DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
and
DRAFT FINDING OF NO PRACTICABLE ALTERNATIVE (FONPA)
Disposition of Defense Fuel Support Point
Newington, New Hampshire

A Supplemental Final Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to evaluate additional project changes that have occurred since the Final EA was issued for the proposed project in June 2015. The Supplemental EA evaluated potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives for the disposition of Defense Fuel Support Point (DFSP) Newington, located along the Piscataqua River in Newington, New Hampshire. The Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Final Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA) document is referenced per 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1502.21.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

The United States Air Force (USAF) proposes the disposition of DFSP Newington. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to transfer property in a manner that minimizes or eliminates future USAF responsibility. The transfer of property will also be conducted in a manner that provides for beneficial uses that will be deemed a positive influence to the local community.

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative includes the removal of facilities in DFSP Newington Facility on property that is owned by USAF Global Strike Command to include the demolition and removal of all bulk fuel storage tanks (in accordance with state and federal guidelines), on-facility (aboveground and underground) pipelines, associated appurtenances, pier structures, buildings, utilities, fencing, etc. and subsequent backfill to grade. Sections of pipeline which cross beneath the Boston-Maine Railway railroad tracks (which traverse the facility) and sections of pipelines beneath roadways associated with Sprague Energy will remain closed in place (in accordance with state and federal guidelines) to avoid unnecessary disturbance to current property owners. Concrete foundations associated with the bulk fuel storage tanks will also be removed or properly closed in place (in accordance with state and federal guidelines). This action includes the demolition of the fuel docking pier and associated dolphins formerly used for unloading fuel from barges and tankers, which will be accomplished with the installation of cofferdams and piles in the Piscataqua River. This Alternative also includes removal of the aboveground pipeline and manifold in one area located on Pease Air National Guard Base (Pease ANGB). This action does not include the removal of the sections of underground fuel pipeline on Pease ANGB. This action also does not include removal of the underground fuel pipeline on property that is owned by entities other than USAF Global Strike Command/or the Pease ANGB.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, USAF would continue ownership of DFSP Newington, and there would be no disposal of the subject fee-owned property. Current caretaker and maintenance operations would continue. Under this alternative, the facility would continue to pose safety concerns as infrastructure continues to corrode and deteriorate over time.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource Area	Preferred Alternative A Environmental Consequences	Proposed Best Management Practices	No Action Alternative Environmental Consequences
Noise	Short-term, direct, indirect, major, temporary, adverse Long-term, direct and indirect, negligible, beneficial	All construction activities would be conducted during normal business hours (from approximately 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.), and all equipment would be outfitted with mufflers that would be in good working condition. These operational hours are within the allowable time for demolition and construction as stated in the Town of Newington Noise Ordinance (ARTICLE IV: NOISE CONTROL Section 3.401).	None – No change
Air Quality	Short-term, direct, moderate, temporary, adverse Long-term, direct and indirect, negligible, beneficial	Best management practices (BMPs) would be conducted during all demolition activities to minimize dust generation. Air monitoring would also be conducted during demolition activities to monitor dust levels and other potential air quality impacts.	None – No change
Land Use and Recreation	Short-term, direct, negligible, beneficial Long-term, direct and indirect, minor, beneficial	N/A	None – No change
Geological Resources	Short-term, direct, minor, beneficial Long-term, direct, moderate, beneficial	N/A	None – No change
Water Resources	***Surface Water:*** Short-term, direct and indirect, minor, adverse Long-term, direct, indirect, minor, beneficial ***Groundwater:*** Short-term, direct, indirect, minor, beneficial Long-term, direct and indirect, minor, beneficial ***Floodplains:*** Short-term, direct, indirect, negligible, adverse Long-term direct and indirect, negligible, beneficial ***Wetlands:*** Short-term, direct, indirect, major, temporary, adverse Long-term, direct and indirect, minor, beneficial	The implementation of BMPs and a comprehensive Sediment and Erosion Control Plan will minimize any impacts to wetlands in close proximity to the DFSP Newington demolition disturbance area.	None – No change

Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource Area	Preferred Alternative A Environmental Consequences	Proposed Best Management Practices	No Action Alternative Environmental Consequences
Coastal Zone Management	Short-term direct, major, adverse Long-term, direct and indirect, negligible, beneficial	Standard in-water construction site BMPs will be deployed. Adverse effects are limited to construction activities occurring within the Coastal Zone, and the benefits to the Coastal Zone once the Preferred Alternative is completed clearly offset the temporary adverse effects during construction.	None – No change
Biological Resources	***Terrestrial Vegetation:*** Short-term, direct, moderate, adverse Long-term, direct, moderate, beneficial ***Wildlife:*** Short-term, direct, minor, adverse Long-term, direct, negligible, beneficial ***Finfish:*** Short-term, direct, indirect, major, adverse Long-term, direct, indirect, beneficial ***Benthic Invertebrates:*** Short-term, direct, indirect, major, adverse Long-term, direct, indirect, negligible, beneficial ***Submerged Aquatic Vegetation:*** Short-term, direct, indirect, minor, adverse Long-term, direct, indirect, negligible, beneficial ***Marine Mammals:*** Short-term, direct, indirect, minor, adverse Long-term direct, indirect, negligible, beneficial ***Threatened and Endangered Species:*** Resource not expected to be present, or within close proximity during construction timeframes	Turbidity monitoring during cofferdam installation and removal; and the implementation of in-water BMPs such as time of year restrictions for construction to occur in water, deploying floating booms, pile pads, and other devices. No mitigation measures are proposed as the adverse effects are limited to construction activities, and the benefits to Biological Resources once the Preferred Alternative is completed will offset the temporary adverse effects during construction.	None – No change

Comparison of Environmental Consequences

Resource Area	Preferred Alternative A Environmental Consequences	Proposed Best Management Practices	No Action Alternative Environmental Consequences
Human Health and Safety	Short-term, direct, indirect, moderate, adverse Long-term, direct, moderate, beneficial	A Health and Safety Plan would be developed in accordance to regulations under OSHA. A Community Air Monitoring Plan would be developed to assess concentrations of particles and VOCs in the air during excavation of potentially contaminated soils. All personnel working on or visiting the site would be required to wear the appropriate personal protective equipment. Other safety measures will be in place and action will be taken to control dust and or fugitive emissions during demolition.	None – No change
Utilities and Infrastructure	Short-term, direct, indirect, moderate, adverse Long-term, direct and indirect, negligible, beneficial	Loads carrying demolition debris and items for recycling would not exceed posted highway weight limits, and traffic on and off the site would occur during normal business hours.	None – No Change
Hazardous Materials and Wastes	Short-term and long-term, direct and indirect, major, beneficial	During demolition, soils would be monitored and screened as appropriate. Contaminated soils would be stockpiled, sampled, characterized, and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations. Cofferdams will prevent water quality impacts to the Piscataqua River should any material inside the dolphins be released. Sediment removed from the dolphins will be stockpiled sampled, characterized, and disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.	None – No change
Socioeconomic Resources and Environmental Justice	Short-term, direct, and indirect, minor, adverse and beneficial Long-term effects are not applicable for this resource area at the project site.	No mitigation measures proposed.	None – No change
Cultural and Visual Resources	Cultural: Not present Visual: Short-term and long-term, direct and indirect, major, beneficial	No mitigation measures proposed.	No change; long-term, moderate, adverse

Unavoidable adverse effects would result from implementation of the Proposed Alternative. These effects are anticipated to be minor.

Finding of No Practicable Alternative

Executive Order (EO) 11988 requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of flood plains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. After careful review of the attached Supplemental EA, I have concluded that due to the location of the DFSP Newington Facility within existing floodplain boundaries, the project cannot avoid directly impacting floodplains and, therefore, there are no practicable alternatives to demolition and disposition activities within floodplains. All practicable measures will be taken to minimize harm to or within the floodplain; in fact, the Proposed Action will result in a net beneficial impact to floodplains.

Finding of No Significant Impact

After careful review of the attached Supplemental EA, I have concluded that the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact either by itself or cumulatively on the quality of the natural or human environment. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and implementing regulations promulgated by the CEQ. Accordingly, the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 989, Environmental Impact Assessment Process, have been fulfilled, and an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared.

[SIGNATURE] **[Date]**

Brigadier General Walter Lindsley
Director, Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection

Attachment: Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment