

INITIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency
In accordance with 44 CFR §9.8 for Executive Orders 11988 & 11990
Proposed Construction of an OEM Facility
Carteret, Middlesex County, New Jersey

Notification is hereby given to the public of the intent of the Department of Homeland Security-Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS-FEMA) to provide federal funding to the Borough of Carteret as Subrecipient for financial assistance to construct an Office of Emergency Management (OEM) facility in Carteret, Middlesex County, New Jersey through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) grant program. The purpose of the EOC grant program is to improve emergency management and preparedness capabilities by supporting flexible, sustainable, secure, strategically located, and fully interoperable EOCs with a focus on addressing identified deficiencies and needs. This notification is given in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management) and EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), and their implementing regulations in 44 CFR Part 9, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Proposed Action consists of the construction of a new OEM facility to be located within the existing Carteret Fire Department Headquarters at 240 Roosevelt Avenue, Carteret, Middlesex County, New Jersey. Construction consists of the renovation of the second floor and the construction of office spaces, storage areas, restrooms, and a kitchen. Work will also consist of a new rooftop-mounted HVAC distribution heating and cooling system and the installation of a new ADA accessible elevator. Additionally, this grant includes the purchase of equipment to create a functional OEM space and to collocate communications equipment on the existing structure.

This is a critical action that would take place within the 500-year floodplain. Alternatives considered include: 1) no action, 2) relocation outside the special flood hazard area, and 3) the proposed alternative to construct an OEM facility within an existing building in close proximity to other public service partners. FEMA has determined that placing the facility in close proximity to other public services is the best option to allow for multiple departments to work together during an emergency situation. Potential floodplain impacts are anticipated to be temporary during construction and minimized through best management practices and conservation measures incorporated from resource agency recommendations and required regulatory permits.

Comments about this project, potential alternatives, and floodplain impacts may be submitted in writing within 15-days of the date of this publication to: FEMA Region 2, Attn: Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, 26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY, 10278 or via email to FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov. If substantive comments are received, FEMA will evaluate and address the comments as part of the environmental documentation for this project.