

# About the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP)

For over 150 years, BEP has designed and produced US currency notes at the request of the Federal Reserve Board. Each year, the Federal Reserve Board determines how many notes are needed to meet the demand for currency. BEP currently operates production facilities in Washington, DC, and Fort Worth, Texas.

BEP's Washington, DC production facility (DC facility) consists of two multi-story, multi-wing buildings. The Main Building is the primary production building, and the Annex Building is used primarily for administrative functions. BEP also leases a warehouse in Landover, Maryland to store production supplies, as the two DC facilities do not have the necessary infrastructure for receiving shipments from large commercial trucks.

BEP's Western Currency Facility (WCF) in Fort Worth, Texas was built to provide redundant, reliable currency production in the event of any disruption of operations at the DC facility. The WCF came online in 1990 with a plan to produce around 25 percent of US notes each fiscal year. Due in large part to the operational limitations of BEP's DC facility, the average throughput at its WCF is 60 percent or more each fiscal year. A new replacement facility with proximity to Washington, DC is needed to address these limitations and bring BEP's currency production up to 21st Century standards.

## Indicators of a Problem

From 2010 through 2017, BEP conducted various studies to understand the deficiencies associated with the DC facility. When its DC operations were compared to those in Fort Worth, the limitations of the DC facility were confirmed.

- More manufacturing personnel were required to produce fewer currency notes
- There were more workers' compensation claims, approximately 65 to 70 percent related to materials handling



- Production was less efficient and at a higher cost (e.g., production of \$1 and \$20 notes were 23 percent and 7 percent higher by comparison)

A lack of physical and contiguous space on a single floor, antiquated systems and infrastructure, and an inability to comply with modern security standards were identified as contributing factors.

## Bridging the Performance Gap

As the seat of the Federal government and where most of its highly skilled workforce resides, the National Capital Region (NCR) is a strategic location for BEP. With a clear understanding of the shortfalls associated with the DC facility, BEP focused on the best way to modernize its operations while maintaining its DC presence. BEP considered several possible scenarios to achieve this objective, including renovation of BEP's existing DC facilities and new construction in a different location to replace all or parts of its DC operations.

BEP's studies and research determined that new construction would be less expensive and better address a need for secure, efficient, and flexible currency production, as compared to renovation of the DC facility. A 2018 Government Accountability Office (GAO) review of BEP's facility planning process also found this to be the best course of action for BEP to pursue. After initially considering nearly 100 potential sites to construct and operate a replacement Currency Production Facility within the NCR, BEP began to evaluate the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Prince George's County, Maryland to support the Proposed Action.

Replacement Currency Production Facility



Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

## Our Environmental Mission

BEP's environmental mission is to continually strive to reduce its adverse impact on the environment. Its environmental program is focused on reducing the use and disposal of materials, reducing energy consumption, and generating less waste.

Through a variety of initiatives, BEP is proud to note a marked decline from 1999 to present in all three of its major waste streams: regulated air emissions, solid waste, and wastewater. This includes a greater than 55 percent reduction in regulated solid wastes and more than 40 percent reduction in industrial wastewater.

BEP's environmental stewardship is also evidenced by initiatives that substitute hazardous materials with less hazardous materials or processes. For example, cyanide hardening has been replaced with a non-hazardous process, inks containing heavy metals have been eliminated from use, and in intaglio printing, water-based inks have replaced solvent-based inks. Additionally, BEP has replaced many hazardous solvents generated from its printing and maintenance operations with safer, less flammable, lower volatile organic compound (VOC) solvents.

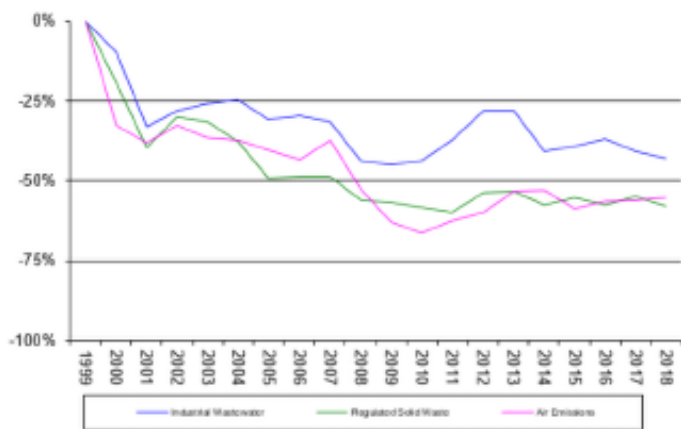
Operational efficiency is another pillar of BEP's environmental record. For example, in fiscal year 2018, 15 percent of BEP's electricity came from renewable sources. BEP continues to invest in efficiency and



