

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Allegheny County has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the HUD Community Project Funding (CPF) Program. The proposed project is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a freeboard value approach. The project known as Critical Parking for Downtown McKees Rocks Developments proposes the acquisition of the property located 426 Locust St, McKees Rocks, the demolition of the two commercial structures located on the property, the development of a new parking lot, and related improvements. The project involves less than one acre located in an FFRMS floodplain. Allegheny County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

(i) The following alternatives were considered:

No Action: A no action alternative was considered and rejected because it will not satisfy the need to eliminate blighting influences and meet the need for parking in McKees Rocks.

Undertake at Jurisdiction's Expense: Because of limited local funds, undertaking this activity with local funds would unduly slow the process of demolishing structures and developing needed parking.

Locate the Project Outside of the Floodplain: Alternative sites were not considered because of the specific nature and location of the problem.

(ii) Mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts include: No adverse impacts are expected; however, care will be taken in on site storage of equipment and waste material to prevent problems if flooding occurs during project work. Required permits will be obtained in order to proceed with the project and the project will comply with applicable state and local floodplain protection procedures.

Allegheny County has reevaluated the alternatives and has determined that there is no practicable alternative to undertaking the proposed demolition and development in the floodplain. This is due to:

1) The site-specific nature of the deteriorated locations selected for improvement; 2) The need to construct an economically feasible project; and 3) The ability to mitigate and minimize impacts on human health, public property, and floodplain values.

Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review, and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

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. 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 at the following address on or before October 3, 2024: Allegheny County Economic Development, Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 500 Pittsburgh, PA 15219, Attention: Jim Johnston, Operations Manager or by email at [\[jim.johnston@alleghenycou\]\(mailto:jim.johnston@alleghenycou\)**nty.us**. A full description of the project may also be reviewed Monday through Friday between 9am and 4pm at the same address stated above.](mailto:jim.johnston@alleghenycou</p></div><div data-bbox=)