

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) has determined that the following proposed action under the RISE WV Bridge Home Program, HUD Grant No. B-16-DL-0001 is located in the 100-year floodplain, and the WVDO has identified and evaluated practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management. The specific project is the replacement of a private bridge damaged by the June 2016 flood event. This bridge serves 7 private residences, providing access onto U.S. Route 119. Project activities include demolition and removal of the damaged bridge located at 78 Big Sandy Avenue, Clendenin, Kanawha County, WV, and construction of a new bridge at 1950 Spencer Road, Clendenin, Kanawha County, WV. The new bridge is being constructed at this location due to safety concerns associated with the damaged bridge site, primarily the lack of required line of sight entering the roadway U.S. Route 119 and the space for new bridge construction at this location. The new bridge will be constructed prior to demolition and removal of the damaged bridge. Both bridge locations are located within the 100-year floodplain. The areas to be disturbed within the 100-year floodplain are estimated at less than 2 acres. The property to be utilized for the new bridge location will be purchased by Program grant funds, and the new bridge will be owned and maintained by the neighborhood association serving the 7 private residences.

WVDO has considered alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. A No Action Alternative does not achieve the State of West Virginia's goals of promoting planning and implementation of resilience measures to mitigate damage from future weather extremes. Not addressing this specific damaged private bridge will pose lingering health and safety risks, including unsafe use by vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and potential isolation of residents that cannot safely reach their homes. Because of the location of this project, removal and replacement activities must be conducted in the floodplain area. Replacement of this private bridge is needed to reconnect 7 residents to public roads.

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 floodplain, 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 WVDO at the following address on or before **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. Submit comments to: Jennifer Ferrell, West Virginia Community Advancement and Development, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Building 3, Suite 700, Charleston, WV 25305. A full description of the project may also be reviewed weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the same address. Comments may also be submitted via email to DisasterRecovery@wv.gov.