

FINAL PUBLIC NOTICE

The Cynthiana City Commission along with the Harrison County Fiscal Court has applied for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding through KY Emergency Management as a sub-applicant.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990, FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide a public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority and low-income populations. This notice may also fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant: Harrison County Fiscal Court and Cynthiana City Commission

Project Title: Harrison County-Cynthiana Low Head Dam Modification Project

Location of Proposed Work/Date of Construction: Robinson Dam, Terry Dam and Poindexter Dam; all located in Harrison County/ Cynthiana, KY.

A map showing the area of the proposed mitigation project is available by contacting *James Smith, Mayor of Cynthiana OR Alex Barnett, Harrison County Judge/Executive.*

Special Flood Hazard Area Zone: This project is for the **modification of three low head dams** located in **multiple** flood zones included A or AE (1% annual chance flood elevation), or Shaded X (0.2% annual chance flood elevation). Confirmation of location in an SFHA was made by reference to the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map. The proposed work conforms to all applicable Commonwealth of Kentucky and local floodplain regulations. The proposed work will be **installed on existing dams** and will have no effect on the local floodplain. The proposed work has the potential to be affected by the location in an SFHA. The action will be mitigated by **changing the slope of the dams to ensure that the fall off of the dams are not going to put lives at risk when getting close to the dam. The current structure of the three low head dams cause strong currents and make conditions extremely unfavorable and unsafe around the areas of the dams.**

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The Cynthiana City Commission along with the Harrison County Fiscal Court is requesting funds to **modify three dams in their jurisdiction to decrease the safety risk associated with them.** The purpose of this project is to **ensure the safety of all who are around the dams and decrease the risk of injury or death.**

Project Alternatives:

Alternative #1 (no action alternative): If no action is taken to **modify these dams** it will increase the danger of **drowning and injury due to the strong current created by the current structure of the dams.**

Alternative #2: **The destruction of the dams is a possibility here but there are several issues that would arise if these dams were not in place. The dams are near several residential structures as well as water treatment plants, without the dams there would be a disruption to the county and city’s water supply as well as an increase in flooding for the area.**

Alternative #3: **Relocating and rerouting the river that houses these three dams is another alternative. As we look at these dams, there is a large amount of infrastructure that would be affected by the rerouting of the waterway and if this alternative action was taken then there would be a significant financial burden that would be significantly higher than the original alternative, thus making this alternative not financially feasible.**

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Cynthiana City Commission or the Harrison County Fiscal Court. All comments are due within 30 days of this notice. The Cynthiana City Commission or Harrison County Fiscal Court will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed.

Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

Alex Barnett, Harrison County Judge/Executive
County Courthouse
111 S. Main St., Suite 201
Cynthiana, KY 41031
Phone: (859) 234-7136

James Smith, Cynthiana Mayor
City Hall
104 E Pleasant St, P.O Box 67
Cynthiana, KY 41031
Phone: (859) 234-7153

POSTED ON: 1/20/2022

End of Notice