

Final

Environmental Impact Statement

for the

O'Brien Road Access Modernization
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Volume III - Appendix F


February 2024



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District



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F

Review of the Draft EIS

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FEDERAL REGISTER DRAFT EIS NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA)



Federal Register / Vol. 88, No. 111 / Friday, June 9, 2023 / Notices

37869

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit; not-for-profit institutions; individuals.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Number of Respondents: 100.

Estimated Time per Respondent: 1 hour and 40 minutes.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 166 hours and 40 minutes.

Abstract: The Application for Political Risk Insurance will be the principal document used by DFC to determine the investors' and the project's eligibility for political risk insurance coverage.

Dated: June 5, 2023.

Deborah Papadopoulos,
Records Management Specialist, Office of Administration.

[FR Doc. 2023-12346 Filed 6-8-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3210-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization, Fort Meade, Maryland

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of availability; notice of public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The DoD announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the environmental planning process for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM) at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland (hereafter referred to as Fort Meade). The DoD proposes to implement the ORAM project, which would entail renovation and upgrade of inspection facilities, upgrade of access facilities, and corresponding roadway improvements for Mapes, O'Brien, Perimeter, and Venona Roads on Fort Meade. The purpose of the proposed project is to construct facilities and infrastructure to allow for increased capacity for required security processing of traffic and deliveries entering Fort Meade and the National Security Agency (NSA) campus. The need for the proposed project is to address inefficiencies with current infrastructure and capacity issues.

DATES: There will be a virtual public meeting from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on July 19, 2023 via the Webex platform. Access and registration details are available on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram>. The public meeting may end earlier or later than the stated time depending on the number of persons wishing to speak. All materials that are submitted in response

to the Draft EIS should be received by July 24, 2023 to provide sufficient time to be considered in preparation of the Final EIS.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the Draft EIS are available for your review on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram> and at the Medal of Honor Memorial Library, 4418 Llewellyn Avenue, Fort Meade, MD 20755; Glen Burnie Regional Library, 1010 Eastway, Glen Burnie, MD 21060; Odenton Regional Library, 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113; and Severn Community Library, 2624 Annapolis Road, Severn, MD 21144. You may also call (301) 688-2970 or send an email to ORAM@hdrinc.com to request a copy of the Draft EIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Jeffrey Williams at 301-688-2970, or email jwill2@nsa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces a 45-day comment period and provides information on how to participate in the public review process. The public comment period for the Draft EIS will officially end July 24, 2023.

Background: NSA is a tenant DoD agency on Fort Meade, occupying approximately 840 acres of the 5,100-acre installation. Renovation and upgrade of inspection and access facilities for NSA is required to meet increased mission and security capacity. The existing Vehicle Control Inspection Facility (VCIF) and Vehicle Control Point 5 (VCP5) represent two significant entry points for access to the NSA campus. Both facilities require replacement due to process inefficiencies and insufficient capacity to meet current and future demand. Original sizing of the VCIF provided for inspection facilities only for NSA deliveries and traffic. Post 9/11, a decision was made that NSA would inspect both Fort Meade and NSA deliveries. Additionally, major construction activities on Fort Meade have generated increases in traffic access and inspection throughout the installation. These conditions have resulted in extensive delays at the VCIF and traffic back-ups onto Maryland State Route 32. The design of VCP5 on O'Brien Road is also outdated and provides insufficient access capacity between the NSA campus and Fort Meade. Relocation of the Fort Meade Access Control Facility (ACF) on Mapes Road is included to facilitate the design and construction of the overall access gate infrastructure and roadway system, as well as minimize environmental impacts.

Proposed Action and Alternatives: The proposed action would consist of construction of a new VCP5 along O'Brien Road; construction of a new VCIF with adjacent visitor control center; construction of a new Mail Screening Facility adjacent to the VCIF; reconfiguration of the Mapes Road ACF; roadway improvements to provide enhanced routing and separation of traffic between NSA and Fort Meade entering from MDs 32 and 198; and associated infrastructure, including sidewalks, inspection canopies, dog kennels, surface parking areas, stormwater management facilities, and utilities.

Alternatives identified include two build alternatives that involve distinct configurations of project elements within the same general area on the NSA campus and Fort Meade. The No Action Alternative (not undertaking the proposed improvements) is also analyzed in detail.

Summary of Environmental Impacts: The level of environmental impacts potentially resulting from the Proposed Action and alternatives would be largely similar, regardless of which alternative would be selected.

Generally, construction and demolition would result in some ground disturbance, temporary increases in noise, and increased traffic congestion and lane closures, which would be expected regardless of the alternative selected. Implementation of the ORAM would be expected to result in long-term, negligible to major, adverse impacts on noise, geological resources, water resources, biological resources, infrastructure, and socioeconomic. Long-term, negligible to moderate, beneficial impacts on land use and visual resources, air quality, and sustainability. Major adverse impacts on wetlands would occur under either alternative, for which mitigation measures would be developed in coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maryland Department of the Environment. Major beneficial impacts on transportation would occur as result of the improvements.

Best Management Practices and Mitigation Measures: The Proposed Action has the potential to result in adverse environmental impacts. The Proposed Action includes best management practices, mitigation measures, and design concepts to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to the extent practicable. Unavoidable impacts would be minimized or compensated for to the extent practicable. In accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations, mitigation measures are

considered for adverse environmental impacts.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for public review on the project website, at local repositories, and by request (see **ADDRESSES**). The DoD invites public and agency input on the Draft EIS. Please submit comments and materials during the 45-day public review period to allow sufficient time for consideration in development of the Final EIS (see **DATES**).

The DoD will consider all comments received and then prepare the Final EIS. As with the Draft EIS, DoD will announce the availability of the Final EIS.

Dated: June 2, 2023.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2023-12350 Filed 6-8-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Scoping Comment Period Extension for the Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for an Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System on Guam

AGENCY: Missile Defense Agency (MDA), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of intent; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The MDA is extending the scoping comment period for the notice of intent entitled "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for an Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System on Guam," published in the **Federal Register** on May 5, 2023. The MDA is extending the scoping period to August 11, 2023, in response to Typhoon Mawar-related damage and recovery efforts on Guam. In addition, the MDA will reschedule the in-person open house scoping meetings on Guam to the summer of 2023.

DATES: The scoping comment period for the notice of intent published in the **Federal Register** on May 5, 2023 (88 FR 29104) is extended. Comments must be postmarked or received on or before August 11, 2023, to ensure consideration in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent via email to info@ELAMD-EIS.com; via the website comment submission form on www.ELAMD-EIS.com; or by United States (U.S.) Postal Service to: ManTech

International Corporation, Attention: ELAMD EIS Project Support, PMB 403, 1270 N Marine Corps Drive, Suite 101, Tamuning, Guam 96913-4331. Written comments will also be accepted at the public scoping meetings. All comments, including names and addresses, will be included in the administrative record, but personal information will be kept confidential unless release is required by law.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mark Wright, MDA Public Affairs, at 571-231-8212 or by email to mda.info@mda.mil. Additional information on the Proposed Action can be found at the MDA website: <https://www.mda.mil/system/eiamd.html>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 5, 2023, the MDA published notice of intent entitled "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for an Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System on Guam" (88 FR 29104). The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental impacts from the proposed deployment and operation of missile defense radars, sensors, missile interceptors, missile launchers, and command and control systems; construction and operation of associated support facilities and infrastructure; and management of associated airspace on Guam (hereafter called "Proposed Action"). The MDA invited comments on the scope of the EIS including identification of potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, and the Proposed Action's potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The original scoping comment period was scheduled to close on June 27, 2023, with three in-person open house scoping meetings planned on Guam in June 2023.

With this notice, the MDA is extending the scoping comment period to August 11, 2023, in response to Typhoon Mawar-related damage and recovery efforts on Guam.

In addition, the MDA will reschedule the in-person open house scoping meetings on Guam to the summer of 2023. Notification for the meeting locations, dates, and times will be published and announced in local news media to encourage public participation. Access to meeting information can also be found on the MDA website at <https://www.mda.mil/system/eiamd.html>.

Dated: June 2, 2023.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2023-12203 Filed 6-8-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Navy

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Improving Homeport Facilities for Three NIMITZ-Class Aircraft Carriers in Support of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and To Announce Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Department of the Navy (DoN), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality, the Department of the Navy (DoN) announces its intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to update its analysis in the 1999 Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Developing Home Port Facilities for Three Nimitz-Class Aircraft Carriers in Support of the U.S. Pacific Fleet and its 2008 Final SEIS. The new SEIS will address current mission objectives, routine pier-side maintenance activities and proposed electrical shoreside power infrastructure, which may result in three CVNs being simultaneously in port at Naval Air Station North Island (NASNI) for more intermittent, nonconsecutive days per year than analyzed in prior NEPA documents. The DoN is initiating a 45-day public scoping process to receive comments on the scope of the SEIS, including identification of potential alternatives, information, and analyses relevant to the Proposed Action, identification of environmental concerns, issues the public would like to see addressed in the SEIS, and the project's potential to affect historic properties pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966.

DATES: The 45-day public scoping period begins June 9, 2023 and ends July 24, 2023. Comments must be postmarked or submitted electronically via the website no later than 11:59 p.m. PDT on July 24, 2023, for consideration in the Draft SEIS. The DoN will hold three public scoping meetings in the local area during the evenings of June 27-29, 2023. The scoping meetings will consist of informal, open house sessions with informational poster stations staffed by DoN representatives. The information presented at the public meetings will also be available on the project website. The DoN will also publish the public scoping meeting announcements in local newspapers and in press releases. Meeting

FEDERAL REGISTER DRAFT EIS USEPA NOA



42360

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ODS after April 18, 1994. Measures to protect confidentiality of information collected under the SNAP program are based on EPA's confidentiality regulations (40 CFR 2.201 *et seq.*, or subpart B). Submitters may designate all or portions of their forms or petitions as confidential. EPA requires the submitters to substantiate their claim of confidentiality. Under CAA section 114(c), emissions information may not be claimed as confidential.

Any substitute which is a new chemical must also be submitted to the Agency under the New Chemicals (Premanufacture Notice) program under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Furthermore, alternatives that will be used as sterilants must be filed jointly with EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and with SNAP.

Form Numbers: 1264-14; 1265-14.

Respondents/affected entities:

Manufacturers, importers, formulators, and processors of substitutes for ODS.

Respondent's obligation to respond: Mandatory (40 CFR 82.176).

Estimated number of respondents: 154 (per year).

Frequency of response: Annual.

Total estimated burden: 4,855 hours (per year). Burden is defined at 5 CFR 1320.03(b).

Total estimated cost: \$444,249, which includes \$22,912 annualized capital or operation & maintenance costs.

Changes in the Estimates: The number of SNAP submissions each year is expected to remain the same from the previous ICR, at an average of 15 per year during the next 3 years. In 2020 the Agency received 20 new SNAP submissions, and in 2021 the Agency received 13 submissions. In the first 10 months of 2022, the Agency received 6 submissions, although multiple submissions applied for more than 5 end-uses. Many of the recent SNAP submissions, and those anticipated over the next three years, are for chemicals previously found acceptable for other SNAP applications or for blends of alternatives already found acceptable. The burden of developing supporting information for the majority of these submissions is expected to decrease because it is easier to find and review information for substitutes that have been reviewed previously.

There is an estimated 20% reduction in the number of respondents responsible for recordkeeping for substitutes acceptable subject to use conditions and narrowed use limits. This reduction is expected because the increased availability of alternatives decreases the need for industry to use alternatives previously listed as

acceptable subject to narrowed use limits.

Courtney Kerwin,

Director, Regulatory Support Division.

[FR Doc. 2023-13958 Filed 6-29-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[FRL OP-OFA-075]

Environmental Impact Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information 202-564-5632 or <https://www.epa.gov/nepa>.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

Filed June 16, 2023 10 a.m. EST

Through June 26, 2023, 10 a.m. EST

Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

Notice

Section 309(a) of the Clean Air Act requires that EPA make public its comments on EISs issued by other Federal agencies. EPA's comment letters on EISs are available at: <https://cdxapps.epa.gov/cdx-enepa-II/public/action/eis/search>.

EIS No. 20230078, Draft, NSA, MD, O'Brien Road Access Modernization, Comment Period Ends: 08/14/2023, Contact: Jeffrey Williams 301-688-2970.

