

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

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Allegheny County has determined that the following proposed action under the FY2023 Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending is located in the 100-year Floodplain and the County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and/or 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 scope of work for this phase of the project will consist of a purpose-built production complex with ten sound stages, production and support offices, mill and building shop, screening room and theatre, film education center, workforce training center, extended-stay hotel, retail and dining facilities, and riverfront esplanade. The production complex will be constructed at the site of the historic Carrie Blast Furnaces, in Rankin, a federally designated opportunity zone. The Furnace will link Pittsburgh's steel-making past with the innovative film industry, adding over 1,200 permanent new jobs post complete development. This funding will support phase one, which consists of the development of four stages totaling 72,000 SF, a 40,000 SF mill & shop building, and a 60,000 SF production office space.

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 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, 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 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 it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Allegheny County Economic Development at the following address on or before July 5, 2023: Allegheny County Economic Development, Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 500 Pittsburgh, PA 15219; 412-350-1072, Attention: Jim Johnston. A full description of the project may be reviewed electronically and comments submitted via email by contacting jim.johnston@alleghenycounty.us