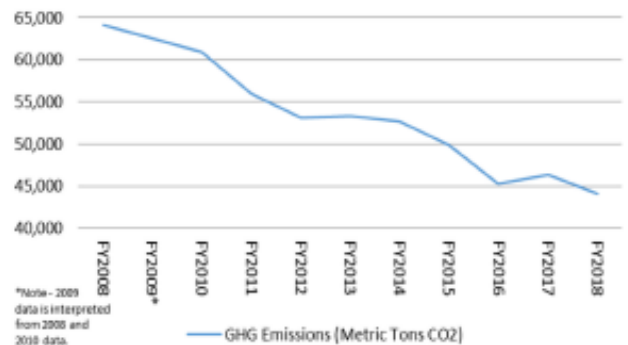
has reduced its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from direct use of energy and fuels by more than 20,000 metric tons per year, or 30 percent since fiscal year 2008. The investments in efficiency and these efforts have saved energy and reduced BEP's GHG emissions.

The Proposed Action would result in BEP's most efficient production facility to date. By incorporating low impact development/green infrastructure techniques and designs, and reducing BEP's overall operational footprint within the National Capital Region, adverse environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action would be reduced or minimized.

**BEP-Wide Waste Generation Trends (% Change)  
From Baseline Year 1999**



**GHG Emissions from Use of  
Electricity and Fuels at BEP Facilities**



# Participate in the Planning Process and Environmental Review

## What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?

In 1969, Congress passed NEPA, the national charter for responsible management of the environment. Under NEPA, all branches of the Federal government must consider the potential impacts of their proposed actions on the human environment prior to making a decision to implement the action.

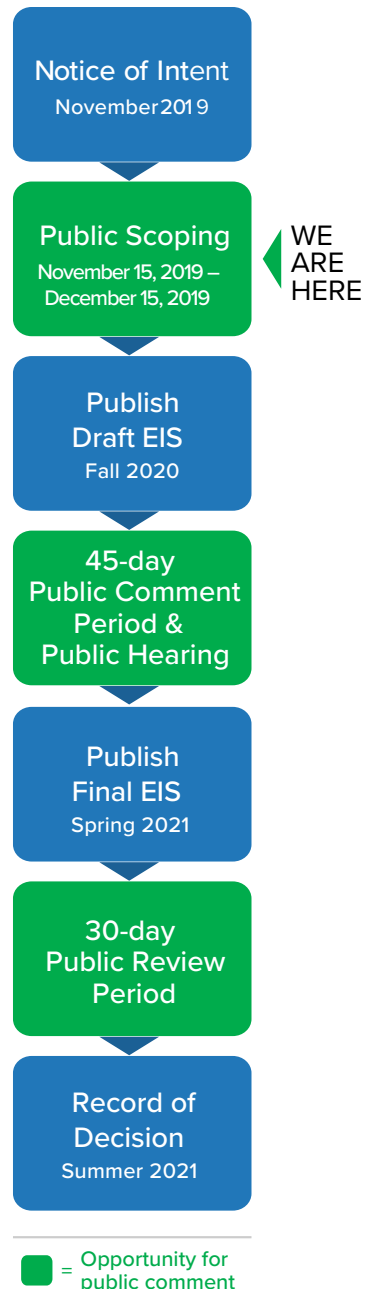
The process for considering the potential impacts of major proposed Federal actions is through the preparation of a document called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An EIS analyzes and describes the positive and negative environmental effects of a proposed action and considers any reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Preparation of an EIS also provides an opportunity for the public to learn about and comment on Federal actions that may affect their communities prior to any action being taken.