EIS No. 20230079, Draft, USAF, CA, KC-46A Main Operating Base Beddown, Comment Period Ends: 08/14/2023, Contact: Austin Naranjo 478-222-9225.

EIS No. 20230080, Final, USN, VA, Disposal of Decommissioned, Defueled Ex-Enterprise (CVN 65) and its Associated Naval Reactor Plants, Review Period Ends: 07/31/2023, Contact: Amanda Stuhldreher 202-781-6368.

EIS No. 20230081, Draft Supplement, USPS, DC, Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Next Generation Delivery Vehicle Acquisitions, Comment Period Ends: 08/14/2023, Contact: Davon Collins 202-268-4570.

Dated: June 26, 2023.

Cindy S. Barger,

Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.

[FR Doc. 2023-13926 Filed 6-29-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0068; FRL-11125-01-OMS]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; Comment Request; NSPS for VOC Emissions From Petroleum Refinery Wastewater Systems (Renewal)

AGENCY: Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has submitted an information collection request (ICR), NSPS for VOC Emissions from Petroleum Refinery Wastewater Systems (EPA ICR Number 1136.14, OMB Control Number 2060-0172) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act. This is a proposed extension of the ICR, which is currently approved through August 31, 2023. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on July 22, 2022 during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before July 31, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, referencing Docket ID Number EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0068, to EPA online using www.regulations.gov (our preferred method), by email to a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov, or by mail to: EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes profanity, threats, information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI), or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute.

Submit written comments and recommendations to OMB for the proposed information collection within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this specific information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Muntasir Ali, Sector Policies and Program Division (D243-05), Office of

DRAFT EIS NOA NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

The notice below was published in the Legal Notice Section of the *Baltimore Sun* on June 12, 2023.



View more classifieds online at baltimoresun.com

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS
Environmental Impact Statement for the O'Brien Road Access Modification
 At Fort Meade, Maryland
 The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the environmental planning process for the O'Brien Road Access Modification (ORAM) project at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The DoD is also completing Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. The DoD proposes to implement the ORAM project which would entail relocation and upgrade of inspection facilities, upgrade of access roads, and corresponding roadway improvements for Mages, O'Brien, Interstates, and antenna roads on Fort Meade. The purpose of the proposed project is to construct facilities and infrastructure to allow for increased capacity for required security processing of traffic and deliveries entering Fort Meade and the NSA campus. The need for the proposed project is to address inefficiencies with current infrastructure and capacity issues. The Proposed Action would consist of construction of a new VCPs along O'Brien Road, construction of a new VCP with adjacent Visitor Control Center, construction of a new Mail Screening Facility (MSF) adjacent to the VCP, reconfiguration of the Mages Road ACS, roadway improvement to provide enhanced routing and separation of traffic between NSA and Fort Meade entering from MGS 32 and 198, demolition of the existing VCPs, VCP, MSF, and Mages Road ACS, and associated infrastructure, including sidewalks, inspection canopies, dog kennels, surface parking areas, stormwater management facilities, and utilities. The EIS considers two layout options for the ORAM project, and the No Action Alternative.

The DoD invites public and agency input on the Draft EIS. Copies of the Draft EIS are available for your review on the project website at <https://www.usa.army.mil/oram> and at the Medal of Honor Memorial Library, 4418 Llewellyn Avenue, Fort Meade, MD 20755; Glen Burnie Regional Library, 1010 Eastway, Glen Burnie, MD 21061; Odenton Regional Library, 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113; and Severn Community Library, 2624 Annapolis Road, Severn, MD 21144. You may also call (301) 688-2970 or send an email to ORAM@hrcinc.com to request a copy of the Draft EIS. On July 19, 2023, the DoD will hold a virtual public meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. via the webex platform. Access and registration details are available on the project website at <https://www.usa.army.mil/oram>. The public meeting may end earlier or later than the stated time depending on the number of persons wishing to speak. Verbal comments will be received at the public meeting. You can also submit written comments addressed to "ORAM EIS," c/o HDR, 2640 Park Tower Drive, Suite 403, Vienna, VA 22180 or submitted by email to ORAM@hrcinc.com. Written comments are requested by July 24, 2023, to ensure sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the Final EIS.

Comments on this Proposed Action are requested. Verbal and written comments may be published in the EIS. Any personal information provided will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment portions of the EIS process or to fulfill requests for copies of the EIS or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final EIS. Only the names of private citizens will appear in the EIS; personal addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

6/12/23 7448/35

BALTIMORE CITY

The Law Office of Stephen L. Harker
 35 Fullord Avenue, Suite 203
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
 FOR BALTIMORE CITY
 Case No. 24-C-19-000370

ATCF REO HOLDINGS, LLC
 Plaintiff

v.

NORMAN H. REID AND JULIA H. REID AND HILTOP MORTGAGE COMPANY AND MARINE FAYE LIBOWITZ AND MAXINE FAYE LIBOWITZ REVOCABLE TRUST AND MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY, et al. And heirs, devisees, personal representatives, and executors, administrators, grantees, assigns or successors in right, title, interest, unknown owners and any and all persons having or claiming to have any interest in the property and premises situate in the City of Baltimore

Property: 1547 Sherwood Ave. Cert. No.: 324750 Lot Size: 19x115 Ward: 27 Section: 60 Block: 52378 Lot: 040

Ass'd to: NORMAN REID

Defendants

SECOND AMENDED ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property in the State of Maryland, City of Baltimore, sold by the Collector of Taxes for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland to the plaintiff in this proceeding:

Property: 1547 Sherwood Ave. Cert. No.: 324750 Lot Size: 19x115 Ward: 27 Section: 60 Block: 52378 Lot: 040

Ass'd to: NORMAN REID

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amount necessary for redemption has not been paid, although more than six (6) months from the date of sale has expired. It is thereupon this 3rd day of May, 2023, by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City,

ORDERED, that notice be given by the insertion of a copy of this Order in THE BALTIMORE SUN, a newspaper having a general circulation in Baltimore City once a week for three successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the said properties to be and appear in this Court by the 2nd day of July, 2023, and redeem the Property, and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a final judgment will be rendered foreclosing all rights of redemption in this Property and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Judge Christopher Panos
 The Judge's Signature appears on the original document

XAVIER A. CONAWAY
 XAVIER A. CONAWAY, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 000370

BALTIMORE CITY

The Law Office of Stephen L. Harker
 35 Fullord Avenue, Suite 203
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
 FOR BALTIMORE CITY
 Case No. 24-C-23-000330

ATCF I MARYLAND, LLC,
 LUMENTUM AS CUSTODIAN
 35 Fullord Avenue, Suite 203
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014
 Plaintiff

v.

JOYCE M. COLEMAN AND IRA MERN AND THE STATE OF MARYLAND AND THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE CITY And heirs, devisees, personal representatives, and executors, administrators, grantees, assigns or successors in right, title, interest, unknown owners and any and all persons having or claiming to have any interest in the property and premises situate in the City of Baltimore

Property: 3906 Cedardale Rd. Cert. No.: 365699 Lot Size: 18-8x100 Ward: 15 Section: 24 Block: 3100H Lot: 031

Ass'd to: Joyce M. Coleman

AMENDED ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The object of this proceeding is to secure the foreclosure of all rights of redemption in the following property in the State of Maryland, City of Baltimore, sold by the Collector of Taxes for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland to the plaintiff in this proceeding:

Property: 3906 Cedardale Rd. Cert. No.: 365699 Lot Size: 18-8x100 Ward: 15 Section: 24 Block: 3100H Lot: 031

Ass'd to: Joyce M. Coleman

The Complaint states, among other things, that the amount necessary for redemption has not been paid, although more than six (6) months from the date of sale has expired. It is thereupon this 15th day of May, 2023, by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City,

ORDERED, that notice be given by the insertion of a copy of this Order in THE BALTIMORE SUN, a newspaper having a general circulation in Baltimore City once a week for three successive weeks, warning all persons interested in the said properties to be and appear in this Court by the 15th day of June, 2023, and redeem the Property, and answer the Complaint, or thereafter a final judgment will be rendered foreclosing all rights of redemption in this Property and vesting in the Plaintiff a title, free and clear of all encumbrances.

Judge Shannon Avey
 The Judge's Signature appears on the original document

XAVIER A. CONAWAY
 XAVIER A. CONAWAY, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
 000330

The notice below was published in the *Washington Post* on June 12, 2023.

7/6/23, 7:19 AM

Public Notices | The Washington Post

Official Notices



Published in The Washington Post on June 12, 2023

Location

Washington, DC

Notice Text

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS Environmental Impact Statement for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization at Fort Meade, Maryland The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as part of the environmental planning process for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM) project at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The DoD is also completing Section 106 consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. The DoD proposes to implement the ORAM project, which would entail renovation and upgrade of inspection facilities, upgrade of access facilities, and corresponding roadway improvements for Mapes, O'Brien, Perimeter, and Venona Roads on Fort Meade. The purpose of the proposed project is to construct facilities and infrastructure to allow for increased capacity for required security processing of traffic and deliveries entering Fort Meade and the NSA campus. The need for the proposed project is to address inefficiencies with current infrastructure and capacity issues. The Proposed Action would consist of construction of a new VCP5 along O'Brien Road, construction of a new VCIF with adjacent Visitor Control Center, construction of a new Mail Screening Facility (MSF) adjacent to the VCIF, reconfiguration of the Mapes Road ACF, roadway improvement to provide enhanced routing and separation of traffic between NSA and Fort Meade entering from MDs 32 and 198, demolition of the existing VCP5, VCIF, MSF, and Mapes Road ACF, and associated infrastructure, including sidewalks, inspection canopies, dog kennels, surface parking areas, stormwater management facilities, and utilities. The EIS considers two layout options for the ORAM project, and the No Action Alternative. The DoD invites public and agency input on the Draft EIS. Copies of the Draft EIS are available for your review on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram> and at the Medal of Honor Memorial Library, 4418 Llewellyn Avenue, Fort Meade, MD 20755; Glen Burnie Regional Library, 1010 Eastway, Glen Burnie, MD 21060; Odenton Regional Library, 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113; and Severn Community Library, 2624 Annapolis Road, Severn, MD 21144. You may also call (301) 688-2970 or send an email to ORAM@hdrinc.com to request a copy of the Draft EIS. On July 19, 2023, the DoD will hold a virtual public meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. via the Webex platform. Access and registration details are available on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram>. The public meeting may end earlier or later than the stated time depending on the number of persons wishing to speak. Verbal comments will be received at the public meeting. You can also submit written comments addressed to ORAM EIS, c/o HDR, 2640 Park Tower Drive, Suite 400, Vienna, VA 22180 or submitted by email to ORAM@hdrinc.com. Written comments are requested by July 24, 2023, to ensure sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the Final EIS. Comments on this Proposed Action are requested. Verbal and written comments may be published in the EIS. Any personal information provided will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment portions of the EIS process or to fulfill requests for copies of the EIS or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final EIS. Only the names of private citizens will appear in the EIS; personal addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

DRAFT EIS INTERESTED PARTY LIST

The following agencies and individuals were sent copies of the Draft EIS.

Federally Elected Officials

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin, U.S. Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen, U.S. Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Andrew Harris, M.D
U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 1st
District
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 2nd
District
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Sarbanes
U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 3rd
District
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Glenn Ivey
U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 4th
District
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 5th
District
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Trone
U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 6th
District
1110 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kweisi Mfume
U.S. House of Representatives Maryland's 7th
District
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
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The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone, Maryland State
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The Honorable James Rosapepe, Maryland
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Prince George's & Anne Arundel County, District
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DRAFT EIS NOA GENERAL STAKEHOLDER DISTRIBUTION LETTER



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

June 12, 2023

Memorandum for: Federal, State, and Local Public Agencies, Interested Parties, and Members of the Public

RE: Environmental Impact Statement for the National Security Agency (NSA)
O'Brien Road Access Modernization at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM) project at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland (hereafter referred to as Fort Meade). The DoD proposes to implement the ORAM project, which would entail renovation and upgrade of inspection facilities, upgrade of access facilities, and corresponding roadway improvements for Mapes, O'Brien, Perimeter, and Venona Roads on Fort Meade. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to construct facilities and infrastructure to allow for increased capacity for required security processing of traffic and deliveries entering Fort Meade and the NSA campus. The need for the proposed project is to address inefficiencies with current infrastructure and capacity issues. The Draft EIS has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.). A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on June 9, 2023, formally initiating a 45-day public review period.

