

PUBLIC NOTICE

The United States Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be receiving or have received subgrant applications from the State of South Carolina for the purchase and installation of generators to provide backup power to public facilities. Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 11988 and 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 9.12, FEMA hereby gives cumulative notice of the intent to provide statewide funding for these projects under the different Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

This cumulative notice will serve as both the initial public notice as well as the final public notice for FEMA's funding action for generator project activities that may be located within, affect, or be affected by floodplains or wetlands. Comments and other information received will be fully evaluated by FEMA along with evaluation of social, economic, environmental, and safety considerations.

The purpose of generator projects is to allow subrecipients to use HMA funds to purchase and install generators to provide backup power to public facilities in their communities to ensure continuity of operations during and after storm events. These facilities are often deemed critical as they serve an essential function to the community. These facilities often include hospitals, fire stations, and sanitary sewer lift stations. Generators may be permanently fixed on-site, or they may be mobile portable generators that will be deployed to the locations as needed after a storm event. Installation of generators may also include associated equipment such as hookups and transfer switches.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act, federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. EO 11988 and EO 11990 require FEMA to consider alternatives and provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands.

In determining if a proposed action is in the floodplain, FEMA will use the 1% annual chance (base or 100-year) floodplain and flood elevation for non-critical actions and the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) floodplain and flood elevation for critical actions. For all FEMA programs and project types, if a state, local, tribal, or territorial government has its own higher elevation standard, FEMA requires use of the higher standard. If the proposed actions are deemed critical, then a condition will be placed on the project that the generator/s must be protected to the 500-year (0.2% annual chance) flood elevation.

FEMA has determined that the only practicable alternative is to fund these mitigation projects to ensure continuity operations of public facilities so that essential services can still be provided to communities before, during, and after disasters. The alternative proposed, as described above, is deemed practicable based on the variables of such as logistical and economic feasibility of alternate backup power sources of other possible alternatives. The "no action" alternative has been quickly dismissed due to the public benefits of the project as well as the low impact nature of the covered activities and existing development clearly outweigh the requirement of EO 11988 to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development; reduce the risk of flood loss; minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health and welfare.

For the above stated actions, this will be the final public notice from FEMA for the remainder of calendar year 2026. The programmatic floodplain review for HMA generator projects has been adopted for both disaster and non-disaster HMA programs. Other activities and those involving facilities that do not meet the criteria described above are required to undergo more detailed review including the study of alternative locations.

Comments: Interested persons may submit comments, questions, or request a map of this specific project by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4, 3005 Chamblee-Tucker Road, Atlanta, Georgia 30341, or by emailing FEMA-R4EHP@fema.dhs.gov. Comments should be sent in writing or email with the subject line of the email "Programmatic Notice for Generator Projects in South Carolina" at the above addresses within 30 days of the date of this notice.

NOTICE WAS POSTED ON 7/24/2026