

Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment
for the Methodist Hospital Flood Protection Project
Houston, Texas
FEMA-1379-DR-TX.

The Methodist Health Care System has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for assistance with the construction of a building to house critical mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) equipment to guard against future flood risk to these facilities and the hospital operations they serve. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the National Historic Preservation Act, and the implementing regulations of FEMA (44 CFR Part 9 and 10), an Environmental Assessment is being prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environment.

The proposed action is located in the FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain. Because of the project's location in the floodplain and in accordance with Executive Order 11988, an evaluation was performed to identify other practicable alternatives outside the floodplain. No other practicable alternatives to construction of the project in the floodplain were identified.

The Environmental Assessment evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives to be evaluated include (1) No Action; (2) The proposed action — construction of a building to house MEP equipment above the 500-year floodplain.

The draft Environmental Assessment is available for review between January 20 and February 18, 2004, at the Houston Central Public Library located at 500 McKinney Street, Houston, Texas. The draft Environmental Assessment is also available for review online at the FEMA website <http://www.fema.gov/ehp/docs>.

Written comments regarding this proposed project can be mailed to Carlos Swonke, Turner Collie & Braden Inc., 400 West 15th Street, Suite 500, Austin, TX 78701. Comments should be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 18th.