The DoD invites public and agency input on the Draft EIS. On July 19, 2023, the DoD will hold a virtual public meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. via the Webex platform. Access and registration details are available on the project website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram>. The public meeting may end earlier or later than the stated time depending on the number of persons wishing to speak.

Verbal and written comments will be received at the public meeting and considered in the preparation of the Final EIS. You can also submit written comments by email to ORAM@hdrinc.com. Written comments are requested by July 24, 2023, to ensure sufficient time to consider public input in preparation of the Final EIS.

Copies of the Draft EIS are available for your review at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram> and at the Medal of Honor Memorial Library, 4418 Llewellyn Avenue, Fort Meade, MD 20755; the Glen Burnie Regional Library, 1010 Eastway, Glen Burnie, MD 21060; the Odenton Regional Library, 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113; and the Severn Community Library, 2624 Annapolis Road, Severn, MD 21144. To request a copy of the Draft EIS, you may call (301) 688-2970 or send an email to ORAM@hdrinc.com.

Your comments on the Draft EIS are requested. Written and verbal comments may be published in the EIS. Any personal information provided will be used only to identify your desire to make a statement during the public comment portions of the EIS process or to fulfill requests for copies of the EIS or associated documents. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final EIS. However, only the names of private citizens will appear in the EIS; personal addresses and phone numbers will not be published.

Your input and comment are greatly appreciated. If you need additional information, please contact me at (301) 688-2970 or send an email to jdwill2@nsa.gov for additional information. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Williams

Jeffrey D. Williams
Sr. Environmental Engineer, Sustainability and
Environmental Compliance

DRAFT EIS NOA TRIBAL DISTRIBUTION LETTER (EXAMPLE)



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland 20755

June 12, 2023

Keith Colston, Administrative Director
Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the National Security Agency (NSA)
O'Brien Road Access Modernization at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

Dear Mr. Colston:

The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM) project at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland (hereafter referred to as Fort Meade). The DoD proposes to implement the ORAM project, which would entail renovation and upgrade of inspection facilities, upgrade of access facilities, and corresponding roadway improvements for Mapes, O'Brien, Perimeter, and Venona Roads on Fort Meade. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to construct facilities and infrastructure to allow for increased capacity for required security processing of traffic and deliveries entering Fort Meade and the NSA campus. The need for the proposed project is to address inefficiencies with current infrastructure and capacity issues. A Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS was published in the *Federal Register* on June 9, 2023, to announce the 45-day public review period.

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A copy of the Draft EIS is available for your review at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/oram> and also at the Medal of Honor Memorial Library, 4418 Llewellyn Avenue, Fort Meade, MD 20755; the Glen Burnie Regional Library, 1010 Eastway, Glen Burnie, MD 21060; the Odenton Regional Library, 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD 21113; and the Severn Community Library, 2624 Annapolis Road, Severn, MD 21144.

The purpose of this correspondence is to solicit your comments on the Draft EIS and Proposed Action, Alternatives, and environmental analysis therein. To assist us in complying with NEPA and Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, and in identifying environmental issues that might affect the design or implementation of the project, we request that you provide appropriate comments within your area of expertise, by July 24, 2023, to ORAM EIS, c/o HDR, 2650 Park Tower

Drive, Suite 400, Vienna, VA 22180 or via email at ORAM@hdrinc.com. Your input and comment are greatly appreciated. If you need additional information, please contact me at (301) 688-2970 or email jdwill2@nsa.gov. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Williams

Jeffrey D. Williams
Sr. Environmental Engineer, Sustainability and
Environmental Compliance

DRAFT EIS PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION

*Environmental Impact Statement for the
O'Brien Road Access Modernization at Fort Meade*

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

Department of Defense

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

*Environmental Impact Statement for the
O'Brien Road Access Modernization at Fort Meade*

ORAM PROJECT AREA MAP



Department of Defense

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.

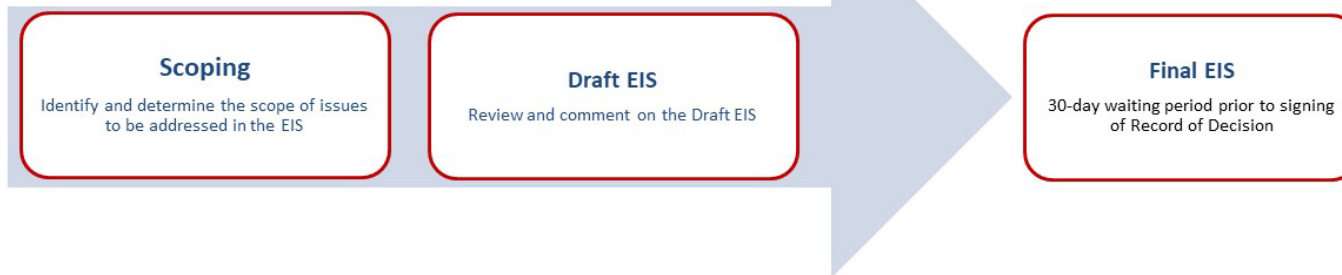
HOW TO MAKE COMMENTS

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:
<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**

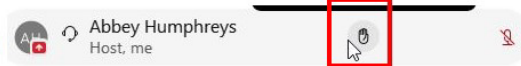


- **Smartphone or tablet:**

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.

DRAFT EIS PUBLIC MEETING TRANSCRIPT

Page 1

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

Wednesday, July 19, 2023
5:30 p.m.

1 MR. SOLOMON: Welcome to the Draft
2 Environmental Impact Statement public meeting
3 for the proposed O'Brien Road Access
4 Modernization, or ORAM, project for the
5 Department of Defense, or DoD At Fort Meade,
6 Maryland.

7 My name is Patrick Solomon, and I
8 represent the HDR-Tehama Joint Venture or JV,
9 the contractor team preparing the Environmental
10 Impact Statement, or EIS.

11 Also present from the HDR-Tehama JV are
12 Hilary Rummel and Abbey Humphreys.

13 Before the presentation gets further
14 underway, I'd like to cover a few important
15 details. If you haven't yet been added to the
16 mailing list for this EIS, please send an email
17 with your name and address as discussed on the
18 last slide of the forthcoming presentation, and
19 you will be entered into the mailing list to
20 receive announcements regarding this project.

21 This meeting provides information on the
22 proposed ORAM project at Fort Meade, defines
23 the Proposed Action and Alternatives, and
24 discusses the environmental impact analysis
25 process that was undertaken as part of the

1 Draft EIS that was recently released for review
2 and comment. We will then identify ways for you
3 to make written comments to help us identify
4 issues or concerns with the environmental
5 analysis.

6 The National Environmental Policy Act, or
7 NEPA, establishes the process that federal
8 agencies are to follow, so that agency
9 officials can make decisions that are based on
10 an understanding of environmental consequences,
11 and take actions that protect, restore, or
12 enhance the environment. The NEPA
13 decision-making process is founded on using
14 accurate scientific analysis, expert agency
15 comments, and public scrutiny to identify the
16 environmental and socioeconomic issues that are
17 truly significant.

18 A Draft EIS has been prepared for the ORAM
19 project. An EIS is the most detailed analysis
20 prescribed by the Council on Environmental
21 Quality's, or CEQ's, regulations for
22 implementing NEPA. The EIS is a public
23 document that describes in detail the Proposed
24 Action, all alternatives that were considered,
25 and the environmental impacts of implementing

1 the Proposed Action, reasonable alternatives,
2 and the No Action Alternative. The ORAM EIS
3 has been prepared consistent with NEPA and the
4 CEQ NEPA regulations, as well as DoD's and the
5 Army's policies for implementing NEPA.

6 With that, I will turn it over to Hilary
7 Rummel from Tehama, who will provide
8 information about public involvement as well as
9 the Proposed Action and Alternatives.

10 MS. RUMMEL: Public involvement is
11 fundamental aspect of the NEPA process. As
12 such, DoD is seeking input from agencies and
13 the public on the Draft EIS, including the
14 Proposed Action, possible alternative, and
15 potential environmental impacts.

16 A Notice of Availability was published on
17 June 9, 2023 and the Draft EIS was released
18 online and at local public libraries for public
19 input.

20 The intent of this public meeting is to
21 receive your comments on the Draft EIS. In
22 addition to the opportunity to provide verbal
23 comments during this meeting, written comments
24 on the Draft EIS can be submitted until July
25 24, 2023 through the mailing address and e-mail

1 listed on the screen. Comments received on the
2 Draft EIS will become public record and will be
3 considered in preparation of the Final EIS.
4 Following publication of the Final EIS, there
5 will be a 30-day waiting period prior to
6 signature of the decision-making document for
7 this project, which is called the Record of
8 Decision, or ROD.

9 There may be aspects and details of the
10 Proposed Action that are classified; therefore,
11 the Draft EIS presents the Proposed Action and
12 Alternatives in enough detail to describe the
13 types and magnitudes of environmental impacts
14 while also ensuring that sensitive information
15 will be safeguarded.

16 The DoD decision-maker for this project
17 will use the analysis and information in the
18 Final EIS in conjunction with other relevant
19 materials to decide the ultimate course of
20 action.

21 The ORAM project map depicts the proposed
22 project area on Fort Meade, including the
23 location of the existing Vehicle Control
24 Inspection Facility, or VCIF, Vehicle Control
25 Point 5, or VCP 5, and the Mapes Road Access

1 Control Facility, or ACF.

2 DoD proposes to renovate and upgrade
3 inspection and access facilities for the
4 National Security Agency's, or NSA's, campus on
5 Fort Meade. The purpose of the Proposed Action
6 is to increase efficiencies and capacity for
7 required security processing of deliveries and
8 traffic entering Fort Meade and the NSA campus.
9 Additionally, major construction projects have
10 generated change in Fort Meade traffic
11 distribution resulting expensive delays for
12 inspection and access. The action,
13 collectively called ORAM, is needed to meet
14 increased mission and security capacity both at
15 Fort Meade and within the Intelligence
16 Community.

17 The existing VCIF and VCP5 represent two
18 significant entry points for access to the NSA
19 campus. The main access from the southwest and
20 Maryland State Route 32 to Fort Meade and the
21 NSA Campus occurs via the Mapes Road ACF. All
22 these facilities require replacement due to
23 process inefficiencies and insufficient
24 capacity to meet current and future demands.

25 The Proposed Action would consist of

1 construction of a new VCP5 along O'Brien Road
2 construction of a new VCIF with adjacent
3 visitor control center; construction of a new
4 Mail Screening Facility adjacent to the VCIF;
5 reconfiguration of the Mapes Road ACF;
6 improvement of the roadway to provide enhanced
7 routing and separation of traffic between the
8 NSA and Fort Meade entering from Maryland State
9 Routes 32 and 198; demolition of the existing
10 VCP5, VCIF, Mail Screening Facility, and Mapes
11 Road ACF; and construction of associated
12 infrastructure including sidewalks, inspection
13 canopies, dog kennels, surface parking areas,
14 stormwater management facilities, and
15 utilities.

16 Two proposed alternatives are analyzed in
17 the EIS, which are variations on the Proposed
18 Action presenting slightly different routing
19 and facility location options.

20 Alternative one, the preferred
21 alternative, would utilize an overpass for
22 inbound vehicle while Alternative two would
23 utilize a double-lane roundabout for vehicle
24 movement. Both alternatives would minimize
25 impacts on sensitive environmental systems,

1 such as wetlands, to the extent practicable,
2 while maintaining mission efficiency for both
3 the NSA and Fort Meade.

4 The EIS also analyzes the no-action
5 alternative, not implementing ORAM, to provide
6 a baseline of the existing conditions against
7 which potential environmental and socioeconomic
8 impacts of the Proposed Action and alternative
9 actions are compared.

10 I will now let Abbey Humphreys from HDR
11 speak to the summary of environmental impacts
12 and how to comment on the Draft EIS.

13 MS. HUMPHREYS: The EIS focuses on those
14 resources potentially subject to impacts from
15 the Proposed Action or alternative, including
16 the no-action alternative. The environmental
17 resource areas analyzed in the EIS include land
18 use and visual resources, transportation,
19 noise, air quality, geological resources, water
20 resources, biological resources and wetlands,
21 cultural resources, infrastructure,
22 sustainability, hazardous materials and wastes,
23 and socioeconomics and environmental justice.

