

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Notice of Availability of Environmental Assessment for  
Burden Lake Dam System Mitigation Enhancements Project  
Burden Lake, Averill Park, Rensselaer County, New York  
FEMA-4480-DR-NY**

FEMA is notifying the public that an Environmental Assessment (EA) considering the impacts of the proposed Burden Lake Dam System Mitigation Enhancements Project is available for review and comment. The Burden Lake Preservation Corporation has requested funding from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program through New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services for the proposed project.

FEMA conducted this EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable laws and executive orders. The EA considers two alternatives: No Action and the Proposed Action. Under the No Action alternative, FEMA funding would not be provided for the Proposed Action. Under the Proposed Action alternative, FEMA would fund the upgrade, repair, and replacement of three components of the Burden Lake Dam system—the dam itself, a levee, and a weir. The dam upgrades would include strengthening approximately 300 feet of the exterior dam face and installing new piping as needed. Proposed improvements to the levee would involve increasing its height by 2 feet for an approximate 950-foot stretch to decrease flood risk. The existing weir would be removed and replaced with a new concrete weir, set to match the height of the existing weir, preserving historical water flows. The Proposed Action would reduce the risk of dam system failure and associated flooding that would impact Burden Lake and downstream communities along Wynants Kill Creek by fortifying the dam system and increasing floodwater storage capacity within the existing system. The project area is along the northern end of Burden Lake, to the west of Burden Lake Road (County Route 51) in Averill Park, within the Town of Sand Lake, Rensselaer County, New York. Because this project is in the floodplain and wetlands, the EA and this public notice also incorporate FEMA's requirements for evaluating impacts to floodplains and wetlands. The EA is available for public comment for 30-days from the latest posting date on the following webpages: <https://www.townofsandlake.us/> (Town of Sand Lake NY); <https://townnassau.digitaltowpath.org:10091/content> (Town of Nassau NY); <https://www.theblca.org/> (The Burden Lake Conservation Association) and <https://burdenlakeassociat.wixsite.com/website> (The Burden Lake Association). The EA can be viewed in hard copy at the following locations:

**Sand Lake Town Library**  
8428 Miller Hill Rd, Averill Park, NY 12018  
Phone: [\(518\) 674-5050](tel:5186745050)

**Nassau Free Library**  
18 Church St, Nassau, NY 12123  
Phone: [\(518\) 766-2715](tel:5187662715)

FEMA will accept comments sent by email to [FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMAR2COMMENT@fema.dhs.gov) or by mail addressed to:

FEMA Region 2  
Attn: EHP  
26 Federal Plaza, Suite 1307  
New York, NY 10278

If FEMA receives no substantive comments from the public and/or agency reviewers, FEMA will adopt the EA as final and will issue a Finding of No Significant Effect (FONSI). If FEMA receives substantive comments, it will determine whether to revise and issue a Final EA, address comments in a FONSI, or to select the no action alternative.