

DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE
O'BRIEN ROAD ACCESS
MODERNIZATION (ORAM)
AT FORT MEADE

THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Background

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 was enacted to address concerns about environmental quality.

NEPA's main objectives are as follows:

- Ensure that Federal agencies evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed programs, projects, and actions before decisions are made to implement them.
- Inform the public of proposed Federal activities that have the potential to significantly affect environmental quality.
- Encourage and facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process.

What is an EIS?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the most detailed analysis prescribed by the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA. An EIS is a detailed public document describing a proposed action, all alternative actions that were considered, and the environmental impacts of implementing a proposed action and reasonable alternatives.

Steps in the EIS Process



THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Public Involvement

Opportunities to participate in the NEPA process include submitting scoping comments, submitting comments on the Draft EIS and Final EIS, and attending public meetings.

Agency Coordination

NEPA mandates that local, state, and Federal agencies within the affected project area be given the opportunity to comment on the Draft EIS. These agencies are asked to identify specific areas or issues that should be addressed in the EIS.

Submitting Comments on the DEIS

Comments can be sent by mail or email by July 24:

By mail:

ORAM EIS

c/o HDR

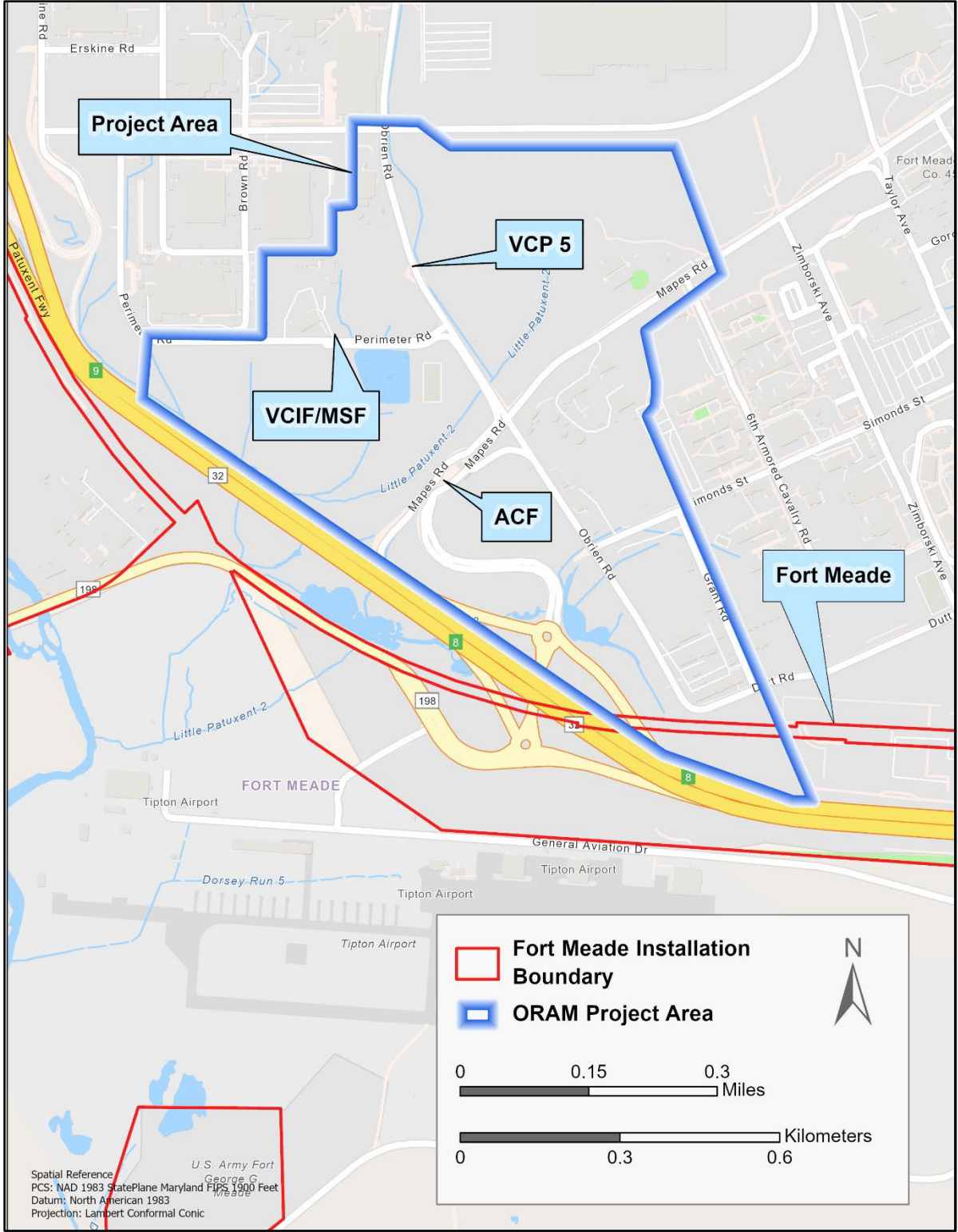
2650 Park Tower Drive, Suite 400

Vienna, VA 22180

By email:

ORAM@hdrinc.com

ORAM PROJECT AREA MAP



PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Introduction

The Department of Defense (DoD) proposes to renovate and upgrade inspection and access facilities for the National Security Agency's (NSA) campus on Fort George G. Meade, Maryland (Fort Meade). The facilities and associated roadway improvements would occur around the intersection of Mapes Road and O'Brien Road on the installation

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action analyzed in the Draft EIS would consist of:

- Construction of a new Vehicle Control Inspection Facility (VCIF) with adjacent visitor control center
- Construction of a new mail screening facility adjacent to the VCIF
- Construction of a new Vehicle Control Point (VCP) 5
- Reconfiguration of the Mapes Avenue Access Control Facility (ACF)
- Roadway improvements to provide enhanced routing and separation of traffic between NSA and Fort Meade
- Associated infrastructure including sidewalks, inspection canopies, dog kennels, surface parking areas, stormwater management facilities, and utilities.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives

Two alternatives are analyzed in the Draft EIS, which are variations on the Proposed Action presenting slightly different routing and facility location options.

