

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF MASTER PLANNING ACTIONS AT
WATERVLIET ARSENAL, NEW YORK**

1.0 Introduction

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Title 42 of the United States Code 4321 et seq.) and 32 CFR part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions), Watervliet Arsenal (WVA), New York, conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with implementing real property master planning actions at WVA (the proposed action). Regulations in 32 CFR part 651 provide Army guidance and procedures for complying with NEPA and establish policy, procedures, and responsibilities for assessing environmental effects of proposed Army actions.

2.0 Proposed Action

Within the next approximately five years, the Department of the Army (Army) proposes to implement various real property master planning actions at WVA. These include implementation of installation-wide framework elements of and standards for future real property actions as well as planned implementation of specific actions/projects as identified in the WVA Area Development Plan (ADP) and WVA Area Development Execution Plan (ADEP). The WVA ADP and ADEP considered long-term mission requirements and fiscal constraints and identified projects for execution over the next 20 years. The proposed action focuses on the implementation of the short-term requirements as identified in the ADP and ADEP, which consist of construction, repair and sustainment, and/or restoration, and modernization projects. Because these projects are anticipated to be implemented in the near-term, they have been planned and/or designed to a level where sufficient information is available to analyze them in detail for potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts.

3.0 Alternatives Considered

WVA identified two alternatives: implementing the proposed action (which is the preferred alternative) and a no action alternative. CEQ regulations require analysis of a no action alternative. The proposed action is to implement a comprehensive approach to developing the installation using planning strategies that reinforce capabilities to support WVA's mission, promote quality of life, and enhance sustainability and environmental viability on the installation. Under the No Action Alternative, WVA would not implement the real property master planning actions within the next approximately five years, principally as identified in the WVA ADP Preferred Alternative.

4.0 Factors Considered in the Finding of No Significant Impact

The EA, which is attached and incorporated by reference into this Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI), examines the potential effects of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative on the following resource areas of environmental and socioeconomic concern: air quality, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, traffic and transportation, utilities and service systems, and hazardous materials/hazardous waste/toxic substances/contaminated sites.

The Army would expect a combination of short-term minor adverse and long-term minor beneficial environmental and socioeconomic effects to result from implementing the Proposed Action. Potential impacts to the following resource areas are considered negligible or nonexistent: land use and recreation, coastal zone consistency, noise, aesthetics and visual resources, and socioeconomics and environmental justice. Short-term, minor, adverse effects on air quality, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, traffic and transportation, utilities and service systems, and hazardous materials/hazardous waste/toxic substances/contaminated sites would be expected associated with repair, construction, and divestiture activities under the Proposed Action. Implementing the Proposed Action would not result in any adverse cumulative environmental effects. The Army is conducting National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with the New York State Historic Preservation Office(r) (SHPO) regarding potential mitigation for impacts to historic properties.

5.0 Public Availability

A Notice of Availability of this Draft FNSI, along with the Draft EA and Draft FONPA was published in the *Troy Record*, *Times Union*, and *The Daily Gazette* newspapers on May 09, 2022. The Draft EA, Draft FNSI, and Draft FONPA are available for public review at the Watervliet Public Library (1501 Broadway, Watervliet, New York 12189) or by contacting the WVA Public Affairs Office at usarmy.watervliet.tacom.list.wvapublicaffairs@army.mil or 518-266-5055. The deadline for receipt of comments is June 08, 2022.

6.0 Finding

Based on the environmental analysis in the EA, the Army has determined that implementing the proposed action would have no significant direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects on the quality of human life or the natural environment at WVA. Therefore, the Army will not be required to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement before implementing the proposed action. A final decision, however, will not be rendered until after the close of the public comment period for the EA and until after all timely submitted comments have been considered and appropriately addressed.

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Date