



**FEMA**

**DRAFT ONLY**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**BERLIN STATE-RUN PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL  
BERLIN, VERMONT  
FEMA-4022-DR-VT**

As a result of damages caused by Tropical Storm Irene between August 27 and September 2, 2011, the President declared a major disaster for the State of Vermont under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. This major disaster declaration, referenced as FEMA-4022-DR-VT, authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide Public Assistance to local governments, state agencies and eligible private non-profit organizations in all Vermont counties. The State of Vermont has applied for assistance under the Public Assistance Program to relocate the function of the state-run psychiatric hospital from the Waterbury State Office Complex to a new facility to be constructed in Berlin, VT.

In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 10.9, FEMA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the EA is to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). In the EA process, FEMA considered two alternatives, a No Action Alternative, and the Proposed Action Alternative, to relocate the facility to a new state hospital at the Fisher State Road site in Berlin, VT.

The proposed action alternative, to construct a new Vermont State Hospital in Berlin, VT will maintain the same pre-disaster functions of mental health services that were provided in the pre-disaster facilities. Major conceptual elements of the new construction include:

- A one story 46,600 square foot facility with a capacity of 25 patients, to include patient rooms, a kitchen, dining room, exercise areas, nurse stations, seclusion rooms, exam rooms, as well as support and administration functions for the hospital
- Ancillary site facilities, including; lighting, a driveway, approximately 101 parking spaces, sidewalks, fencing, electrical, water, and sewer services
- Site clearing and preparation, and the installation of necessary infrastructure
- Removal of five existing structures, all built in the 1970's, deemed to have no historic significance by the FEMA and State Historic Preservation Officer

FEMA evaluated this proposed project as described in the EA for any potential significant adverse impacts to existing terrestrial resources (geology, soils), vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, aquatic resources (floodplains, wetlands), historic resources, visual quality, infrastructure (transportation, potable water, waste water, storm water), potential hazards (air quality/emissions, asbestos, structural debris, fuel tanks, noise), socio-economic considerations, operational considerations, environmental justice, climatic change and cumulative effects.

### **FINDINGS**

Based on input and consultation with Federal and State resource agencies, other identified sources documented in the attached EA, town officials, local residents and in accordance with the FEMA regulations (44 C.F.R. Part 10) for environmental considerations, and executive orders on floodplains (Executive Order 11988), wetlands (Executive Order 11990) and environmental justice (Executive Order 12898), FEMA finds that the proposed project as defined in the EA will have no significant impact on the natural or human environment. As a result of this Finding of No Significant Impact, an EIS will not be prepared and the proposed project with prescribed conditions may proceed. If a change in the scope of work occurs, the State and FEMA must be notified to evaluate if the proposed change would alter the potential impacts on the environment. Under most situations, however, the modification or addition of one or more elements of the construction plan will not alter the findings of this EA.

### **CONDITIONS**

The Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS), acting for the State of Vermont, shall comply with all prescribed conditions set forth in the EA, including but not limited to the following conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of Federal funding.

1. If human remains are discovered during the course of project implementation, BGS shall immediately stop construction activities in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm until FEMA concludes consultation with BGS, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (grantee for FEMA funds). These parties shall consult to determine the appropriate disposition of the remains in accordance with applicable laws of the State of Vermont, including *13 VSA 3761* (Unauthorized Removal of Human Remains), *13 VSA 3764* (Cemeteries and Monuments – Grave Markers and Historic Tablets) and *18 VSA 5212* (Permit to Remove Dead Bodies).
2. BGS shall secure and comply with the terms of their Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Permit and their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit 3-9020. BGS shall follow US Green Building Council (USGBC) criteria for LEED Gold standards for stormwater management design and abide by the terms of the Vermont Erosion Control Handbook.

3. BGS shall develop and implement a Construction Site Waste Management plan. The plan shall incorporate measures such as notification to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Vermont Department of Health prior to building demolition and establish protocols for compliance with the Vermont Solid Waste Rules and the Vermont Underground Storage Tank Rules. Hazardous materials used in construction of the new facility must be managed (store, used, transported, and disposed of) in accordance with federal, state, and local hazardous waste, hazardous material, and hazardous substance requirements. If hazardous substances are released to the project area during construction, these federal, state, and local requirements must be followed in response and cleanup.
4. BGS shall comply with the terms of the Berlin Zoning and Building Permits. BGS shall follow all conditions imposed by the local Zoning and Development Review Board, all State Agencies, and all codes and standards, including, but not limited to, construction, demolition, transportation, potable water, wastewater, stormwater, air quality, hazardous material (including asbestos), erosion control, and parking standards.
5. BGS shall comply with Air Source Registration requirements (if required), secure a New Source and Operating Permit (if required), abide by air pollution control regulations such as the National Emission Standards for Hazards Air Pollution (NESHAPS), and incorporate dust management procedures construction, such as site wet down procedures.
6. Construction vehicles and equipment will be stored on site during project construction and appropriate signage will be posted on affected roadways. All construction activities will be performed using qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations.
7. Construction will take place only during normal business hours and all equipment will meet local, State and federal noise regulations.

Approved:

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Jack Sullivan

Date

FEMA Regional Environmental  
Officer, Region 1