

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetlands

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Berlin (the City) has determined that the following proposed action for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), is located in both the 100-year floodplain and a wetland and the City will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetlands, and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The project is known as Coos County Family Health Building Additions and would occur on the property of the existing Coos County Family Health Services facility at 133 Pleasant Street in Berlin, New Hampshire. The site the proposed project would occur on is approximately 0.99 acres in size and disturbances would total approximately 0.50 acres. The proposed project activities include the construction of two additions to the existing structure totaling 3,480 square feet, the installation of new underground utilities, the modification of existing underground utilities, the removal of several trees, the removal of existing mobile office buildings, the installation of new granite curbing, the reconstruction of existing drive and parking areas, and the replacement-in-kind of a retaining wall along the Dead River. With the exception of the building additions, the proposed project would be constructed at grade and would not result in any significant reduction in flood storage or floodplain function or value. The proposed wetland impacts, resulting from the proposed replacement of the retaining wall along the Dead River, would be temporary and the proposed project would not negatively impact the long-term functions or values of the impacted wetlands. Approximately 1,100 square feet of floodplain, and approximately 400 square feet of wetlands, would be impacted as a result of the proposed project.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands, and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment, should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts 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 and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Berlin, 168 Main Street, Berlin, NH 03570, Attention: Pamela Laflamme on or before September 18, 2021. A full description of the project may be provided via email at: plaflamme@berlinnh.gov.

Date: September 13, 2021