

From: Blanton, Emily
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2012 8:12 AM
To: Blanton, Emily
Subject: Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on the NFIP

Dear Recipient,

FEMA has announced its intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) on proposed modifications to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The PEIS will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) environmental regulations at 44 CFR Part 10 (http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=cbc5d97b34d9fc1456ccfe44e479f795&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title44/44cfr10_main_02.tpl). The Notice of Intent for this EIS is available here: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-05-16/pdf/2012-11841.pdf>.

The NFIP was created by the National Flood Insurance Act (NFIA) of 1968, and is a Federal program for property owners in NFIP participating communities to purchase insurance as a protection against flood losses in exchange for State and community adoption and implementation of land use criteria that reduce future flood damages.

FEMA is proposing to modify the NFIP from the way it is currently administered to include enhanced environmental and historic preservation considerations including but not limited to climate change, and the impacts of the program on endangered and threatened species and critical habitat. FEMA will also account for program changes that have taken place since the publication of the 1976 Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised Floodplain Management Regulations of the National Flood Insurance Program. Additional information about the NFIP Reform effort can be found at http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/nfip_reform.shtm.

NEPA directs Federal agencies to thoroughly assess the environmental consequences of major Federal actions that could significantly affect the environment. Because the proposed changes to the NFIP are considered to be a major Federal action under NEPA, FEMA is undertaking the preparation of this EIS.

FEMA proposes to evaluate the following Alternatives in the EIS:

1. Program with Enhanced Floodplain Management Standards Including Provisions to Address Endangered Species and Habitat Concerns Alternative - Under this alternative FEMA would modify the NFIP in the following areas:
 - a. Increase elevation standards for new construction
 - b. Floodplain management standards for critical facilities
 - c. Strengthen restrictions on floodway development
 - d. Integrate future conditions and residual risk in floodplain management
 - e. Discourage fill in floodplains

- f. Account for the impacts of floodplain development on the natural and beneficial functions of floodplains to include endangered and threatened species
2. No Action Alternative - Under this alternative FEMA would continue to administer and implement the NFIP as it stands today. This encompasses FEMA's administration of the program and States, Tribes, and local governments' implementation of the program.
3. Discontinuation Alternative - Under this alternative Congress would discontinue the program as of a particular date. This alternative is used to provide a comparison of the without program scenario.
4. Request for Legislative Authority to Remove Existing Subsidies and Cross Subsidies for Flood Insurance Policies Alternative - Under this alternative FEMA would modify the NFIP in the following areas:
 - a. Remove subsidies/cross subsidies for non primary residences
 - b. Remove subsidies/cross subsidies for non residential
 - c. Phase out subsidies/cross subsidies for remaining structures
5. Program with Enhanced Floodplain Management Standards Including Provisions to Address Endangered Species and Habitat Concerns and Legislative Authority to Remove Existing Subsidies and Cross Subsidies for Flood Insurance Policies Alternative

How to submit comments:

Comments must be identified by Docket ID FEMA-2012-0012 and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Please note that this notice of intent is not a rulemaking and that the Federal Rulemaking Portal is being utilized only as a mechanism for receiving comments.

Mail: Regulatory Affairs Legal Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Room 835, 500 C Street, SW., Washington, DC 20472-3100.

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