24 The environmental impacts would generally
25 be the same for both alternatives considered

1 for the Proposed Action. Construction and
2 demolition associated with the Proposed Action
3 would result in ground disturbance, noise, and
4 presence of construction equipment with
5 short-term and/or temporary, minor to moderate,
6 adverse impacts. Of the resource areas, most
7 would experience long-term, negligible to
8 moderate, adverse impacts from implementation
9 of the ORAM project, including noise, water
10 resources, geological resources, and land use
11 and visual resources. Biological resources,
12 including wetlands, and coastal zone resources,
13 are anticipated to experience long-term, minor
14 to major, adverse impacts due to disturbance
15 and permanent fill of wetlands and anticipated
16 tree removal and conversion of forested land to
17 open fields.

18 Long-term, moderate to major beneficial
19 impacts, however, would be expected for land
20 use and traffic due to the improved traffic
21 flow and installation access for the NSA and
22 Fort Meade Garrison.

23 Long-term, minor to moderate minor to
24 moderate, beneficial effects on sustainability
25 would also occur due to the use of sustainable

1 strategies, including strategic planning for
2 water efficiency and energy conservation and
3 long-term, negligible, beneficial impacts on
4 air quality would occur due to a decrease in
5 mobile air emissions from decreased vehicle
6 idling times.

7 Because the Proposed Action has the
8 potential to result in adverse environmental
9 impacts, the EIS includes best management
10 practices or BMPs, mitigation measures, and
11 design concepts to avoid adverse impacts to the
12 extent practicable. Unavoidable impacts would
13 be minimized or compensated to the extent
14 practicable. In accordance with CEQ NEPA
15 regulations, mitigation measures are considered
16 for adverse environmental impacts. If a
17 particular impact associated with a Proposed
18 Action is considered significant, then
19 mitigation measures are developed where it is
20 feasible to do so. For the Proposed Action,
21 wetlands or associated wetland buffers within
22 the project area would be impacted; therefore,
23 consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of
24 Engineers Baltimore District Regulatory
25 Division and Maryland Department of the

Environment would be required throughout design and construction. Impacts on wetlands would be minimized through the use of buffers during construction as well as culverts incorporated into project design and construction. Wetlands and waters of the U.S. impacts that cannot be avoided would require permitting under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Mitigation options include wetland restoration, enhancement, or creation on or off site; banking; and credits. The mitigation strategy for the Proposed Action would be determined by the final design and level of wetland impacts identified during the design process.

Pursuant to CEQ regulations, the DoD invites public participation in the NEPA process. Anyone wishing to provide comments, suggestions, or relevant information on the Proposed Action and alternatives may do so using one of the following methods: By postal mail to ORAM EIS, care of HDR, 2650 Park Tower Drive, Suite 400, Vienna, Virginia 22180 or by e-mail to ORAM@hdrinc.com.

Comments and related material on the Draft EIS must be received by July 24, 2023, to be

1 considered in the Final EIS. If you submit a
2 comment, include your name and address, and
3 identify your comments as for the "ORAM EIS".
4 Please be aware that written and oral
5 statements could be published in the EIS.
6 Private addresses will be compiled to develop a
7 mailing list for those requesting copies of the
8 Final EIS. However, only the names of private
9 citizens will appear in the EIS; personal
10 addresses and phone numbers will not be
11 published.

12 After the close of the public comment
13 period on the Draft EIS, a Final EIS will be
14 prepared. All substantive comments received
15 during the Draft EIS comment period will be
16 documented in and attached to the Final EIS.
17 The Final EIS will also be made available for
18 review prior to any decisions being made.

19 Prior to any decisions being made, DoD
20 will release a ROD. We welcome your views and
21 concerns regarding environmental issues
22 associated with the ORAM project at Fort Meade.

23 I will now turn it over to Liz Stoppelman
24 from HDR, who will be the moderator for the
25 public comment portion of our meeting.

1 MS. STOPPELMANN: My role for this
2 evening, as moderator, is to facilitate the
3 public comment process. The goal is to ensure
4 that every speaker has the opportunity to make
5 the comments that they would like to be heard
6 by this group.

7 Before we open the floor to comments, I'd
8 like to address the ground rules for
9 commenting: Please begin making your comments
10 by stating your name and any affiliation you
11 have so that the stenographer can transcribe it
12 correctly for the record. If you have any
13 written comments in addition to your verbal
14 comments, please submit those via the mailing
15 address or e-mail address already provided to
16 be included in the record.

17 Written and verbal comments will receive
18 the same consideration, so you only need to use
19 one method when providing a comment.

20 If you have questions on the project or
21 you would like to request clarification on
22 analysis in the Draft EIS, you can submit your
23 questions as a part of your verbal comment or
24 in writing to the mailing address specified for
25 the project's public comment process. DoD will

1 respond in writing in the Final EIS as part of
2 responding to all substantive comments.

3 To add your name into the queue to make a
4 comment, via WebEx or phone virtually raise
5 your hand or press star 3 if you're calling in
6 and your name will be called in chronological
7 order.

8 At this time, we will begin announcing
9 names of those individuals who wish to come
10 forward and make a comment in order.

11 We will go through the queue, one
12 commenter at a time. Each commenter will have
13 3 minutes to make their comment.

14 To help our court reporter transcribing
15 tonight's hearing, please begin by stating your
16 full name and the name of the organization, if
17 any, that you represent. It will also help if
18 you spell your name. Please state your address
19 if you want to be notified of the availability
20 of the Final EIS. You can also provide your
21 address in the comment form on the project
22 website.

23 Again, your comments will be recorded
24 verbatim. They will become part of the
25 transcript and permanent record of this hearing

1 and will be published in the Final EIS. Your
2 name will be included along with your comments.
3 Personal home addresses and phone numbers will
4 not be published in the Final EIS.

5 The procedure allows for 3 minutes to each
6 speaker, but you do not have to speak for the
7 full 3 minutes. We have a timekeeper to help
8 you keep track of the time. You will be given
9 notice through a verbal cue when you have about
10 30 seconds left, and then I will state when
11 your 3 minutes are up. At that time, please
12 conclude your comments so I can call on the
13 next person. You do not need to yield any
14 remaining time to someone else; I will just
15 move on to the next speaker when you have
16 finished.

17 Also, in the interest of time, we ask that
18 you submit any individual recordings or
19 presentations as written comments.

20 Tonight's hearing is set to end at
21 7:00 p.m. or sooner if it is determined there
22 are no more comments to be heard. If everyone
23 who signed up to speak has had a chance to do
24 so before that time, I will ask if any speaker
25 would like another 3 minutes to expand on your

1 comments. If you want to do that, please,
2 again, follow the teleconference prompt to
3 register to comment, then we will call you from
4 the queue and put another 3 minutes back on the
5 clock for you.

6 The floor is open for public comment.

7 At this time, I don't see anyone queued
8 for public comment.

9 Please see the instructions on the slide
10 to queue for comment or press star 3 to raise
11 your hand.

12 I do see a call in. A call-in user has
13 raised their hand, so I will go and send you a
14 request to unmute.

15 Call-in user, can you speak at this time?

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. This is
17 Jeffrey Williams.

18 MS. STOPPELMANN: Hi, Jeffrey.

19 MR. WILLIAMS: At least I figured I would
20 test the system and anybody on the phone can
21 hear that it works.

22 MS. STOPPELMANN: Thank you, Jeffrey.

23 Do you have any additional comment at this
24 time or were you only testing that it worked?

25 MR. WILLIAMS: I was only testing that it

1 worked.

2 MS. STOPPELMANN: Okay, I will go ahead
3 and mute your line and put you back in the main
4 area. Thank you for testing. I will also
5 lower your hand.

6 Thank you.

7 So, we have no one queued right now, so,
8 I'll go ahead and we'll allow 10 minutes
9 available if someone joins.

10 (Whereupon, a short recess was
11 taken.)

12 Quick update: As we have no hands raised,
13 we'll keep the line open for about another 5
14 minutes to see if any hands are raised to
15 public comment. Again, you can see the
16 instructions on the screen, or if you're
17 calling in, you can go ahead and press star 3
18 to raise your hand.

19 If no comments are received in the next 5
20 minutes, then we'll proceed to conclude this
21 meeting.

22 (Whereupon, a short recess was
23 taken.)

24 Thank you, everyone, for joining this
25 evening. For the record, we received no

1 comments during this public meeting, so now the
2 meeting is adjourned.

3 Thank you and have a good evening.

4 (Time noted: 6:05 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, ESTAMARIE CASTELLI-VELEZ, a Shorthand Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of New York, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and accurate transcript to the best of my knowledge and ability.

I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or by marriage and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.



ESTAMARIE CASTELLI-VELEZ

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DRAFT EIS PUBLIC COMMENTS

#	Commenter/Agency Name	Comment Subject	Comment	Proposed DoD Response
1			minimized.	
2	Jennifer Greiner (Patuxent Wildlife Refuge)	Biological Resources (wildlife/habitat), Water Resources, Infrastructure (stormwater)	We have concerns about the increase in impervious surfaces associated with roadways, facilities and infrastructure proposed in the Project Area. Specifically, we are concerned about the potential cumulative impact of increased runoff of road salt, sediment, and trash into Midway Branch and other streams leading to the Little Patuxent River, which provides important habitat to sensitive freshwater mussel species.	Best management practices for management of sediment and runoff would be implemented during construction and operation, to minimize potential impacts on surface waters from potential increased runoff and associated sedimentation and contaminants.
3	Jennifer Greiner (Patuxent Wildlife Refuge)	Transportation (traffic)		

			Meade plans to request a signal or traffic circle at this intersection?	traffic deviation to other Fort Meade gates, which may also alleviate traffic into the Mapes Road gate. The final traffic design will be coordinated with Fort Meade and the Refuge's concern will be taken into consideration.
4	Maryland Department of Planning	Land Use	The implementation of the ORAM project will lead to the construction of facilities and infrastructure to allow for increased capacity for required security processing of traffic and deliveries entering the Fort Meade/National Security Agency (NSA) campus. Although federal land is not subject to county or municipality zoning or land use policies, the project is supported by the Anne Arundel County General Development Plan: Plan 2040, as the plan integrates land use and transportation policy to support development for critical economic areas such as Fort Meade. A key recommendation of the county's Transportation Functional Master Plan is to upgrade county corridors and community cores as well as improve regional corridors to make commutes more reliable (included in Plan2040 on page 55). The project site/Fort Meade community is located within a Priority Funding Area.	Thank you for your review and support of the Proposed Action.
5	Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)	Cultural Resources	The MHT determined that the project will have "no effect" on historic properties and that the federal and/or State historic preservation requirements have been met, as follows: "No ADVERSE effect on historic properties (DLH – 202302559)."	Thank you for your concurrence on the finding of "no effect" on historic properties from the proposed undertaking.
6	Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)	Air Quality (fugitive dust/particulate matter)	Construction, renovation and/or demolition of buildings and roadways must be performed in conformance with State regulations pertaining to 'Particulate Matter from Materials Handling and Construction' (COMAR 26.11.06.03D), requiring that during any construction and/or demolition work, reasonable precaution must be taken to prevent particulate matter, such as fugitive dust, from becoming airborne.	As mentioned in EIS Section 3.5.2, dust suppression techniques would be used during construction to reduce air pollution.
7	MDE	Geological Resources (soil contamination)	During the duration of the project, soil excavation/grading/site work will be performed; there is a potential for encountering soil contamination. If soil contamination is present, a permit for soil remediation is required from MDE's Air and Radiation	Text has been added to EIS Section 3.6.2 to reflect that the DoD would obtain a permit for soil remediation in the event soil contamination was

