Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by providing a framework to address the potential environmental impacts of safe room construction projects. The following five alternatives are considered in the PEA: No Action; Retrofit or Renovation of an Existing or Proposed Facility; Safe Room Connected to an Existing Building and Beyond Original Footprint; New Stand-Alone Construction in Previously Disturbed Areas; and New Stand-Alone Construction in Previously Undisturbed Areas.

The PEA also provides the public and decision-makers with the information required to understand and evaluate the potential environmental consequences of actions funded by FEMA. In addition to meeting the goals of impact identification and disclosure, the PEA addresses the need to streamline the NEPA review process in order to provide timely delivery of hazard mitigation assistance to communities in areas at risk of wind events.

The analysis presented in the PEA relies on FEMA’s experience regarding environmental impacts that can be expected with activities involving construction, ground disturbance, removal of vegetation, and modification/retrofitting of existing structures. It is also based on a review of scientific literature, consultation with regulatory and resource agencies, and expert opinion. FEMA will consider the analysis in the PEA to determine whether a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement is appropriate for the action alternatives described and assessed in the PEA.

FEMA will use the PEA to evaluate the environmental impacts of grant-funded safe rooms. The PEA will also assist in determining when more site-specific information is needed and what level of environmental analysis and documentation is required for more complex projects to comply with NEPA.


Dated: April 19, 2011.

W. Craig Fugate,
Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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