

Request for Early Input

Environmental Assessment Proposed Action and Alternatives for the Distribution Center at Fort Belvoir, Virginia

All Interested Parties: The U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir, Virginia is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction and operation of a distribution center at the Fort Belvoir North Area (FBNA) in Springfield, Virginia, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 United States Code Section 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations that implement NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*. An EA is used as a planning document to assess environmental impacts, evaluate their significance, develop alternatives and mitigation measures, and allow for agency and public participation (32 CFR 651.20).

The EA is being prepared to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the **Proposed Action** to build and operate a distribution center at FBNA. The project will modernize logistical operations and address safety, security, and operational concerns specific to the warehouse and its administrative functions. The project is needed to support the delivery and receipt of materials within and across the Washington Metropolitan Area, requiring a site within the National Capital Region to achieve distribution efficiencies.

The **Proposed Action** involves the construction and operation of an approximately 525,000 square foot warehouse and administrative building with associated parking and covered storage at FBNA for approximately 600 personnel. The hours of operation will typically be between 6am and 4pm. The proposed site location is in a forested area surrounded by industrial land use, keeping the same type of activity that already exists within the FBNA fence line.

The EA will also consider a **No Action Alternative**, which would involve no construction and no distribution center. Although the **No Action Alternative** would not meet the purpose and need for the action, CEQ requires the analysis of the **No Action Alternative**, as it also provides a benchmark for enabling decision-makers to compare the magnitude of environmental effects of the **Proposed Action**.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1500-1508, the Army invites you to provide early input on the **Proposed Action** to be considered in our analysis of each alternative in the forthcoming EA. This notice is being distributed to organizations that may have an interest in the project. Information on the **Proposed Action** can be found on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/FBNA/>. Comments on the **Proposed Action** can be submitted through the project website or via email to FBNA@usace.army.mil.

Additionally, once the draft EA is completed, agencies and the public will have an opportunity to review and provide comments during a 30-day public review period, which will be announced in a notice published in local newspapers, the project website shown above, and the Fort Belvoir website at <https://home.army.mil/belvoir/index.php/about/Garrison/directorate-public-works/environmental-division>. Printed copies of the draft EA will be available in the local libraries: Fort Belvoir Library, Lorton Library, Kingstowne Library, Sherwood Regional Library, and Richard Byrd Library.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. Early input will be accepted for a period of 15 days,

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for Distribution Center at Fort Belvoir North Area*

beginning on the date of this notice. Should you require any additional information or have any questions, please contact the Fort Belvoir Directorate of Public Works-Environmental Division (DPW-ED) via phone at (703) 806-3193 or (703) 806-0020, during normal working business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.