

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment for Owego Elementary School Facility Replacement Project, Village of Owego, Tioga County, New York
FEMA 4031-DR-NY

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide Federal financial assistance to New York State Office of Emergency Management, as Grantee, and the Owego Apalachin Central School District, as Subgrantee, for the replacement and elevation of the Owego Elementary School in Tioga County, New York. The new facility would replace the existing elementary school located at 1 Christa McAuliffe Drive, Village of Owego, which was flood-damaged during severe storms and flooding in September 2011. The storm incident period of September 7-11, 2011 was declared a major disaster by President Obama on September 13, 2011 (amended September 23, 2011) and Federal public assistance was made available to affected communities and non-profit organizations per FEMA 4031-DR-NY. The proposed project would be funded by the Federal government through public assistance funding available in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq., as amended. The proposed action would fully restore all services disrupted by flood damage to the original facility.

The proposed project would involve demolition of the original 70,000 square foot +/- elementary school and construction of the new 115,000 square foot +/- elementary school on the existing parcel. The proposed new facility would have a first floor elevated above the 100-year floodplain/base flood elevation (BFE) on fill materials which would provide approximately 2.5 feet of freeboard above the BFE and over 1-foot of freeboard above the 500-year floodplain elevation. The proposed project would also involve excavating fill materials from on site and/or using fill obtained from commercial suppliers, placing fill and grading the site for facility construction, installation of a stormwater management system, water and sewer service connections, providing parking lots and landscaping.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human environment. DHS-FEMA's requirement of addressing floodplain management and wetlands protection in accordance with 44 CFR Part 9 is incorporated with the EA. The proposed project would adversely impact an archaeological site as a result of site constraints and installation of a stormwater management system. FEMA has consulted with several stakeholders regarding the impact to the historic property. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been signed by consulting parties that identifies data recovery as mitigation for the adverse effects to the archaeological site. The MOA is included in the EA.

The EA is available for public comment and can be requested by emailing FEMA4020-4031Comment@fema.dhs.gov. The EA will also be available for download from the FEMA website at www.fema.gov/library/. The EA can be viewed in hard copy at the following location: Village of Owego, Village Clerk's Office at 178 Main Street, Owego, New York 13827.

The comment period will end fifteen days from the date of this legal notice publication in the Binghamton Press & Sun Bulletin newspapers. Written comments on the EA can be mailed or e-mailed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact will be signed. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents. Contact DHS-FEMA Region II, Office of Environmental Planning & Historic Preservation, Leo O'Brien Building 11A Clinton Avenue, Suite 742, Albany New York 12207 or via email at FEMA4020-4031COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov.