

## FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant application

To: All interested Agencies **include all Federal, State, and Local**, Groups and Individuals Public notice 8-6-2018

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) have received an application for Federal grant funding from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) through the Hazard Mitigation Program (HGMP). Funding for this grant was made available after the 4286 Presidential declaration was made following Hurricane Matthew. Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, flood plain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, and legal and safety considerations. Under executive order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to, and to provide public notice of, any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains and wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low income populations.

Applicant: The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Project: Central Energy Plant Retrofit Protection Plan.

Project location: 217 Fort Johnson Road  
Charleston, South Carolina 29412

Project Description: Add flood proof panels to exterior openings, add sump pumps with increased evacuation capacity, elevate emergency power transformer and associated electrical panels.

The SCDNR Marine Resources Division is located adjacent to Charleston Harbor and seeks to improve the ability of the Central Energy Plant to withstand high storm tides created by hurricanes and other inclement weather conditions. The Central Energy Plant is an existing structure and the proposed modifications will not impact the surrounding area.

**Alternatives Considered:** Alternatives for this project which have been considered and rejected:

- 1) An alternate project would be to add flood barrier panels to all exterior openings such as doors and ventilation panels, and caulk all seams/joints to slow down water intrusion. Included in this project is to add a larger sump pumps to remove any seawater that enters the room and sump pit. The addition of the panels would lessen the chance that flood/sea waters would enter the Central Energy Plant. The addition of the larger sump pumps would allow for intruding waters to be pumped out more quickly. Water damage and possible electrical outages would continue. This alternate was not chosen.
- 2) To not take action. Numerous State and Federal agencies operate from Fort Johnson 24/7/365 under State and Federal mandated projects, some of which are history based and have been ongoing for 20 plus yrs. These projects would be severely compromised if no action is taken. The agency would also lose the ability to monitor and maintain fisheries guidance for the foreseeable future, which would have a tremendous impact on Marine Resources management and the general population. The loss of this vital equipment located in the Central Energy plant will compromise the ability to dehumidify/cool the buildings which will cause issues in the buildings for the College of Charleston library (books and manuscripts) as

well as potential health issues for staff and guests. The Marine Resources Division houses Red Drum as well as other protected fish species that are used for the restocking programs that are kept alive from air compressors that receive power from the emergency electrical system.

The SCDNR will be responsible for facilitating and monitoring the proposed project. Interested persons may review project files, including maps, or direct any comments or questions to Robert Meyer at [meyerr@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:meyerr@dnr.sc.gov) or by phone at 843-953-2420 or by mail or in person at 217 Fort Johnson Rd. Charleston, SC 29412. These are due within 15 days of this notice.

**Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year/500-year Floodplain or Wetland**