

**FEMA PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
MANUFACTURED HOUSING UNIT GROUP SITE
KNOWN AS THE ROCK RIDGE GROUP HOUSING SITE
ROCK VALLEY, IOWA
Unique NEPA ID: EAXX-024-70-000-1725992586**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice to the public of its intent to construct a manufactured home park development for use as a temporary group housing site. FEMA has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed installation of Manufactured Housing Units (MHU) at the Rock Ridge Group Housing Site. The site may provide suitable temporary housing for individuals and households displaced by the severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes that occurred from June 16 to July 23, 2024, and resulted in FEMA-4796-DR-IA signed by the President on June 24, 2024.

The proposed action includes developing an approximately 31.41-acre site to install 66 MHUs, along with infrastructure, such as water and sewer lines, for up to 84 MHUs. This will be located at the eastern end of Rock Ridge Road, in Rock Valley, Sioux County, IA (GPS: 43.202335, -96.252663). Activities may include, where necessary, site clearing, grading, road construction, the placement of utilities (electricity, telephones, water, and sewer), and the transport and installation of manufactured homes to the site. This group housing site will be operational for up to 18 months, but the improvements will remain indefinitely.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508), FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, 44 CFR Part 9, Executive Orders 11988 Floodplain Management, 11990 Wetlands Protection, and 12898 Environmental Justice. FEMA has prepared a draft EA. An alternatives analysis was performed, which included the evaluation of the potential impacts of the proposed action on the human and natural environment, and the No Action alternative. The draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, site selection process, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed action and no-action alternatives.

Further detailed descriptions of the alternatives may be reviewed in the draft EA conducted by FEMA and is available for public review at the following locations:

- Rock Valley City Office, 1303 10th Street, Rock Valley, IA 51247
- Rock Valley Police Department, 1302 Main Street, Rock Valley, IA 51247
- At the proposed project location, Rock Ridge Group Site at Rock Ridge Drive, Rock Valley, IA 51247 (GPS Coordinates: 43.202335, -96.252663)
- FEMA Joint Field Office, 7065 Vista Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266
- FEMA Region 7 Office, 11224 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131
- on the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) website, <https://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/>
- FEMA's website, <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/nepa-repository>

- Rock Valley’s website, www.cityofrockvalley.com
- Rock Valley’s official social media accounts
- In the *Rock Valley Bee*, the newspaper in Rock Valley, IA
- and in the *Sioux Center News*, the newspaper of record for Sioux County, IA.

If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA will become final and no further public noticing will be conducted.

Due to the emergency nature of this action, the public comment period will be limited to a fifteen-day (15-day) calendar day period which will end on October 2, 2024. Written comments on the draft EA may be sent via email to R7-MT-EHP@fema.dhs.gov or sent to the Regional Environmental Officer at the FEMA Region 7 Office, at 11224 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO 64131. When responding by email, please reference the project name, “Rock Ridge Group Housing Site” in the subject field.