

Bureau of Engraving and Printing Replacement Project

Questions and Answers

As of Feb. 20, 2020

Why is the Bureau of Printing and Engraving moving production operations from its downtown DC location?

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing's production facility in Washington is more than 100 years old and in need of a great deal of renovations in order to meet the agency's modern printing needs. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing has conducted studies and research and determined that a replacement production facility would cost significantly less than a renovation of its Washington facility. A replacement facility would also better address the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's need for secure, efficient, modern and flexible currency production.

- A [2018 Government Accountability Office Report](#) confirmed the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's current facility in Washington is not suitable for modern-day currency production.
 - The main facility is more than 100 years old.
 - It lacks flexibility for new processes required for currency redesign efforts.
 - It is insufficient to develop and manufacture new anti-counterfeit security features.
 - The report stated a replacement facility is the most economical solution.
- **The Bureau of Engraving and Printing's intent is to design and construct a smaller, more efficient production facility.**
 - This provides an opportunity to improve physical security.
 - It would also provide a net reduction in current operational footprint.

If the Bureau of Engraving and Printing is leaving DC, why stay in the region rather than move to another part of the country?

The work done by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing production personnel is very unique and many have trained for years to be able to do their specialized work. The highly skilled workforce could not be replicated outside of the National Capital Region without potentially severe impacts to the Nation's money supply. Additionally, relocating employees or hiring and training new manufacturing personnel to replace employees who do not relocate would likely be costly and/or impractical. For these reasons, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing chose to consider sites within the metropolitan DC area.

What benefits would this replacement facility have over renovating the existing buildings?

In addition to significant cost savings, the replacement facility will provide the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's production operations with significant improvements. Highlights include:

improved physical security capabilities; improved efficiency of manufacturing operations based in large part on the ability to improve production layout; improved employee safety; and increased flexibility to respond to production needs that may change over time and incorporate larger equipment not compatible with the existing production facility. The Bureau also anticipates a 27 percent reduction in real property space due to more efficient space utilization.

What are the costs associated with building this replacement facility?

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing conducted extensive studies to determine the best path forward for modernizing its production facilities in the Washington area. Part of that was a cost analysis comparing keeping operations entirely in Washington and renovating existing facilities, or moving production facilities to a replacement facility while renovating some existing facilities for administrative space and excessing facilities downtown no longer needed. The cost for the current approach, including planning, design and construction of a replacement production facility outside of downtown Washington and renovating some of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing existing facilities in Washington for administrative purposes is estimated to cost roughly \$1.4 billion. The estimated cost to renovate its current aging downtown Washington facilities for both modernized production and administrative functions would cost approximately \$2 billion.

How many employees would be working at the replacement facility once it is completed?

It's currently estimated that roughly 1,400 personnel will be working at the replacement production facility. Work will be ongoing 24 hours a day, with those personnel split into three shifts with beginning times and ending times that do not conflict with traditional rush hour windows, so as to reduce potential traffic impacts.

Is the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in Prince George's County definitely the final site for the new production facility?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) parcel is the preferred site for the construction of the replacement Bureau of Engraving and Printing production facility; however, it is still undergoing assessment to determine its feasibility.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing and U.S. Department of Agriculture, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are thoroughly studying the BARC parcel's potential in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This includes evaluating potential ecological, cultural, water, public health and safety, traffic and other effects associated with the proposed construction. The team is directly engaging with members of the local community, officials and other stakeholders to solicit their input for these evaluations through the NEPA process.

What other sites are being or have been considered?

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing has been looking for potential replacement sites for the past several years and has held various engagement opportunities with the public.

Currently, the BARC site is the most suitable site being actively pursued. Through NEPA, a “no action alternative” will also be assessed, which means not moving the current facility.

Why are you considering the BARC site?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and Congress support the development of the proposed facility on an unused, previously developed approximately 100-acre site at BARC in Prince George's County.

The [2018 Farm Bill](#) authorized the transfer of this specific land parcel to the Department of Treasury for use by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to construct a replacement currency production facility. A formal land transfer is pending.

