APPENDIX H

LOW IMPACT DEBRIS REMOVAL STIPULATIONS

Low Impact Debris Removal Stipulations (LIDRS) to protect potential archaeological resources

Desktop Review:
Prior to any soil disturbing activities all properties will be reviewed using known historic properties and archaeologically sensitive areas.

1. General Approach to Minimize Impact to Soil:
   a. When using heavy equipment, work from hard or firm surfaces to the fullest extent possible, to avoid sinking into soft soils.
   b. The Subrecipient will, to the fullest extent possible, ensure that its contractors minimize soil disturbance when operating heavy equipment on wet soils (6 inches or less).
   c. Excavation and burial of debris on site is not permitted.

2. Activity Specific Guidelines:
   a. Woody Debris Removal (including rootballs):
      The Subrecipient will ensure to the fullest extent possible that all prior Public Assistance Program guidance regarding woody debris is followed.
   b. Filling Voids:
      Any voids which require filling because they are a "health and safety issue" will be filled with suitable fill from an approved source.
   c. Surface Grading and Site Clean-Up:
      The Subrecipient will ensure to the fullest extent possible that its contractors will limit site grading to within the first six (6) inches of the existing surface elevation (e.g., sidewalk level, driveway level, slab level, etc.).
   d. If the building or structure has been destroyed by the event and there are remaining structural features or utilities that require removal, then:
      i. Utility lines will be disconnected and capped. In cases where there are no shut-off valves, limited excavation within the utility rights-of-way will be required to cap these service lines.
ii. In order to minimize further soil disturbance, FEMA recommends shear off at the ground-surface.

e. Demolition: If the building or structure has been destroyed by the event and there are remaining structural features that require removal, then the following applies for the removal of the feature listed below:

i. Foundation Removal

The Subrecipient will ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that the contractors will limit excavation to within two (2) feet of the foundation perimeter and will not excavate more than six (6) inches below the depth of the foundation to minimize soil disturbance.

ii. Slab/Driveway/Sidewalk Removal

The Subrecipient will ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that the contractors will limit excavation to within one (1) foot of the slab/driveway/sidewalk perimeter and will not excavate more than six (6) inches below the depth of the asphalt/concrete to minimize soil disturbance.

iii. Oil Tank Location/Removal

The Subrecipient will ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that approved methods will be used in locating an underground oil tank. Approved methods include using a magnetometer, probe, or GPR system. Trenches are not permitted.

The Subrecipient will inform landowners to the fullest extent possible, of best practice guidelines for oil tank removal and they are made aware of the NYDEC spill hotline and state regulations for contamination remediation. Best practices for tank removal would be to use smaller machines with approximately two (2) foot wide buckets for excavation to reduce potential soil disturbance.

iv. Septic Tanks

The Subrecipient will ensure, to the fullest extent possible, that fill required in the decommissioning of septic tanks is from an approved, established source.

Utility lines will be disconnected and capped. In cases where there are no shut-off valves, limited excavation within the utility rights-of-way will be required to cap these service lines.

Shearing off at the ground-surface is strongly encouraged so that further soil disturbance is minimized.

3. Treatment of Unanticipated Discoveries:
a. Archaeological Materials/Human Remains

i. If debris removal activities disturb archaeological artifacts (e.g., old bricks, ceramic pieces, historic bottle glass or cans, coins, beads, stones in the form of tools [arrow heads], pieces of crude clay pottery, etc.), archaeological features (e.g., grave markers, house foundations, cisterns, etc.) or human remains the Subrecipient will ensure to the fullest extent possible that the contractor immediately stops work in the vicinity of the discovery and take all reasonable measures to avoid or minimize harm to the finds. In the event human remains are discovered the Subrecipient will implement the NYSHPO “Human Remains Discovery Protocol” (November 28, 2018). In such cases, the Subrecipient will immediately inform the NYSHPO and FEMA (also the local law enforcement, county coroner/medical examiner and county OEM representative for human remains, in accordance with applicable NYSHPO and state guidelines) of the discovery for further guidance. The Subrecipient will ensure that the contractor does not proceed with work in the areas of concern until FEMA staff has completed consultation with the NYSHPO and other interested parties, as necessary.

ii. The Subrecipient will adhere to all applicable State and local laws for necessary permission from all appropriate parties to remove remains.

4. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize the Subrecipient’s receipt of Federal funding.

5. FEMA, DSHES, and the NYSHPO have agreed that the Subrecipient is responsible for ensuring that their demolition contractor adheres to these work restrictions known as Best Practices for Lower Impact Debris Removal and Demolitions for FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program eligible activities.