

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
CONSTRUCTION AT MOUNT WEATHER
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER**

Notification is hereby given of proposed construction at the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center (MWEOC) operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Clarke County and Loudoun County, Virginia. The proposed project will involve construction of a new office building (Building 437), which will provide approximately 30,000 square feet of office space. The building will be located within the same footprint in an area that was occupied by Building 435, which was demolished in 2014. Building 437 will be used by employees and contractors of agency partners tasked with emergency response missions. The building will have a brick exterior façade and be designed in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) 2009 (version 3) rating system.

The proposed project also includes demolishing Building 329 (deteriorating, metal warehouse building), paving an existing gravel parking lot and modification of Sunrise Drive to remove a section of the road that will be returned to a vegetative state.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), FEMA is required to review a proposed action and possible alternative solutions to the proposed action. A no-action alternative was evaluated along with the proposed action in an Environmental Assessment (EA) for potential impacts to the human environment. This evaluation yielded no significant impacts. Based on the results, FEMA will finalize Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the EA. If no substantive comments to the contrary are received, the FONSI will be signed on or after February 24, 2017 and accordingly, the project will proceed. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Interested persons may review a copy of the EA and draft FONSI at the Purcellville Branch of the Loudoun County Library, and at the Clarke County Public Library in Berryville. Comments will be accepted until February 22, 2017. Please forward all comments by mail to MWEOC, ATTN: K. Ellis, P.O. Box 129, Mt. Weather, VA 22611, or by email to Comments437EA@fema.dhs.gov.

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