

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Executive Orders 11988: Floodplain Management and 11990 Protection of Wetlands and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) implementing regulations at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 9, FEMA hereby provides initial notice of its intent to provide Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program funding for an action located in the floodplain and affecting wetlands. Funding would be provided through Vermont Emergency Management to the Town of Stowe to rehabilitate and improve the Moscow Mills dam power plant at Smith's Falls.

The action is located on the Little River south of Moscow Road in Stowe, VT. The Town proposes to replace the deteriorating dam crest at a height 3-5 feet lower than the original height of the dam. A permanent inflatable bladder would be installed to allow dam operators to increase the height of the dam. The dam's maximum height and area of inundation would be restored to match those of the dam's original construction. New dam anchors would also be installed, a sediment flushing pipe would be installed, accumulated sediment around the dam would be excavated, and the head gates and trash racks along the mill sluiceway at the north end of the dam would be rehabilitated or replaced. Temporary access roads would be constructed from the mill parking lot through a maintained lawn to access the northern portion of the dam and from Adams Mill Road through a vegetated section of the river bank to access the southern portion. Materials and equipment would be staged on existing paved surfaces adjacent to the site. The river would be dewatered in stages to complete the in-water work. The FEMA-funded dam restoration would facilitate the restoration and improvement of the hydroelectric power plant and sluiceway adjacent to the dam.

The project is within the Special Flood Hazard Area and the Regulatory Floodway. Approximately 500 square feet of wetlands adjacent to the southern end of the dam would be disturbed by the construction of the temporary access road and by restoring the historical elevation of the water impoundment. A map of the area of available upon request.

The project must in be in a floodplain and wetland because the function of the dam depends on its location in the river. The no action alternative was considered and dismissed. Allowing the dam to continue to deteriorate may eventually pose a risk of dam failure and a significant hazard to downstream communities. Grant conditions will also require compliance with all federal, state and local laws, including coordination with the local floodplain administrator.

Map requests and comments about this project and potential floodplain and wetland impacts should be submitted within 15 days of the date of this publication to:

Alexander Miller
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Cambridge, MA
Alexander.Miller@fema.dhs.gov; 202-746-6856