



Mary Andes &lt;mjeanandes@gmail.com&gt;

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**Alternate Project for Town Pond Dam PW # 02334 ([UNSECURED])**

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**Mary Andes** <mjeanandes@gmail.com>

Sun, Dec 20, 2015 at 11:27 AM

To: "lcook2825@gmail.com" &lt;lcook2825@gmail.com&gt;, Neil Fulton &lt;NFulton@norwich.vt.us&gt;, "Andes, Mary" &lt;Mary.Andes@vermont.gov&gt;

Cc: "Pentkowski, Ron" &lt;Ron.Pentkowski@vermont.gov&gt;

Linda and Neil --

Ron said that you were looking for some examples of Alternate project requests submitted by other applicants.

I took some time to collect a few examples, but please please please understand that this information is provided on a confidential basis. Since you folks are so far behind in your application process, I don't have the time to specifically ask each of these other towns if they mind their information being shared. So, I am sharing this information as a sign of good faith that you folks will use it for educational purposes only and not use it, in any way, against the State of Vermont or FEMA or the town.

I also attached a mark-up of the page from the Code of Federal regulations that governs requests for Alternate projects under the Public Assistance project. It clearly states the section of the CFR that explains the requirements for the Alternate project request. I also attached FEMA's most recent Public Assistance guide.

My Process Request ---

1. Please share all information we provide with all members of the select board.

**2. Please do not provide any draft application materials to us until the application has been reviewed and approved by the Selectboard. Since we are so far behind and both Ron and I will be working throughout the holiday on several requests for other applicants who have been working with us for months, we simply do not have the resources to review anything unless it fully reflects a full consensus of the select board and accurately reflects what you want to do.**

3. Estimates -- we need estimates from someone with some level of authority to provide a real estimate -- this can be accomplished by having an engineer provide the estimates or a local contractor provide the estimates. But, the estimates have to be from an entity that FEMA knows and understand (an engineer or a contractor).

4. The request for the culvert should include the AOT hydraulic study, a basic design (preferably from an engineer), and a clear estimate of the cost (again, preferably from an engineer).

5. We cannot guarantee, in any way, that FEMA all reimburse for the engineering costs already incurred for the damn project.

6. Include all permits -- as clearly stipulated in the CFR citation for an alternate project.

So, I've provided some example material from three other towns and applicants -- again, this information is not for public consumption. It is not meant to be included in any press articles. It is private information, specific to those applicants.

Also, each one of the other projects (attached) had countless additional work associated with their alternate project requests -- including on site meetings with FEMA representatives, several e-mails clarifying the packet of information, and extensive environmental reviews. So, please do not even consider the information I am offering here to represent the full compendium of information that was provided by each of these applicants to receive approval from FEMA to

conduct an alternate project.

Since we are essentially out of time, we don't have the time to receive an incomplete alternate project request and go back and forth on it with feedback.

As we discussed when we were in Norwich, Ron and I will expect a full, complete packet from the town of Norwich by January 15th, 2016 that has been fully reviewed, vetted, and approved by your local Selectboard.

#### Local input

Both FEMA and the State of Vermont expect each town to ensure that all local procedures for including the input of local voters is followed. Many towns have put their requests for an Alternate project up for a local vote and most towns have ensured that has been local involvement in the development of the alternate project.

Simply for educational purposes, I attached the PW for a large alternate project approved in the town of Bethel. The town of Bethel started their application process on 5/13/13 and they were approved from FEMA a full year and a half later on 12/2/2014. The PW lists out over 45 documents that were submitted from the town of Bethel to receive their approval.

I also attached some documents related to Alternate projects that were approved in Braintree and Granville. Again, these documents are, by no means, exhaustive of all of the work that was done to approve these alternate project requests.

As I mentioned, Ron and I are both working around the clock on many, many requests from many applicants.

We will be losing several key FEMA local staff in early February, 2016 and we can make no promises that this request will be approved by FEMA.

Our best shot at getting FEMA to understand these projects has been to work with our local FEMA engineers, but we will be losing more of them in February and that will significantly limit our capacity to deliver successful results to the towns who still have work to do for Irene.

Thanks for taking the time to provide us with a complete packet of information that satisfies all FEMA requirements for an Alternate project for the use of funds in PW 2334 in DR-4022.

Mary Andes

Mary Andes  
DEMHS Special Project Analyst to the Director  
Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS)  
Department of Public Safety  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2101  
[mary.andes@state.vt.us](mailto:mary.andes@state.vt.us)  
Work Cell Phone: (802) 585-4720

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#### 11 attachments

 **CFR\_Sections\_alternate\_project\_time\_extension.pdf**  
1115K

 **Bethel\_Alternate\_project\_PW.pdf**  
483K

 **PW\_3040\_Alternate\_Project\_Request\_Braintree.pdf**  
1299K

-  **BraintreeAlternateProjectsExplanation.pdf**  
932K
-  **Granville SRIA Alt Project 1 of 6.pdf**  
1023K
-  **Granville SRIA Alt Project 2 of 6.pdf**  
4086K
-  **Granville SRIA Alt Project 4 of 6.pdf**  
566K
-  **Granville SRIA Alt Project 5 of 6.pdf**  
1653K
-  **Granville SRIA Alt Project 6 of 6.pdf**  
566K
-  **Granville SRIA Alt Projects 3 of 6.pdf**  
3741K
-  **PA\_Program\_and\_Policy\_Guide\_FINAL.pdf**  
8103K