It also meets Federal Reserve Board Replacement Facility Requirements, including:

- Appropriate access to interstate roadways and commercial air carriers
- Located within National Capital Region

The BARC site has several benefits for both the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and U.S. Department of Agriculture. Siting the facility on existing federal land means there is no need to acquire additional federal property, ultimately reducing costs and the federal footprint in the long run. It provides a location for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing that meets its logistical needs for transportation access as well as its workforce — the majority of employees in the region live in Maryland — 65 percent; and, of those, nearly half live in Prince George's County.

For BARC, it presents opportunities to reduce its catalogue of abandoned buildings and potentially share facility-wide overhead like maintenance and security costs.

What sort of impact will this have on the operations at the BARC facility?

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is partnering closely with BARC on the siting of the replacement production facility on U.S. Department of Agriculture land and will work to minimize any negative impacts to current BARC operations. In fact, the potential use of BARC land for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's replacement production facility presents several benefits for BARC and its operations. The construction of the replacement facility would involve infrastructure improvements, the demolition of up to nearly two dozen abandoned buildings that would no longer require maintenance or upkeep, and would provide a partner for shared needs like maintenance, security and child care, to name a few. Also, by adding more federal use of the BARC complex, it can help dissuade calls to move BARC or reduce its footprint for other purposes.



What sort of environmental impact will this project have?

Through the NEPA process, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is thoroughly analyzing the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's replacement proposal to determine potential impacts and benefits that could result from its construction and operation, such as:

- Land use
- Ecological
- Cultural
- Water resources
- Social
- Public health and safety
- Air quality
- Aesthetics
- Noise
- Lighting
- Hazardous waste
- Traffic
- Cumulative environmental effects

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will document these analyses in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Measures to offset potential adverse impacts will also be considered in the EIS.

What sort of impact to the “Green Belt” will this project have?

The project is expected to be constructed on less than 2 percent of BARC's 6,500 acres (approximately 100 acres). In addition, the new facility will be a low-level building and will be set back from main roads and likely obscured by tree lines, reducing its visibility. As feasible, the team will work to reduce the project's impacts to the views currently enjoyed by those passing through the larger BARC property. It's also important to note that the site of the building already has several smaller, abandoned structures that will likely be demolished, meaning that the new facility will not be built on entirely undeveloped land.

Through the NEPA process, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is thoroughly analyzing the Bureau of Engraving and Printing's proposal to determine potential impacts and benefits that could result from its construction and operation.

What sort of impact to traffic will this project have?

Part of the planning process includes a full assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the project, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. This NEPA effort includes, among other things, a transportation study to determine potential impacts to traffic from the construction of the new facility.

Studies on current traffic conditions, employee transportation habits, and anticipated increases in traffic are ongoing. As part of these studies, the team is considering multiple traffic remediation options on BARC and its surrounding roads.

Based on the study's findings, it will also outline what sort of mitigation or transportation improvements might be needed to offset the project's impacts to traffic.

Will the community have an opportunity to provide feedback regarding the potential construction of this new Bureau of Engraving and Printing production replacement facility?

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing is committed to being open and transparent with the community regarding the planning and construction of its new production facility. As such, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has already presented to local officials and community members regarding this project and looks forward to continuing to engage with the community.

Public input and feedback is critical to our environmental analyses.

- There will be at least two public meetings and three public comment periods during the NEPA process. One of these public meetings and associated public comment period was held in fall 2019.
- A project web page houses current info/documents.
- Public comment periods and meetings will allow the public to identify issues, benefits and concerns associated with the proposed action.
- The public will have at least 45 days to review and comment on the Draft EIS and at least 30 days to review and comment on the Final EIS.
- Substantive comments provided by the public on the Draft EIS will be addressed in the Final EIS.

We heard wastewater was going to be dumped into local creeks. Is this true? What are you doing to ensure this doesn't happen?

This facility will comply with the Clean Water Act and will obtain any necessary permits from EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment. The team is evaluating this as part of the EIS.

Are there hazardous materials on site? What will be done with those?

Any hazardous materials used or generated on site will be stored, and, when necessary, disposed of in a manner consistent with EPA guidance.

How can BEP move onto this site with the historic buildings that are located there?

Our team is conducting architectural and archaeological surveys on site as part of the NEPA process to determine the presence of any historic structures/items. The team is working with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) through this process and will determine whether or not mitigation would be necessary for these buildings/items. Ultimately, the team will obtain SHPO concurrence before any action is taken with regards to historic structures and items.

