

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SECTION 202 DICKENSON COUNTY NONSTRUCTURAL PROJECT  
DICKENSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
CONSOLIDATED MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL COMPLEX  
DICKENSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**APPENDIX A – INTERAGENCY CORRESPONDENCE (USACE & USDA)**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

HUNTINGTON DISTRICT

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

NOVEMBER 2012



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HUNTINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
502 EIGHTH STREET  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701-2070

August 31, 2011

Planning, Programs and Project Management Division  
Planning Branch, Environmental Analysis Section

Judy Allen  
P.O. Box 700  
Tappahannock, VA 22560

Dear Ms. Allen:

This letter is in response to a meeting held on 23 August 2011 between the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District (USACE) and the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA) held in Wytheville, Virginia. The Dickenson County Nonstructural Flood Damage Reduction Project is receiving funding from both the USACE and the USDA and therefore qualifies as a Federal action for both agencies as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act (40 C.F.R. 1508.18(a)) and a Federal undertaking as defined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (U.S.C. 470(f)). Therefore, the USACE and the USDA are required to consider effects to the environment and to historic properties.

The purpose of the meeting was to better understand the respective statutory requirements of both parties in an effort to explore opportunities for streamlining documentation requirements for both federal agencies participating in the mutual project. As discussed in our meeting, the USACE and USDA have determined that a single NEPA document to address the actions of both agencies would be an effective means of achieving this goal. Due to the USACE's larger magnitude of project involvement, the USACE will act in the capacity of the lead Federal agency pursuant to 40 C.F.R. 1501.5 and 36 C.F.R. 800.2(a)(2). The USDA has requested and is hereby granted cooperating and consulting agency status under 40 C.F.R. 1501.6 and 36 C.F.R. 800.2(c)(5) respectively.

We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in person and are looking forward to working with you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Stafford of my staff at (304) 399-5729.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan J. Aya-ay".

Jonathan J. Aya-ay  
Chief, Environmental Analysis Section  
Planning Branch



**United States Department of Agriculture  
Rural Development**

Virginia State Office

August 20, 2012

Jonathan J. Aya-ay  
Chief, Environmental Analysis Section  
Planning Branch  
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers  
502 Eighth Street  
Huntington, WV 25701

Dear Mr. Aya-ay:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) accepts the invitation from the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (USACOE) to participate as a cooperating agency, pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations (40 CFR 1501.6 and 36 CFR 800.2(c)(5)), in the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) for the Dickenson County Nonstructural Flood Damage Reduction Project in Dickenson County, Virginia.

We understand that the project was competitively selected by USACOE for reimbursement of the costs associated with relocating Clintwood High School, Haysi High School and Ervington High School from their current locations to a new, single consolidated school complex. This relocation is necessary because Ervington High School and a number of support buildings at Haysi High School are within either the 100 year floodplain or the floodway and the new site is located outside of both the 100 year floodplain and the floodway. And, that in August 2011, based on a review of the proposed project activities, USACOE and USDA-RD jointly determined that an EA must be completed prior to deciding whether to provide federal funding of the construction and operation phase of the project.

We also understand that the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) submitted an application to USDA-RD for loan assistance for the project under the Community Facilities Direct Loan Program. And that, pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6, USACOE invites the participation of the USDA-RD as a cooperating agency in the preparation of an EA for the project.

USDA-RD's loan assistance to the Dickenson County IDA will be utilized for eligible costs of the project that provide for the development and construction of a new, high school complex to include classrooms, labs, special education areas, food service,

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14<sup>th</sup> and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).

physical education facilities, administrative offices, athletic fields, parking lots and roadways for entrance and exit of the campus.

We understand that USACOE anticipates issuing the EA sometime during late Fiscal Year 2012 or early Fiscal Year 2013. We understand that USACOE, as the lead agency, will endeavor to ensure that the information and analyses of the EA would support any USDA decision relative to the issuance of loan assistance. To that end, USDA will participate with USACOE in:

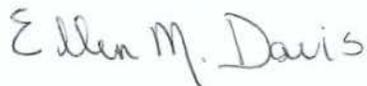
- Reviewing preliminary versions of the Draft and Final EA;
- Engaging in activities associated with publication of the Final EA, such as the public noticing, or public hearing, if one is conducted; and
- Preparation of portions of the EA or responding to comments on the Final EA relating to subject matter specific to USDA-RD's mission and goals and its Community Facilities Direct Loan Program.

In addition, we request that USACOE include USDA-RD as a cooperating agency in all public notices, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act determination of effect letters for the undertaking so that our agency is represented in those determinations.

We look forward to participating as a cooperating agency during the development of the Dickenson County Nonstructural Flood Damage Reduction Project EA to ensure that all relevant environmental issues are addressed.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Warner, State Environmental Coordinator at (276) 889-4650 X. 115 or [james.warner@va.usda.gov](mailto:james.warner@va.usda.gov).

Sincerely,



ELLEN M. DAVIS  
STATE DIRECTOR