- **Alternative 1 (Preferred)** would utilize an overpass for inbound vehicle entry
- **Alternative 2** would utilize a double-lane roundabout for vehicle movement

No Action Alternative. The EIS also analyzes a No Action Alternative to provide a baseline of the existing conditions against which potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the Proposed Action and alternative actions can be compared.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Resource Areas

Resource areas analyzed in this EIS include land use and visual resources, transportation, noise, air quality, geological resources, water resources, biological resources and wetlands, cultural resources, infrastructure, sustainability, hazardous materials and wastes, and socioeconomics and environmental justice.

General Impacts

The environmental impacts would generally be the same for both alternatives considered for the Proposed Action. Short-term and/or temporary, minor to moderate, adverse impacts associated with construction and demolition would be expected on most resource areas. Long-term impacts include:

- Negligible to minor impacts on noise and water resources
- Negligible to moderate impacts on geological resources
- Minor to moderate impacts on land use and visual resources
- Minor to major, impacts on biological resources (and wetlands) and coastal zone resources
- Major impacts on traffic
- Minor to moderate impacts on sustainability
- Negligible impacts on air quality
- No long-term impacts on cultural resources, hazardous materials and wastes, or socioeconomics and environmental justice anticipated

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The Proposed Action includes BMPs, mitigation measures, and design concepts to avoid adverse impacts to the extent practicable.

- Consultation with the USACE Baltimore District Regulatory Division and MDE and associated permitting would be required due to anticipated wetland impacts
- Impacts would be minimized through the use of buffers during construction and incorporation of culverts into project design and construction.
- Mitigation options include wetland restoration, enhancement, or creation on or off site; banking; and credits. The mitigation strategy would be determined by the final design.

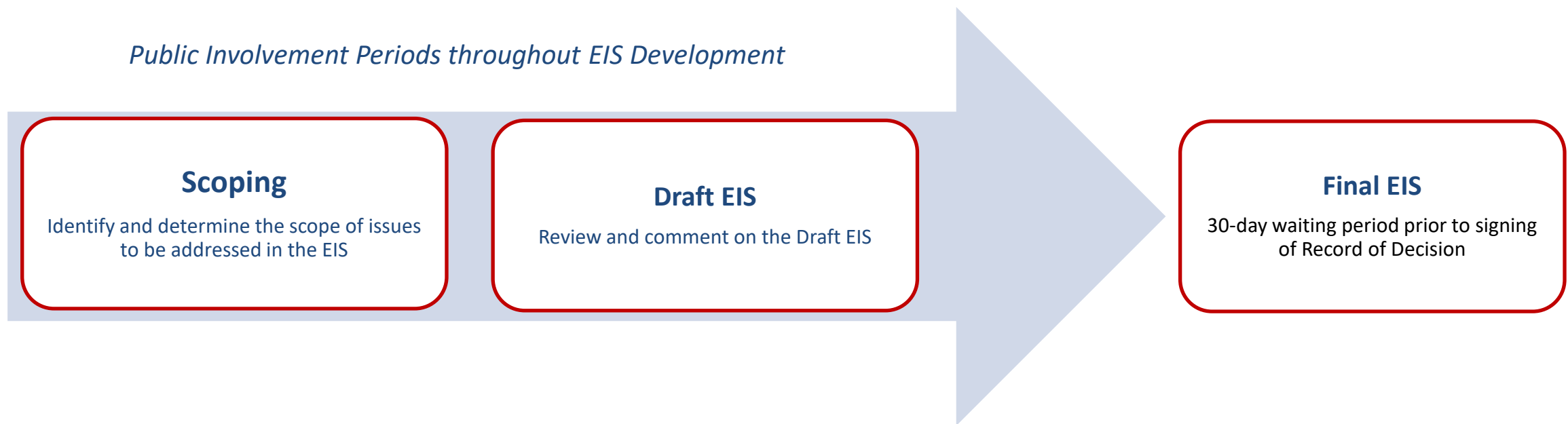
HOW TO MAKE COMMENTS

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**By email:
<mailto:ORAM@hdrinc.com>**

Public Involvement Periods throughout EIS Development



PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

To make a comment, you need to virtually raise your hand.

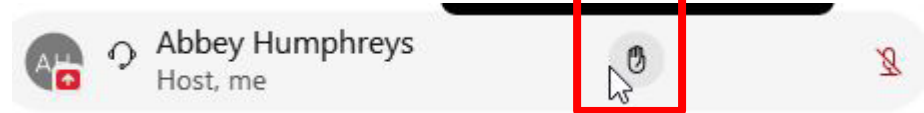
- **Personal computer:**

At bottom of your screen, click the **raise hand icon**



- **Smartphone or tablet:**

Click the **participant icon**  then click the **raise hand icon**



- **Landline telephone or smartphone: Dial *3 on your phone keypad**

When it is time to make your comment, you will hear two beeps and you will be unmuted.

- **Clearly state and spell your name and affiliation, if any.**
- **Comments will be limited to three minutes.**
- **You will be given a notice when you have only 30 seconds remaining.**

You will be given a final notice when your time is up.

After commenting, please virtually lower your hand using the same procedures required to raise your hand.