

FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE – OCTOBER 19, 2012

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) proposes to assist the State of Vermont, Department of Mental Health, with its planned construction of a state-run psychiatric hospital in Berlin, Washington County, VT. The proposed site is located on a 7.4-acre parcel of residential/commercial land adjacent to Fisher Road, near the Central Vermont Medical Center. The facility will be comprised of a one story 47,400 square foot building with a capacity of 25 patient beds. It will include patient rooms, exam rooms, dining room, kitchen, exercise areas, nursing station, seclusion rooms, as well as administrative and support areas needed for the operation of the hospital.

To meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate any historic and environmental resources that might be affected by proposed demolition of five residences and a dental office, site preparation, and subsequent construction of the hospital. As part of its goal to ensure that good management decisions are made, FEMA invites the public to review and comment on the Draft EA and to provide the Agency with information it may not have considered in its review.

Beginning on October 19, 2012, the Draft EA will be posted on FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/environmental-planning-and-historic-preservation-program/environmental-documents-public-notice>, on the Vermont Emergency Management website at <http://www.vem.vermont.gov>, and on the Department of Mental Health website at <http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/>.

The comment period will last for a total of 15 days, ending on November 3, 2012. A copy of the Draft EA will also be available by October 19 at the Town Clerk's Office, Berlin Town Hall, 108 Shed Road (Monday - Thursday, 8:30 am to 3:30pm) and at the Waterbury Public Library, 28 North Main Street, Waterbury (10:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday-Wednesday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Thursday and Friday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Saturday).

Comments on the Draft EA can be submitted by mailing Jack Sullivan, Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region 1, 99 High Street, 6th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110, or by emailing Jack.Sullivan@fema.dhs.gov, or by faxing 617-956-7574.