

**Joint Federal, State, Local
Public Notice**

April 16, 2024

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) gives notice of its intent to provide Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding to the City of Hickory, North Carolina, through the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (NCDPS) for the demolition and relocation of a wastewater pump station out of the 100-year floodplain and the addition of a generator to mitigate loss of function due to power failure, as well as Snow Creek streambank stabilization, floodplain benching, and the planting of native riparian plant species along where the existing pump station will be removed from the floodplain.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:

City of Hickory

Project Title:

EMA-2020-BR-100-0020, Hickory Snow Creek Pump Station Relocation and Flood Hardening Project

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of the follow location:

- 2061 Snow Creek Road NE, Hickory, North Carolina 28601 at approximately 35.787694 latitude and - 81.285222 longitude.

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The proposed mitigation activities will reduce the risk of flooding by mitigating direct damages and loss of function to the Snow Creek pump station and reducing the probability of cascading impacts, such as loss of function to critical facilities that depend on wastewater service and sewage backup within structures in the service area. Additionally, the project will have a positive impact on water quality in the service area due to prevention of sewer overflows.

According to the Catawba County Flood Insurance Study profile for Snow Creek, the Snow Creek Pump Station is situated within the 100-year floodplain or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), and currently has a finished floor elevation of 969.5 feet NAVD88, which is six inches below the 100-year flood elevation. This has caused a record of historic flooding to the Snow Creek Pump Station. After mitigation, the Snow Creek Pump Station will be relocated to a higher elevation and have all equipment and controls elevated to a design flood elevation of 974.5 feet (NAVD88). This is 5 feet above the 100-year riverine flood elevation, 2.5 feet above the 500-year riverine flood elevation, and approximately 1.25 feet above the highest flood inundation event. The stream bank

restoration through floodplain benching will also contribute to flood mitigation efforts at the site due to the restoration of the floodplain volume.

Additionally, as mentioned above, the project mitigates risk to water and wastewater services, which are critical community lifelines within the community. The project will protect the water quality in the City of Hickory by preventing sewer overflows and wastewater treatment outages that could impact the pump station's service area.

Project Alternatives:

Several alternatives were considered for this project, including the "No Action" alternative and a floodproofing alternative. The "No Action" alternative was determined to be infeasible because it would not provide protection to the pump station and would allow continued flooding in the future.

The other alternative considered was hardening the existing pump station through dry floodproofing. However, it was determined that hardening would be infeasible due to the layout and construction of the existing pump station, as well as its proximity to Snow Creek, which would not allow for an acceptable level of protection. In addition, the amount of structural work required to floodproof the pump station would likely prohibit the project from being a cost-effective solution. Therefore, the mitigation action selected is perceived to be the best for both the pump station and the water quality of Snow Creek.

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state, or federal agencies; and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, 4236 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699. These are due within 30 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to the applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Andrew Foy, Assistant Director of Public Utilities
City of Hickory
(828) 323-7427
afoy@hickorync.gov

Shawn Pennell, Director of Public Utilities
City of Hickory
(828) 323-7427
spennell@hickorync.gov