMA-DR-1744-AR

Dear Mr. McCluskey:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be providing funds under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, P.L. 93-288, as amended, in response to the following major disaster declaration, FEMA-DR 1744-AR, dated 7 February, 2008.

FEMA is initiating the Section 106 review process for the above referenced property. This action is not covered by the modified Programmatic Allowances currently approved for this disaster. This federal undertaking is an improved project to relocate the city of Highland Fire Department that was destroyed by a tornado on 5 February, 2008. The current location of the station is 19 LouAnn Drive in Highland, AR in Sharp County. The county proposes to relocate the fire station to an owned and maintained location that was previously a strip mall, previously removed by the tornado. This location is an existing concrete slab adjacent to Hwy 412 at UTM 15N 632423 4014012 (36.26196, -91.52587) and is less than one mile from the existing station. Enclosed are photographs and topographic map showing the exact location of the site.

FEMA requests your timely review and recommendations regarding this matter. Thank you for your assistance.

Date 8/11/08
No known historic properties will be affected by this undertaking. This effect determination could change should new information come to light.
Frances McSwain, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer