



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BETHESDA
4655 TAYLOR ROAD
BETHESDA MARYLAND 20889-5639

5090
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Phil Alpers, Military Installations/BRAC Coordinator
Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Engineering
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor S.E.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

SUBJECT: PUBLIC MEETING FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION STUDY FOR THE UNIFORMED SERVICES OF THE
HEALTH SCIENCES EXPANSION AT NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY
BETHESDA

Dear Mr. Alpers,

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500–1508), the Navy's Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 CFR Part 775), and the Environmental Readiness Program Manual (Chief of Naval Operations Instruction [OPNAVINST] 5090.1D, Reference (c), Chapter 10), the Department of the Navy is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Transportation Study to evaluate the potential effects associated with the construction of a multi-story education and research laboratory and a parking garage at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) at Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) (see Figure 1). The education and research laboratory, referred to as Building F, would be approximately 480,000 gross square feet, and the parking garage would be approximately 125,700 gross square feet and include 250 parking spaces. The Proposed Action would include all the necessary supporting facilities, such as pedestrian bridge connections to adjacent buildings, special foundations, rock excavation, utilities, site and road improvements, an access drive, and stormwater management facilities. Under the Proposed Action, an additional 333 existing staff would commute to the installation. The option of building a concrete batch plant at the installation to use during the construction phase is also being considered and evaluated.

The Navy is proposing the construction to provide adequate space for medical education and biomedical research to meet Military Health System commitments to deliver training and post-graduate level education to the military medical community. USUHS operations are currently dispersed between the main USUHS buildings, other buildings on NSAB, and off-site facilities in Montgomery County. The USUHS expansion was analyzed as part of the *Final Environmental Impact Statement Medical Facilities Development and University Expansion, NSAB, July 2013*, but changes in the design and construction timeline warranted a new NEPA analysis.

As part of the EA, the Navy has also prepared a transportation study to address the traffic capacity, including parking, and level of service analyses for both existing conditions and future

requirements, based on the USUHS expansion and other known future developments identified in the NSAB Master Plan.

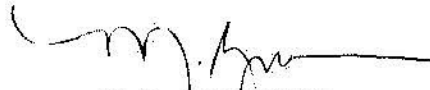
The EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with two action alternatives and a No Action Alternative. Under Alternative 1 (the Preferred Alternative), the Navy would construct Building F at the USUHS campus, north of South Palmer Road and south of Stone Lake Road (see Figure 2). The parking garage would be constructed under the proposed Building F, and two existing buildings within the project footprint would be demolished. Under Alternative 2, Building F would be constructed in a forested lot south of South Palmer Road; the parking garage would be on the same site, but it would be aboveground. The EA also evaluates the effects of a No Action Alternative as a baseline for measuring the environmental consequences of the action alternatives.

The Navy would like to invite your organization and other consulting parties to review the draft EA, which can be found online at: https://g2.cnmc.navy.mil/author/editor.html/content/cnmc/cnmc_hq/regions/ndw/installations/nsa_bethesda/om/environmental_support/USUExpansion.html. The Draft EA is available for a 30-day public comment period beginning December 18, 2018. Comments on the Draft EA may be submitted via email to navfacwashnepa@navy.mil, or via U.S. mail, no later than 30 days from receipt of this letter, to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Washington, ATTN: Ms. Jennifer Steele, 1314 Harwood Street SE, Building 212, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374.

In addition, the Navy invites your organization to a public meeting on January 8, 2019 from 5:00–7:00 p.m. at the Bethesda Marriott Suites, 5151 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, Maryland. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the EA and transportation study with the public and interested parties and to solicit comments.

If you have any questions or need additional information on this project, please contact Ms. Jennifer Steele at navfacwashnepa@navy.mil.

Sincerely,



M. S. SEYMOUR
Captain, Medical Service Corps
U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Enclosures: 1. Figure 1. NSAB Location
2. Alternative Locations at NSAB

Copy to:
Jennifer Steele, NAVFAC Washington NEPA Project Manager
Karrie Reckley, NSAB
Richard Bond, USUHS

Figure 1. NSA Bethesda Location



Figure 2. Alternative Locations at NSA Bethesda