			Management Administration. Please contact the New Source Permits Division, Air and Radiation Management Administration at (410) 537-3230 to learn about the State's requirements for these permits.	encountered during construction and demolition activities.
8	MDE	Hazardous Materials and Wastes (ASTs/USTs)	Any above ground or underground petroleum storage tanks, which may be utilized, must be installed and maintained in accordance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations. Underground storage tanks must be registered and the installation must be conducted and performed by a contractor certified to install underground storage tanks by the Land and Materials Administration in accordance with COMAR 26.10. Contact the Oil Control Program at (410) 537-3442 for additional information.	Text has been added to EIS Section 3.12.2 to reflect that any potential AST required for the Proposed Action would be installed and maintained in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations. No new USTs would be required for the Proposed Action.
9	MDE	Hazardous Materials and Wastes (ASTs/USTs)	If the proposed project involves demolition – Any above ground or underground petroleum storage tanks that may be on site must have contents and tanks along with any contamination removed. Please contact the Oil Control Program at (410) 537-3442 for additional information.	As mentioned in EIS Section 3.12.2, the USTs within the project area would not be impacted by the Proposed Action. Should removal of existing ASTs or USTs be required, DoD would first remove any contents and tanks, and address any contamination as appropriate.
10	MDE	Infrastructure (Solid waste)	Any solid waste including construction, demolition and land clearing debris, generated from the subject project, must be properly disposed of at a permitted solid waste acceptance facility, or recycled if possible. Contact the Solid Waste Program at (410) 537-3315 for additional information regarding solid waste activities and contact the Resource Management Program at (410) 537-3314 for additional information regarding recycling activities.	As mentioned in EIS Section 3.10.2, waste generated from demolition and construction associated with the Proposed Action would be recycled to the maximum extent possible. Text has been added to reflect that solid waste generated during construction and demolition that is not possible to be recycled would be properly disposed of at a permitted solid waste acceptance facility.
11	MDE	Hazardous Materials and	The Solid Waste Program should be contacted directly at (410) 537-3315 by those facilities which generate or propose to generate or handle hazardous wastes to ensure these activities	As mentioned in EIS Section 3.12.2, the construction contractor would be responsible for disposing hazardous

				and petroleum wastes in accordance
12	MDE		The proposed project may involve rehabilitation, redevelopment, revitalization, or property acquisition of commercial, industrial property. Accordingly, MDE's Brownfields Site Assessment and Voluntary Cleanup Programs (VCP) may provide valuable assistance to you in this project. These programs involve environmental site assessment in accordance with accepted industry and financial institution standards for property transfer. For specific information about these programs and eligibility, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3437.	Comment noted. All development under the Proposed Action would occur on federally leased land.
13	MDE	Geological Resources (borrow pits)	Borrow areas used to provide clean earth back fill material may require a surface mine permit. Disposal of excess cut material at a surface mine may require site approval. Contact the Mining Program at (410) 537-3557 for further details.	
14	Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)	Coordination Requirements	Construction of these proposed improvements may require access to MDOT State Highway Administration right-of-way associated with MD 32. Please coordinate potential permitting with Mr. Trenton Cargile, MDOT State Highway Administration District 5 - Utilities Engineer, at 410-8411039 or email at tcargile@mdot.maryland.gov.	DoD would coordinate with the provided POC for any right-of-way access requirements.
15	Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works	General project design, Biological Resources, Water Resources (stream, wetland,	<p>The proposed roadway and construction plan here is not well conceived, and is likely to have dramatic impacts on streams/wetlands/forest within the project area.</p> <p>It looks like it was designed, essentially, without regard to those constraints, which seems corroborated by a statement like this on</p>	

		and forest impacts)		
16	Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning (OPZ)	Acknowledgement of Proposed Action	<p>As OPZ has no jurisdiction over site development planning on federal land, including forest conservation, stream and wetland buffer protection, we do not have comments to offer.</p> <p>As the study notes, there does not appear to be significant difference between the two alternatives with regard to long term environmental impacts."</p>	Thank you for your review.
17	U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOL)	Threatened and Endangered Species		The DoD will consider the USDOL's

			<p>Meade plans to revegetate with native plant species. The Department encourages the installation to increase monarch butterfly habitat within the project area's revegetated areas and stormwater features to the maximum extent practicable. Changes in species status under the Endangered Species Act would require additional consultation with the Service and may result in new guidance.</p> <p>Finally, the Department encourages Fort Meade to use wildlife-friendly construction standards in the development of new structures to minimize bird collisions with windows and impacts of nighttime lighting. The General Services Administration has guidance for bird-safe building design, and the Service is available to provide additional technical assistance.</p>											
18	USDOJ	Water Resources (groundwater wells)	<p>The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) operates groundwater wells throughout the U.S. to collect water quantity and quality data for a variety of purposes. These wells are permanent infrastructure and are vulnerable to disruption from nearby construction activity. The USGS maintains an active groundwater well for collecting water level data near the proposed O'Brien Road access modernization project.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>USGS Station Number</th><th>USGS Site Name</th><th>Location</th><th>State</th><th>Period of Record</th></tr> <tr> <td>390538076453001</td><td>AA Bb 67</td><td>Fort Meade</td><td>MD</td><td>1968-2022</td></tr> </table> <p>The Draft EIS should list this well as a site to be safeguarded and describe a process for coordination with the USGS during roadway construction. The USGS Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Water Science Center should be contacted and given sufficient advanced notice before construction near active USGS groundwater well. Efforts should be made to preserve the well and minimize impacts to the data collected at the site.</p>	USGS Station Number	USGS Site Name	Location	State	Period of Record	390538076453001	AA Bb 67	Fort Meade	MD	1968-2022	<p>The groundwater well located in the project area would be avoided, and appropriate best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to prevent potential contamination from nearby construction and demolition. Coordination with the USGS Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Water Science Center would occur as required prior to construction. Specific reference to the location of the well was removed from the EIS for security purposes, but brief discussion added to EIS Section 3.7 regarding existence of the well in the general project area and avoidance and implementation of BMPs to prevent potential contamination.</p>
USGS Station Number	USGS Site Name	Location	State	Period of Record										
390538076453001	AA Bb 67	Fort Meade	MD	1968-2022										

				Text and table added to EIS Chapter 2.
20	USEPA	Transportation	<p>Under Section 3.3.3, Cumulative Impacts it states, “the Proposed Action, when combined with the Mapes, Reece, and Venona Roads widening projects, is expected to have short- and long-term, minor to major, beneficial cumulative impacts resulting from improved traffic flow and increased operational efficiencies. These roadway improvement projects would help offset impacts from increased traffic associated with ongoing development on Fort Meade, including the PAF, CNMF, and East Campus development projects.” USEPA understands that several of these and other reasonably foreseeable projects may have concurrent construction timelines. Please discuss in the Final EIS which reasonably foreseeable projects have concurrent construction timelines and consider incorporating an annotated timeline of all the reasonably foreseeable projects disclosed in section 2.5. The Final EIS should discuss the potential cumulative impact of possible overlapping construction projects on local traffic and proposed mitigation measures, such as detour route signage and public outreach. We also suggest describing coordination efforts between the different project teams to minimize impacts to local community.</p>	<p>Construction timelines are not known for all the reasonably foreseeable actions. The ORAM project is not expected to be programmed for Military Construction funding until Fiscal Year 2027; concurrent projects at that time will be accounted for in the design and construction phases of the project. Text has been added to the Transportation section of the EIS (Section 3.3) discussing cumulative impacts of concurrent construction with the Proposed Action and reasonably foreseeable actions and coordination of NSA, Fort Meade, and the MDOT based on the available known timelines of the projects, or discusses the impacts qualitatively.</p>
21	USEPA	Noise		

				installation. DoD will evaluate whether to appropriately plan for a new noise study.
22	USEPA	Air Quality	<p>USEPA appreciates the consideration of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Interim Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change in the Draft EIS.</p> <p>USEPA finds that the Draft EIS does not have an analysis or discussion on the climate impact of the potentially permanent conversion of up to 30 acres of forested land to other land uses. The permanent conversion of these acres will reduce the forest's ecosystem service of carbon sequestration, and carbon dioxide capture. The impact of this reduction on climate change should be evaluated in the Final EIS as well as any measure taken to mitigate this reduction. USEPA suggests comparing the carbon sequestration capability of the intact forest that will be cleared to the proposed operational land use conditions. To help estimate increases and decreases in GHG emissions and carbon sequestration resulting from tree removal and replacement, a USDA document titled "Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Agriculture and Forestry: Methods for Entity-Scale Inventory" https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDATB1939_07072014.pdf may be useful.</p>	<p>The USDA document titled "Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Agriculture and Forestry: Methods for Entity-Scale Inventory" was reviewed and pertinent information incorporated. The methodology for measuring carbon sequestration capability was considered; however, detailed measurements could not be applied to the Proposed Action because detailed forest measurements were not available at the time of the analysis. Carbon emissions from forest removal was estimated using a generalized approach based on other applicable studies and available information for the ORAM project area.</p>
23	USEPA	Water Resources	<p>As a number of streams are located in the vicinity of the proposed action, the Final EIS would benefit from a detailed discussion of expected temporary and permanent impacts to biological, physical, and chemical characteristics of aquatic ecosystems from the construction and operation of facilities. Potential impacts not only include fill, but the construction, relocation, replacement, or expansion of road crossings, installation of new or upgraded utilities, and stormwater discharges. Issues to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing culvert crossings may be undersized or create barriers to passage for aquatic fauna and wildlife. We recommend that any existing culverts that may be used 	<p>As discussed in Section 3.7 (Water Resources) of the EIS, impacts would be expected on the unnamed tributary of the Little Patuxent River from increased sediment and erosion associated with construction and the increase in impervious surfaces. The wetland delineation for the project area will be used to identify specific wetlands and associated impacts and necessary mitigation measures as part of the Section 404 wetland permitting processes to be conducted during the</p>

			<p>or extended be assessed to ensure that impacts and barriers are not created or exacerbated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigative actions to improve the quality and functioning of stream and wetland resources onsite, such as upgrading inadequate road crossings and providing additional capacity for wildlife passage may provide beneficial impacts. <p>Under section 3.7.2.2 Alternative 1 Surface Water the Draft EIS states, "Proposed land disturbance activities may occur adjacent to, but not within, the highwater mark of existing tributaries and/or surface water bodies identified as WOTUS under Section 404 of the CWA." Please clarify, in the Final EIS, which existing tributaries and or water bodies will be directly impacted by the construction of the project and specify how surface waters may be impacted by the project.</p> <p>USEPA recommends DoD NSA have an Environmental Inspector onsite to inspect and document BMP installation and ensure BMP adherence during the construction phase of the ORAM. The Environmental Inspector should have the authority to stop construction operations if needed to address and document any deficiencies in a timely manner.</p>	<p>project design phase. Additionally, the design for the ORAM project still in early stages and is not yet finalized to determine specific impacts and locations. Text has been added to the Biological Resources section of the EIS (Section 3.8) to clarify that culverts would be appropriately sized to accommodate habitat connectivity for local wildlife. Text added to Section 3.7 regarding construction oversight, including environmental management and compliance, and MDE would perform periodic inspections. DoD will consider adding a requirement for a third-party inspector for the project to ensure that design requirements are being met by the construction contractor.</p>
24	USEPA	Biological Resources	<p>USEPA understands the total acreage of converted forest land and vegetation disturbed would depend on the final design, layout, and site of the proposed structures and facilities as well as the constraints of each site. However, USEPA finds the information provided in the Draft EIS is insufficient. The Draft EIS lacks information on the project potential impacts and alternative that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts as required under NEPA 102(c). Please include resource impact estimates in the Final EIS to disclose project impacts and inform the alternative analysis and Record of Decision.</p> <p>Under section 3.8.2.2 Alternative 1: Vegetation the Draft EIS states, "Soil disturbance could provide opportunities for nonnative and invasive species to establish or spread; however, these</p>	<p>Additional text has been added to the EIS Section 3.8.2.2 to clarify the reasoning behind the "negligible" impacts on invasive species spread. The section includes potential avoidance or mitigation measures for reducing invasive species spread during construction and maintenance.</p> <p>Due to space and built environment constraints, the final design of the ORAM project would result in loss of some of the existing forest and not allow for reforestation within the project</p>

		<p>impacts would be negligible.” It is not clear how the “negligible” determination was made. Please provide supporting information in the Final EIS. USEPA also recommends the Final EIS include an evaluation of the ORAM’s potential for dispersal of invasive species and a discussion of avoidance or mitigation actions that are expected to reduce impacts during construction and maintenance.</p> <p>Under 3.8.2.2. Alternative 1 Vegetation: the Draft EIS states “Groups of three or more landscape trees can be planted as part of reforestation techniques. Preservation of forested area or reforestation would be factored into the ORAM design process to maintain a campus-like environment while continuing to sustain and support current and future missions. Reforestation would occur on site or nearby.” USEPA does not believe that a tree planting strategy to maintain a “campus like” environment and introduction of “landscape trees” will replace the ecological function of the intact forest lost. If NSA decides to move forward using landscape trees, USEPA encourages the use of native species. To reduce habitat impacts and to preserve other ecological functions such as stormwater retention and water quality protection, USEPA recommends avoiding impacts to existing forested areas and large trees where possible, especially in riparian areas. We recommend that tree assessment data and a mitigation plan that identifies where tree replacement will be conducted to be included in the Final EIS. We further recommend evaluating opportunities for onsite riparian buffer enhancement.</p> <p>Section 3.8.2 Environmental Consequences Alternative 1 provides little to no information regarding the potential impacts to the 14,449 linear feet of streams within the project area. USEPA recommends that the Final EIS disclose impacts as well as outline specific measures expected to protect surface waters, including post-constructions stormwater management. As part of this analysis, it would be helpful to discuss how the proposed stormwater management facilities will protect water quality by addressing pollutants such as runoff from parking lots and</p>	<p>area. Impacts would be minimized to the extent practicable as discussed in the EIS. Section 3.8 (Biological Resources) has been revised to clarify habitat replacement methods, including DoD evaluating whether there is another place on Fort Meade where reforestation could occur.</p> <p>Impacts on streams and surface waters are discussed in EIS Section 3.7 (Water Resources). Additional BMPs have been listed in that section to address prevention of pollutant discharge via stormwater runoff.</p> <p>Per the provided memorandum, discussion has been added to the EIS addressing potential habitat connectivity loss and associated impacts.</p>
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			<p>roadways including thermal impacts, heavy metals, and petroleum/oils.</p> <p>In accordance with the March 21, 2023, CEQ Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Ecological Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors, USEPA recommend that the NSA fully consider habitat connectivity and corridors when designing the layout of the ORAM. This guidance indicates that Federal agencies should consider how their actions can support the management, long-term conservation, enhancement, protection, and restoration of year-round habitat, seasonal habitat, stopover habitat, wildlife corridors, watersheds, and other features and processes that promote connectivity. See https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/230318-Corridors-connectivity-guidance-memo-final-draft-formatted.pdf</p>	
25	USEPA	Environmental Justice	<p>On page 3-87 the Draft EIS states, “As defined by CEQ, minority or low-income environmental justice communities should be identified if the percentage of persons characterized as being a minority or low-income population in a given area is greater than 50 percent.” This statement is not completely accurate. CEQ states in Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act issued December 10, 1997 (CEQ 1997 Guidance) Minority populations should be identified where either: (a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or (b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis, and Low-income populations in an affected area should be identified with the annual statistical poverty thresholds from the Bureau of the Census’ Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty. USEPA recommends referring to the CEQ 1997 Guidance and updating the EJ analysis as appropriate.</p> <p>USEPA encourages the use of other methodologies to identify existing minority and low-income populations near or within the ORAM project site. Methodologies are discussed by several agencies including CEQ. For reference, see CEQ 1997 Guidance</p>	<p>The meaningfully greater method of identifying minority/low-income populations, along with the results of an EJSCREEN analysis for the project area, has been added to EIS Section 3.13. The results of this analysis, and that the functionality and land use of the project area within a military installation is not changing, and that there would not be any changes in traffic volume, did not warrant a need for additional outreach for this project on Fort Meade.</p>

			<p>and the Interagency Workgroup Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA. USEPA's environmental justice screening tool, EJSCREEN, can be utilized for screening for potential areas of EJ concern. EJSCREEN can be accessed at: https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen. EJSCREEN provides demographic information on the census block group level. A census block group is the smallest geographical unit for which the United States Census Bureau publishes data. We recommend using this level of data to screen for potential communities. In addition to identifying low income and/or minority communities, we also suggest identification of potential vulnerabilities such as health disparities and existing pollutant exposures.</p> <p>USEPA is not familiar with the "Census District" term or approach used to identify existing minority and low-income populations. It appears from the information provided on page 3-89 and in Table 3-14 Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty Characteristics 2020, the use of the Anne Arundel County Census District 4 may not have accurately identified existing minority and low-income populations within a 1-mile radius of the Fort Meade campus and project site. We note that EJScreen shows that a number of block groups to the west of Fort Meade have higher percentage of people of color in comparison with both the nation and state. Further, EJScreen indicates that block group 240037515002 is in the 80th percentile nationally for linguistic isolation and less than high school education.</p> <p>This identification should inform appropriate outreach to affected communities to assure that communication regarding project development reaches citizens in an appropriate way and their feedback is fully considered. USEPA suggest developing a community outreach plan and include the plan in the Final EIS. Feedback from the community and any mitigation measures as a result should also be discussed in the Final EIS.</p>	
26	USEPA	Other Impacts	<p>Under section 3.14.1 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts it states "the Proposed Action would result in development of land that is currently forested. Minor adverse impacts on vegetation, wildlife, and stormwater would be unavoidable because that habitat would</p>	<p>For consistency with the impact statements for the biological resources section, the impact finding for EIS</p>

			be disturbed or completely lost and replaced with impervious surfaces." USEPA finds the conclusion that replacing forested land with impervious surface would be "minor" to be unsupported by the Draft EIS and disagrees with this characterization. If DoD NSA believes this characterization to be accurate, USEPA recommends including an explanation of its rationale.	Section 3.14.2 Unavoidable Adverse Impacts has been revised to moderate.
27	Maryland Department of Natural Resources (Maryland DNR)	Biological Resources	In order to reduce loss of summer occupancy habitat for this species, we recommend that forest clearing and permanent forest loss be minimized to the greatest extent possible. To compensate for permanent forest loss on the project site, forest conservation/reforestation should be pursued off-site. As required by the Forest Conservation Act, the priority for reforestation should be the first two options provided by the Act: (1) establishing or enhancing forest buffers adjacent to intermittent and perennial streams and within the 100yr floodplains; (2) establishing or increasing existing forested corridors to connect existing forests within or adjacent to the site to facilitate wildlife movement. Conserving a portion of a forest that is comparable in stand composition and age would be preferred for maintaining Northern Long-eared Bat summer habitat.	As discussed in Section 3.8.2 of the EIS, preservation of forested area or reforestation would be factored into the ORAM design process to maintain a campus-like environment while continuing to sustain and support current and future missions. Reforestation with native species would occur on site or nearby to best match the current ecological functions. Groups of three or more landscape trees can be planted as part of reforestation techniques. If reforestation is not entirely possible on site, then alternative sites on Fort Meade would be designated for reforestation where possible. DoD would also consider riparian buffer enhancement within the project area or on nearby sites to offset habitat impacts.
28	Maryland DNR	Biological Resources	Also, there should be no forest removal/clearing (inclusive of trimming branches >3 inches in diameter) during the summer time-of-year when this species is utilizing the forest. That time-of-year is considered to be May 1 – July 31 of any given year.	As discussed in Section 3.8.2, project activities would avoid tree clearing during known roosting periods, which would include the summer.
29	Maryland DNR	Consultations	Projects that have the potential to impact forest habitat of 15 acres or more should also be screened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office (CBFO) at: https://www.fws.gov/office/chesapeake-bay-ecological-services/project-review .	Thank you for your comment. DoD has completed Section 7 consultation with the USFWS Chesapeake Bay Field Office for the Proposed Action.

Key: AST – aboveground storage tank, BMP – best management practice, CEQ – Council on Environmental Quality, COMAR – Code of Maryland Regulations, DoD – Department of Defense, EIS – Environmental Impact Statement, MD – Maryland State Route, MDE – Maryland Department of the Environment, MHT – Maryland Historical Trust, MDOT – Maryland Department of Transportation, NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act, NSA – National Security Agency, OPZ – Office of Planning and Zoning, USDOl – U.S. Department of the Interior, USEPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USGS – U.S. Geological Survey, UST – underground storage tank

Eric Johnson (Private Citizen)

From: [Eric Johnson](#)
To: [ORAM](#)
Subject: Comment on O'Brien Road Access Modernization, Fort Meade, Maryland, Environmental Impact Statement
Date: Thursday, July 6, 2023 2:10:33 PM

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Dear O'Brien Road Project Team:

Amphibian populations are declining worldwide, and amphibians are experiencing high extinction rates due to habitat loss, Chytrid fungus, pollutants, pesticides, and climate change. Potential amphibian habitat is present within the O'Brien Road project area in wetlands and forested areas. Please consider the existing amphibian environment and environmental consequences to amphibian populations in the Environmental Impact Statement, specifically Table ES-1, Section 3.8.1.2, and Section 3.8.2.2. Best management practices for stormwater management should consider practices to minimize amphibian impacts. During construction, disturbance of potential amphibian habitat should be minimized.

1

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the O'Brien Road Access Modernization Environmental Impact Statement.

Eric Johnson
Amphibian Refuge
11225 Morocco Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111
[505-697-1985](tel:505-697-1985)

References:

Collins, J.P., and M.L. Crump. 2009. *Extinction in Our Times: Global Amphibian Decline*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Kolbert, E. 2014. *The Sixth Extinction, an Unnatural History*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury.

McCallum, M.L. 2007. Amphibian Decline or Extinction? Current Declines Dwarf Background Extinction Rate. *Journal of Herpetology*, Volume 41, Number 3, pp. 483-491.

Jennifer Greiner (Patuxent Research Refuge)

From: [Greiner, Jennifer](#)
To: [ORAM; Williams, Jeffrey](#)
Cc: [Spencer, Sandy; Solomon, Patrick D; Lowe, Stacey; Gore, Lamar B; Ziols, Vincent R; Melberg, Carl](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: requesting copy of EIS for ORAM project
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 10:53:38 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-4df2a4w.png](#)

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Thank you, Abbey, for sending the hard copy of the EIS. I've reviewed it and offer the following concerns from Patuxent Research Refuge regarding the O'Brian Road Access Modernization (ORAM) project at Fort Meade:

1. We have concerns about the increase in impervious surfaces associated with roadways, facilities and infrastructure proposed in the Project Area. Specifically, we are concerned about the potential cumulative impact of increased runoff of road salt, sediment, and trash into Midway Branch and other streams leading to the Little Patuxent River, which provides important habitat to sensitive freshwater mussel species.
2. We have concerns about the increase in traffic along MD Rt. 198 and potential traffic backups created during and after construction of this project. Specifically, we are concerned about backups reaching to the intersection of Rt. 198 with Bald Eagle Drive, which is the entrance to the North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge. This intersection already presents a safety risk for USFWS staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors to the refuge's North Tract and was identified as one of five 'hot spots' of concern during the Refuge Road Safety Audit conducted by Federal Highway Administration last year. The refuge and USFWS headquarters and regional transportation staff are working with MDOT now to address concerns and identify opportunities for improvements at this intersection. Do you know whether Fort Meade plans to request a signal or traffic circle at this intersection?

Thank you for consideration of input from your neighboring wildlife refuge on behalf of America's public lands. I'd be happy to discuss these concerns with the NSA team as you begin to work through and address comments received as part of the public comment process.

Jennifer

Jennifer Greiner (she/her)
Refuge Manager
Patuxent Research Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Atlantic - Appalachian Region
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop
Laurel, MD 20708

Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Historical Trust, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Transportation, Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works, and Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor



Rebecca L. Flora, AICP, Secretary

Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

July 25, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Williams, Sr. Environmental Engineer
National Security Agency Central Security Service
Office of Occupational Health, Environmental and Safety Services
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6218
Fort Meade, MD 20755-6218

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE RECOMMENDATION

State Application Identifier: MD20230621-0513

Applicant: National Security Agency Central Security Service

Project Description: Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Proposed Action Includes the Renovation and Upgrading of the Installation Access and Inspection Facilities for the National Security Agency Campus and Fort Meade Garrison, Known as the O'Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM) Project; and a No Action Alternative

Project Address: Intersection of Mapes Road and O'Brien Road, Fort Meade, MD 20755

Project Location: Anne Arundel County

Recommendation: Consistent with Qualifying Comments

Dear Mr. Williams:

In accordance with Presidential Executive Order 12372 and Code of Maryland Regulation 34.02.02.04-.07, the State Clearinghouse has coordinated the intergovernmental review of the referenced project. This letter constitutes the State process review and recommendation based upon comments received. This recommendation is valid for a period of three years from the date of this letter.

Review comments were requested from the Maryland Departments of General Services, Natural Resources, Transportation, and the Environment; the Maryland Military Department; Anne Arundel County; and the Maryland Department of Planning, including the Maryland Historical Trust. The Maryland Department of General Services; and the Maryland Military Department did not have comments.

The Maryland Department of Planning, including the Maryland Historical Trust found this project to be consistent with their plans, programs, and objectives.

The Maryland Department of Planning provided the following comments:

"The implementation of the ORAM project will lead to the construction of facilities and infrastructure to allow for increased capacity for required security processing of traffic and deliveries entering the Fort Meade/NSA campus. Although federal land is not subject to county or municipality zoning or land use policies, the project is supported by the Anne Arundel County

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General Development Plan: Plan 2040, as the plan integrates land use and transportation policy to support development for critical economic areas such as Fort Meade. A key recommendation of the county's Transportation Functional Master Plan is to upgrade county corridors and community cores as well as improve regional corridors to make commutes more reliable (included in Plan 2040 on page 55). The project site/Fort Meade community is located within a Priority Funding Area."

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The Maryland Historical Trust has determined that the project will have "no effect" on historic properties and that the federal and/or State historic preservation requirements have been met, as follows: "No ADVERSE effect on historic properties (DLH - 202302559)."

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) found this project to be generally consistent with their plans, programs, and objectives, but included certain qualifying comments summarized below.

1. "Construction, renovation and/or demolition of buildings and roadways must be performed in conformance with State regulations pertaining to 'Particulate Matter from Materials Handling and Construction' (COMAR 26.11.06.03D), requiring that during any construction and/or demolition work, reasonable precaution must be taken to prevent particulate matter, such as fugitive dust, from becoming airborne.
2. During the duration of the project, soil excavation/grading/site work will be performed; there is a potential for encountering soil contamination. If soil contamination is present, a permit for soil remediation is required from MDE's Air and Radiation Management Administration. Please contact the New Source Permits Division, Air and Radiation Management Administration at (410) 537-3230 to learn about the State's requirements for these permits.
3. Any above ground or underground petroleum storage tanks, which may be utilized, must be installed and maintained in accordance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations. Underground storage tanks must be registered and the installation must be conducted and performed by a contractor certified to install underground storage tanks by the Land and Materials Administration in accordance with COMAR 26.10. Contact the Oil Control Program at (410) 537-3442 for additional information.
4. If the proposed project involves demolition – Any above ground or underground petroleum storage tanks that may be on site must have contents and tanks along with any contamination removed. Please contact the Oil Control Program at (410) 537-3442 for additional information.
5. Any solid waste including construction, demolition and land clearing debris, generated from the subject project, must be properly disposed of at a permitted solid waste acceptance facility, or recycled if possible. Contact the Solid Waste Program at (410) 537-3315 for additional information regarding solid waste activities and contact the Resource Management Program at (410) 537-3314 for additional information regarding recycling activities.
6. The Solid Waste Program should be contacted directly at (410) 537-3315 by those facilities which generate or propose to generate or handle hazardous wastes to ensure these activities are being conducted in compliance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations. The Program should also be contacted prior to construction activities to ensure that the treatment, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes and low-level radioactive wastes at the facility will be conducted in compliance with applicable State and federal laws and regulations.
7. The proposed project may involve rehabilitation, redevelopment, revitalization, or property acquisition of commercial, industrial property. Accordingly, MDE's Brownfields Site Assessment and Voluntary Cleanup Programs (VCP) may provide valuable assistance to you in this project. These programs involve environmental site assessment in accordance with accepted industry and financial institution standards for

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property transfer. For specific information about these programs and eligibility, please contact the Land Restoration Program at (410) 537-3437.

8. Borrow areas used to provide clean earth back fill material may require a surface mine permit. Disposal of excess cut material at a surface mine may require site approval. Contact the Mining Program at (410) 537-3557 for further details.”

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) found this project to be generally consistent with their plans, programs, and objectives, but included certain qualifying comments summarized below.

“Construction of these proposed improvements may require access to Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) right-of-way associated with MD 32. Please coordinate potential permitting with Mr. Trenton Cargile, MDOT SHA District 5 - Utilities Engineer, at 410-8411039 or email at tcargile@mdot.maryland.gov.”

Anne Arundel County found this project to be generally consistent with their plans, programs, and objectives, but included certain qualifying comments summarized below.

“DPW [Department of Public Works]- The proposed roadway and construction plan here is not well conceived, and is likely to have dramatic impacts on streams/wetlands/forest within the project area.

It looks like it was designed, essentially, without regard to those constraints, which seems corroborated by a statement like this on page 3-8: ‘Long-term, negligible, adverse impacts on land use would be expected from development of up to 117 acres of currently undeveloped, largely forested land within the 196-acre project area for the proposed facilities as well as additional and reconfigured roadways.’

OPZ [Office of Planning and Zoning]- As OPZ has no jurisdiction over site development planning on federal land, including forest conservation, stream and wetland buffer protection, we do not have comments to offer.

As the study notes, there does not appear to be significant difference between the two alternatives with regard to long term environmental impacts.”

The State Application Identifier Number must be placed on any correspondence pertaining to this project.

Please remember, you must comply with all applicable state and local laws and regulations. If you need assistance or have questions, contact the State Clearinghouse staff person noted above at 410-767-4490 or through e-mail at sylvia.mosser@maryland.gov.

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U.S. Department of the Interior

From: [Nelson, John V](#)
To: [ORAM](#)
Cc: [Janowicz, Jon A](#); [Darby, Valincia](#); [Deeley, Sabrina M](#); [Foley, Mary K](#)
Subject: DOI Comments on O'Brien Road Access Modernization DEIS
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 10:09:26 AM
Attachments: [FR23-0241 DOI Comment Letter.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

Attached, please find the Department of the Interior's comments on the DEIS for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization project at Fort Meade, MD.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our comments or additional concerns. Thank you.

John V. Nelson

Regional Environmental Officer – Philadelphia Region

Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Department of the Interior

email: john_nelson@ios.doi.gov | phone: 215-597-5012 | cell: 215-266-5155 (24/7)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
Custom House, Room 244
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-2904

August 14, 2023

4112.1
ER 23/0241

Jeffrey Williams
Office of Occupational Health and Well Being
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6218
Fort Meade, Maryland 20755

**RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland**

Dear Jeffrey Williams:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) has reviewed the project information from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the O'Brien Road Access Modernization project for Fort Meade, Maryland. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to renovate and upgrade vehicle inspection and access facilities for the National Security Agency campus and Fort Meade Garrison. The Proposed Action consists of construction of a new Vehicle Control Point along O'Brien Road; construction of a new Vehicle Control Inspection Facility with adjacent Visitor Control Center; construction of a new Mail Screening Facility; reconfiguration of the Mapes Road Access Control Facility on Fort Meade Garrison; improvements of the roadway; demolition of four existing structures; and construction of associated infrastructure, including walkways, inspection canopies, surface parking areas, stormwater management facilities, and utilities.

Comments on Threatened and Endangered Species

The location of the Proposed Action is in proximity to data indicating the presence of federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*); proposed endangered tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*); little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*), currently under review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for listing under the Endangered Species Act; and candidate species monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*).

This project has the potential for tree clearing. There are no known milkweed plants within the project area. Given the proposed minimization activities, such as time of year restrictions and nest surveys, this project is not likely to adversely affect bat species or nesting birds. The Department appreciates that Fort Meade plans to revegetate with native plant species. The

Department encourages the installation to increase monarch butterfly habitat within the project area's revegetated areas and stormwater features to the maximum extent practicable. Changes in species status under the Endangered Species Act would require additional consultation with the Service and may result in new guidance.

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Finally, the Department encourages Fort Meade to use wildlife-friendly construction standards in the development of new structures to minimize bird collisions with windows and impacts of nighttime lighting. The General Services Administration has guidance for bird-safe building design, and the Service is available to provide additional technical assistance.

Comments on potential conflict with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) groundwater well

The USGS operates groundwater wells throughout the U.S. to collect water quantity and quality data for a variety of purposes. These wells are permanent infrastructure and are vulnerable to disruption from nearby construction activity. The USGS maintains an active groundwater well for collecting water level data near the proposed O'Brien Road access modernization project.

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USGS Station Number	USGS Site Name	Location	State	Period of Record
390538076453001	AA Bb 67	Fort Meade	MD	1968-2022

The DEIS should list this well as a site to be safeguarded and describe a process for coordination with the USGS during roadway construction. The USGS Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Water Science Center should be contacted and given sufficient advanced notice before construction near active USGS groundwater well. Efforts should be made to preserve the well and minimize impacts to the data collected at the site.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the DEIS. For questions regarding endangered species and suggested conservation matters, please contact Sabrina Deeley at sabrina_deeley@fws.gov. If you have any questions concerning the USGS groundwater well, please contact Jon Janowicz at jjanowicz@usgs.gov

Sincerely,

**JOHN
NELSON**

John Nelson
Regional Environmental Officer

Digitally signed by
JOHN NELSON
Date: 2023.08.14
10:07:38 -04'00'

cc: Mary Kay Foley, Center Director, USGS Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Water Science Center

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

From: [Gillespie, Joy](#)
To: [ORAM](#)
Cc: jdwill2@nsa.gov
Subject: EPA's Comments on the ORAM DEIS
Date: Monday, August 14, 2023 8:34:14 PM
Attachments: [20230814 EPA Comments NSA ORAM DEIS.pdf](#)

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the O'Brien Road Access Modernization project draft Environmental Impact Statement. Attached are EPA's comments. Please free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Joy

Joy M. Gillespie, Life Scientist
office: 215.814.2793

Office of Communities, Tribes & Environmental Assessment
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
U.S. EPA Region III
1600 JFK Boulevard (3RA12)
Philadelphia, PA 19103
www.epa.gov



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
Four Penn Center
1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2852

August 14, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey Williams
Sr. Environmental Engineer
9800 Savage Road, Suite 6218
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755

HDR 2650
Park Tower Drive, Suite 400,
Vienna, VA 22180

RE: O'Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM) Draft Environmental Impact
Statement, Fort Meade, Maryland (CEQ #20230078)

Dear Mr Williams:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The CAA Section 309 role is unique to EPA. It requires EPA to review and comment publicly on any proposed federal action subject to NEPA's environmental impact statement requirement.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) National Security Agency (NSA) prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed O'Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM) project. According to the DEIS, the ORAM project consists of the renovation and upgrade of vehicle inspection and access facilities for the NSA campus and Fort Meade Garrison. The Proposed Action consists of construction of a new Vehicle Control Point 5 (VCP5) along O'Brien Road; construction of a new Vehicle Control Inspection Facility (VCIF) with adjacent Visitor Control Center; construction of a new Mail Screening Facility (MSF) adjacent to the VCIF; reconfiguration of the Mapes Road Access Control Facility (ACF) on the Fort Meade Garrison; improvements of the roadway to provide enhanced routing and separation of traffic between NSA and Fort Meade; demolition of the existing VCP5, VCIF, MSF, and Mapes Road ACF; and construction of associated infrastructure, including walkways, inspection canopies, surface parking areas, stormwater management facilities, and utilities.

The ORAM project area is 195 acres containing approximately 30 acres of wetlands, approximately 90 acres of forest and 14,449 linear feet of streams including ephemeral streams (642 linear feet), intermittent streams (1,672 linear feet) and perennial streams (12,135 linear feet).

The DEIS evaluated three Alternatives: The No Action Alternative, Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative), which uses an overpass for vehicle movement, and Alternative 2, which is similar to Alternative 1, except a double lane roundabout is used instead of an overpass. The DEIS also included a brief discussion of three additional alternatives that were dismissed from

consideration as they failed to meet the screening criteria. These three alternatives were: Upgrade Existing VCP5 and VCIF Layout, Relocate VCIF to 8400 Area, and Off-site Alternatives.

On August 25, 2022, EPA responded to a notice of intent posted on July 11, 2022, providing scoping comments for the proposed ORAM. EPA's comments primarily focused on water resources, biological resources, air quality, climate impacts, utilities, traffic, noise, hazardous waste, environmental justice, socioeconomics, and cultural resources.

