

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

August 13, 2013:

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups & Individuals

This is to give notice that New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations at 24 CFR Part 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 the Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Westchester 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 and mitigation of 1-4 Unit Family Homes in Westchester County.

New York State has been allocated \$1.7 Billion of CDBG-DR funds for acquisition, reconstruction, 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 1,050 homes in Westchester County, New York. It is HCR's expectation that with additional unmet needs assessment, the number of housing units in this and other areas to be assisted will further increase. Additional areas will be the subject of additional notices, as needs arise.

There are approximately 49,500 acres in the floodplain in this area. 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. 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.

All construction activities will be performed in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and in consideration of any sensitive environmental conditions that might be present in the area. HCR will ensure that all mitigation measures prescribed in the Floodplain Management Document will be adhered to. Also, prior to the issuance of grant awards, HCR will conduct a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review in accordance with 24 CFR Part 58 and a New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) review in accordance with 6 NYCRR Part 617.

HCR has reviewed comments on the Early Notice, which was published on July 23, 2013, and reevaluated the alternatives and determined that no other alternative is practicable. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review, and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments. This activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following

reasons: 1) Elevated homes will result in significant protections for those homes inside the floodplain; 2) No additional structures will be built; 3) renovation of existing structures will not expand the footprint of the structure; 4) renovation and cleanup of parcels will remove debris located on the floodplain.

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.

It is preferred for written comments to be submitted via e-mail at NYSCDBG_DR_ER@nyshcr.org. Please include "Westchester County Floodplain Work Comments" in the subject line. Written comments may also be sent to HCR at the following address: NYS Homes and Community Renewal, 38-40 State Street, Hampton Plaza, Albany, NY 12207 and (518) 486-3379 Attention: Heather Spitzberg, Certifying Officer. All comments must be received on or before **Tuesday, August 20, 2013**. A full copy of the Floodplain Management Document 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>.

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