FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

October 9, 2013:

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, & Individuals

This is to give notice that the New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodplain will have on the human environment for Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Schenectady County Housing Assistance Program under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383). In accordance with the regulations, a Floodplain Management Areawide Compliance Document has been prepared for the CDBG-DR Housing Assistance Program for rehabilitation, reimbursement, and mitigation of 1-4 Unit Family Homes in Schenectady County.

New York State has been allocated $1.7 Billion of CDBG-DR funds for acquisition, reconstruction, reimbursement, improvement, financing, and use of existing properties in the most impacted municipalities and counties. This funding reflects activity under the first allocation of funds. A significant portion of the current allocation will be used for the renovation of some of the worst damaged properties, including those that are the subject of this Notice. This Notice pertains to the renovation of over 590 damaged homes in Schenectady County, New York including over 560 homes damaged by Hurricane Irene and over 30 homes damaged by Tropical Storm Lee. It is HCR's expectation that the number of housing units to be assisted and subsequent funding will increase with the assessment of additional unmet needs. Additional areas will be the subject of additional notices, as needs arise.

There are approximately 7,100 acres of floodplain in Schenectady County. The tidal floodplains in the State are depicted on two maps: the advisory mapping developed by FEMA, which can be viewed by selecting "FEMA's Interactive ABFE Map" link at www.region2coastal.com/sandy/abfe and the FEMA Base Flood Elevation Map link at www.msc.fema.gov.

Homeowners whose property sustained substantial damage will be issued grant awards. These awards will assist in the rehabilitation of damaged homes and reimbursement of prior and ongoing repairs. In order to receive a grant award, the damaged home must be elevated. The height of elevations will be based on current building ordinances and estimated 100 year flood data.

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 have an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, adequate public notice is an important public education tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains facilitates and enhances federal efforts to reduce the risks 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 should be submitted via email and further information can be requested at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Please include "Schenectady County Floodplain Work Comments" in the subject line. Written comments may also be received by HCR at the following address**:** Attention: Heather Spitzberg, Certifying Officer, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207. Comments may be received by telephone at (518) 486-3379. All comments must be received or postmarked on or before **Wednesday, October 9, 2013.** A full copy of the Floodplain Management Document, including area maps, can be viewed from Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM at NYS Homes and Community Renewal, 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207 or at http://www.nyshcr.org/Programs/NYS-HCR-CDBG-DR/EnvironmentalReview. To inquire about how to apply for benefits under this and other New York State Disaster Relief programs, please call the Recovery Hotline at 1-855-NYS-SANDY, Monday-Friday 8am-8pm. Or, go to www.nysandyhelp.ny.gov.

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