

PUBLIC NOTICE
Federal Emergency Management Agency
In accordance with 44 CFR §9.8 for Executive Order 11988
Proposed Dam Rehabilitation and Expansion
West Elmira, Chemung County, New York

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 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) as recipient for a proposed dam rehabilitation and expansion project in Chemung County through the High Hazard Potential Dam Program (HHPD). The purpose of HHPD is to provide technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams. This notification is given in accordance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), 44 CFR Part 9, regulations for implementing EO 11988, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Hoffman Creek Dam (N42.109064, W76.846940) was one of three high hazard dams selected for this grant by NYSDEC utilizing the FEMA-required Project Prioritization Method to determine risk based on likelihood of dam failure and population at risk. As required by the HHPD NOFO, the dams with the most dam risk reduction were prioritized for funding. The proposed work at Hoffman Creek Dam consists of installing riprap along the entire upstream face of the dam from the ordinary water surface to the dam crest, removal of vegetation from and sealing cracks in the concrete spillway, repairing erosion at the western downstream wing wall of the inlet channel, expanding the spillway capacity to the east by regrading approximately 0.42 acres, and to continue existing operation and maintenance activities at the Dam.

This action would take place within the 100-year floodplain. Alternatives considered include: 1) no action, and 2) the proposed alternative, which is the dam rehabilitation. FEMA has determined that the proposed project is the most practicable alternative as it would decrease the probability of failure of the dam, thereby reducing the risk to the downstream populations. FEMA has also determined that the investment of funds to improve the dam is in the public interest. Potential floodplain impacts are anticipated to be minor and 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: U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency – Region 2 – Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation, Mitigation Division, One World Trade Center, Suite 53, New York, NY 10007 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.