

Floodplain Statement of Findings

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Energy

ACTION: Flood control improvements along Chartiers Creek, Canonsburg, Pennsylvania

SUMMARY: The Borough of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, has retained HMT and Associates, Inc. to conduct bank stabilization activities along Chartiers Creek (See figure). These activities will enhance the safety of residents and the protection of property downstream in the event of a flood. Although the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is not managing or funding the project, some activities will take place within the 100-year floodplain of a DOE site. Therefore, a Floodplain Notice of Involvement was published (no comments were received during the required comment period), and a Floodplain Assessment was prepared for the project. DOE hereby provides this Statement of Findings as required by Title 10 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 1022.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: Proposed actions within the base floodplain include stabilization of as much as 500 feet of stream bank, removal of debris, stream bank slope correction, placement of geotextile and riprap, and revegetation with live fascines. Access to the construction area, including the construction and use of a temporary rock-covered access pad, will also occur in portions of the base floodplain. Approximately 0.35 acre of disturbance is expected. Best management practices will be used to control erosion and sediment, including a turbidity curtain, a filter bag (for dewatering, if necessary), silt fencing, and stabilization of soil stockpiles. Soils and spoils will be spread out on site above the 100-year floodplain. All temporary structures will be removed, and disturbed areas will be graded, as necessary, then revegetated from seed. Erosion control or mulch will be used on all disturbed areas.

REASON FOR LOCATION WITHIN FLOODPLAIN: The portions of the stream bank requiring improvements occur within the 100-year floodplain. Access to the site also requires crossing the floodplain.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: No alternatives exist for the stream bank improvement work except the No Action Alternative. Under this alternative, the safety of residents and property downstream would not be enhanced. There is a potential alternative access route across restricted portions of the site, which would disturb slightly less floodplain, however access restrictions and health and safety concerns for untrained personnel make this option undesirable.

THE PROPOSED ACTIONS CONFORM TO APPLICABLE FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS. HMT and Associates, Inc. will coordinate all actions with appropriate federal and state agencies.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL HARM TO OR WITHIN FLOODPLAIN: Work will be done in 20- to 40-foot-long increments; each section will be completed, including revegetation, before work begins on the next section. Best management practices will be used during all phases of construction to control erosion and sediment. All work will be performed from above the stream bank. Spoils and soils will be relocated on site to areas

outside the 100-year floodplain. Revegetation will be performed in all disturbed areas and will include the use of mulch or erosion control blankets.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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