The findings of the EIS are taken into account by the proposing Federal agency when making a decision on whether to go forward with a proposed action or one of the considered alternatives, including the alternative of no action.

## How is an EIS prepared?

A typical EIS involves the following steps:

- 1. Publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS:** This is the formal beginning of the EIS process. The NOI, published in the Federal Register, provides a general description of the proposed action and initial alternatives, as well as the purpose and need for action. Often, a shorter version of the NOI is published in local newspapers and other media.
- 2. Scoping:** The NOI initiates a 30-day “scoping period” during which government agencies and the public can review the proposed action and provide comments. These comments help determine the range of issues and alternatives to consider in the EIS (“scope” of the EIS). Scoping often includes a public scoping meeting, such as this one.
- 3. Preparation of the Draft EIS (DEIS):** After scoping is complete, a DEIS is prepared by an interdisciplinary team of environmental professionals. The DEIS describes, in plain language, the proposed action, the alternatives being considered, and the potential impacts of these alternatives on the environment, both natural (air, water, vegetation, wildlife, etc.) and human-made (land use, cultural resources, traffic and transportation, noise, community resources, etc.).
- 4. Review of the DEIS:** Once complete, the DEIS is made available for review and comment by government agencies and the public. The review period lasts for 45 days and generally includes a public meeting.
- 5. Preparation of the Final EIS (FEIS):** After the end of the 45-day DEIS review period, all of the comments received are analyzed, and an FEIS is prepared. The FEIS incorporates and responds to the relevant DEIS public comments.
- 6. Publication of the FEIS:** After it is completed, the FEIS is made available to the public for a 30-day review period during which additional public comments may be submitted.
- 7. Record of Decision (ROD):** After the end of this 30-day review period of the FEIS, a ROD will be issued. The ROD is the document through which the proposing agency announces and explains its decision after having considered the findings of the EIS and the comments received. Construction of the project may not begin until the proposing agency has completed the EIS process and issued the signed ROD.



## Public Participation and Submitting Comments



**Scoping is one of the first steps in the EIS process. Public input during the scoping period is important. BEP has not made any decisions about the Proposed Action, and has not started the impact analysis.**

### Is this meeting my only chance to participate?

This meeting is part of a broader 30-day public scoping period, which began when the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) published an NOI to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on November 15, 2019. The scoping period lasts until December 15, 2019.

The public will have a second opportunity to participate in the NEPA process during the 45-day public review period following the publication of the DEIS. The release of the DEIS will be announced in a newspaper that serves this area. You may also request to be notified of the publication of the DEIS by signing in at today's meeting.

During the 45-day public review period on the DEIS, BEP will hold an additional public meeting to present the findings of the DEIS and collect comments. All substantive public comments on the DEIS will be addressed in the FEIS, which will also be made available for public review. The government will then publish a ROD that announces the decision made based, in part, on public input.

### What is the purpose of this scoping meeting?

The purpose of this scoping meeting is to:

- Inform the public about the Proposed Action, to construct and operate a new, replacement Currency Production Facility at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC).
- Explain the NEPA process and associated environmental impact analysis.
- Solicit the public's input on the Proposed Action, alternatives, potential impacts, and related issues.

Scoping is the first of several opportunities for the public to participate in the NEPA process.

In accordance with NEPA, BEP is preparing an EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of constructing and operating a Replacement Currency Production Facility. The Proposed Action would allow BEP to modernize and reduce its Federal footprint within the National Capital Region.

**Please take the opportunity during today's meeting to review the displays, talk to project staff, and provide your comments on the Proposed Action, alternatives, and/or potential environmental effects.**

#### During the scoping period, the public can submit comments in the following ways:

1. Provide written comments at today's meeting
2. Speak with the stenographer, who will record your comments
3. Email comments to: [BEP-EIS@usace.army.mil](mailto:BEP-EIS@usace.army.mil)
4. Visit the project website as noted at the bottom of this fact sheet
5. Mail written comments to:  
Mr. Harvey Johnson  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
Programs and Project Management Division  
2 Hopkins Plaza, 10th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**Comments must be either emailed by 11:59 p.m. on December 15, 2019 or mailed and postmarked by December 15, 2019.**