EPA has identified environmental concerns and deficiencies in the NEPA analysis and recommends that these be addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The attached detailed comments include, but are not limited to, recommendations related to water resources, biological resources, climate impacts, and environmental justice (EJ) concerns. We recommend including further analysis, disclosure, and clarification as highlighted in the following pages as they would strengthen the assessment of impacts. Mitigation to offset impacts, including temporal loss, should also be fully evaluated, and discussed in the FEIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the DEIS for the ORAM project. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the comments provided, please feel free to contact lead reviewer Joy Gillespie at Gillespie.Joy@epa.gov or (215) 814-2793.

Sincerely,

**JOY
GILLESPIE**

Digitally signed by JOY
GILLESPIE
Date: 2023.08.14
20:29:21 -04'00'

for Tom Cinti
Acting Environmental Assessment Branch Chief
Office of Communities, Tribes, & Environmental
Assessment

Enclosure:

**Technical Comments on the
O'Brien Road Access Modernization (ORAM) Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Alternatives

EPA appreciates the inclusion of the alternatives that were considered but ultimately dismissed from further analysis; however, the rationale provided (i.e., concerns and design flaws) for not carrying the alternatives forward for further analysis do not clearly align with the screening criteria provided in section 2.2.1 (traffic factors, environmental impacts, cost factors and timeline). EPA suggests revising the discussion to clearly explain how the alternatives did not meet the screening criteria. EPA also recommends providing a comparison table that includes all the alternatives and the screening criteria to enhance public understanding.

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Transportation

Under section 3.3.3, *Cumulative Impacts* it states, “the Proposed Action, when combined with the Mapes, Reece, and Venona Roads widening projects, is expected to have short- and long-term, minor to major, beneficial cumulative impacts resulting from improved traffic flow and increased operational efficiencies. These roadway improvement projects would help offset impacts from increased traffic associated with ongoing development on Fort Meade, including the PAF, CNMF, and East Campus development projects.” EPA understands that several of these and other reasonably foreseeable projects may have concurrent construction timelines. Please discuss in the FEIS which reasonably foreseeable projects have concurrent construction timelines and consider incorporating an annotated timeline of all the reasonably foreseeable projects disclosed in section 2.5. The FEIS should discuss the potential cumulative impact of possible overlapping construction projects on local traffic and proposed mitigation measures, such as detour route signage and public outreach. We also suggest describing coordination efforts between the different project teams to minimize impacts to local community.

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Noise

The DEIS indicates that the noise analysis provided for Fort Meade and the NSA campus was conducted in 2009. EPA suggests conducting a new noise analysis to reflect current conditions and include the results in the FEIS.

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Air Quality

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas

EPA appreciates the consideration of the CEQ *National Environmental Policy Act Interim Guidance on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change* in the DEIS.

EPA finds that the DEIS does not have an analysis or discussion on the climate impact of the potentially permanent conversion of up to 30 acres of forested land to other land uses. The permanent conversion of these acres will reduce the forest’s ecosystem service of carbon sequestration, and carbon dioxide capture. The impact of this reduction on climate change should be evaluated in the FEIS as well as any measure taken to mitigate this reduction. EPA suggests comparing the carbon sequestration capability of the intact forest that will be cleared to the proposed operational land use conditions. To help estimate increases and decreases in GHG

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emissions and carbon sequestration resulting from tree removal and replacement, a USDA document titled “Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Agriculture and Forestry: Methods for Entity-Scale Inventory” https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDATB1939_07072014.pdf may be useful.

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Water Resources

As a number of streams are located in the vicinity of the proposed action, the FEIS would benefit from a detailed discussion of expected temporary and permanent impacts to biological, physical, and chemical characteristics of aquatic ecosystems from the construction and operation of facilities. Potential impacts not only include fill, but the construction, relocation, replacement, or expansion of road crossings, installation of new or upgraded utilities, and stormwater discharges. Issues to consider include:

- Existing culvert crossings may be undersized or create barriers to passage for aquatic fauna and wildlife. We recommend that any existing culverts that may be used or extended be assessed to ensure that impacts and barriers are not created or exacerbated.
- Mitigative actions to improve the quality and functioning of stream and wetland resources onsite, such as upgrading inadequate road crossings and providing additional capacity for wildlife passage may provide beneficial impacts.

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Under section 3.7.2.2 Alternative 1 *Surface Water* the DEIS states, “Proposed land disturbance activities may occur adjacent to, but not within, the highwater mark of existing tributaries and/or surface water bodies identified as WOTUS under Section 404 of the CWA.” Please clarify, in the FEIS, which existing tributaries and or water bodies will be directly impacted by the construction of the project and specify how surface waters may be impacted by the project.

EPA recommends DOD NSA have an Environmental Inspector onsite to inspect and document best management practice (BMP) installation and ensure BMP adherence during the construction phase of the ORAM. The Environmental Inspector should have the authority to stop construction operations if needed to address and document any deficiencies in a timely manner.

Biological Resources

EPA understands the total acreage of converted forest land and vegetation disturbed would depend on the final design, layout, and site of the proposed structures and facilities as well as the constraints of each site. However, EPA finds the information provided in the DEIS is insufficient. The DEIS lacks information on the project potential impacts and alternative that would avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts as required under NEPA 102(c). Please include resource impact estimates in the FEIS to disclose project impacts and inform the alternative analysis and Record of Decision.

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Under section 3.8.2.2 Alternative 1: *Vegetation* the DEIS states, “Soil disturbance could provide opportunities for nonnative and invasive species to establish or spread; however, these impacts would be negligible.” It is not clear how the “negligible” determination was made. Please provide supporting information in the FEIS. EPA also recommends the FEIS include an evaluation of the ORAM’s potential for dispersal of invasive species and a discussion of avoidance or mitigation actions that are expected to reduce impacts during construction and maintenance.

Under 3.8.2.2. Alternative 1 *Vegetation*: the DEIS states “Groups of three or more landscape trees can be planted as part of reforestation techniques. Preservation of forested area or reforestation would be factored into the ORAM design process to maintain a campus-like environment while continuing to sustain and support current and future missions. Reforestation would occur on site or nearby.” EPA does not believe that a tree planting strategy to maintain a “campus like” environment and introduction of “landscape trees” will replace the ecological function of the intact forest lost. If NSA decides to move forward using landscape trees, EPA encourages the use of native species. To reduce habitat impacts and to preserve other ecological functions such as stormwater retention and water quality protection, EPA recommends avoiding impacts to existing forested areas and large trees where possible, especially in riparian areas. We recommend that tree assessment data and a mitigation plan that identifies where tree replacement will be conducted to be included in the FEIS. We further recommend evaluating opportunities for onsite riparian buffer enhancement.

Section 3.8.2 *Environmental Consequences* Alternative 1 provides little to no information regarding the potential impacts to the 14,449 linear feet of streams within the project area. EPA recommend that the FEIS disclose impacts as well as outline specific measures expected to protect surface waters, including post-construction stormwater management. As part of this analysis, it would be helpful to discuss how the proposed stormwater management facilities will protect water quality by addressing pollutants such as runoff from parking lots and roadways including thermal impacts, heavy metals, and petroleum/oils.

In accordance with the March 21, 2023, CEQ *Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Ecological Connectivity and Wildlife Corridors*, EPA recommend that the NSA fully consider habitat connectivity and corridors when designing the layout of the ORAM. This guidance indicates that Federal agencies should consider how their actions can support the management, long-term conservation, enhancement, protection, and restoration of year-round habitat, seasonal habitat, stopover habitat, wildlife corridors, watersheds, and other features and processes that promote connectivity. See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/230318-Corridors-connectivity-guidance-memo-final-draft-formatted.pdf>

Environmental Justice

On page 3-87 the DEIS states, “As defined by CEQ, minority or low-income environmental justice communities should be identified if the percentage of persons characterized as being a minority or low-income population in a given area is greater than 50 percent.” This statement is not completely accurate. CEQ states in [Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act issued December 10, 1997 \(CEQ 1997 Guidance\)](#) Minority populations should be identified where either: (a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or (b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than the minority population percentage in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis, and Low-income populations in an affected area should be identified with the annual statistical poverty thresholds from the Bureau of the Census’ Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty. EPA recommends referring to the CEQ 1997 Guidance and updating the EJ analysis as appropriate.

EPA encourages the use of other methodologies to identify existing minority and low-income populations near or within the ORAM project site. Methodologies are discussed by several agencies including CEQ. For reference, see [CEQ 1997 Guidance](#) and the [Interagency Workgroup Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA](#). EPA’s environmental justice screening tool, EJSCREEN, can be utilized for screening for potential areas of EJ concern. EJSCREEN can

be accessed at: <https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen>. EJSCREEN provides demographic information on the census block group level. A census block group is the smallest geographical unit for which the United States Census Bureau publishes data. We recommend using this level of data to screen for potential communities. In addition to identifying low income and/or minority communities, we also suggest identification of potential vulnerabilities such as health disparities and existing pollutant exposures.

EPA is not familiar with the “Census District” term or approach used to identify existing minority and low-income populations. It appears from the information provided on page 3-89 and in Table 3-14 *Race, Ethnicity, and Poverty Characteristics 2020*, the use of the Anne Arundel County Census District 4 may not have accurately identified existing minority and low-income populations within a 1-mile radius of the Fort Meade campus and project site. We note that EJScreen shows that a number of block groups to the west of Fort Meade have higher percentage of people of color in comparison with both the nation and state. Further, EJScreen indicates that block group 240037515002 is in the 80th percentile nationally for linguistic isolation and less than high school education.

This identification should inform appropriate outreach to affected communities to assure that communication regarding project development reaches citizens in an appropriate way and their feedback is fully considered. EPA suggest developing a community outreach plan and include the plan in the FEIS. Feedback from the community and any mitigation measures as a result should also be discussed in the FEIS.

Other Impacts

Under section 3.14.1 *Unavoidable Adverse Impacts* it states “the Proposed Action would result in development of land that is currently forested. Minor adverse impacts on vegetation, wildlife, and stormwater would be unavoidable because that habitat would be disturbed or completely lost and replaced with impervious surfaces.” EPA finds the conclusion that replacing forested land with impervious surface would be “minor” to be unsupported by the DEIS and disagrees with this characterization. If DOD NSA believes this characterization to be accurate, EPA recommends including an explanation of its rationale.

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Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

November 30, 2023

Mr. Jeffrey D. Williams
National Security Agency
Central Security Service
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755

RE: Environmental Review for EIS for NSA O'Brien Road Access Modernization at Fort George G. Meade, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Wildlife and Heritage Service has determined that this project site is within an area that contains habitat for the Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), which is listed as an endangered species by the State of Maryland and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In order to reduce loss of summer occupancy habitat for this species, we recommend that forest clearing and permanent forest loss be minimized to the greatest extent possible. To compensate for permanent forest loss on the project site, forest conservation/reforestation should be pursued off-site. As required by the Forest Conservation Act, the priority for reforestation should be the first two options provided by the Act: (1) establishing or enhancing forest buffers adjacent to intermittent and perennial streams and within the 100yr floodplains; (2) establishing or increasing existing forested corridors to connect existing forests within or adjacent to the site to facilitate wildlife movement. Conserving a portion of a forest that is comparable in stand composition and age would be preferred for maintaining Northern Long-eared Bat summer habitat. Also, there should be no forest removal/clearing (inclusive of trimming branches >3 inches in diameter) during the summer time-of-year when this species is utilizing the forest. That time-of-year is considered to be May 1 – July 31 of any given year.

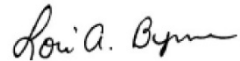
Projects that have the potential to impact forest habitat of 15 acres or more should also be screened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Chesapeake Bay Field Office (CBFO) at: <https://www.fws.gov/office/chesapeake-bay-ecological-services/project-review>. Please be sure to let us know if the limits of proposed disturbance or overall site boundaries change and we will provide you with an updated evaluation.

If the project changes in the future such that the limits of proposed disturbance or overall site boundaries are modified, please provide us with revised project maps and we will provide you with an updated evaluation.

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Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to review this project. If you should have any further questions regarding this information, please contact me at lori.byrne@maryland.gov or at (410) 260-8573.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori A. Byrne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori A. Byrne,
Environmental Review Coordinator
Wildlife and Heritage Service
MD Dept. of Natural Resources

ER# 2023.0979.aa
Cc: K. McCarthy, DNR
J. Thompson, US FWS