

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 500-year Floodplain

This is to give notice of the Housing Authority of New Orleans' (HANO) proposed activity within a 500-year Floodplain. HANO intends to carry out actions which may affect or be affected by the 500-year flood plain and seeks to involve the public in the decision-making process.

HANO is proposing to utilize United State Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) capital fund program dollars for the acquisition and installation of three natural gas generators and the removal of three existing diesel generators at the Guste High Rise public housing building located at 1301 Simon Bolivar Avenue, New Orleans, 70113. The generators supply temporary power to a public housing high-rise building. The replacement generators will be installed at the existing generator locations. The existing diesel above-ground storage tank will be abandoned. The natural gas will be supplied to the replacement generators by tapping an existing line from the existing building. Approximate coordinates for the site are Latitude (29.9442) and Longitude (-90.00816).

In accordance with the Executive Order 11988, HANO has identified that the proposed project site will be within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain which is an expanded area both horizontally and vertically from the established 500-year floodplain based on future flood risk. HANO will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locate the action within the floodplain, as required by EO 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

In accordance with the Executive Order 11990, the CNO-OCD has determined that the project is not likely to impact wetlands, as the activities will be restricted to the existing project site.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplains, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of New Orleans Office of Community Development on behalf of HANO at the following address on or before August 21, 2024: City of New Orleans – Office of Community Development, 1340 Poydras Street – Suite 920, New Orleans, LA 70112 Attn: Craig Foundas – Director of Environmental Compliance. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at 1340 Poydras Street – Suite 920, New Orleans, LA 70112. Comments may also be submitted via email at cafoundas@cityofno.com.

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