

WATER SYSTEM UPGRADE IN A FLOODPLAIN
ON THE
NOOKSACK INDIAN RESERVATION

DATE POSTED: May 30, 2023

BACKGROUND: The Indian Health Service proposes construction to replace the existing shared water system serving two (2) homes within the Nooksack Indian Tribe's Martin Road community. Proposed facilities under Indian Health Service Project PO-15-M13 include replacement two (2) wells being drilled, and construction of individual pressure systems and enclosures.

FLOODPLAIN ASSESSMENT & DETERMINATION: The two (2) homes located within the Martin Road Community are located in the 100-year floodplain based on Federal Emergency Management Agency hazard maps. The homes are also located within the Federal Regulatory Floodway.

The existing well, pressure system and pumphouse enclosure are located outside of the floodplain but various buried piping is located within the floodplain. The existing well and pressure system are not adequately protected from contamination and/or the elements due to their proximity to an existing septic system and poor condition of the pumphouse enclosure.

The project will provide two new wells in a location that meets applicable regulations for sanitary control areas as well as provide two individual pressure systems housed in enclosures. Although minor trenching will be necessary to connection the proposed facilities to existing buried piping, no fill material will be imported or exported during this project so there will be no net change in the floodplain storage volume or flow restrictions created. The site will be returned to existing surface contours following construction. No effect to the floodplain is anticipated from this water system upgrade.

It has been determined this project qualifies for a streamlined class review because the actions are similar to other actions IHS has reviewed and determined there will be no adverse impact on floodplain values, persons or property will not be put at risk, and development will not be increased or encouraged.

EXECUTIVE ORDER REQUIREMENT: As required by Executive Order 11988, a floodplains assessment was undertaken to assess the impacts that the proposed action may have on floodplain values. While the assessment revealed that the project is within a floodplain, a determination was reached that the proposed action would have no effect on floodplain values whether directly, indirectly, or cumulatively. The project will not have any adverse effects on natural and beneficial floodplain values and will not result in a change in flood risks. This determination was reached based on a review of FEMA floodplain map and existing land use. As a result of this determination, further consideration of floodplain values has been deemed outside the scope of this document.

Any comments or concerns regarding this determination should be provided no later than June 30, 2023 to:

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