

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 Action will involve construction of a 40,000-square foot office building that will be identified as Building 401. The building will be within the east and central campus of the MWEOC near the main gate. The Proposed Action also includes the demolition of Building 403, the elimination of a short section of East Valley View Drive, and the realignment of a section of Balloonshed Drive. This project is not anticipated to result in workforce expansion, or cause long term increases in traffic or changes in vehicle types.

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 intends to issue a Finding 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 Aug. 7, 2020 and accordingly, the project will proceed. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Interested persons may request a copy of the EA at FEMA-401-EA@fema.dhs.gov. Comments will be accepted until July 27, 2020. Please forward all comments to the same email address or by regular mail to MWEOC, ATTN: K. Ellis, P.O. Box 129, Mt. Weather, VA 22611.