Environmental/Historic Preservation and Disaster Recovery

FEMA’s Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) program can help your community build back stronger, while preserving resources and protecting from future hazards.

Federal laws require all federal agencies consider their effects on natural and cultural resources before spending money.

The information and assistance described here will help your community avoid funding delays, while staying compliant with these laws.

If you have questions feel free to contact the FEMA EHP contacts listed below, the Wisconsin Emergency Management, or FEMA Public Assistance with any questions you might have regarding environmental or historic concerns.

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Some projects can start without detailed review:
- Emergency Protective Actions
- Repairs to pre-disaster condition or temporary repairs

Some projects require more detailed environmental review:
- Debris disposal, root ball removal, utility pole disposal
- Projects that change a facility from its pre-disaster condition
- Overhead to Underground electrical lines.
- Projects affecting threatened/endangered species, wetlands or floodplains
- Fill taken from public or private property rather than a licensed/permitted quarry.

Some projects require review and consultation:
- Projects with the potential to significantly impact the environment

Historic Preservation and Tribal Nation Consultation

Any structure (including buildings, bridges and culverts) 45 years old or older and City of Madison parks listed on the National Register of Historic Places and/or listed as local Landmarks must be must be reviewed by FEMA and the WI State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Projects involving earth moving outside previously disturbed footprint (including facility realignment, borrow areas, utility burial, utility pole replacement, access roads, etc.) may require archaeological review prior to construction. This review includes Tribal Nation consultation.

Debris Disposal

Applicants must follow guidance provided by the Wisconsin DNR and complete a Debris Management Self Certification Form for any debris project. Permanent debris storage outside licensed landfills, requires approval from FEMA and the WI DNR.

Burning demolition material or using an air curtain burner requires a permit from WI DNR. Check with local DNR contacts on burning vegetative debris requirements.

Debris removal guidance is available on the WI DNR web site at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/StormDebris.html
This publication presents a snapshot of the many laws and requirements for environmental clearance of FEMA Public Assistance projects. There are many other details not here that may prove useful for environmental compliance. The FEMA staff in the Joint Field Office is available to answer any questions you may have and to direct you to other resources that may be needed to ensure that all environmental considerations are explored.

### Threatened & Endangered Species

Each of the counties included in DR-4459 contains threatened and endangered species. Applicants should contact experts at FEMA, WI DNR or the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, who can help determine if a listed species or their habitat is potentially present.

Northern long-eared bat

### Culverts, Bridges & Work in Water

Projects involving proposed or completed work in a waterway, **must** include documentation of contact with the WI DNR and or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Either a copy of a permit or letter from DNR indicating no permit is required will be required before project closeout.

Borrow from private or public property will require WI DNR stormwater industrial discharge permits (nonmetallic mining).

### Avoid Delays! Provide:

- Complete Scope of Work
- Exact Location(s)
- Date of Construction

### Alert EHP ASAP:

- Earth Moving
- Hazard Mitigation
- Alternate Projects
- Improved Projects