



Governor's Office of Storm Recovery



Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor

Lisa Bova-Hiatt
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: CDBG-DR NY Rising Local Government Support Program, Mews
Prattsville

From: Thomas J. King, Certifying Officer
Governor's Office of Storm Recovery

Date: April 22, 2016

Subject: Re-evaluation of Environmental Assessment under 24 CFR 58.47-NY
Rising Local Government Support Program, Mews at Prattsville Project

The NY Rising Local Government Support Program (“the Program”) provides financial assistance to those counties outside of New York City that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) deemed most-impacted by Superstorm Sandy to address vulnerabilities exposed during major disasters declared under the Stafford Act (42 U.S.C. 4121 et seq.) in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR_funds are allocated to eligible counties in order to effectively transform the State’s infrastructure, transportation networks, energy supply, coastal protection, weather detection and warning systems, and emergency management programs. The Program is administered by the Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR), an office of New York State’s Office of Homes and Community Renewal’s Housing Trust Fund Corporation which serves as the responsible entity for direct administration of HUD’s CDBG-DR program.

An Environmental Assessment was conducted for the Mews at Prattsville (Project) in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, and a combined *Finding of No Significant Impact* (FONSI) and *Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds* (NOIRROF) was issued on November 14, 2015. On November 25, 2015, GOSR completed a Full Environmental Assessment Form documenting the project funded by CDBG-DR as a Type I Action pursuant to SEQRA with a finding of no significant adverse environmental impacts (Negative Declaration). The project includes funding to construct a new flood-safe neighborhood called the “Mews at Prattsville” which will include a regional health care facility with a full basement, 2 ½ story affordable senior housing to accommodate 44 apartments, and 8 multi-family townhouses with 2 attached units per townhouse for a total of 16 units.

Parking areas and an access road will also be constructed. Collectively, the proposed action will occupy approximately 7.8 acres.

A response from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) was received in regards to the Lead Agency Designation for Environmental Review sent by GOSR, after the Negative Declaration was issued. NYSDOH addressed four approval responsibilities associated with the project. GOSR identified the need to address these responsibilities. Three of the four responsibilities addressed by NYSDOH are not applicable to the project. The project will not include food service, a swimming pool, or a reality subdivision. NYSDOH indicated potential concerns to any new well connections to the public water supply in regards to the current available capacity of the water supply and bromomethane levels in the water. A confirmation was received from Lamont Engineers that the current water supply has available capacity to support the new well connection for the project. In addition, any new water wells constructed for the project that will connect to the public water supply will be tested for bromomethane levels to ensure it does not exceed drinking water standards.

In re-evaluating the project in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), GOSR analyzed the approval responsibilities indicated by NYSDOH with regard to its potential environmental impacts. Having identified three of the four responsibilities to be inapplicable to the project, and the fourth responsibility to be amended accordingly, GOSR engaged in limited secondary consultation. After conferring with the NYSDOH, GOSR has determined that the amendment to the project scope will include the construction of a full, finished basement, relative to the regional health care facility, and testing for bromomethane of any new well to be drilled that will be connected to will not result in adverse environmental impacts.

In response to the abovementioned project revision and pursuant to 24 CFR 58.47 “Re-evaluation of environmental assessments and other environmental findings,” the CDBG-DR Certifying Officer has conducted a re-evaluation of the findings associated with the original NY Rising Local Government Support Program, Mews at Prattsville Project EA. The original findings remain valid, and, accordingly, a new Negative Declaration is not necessary.¹

ATTACHMENTS:

- November 16, 2015 letter from Matthew A. Currey (NYSDOH) to Tom King
- February 5, 2016 email from Mike Harrington (Lamont Engineers) to Kevin Piccoli

¹ 24 CFR § 58.47(b)(1) “If the original findings are still valid but the data or conditions upon which they were based have changed, the responsible entity must affirm the original findings and update its ERR by including this re-evaluation and its determination based on its findings. Under these circumstances, if a FONSI notice has already been published, no further publication of a FONSI notice is required.”