



Environmental Assessment for the Lease of Property to Support Construction and Operation of a Solar Photovoltaic System at Naval Support Activity Crane, Indiana

The Proposed Action

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Navy is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) for the lease of property to support construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic (PV) system at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane, Indiana.

The Navy proposes to lease approximately 228 acres of land at NSA Crane to be developed by an independently operated commercial power utility provider for a solar PV system. The generated electricity would supply the existing commercial electrical grid.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to increase NSA Crane's energy security, strategic flexibility, and resource availability through the development of renewable energy-generating assets. The proposed action is needed to assist in meeting federal policies, goals, and standards for renewable energy.

Alternative Site Locations on Base

The power utility provider and/or solar PV developer would construct and operate solar PV facilities at one or more sites. A substation and transmission line would be constructed to connect the sites to an existing on-base transmission line.

Site	Current Land Use	Approximate Size (Acres)	Estimated Electrical Generation (Megawatts [MW])
Golf Course Site	Golf Course	114	23.0
Old Nursery Site	Forested	45	9.0
Driving Range Site	Driving Range/Forested	13	2.5
Wisteria Triangle Site	Forested	10	2.0
Landfill Site	Capped Landfill	36	7.0
Central Site	Paved Parking Lot/Forested	7	1.5
Substation Facility	Forested/Open Area	2	—
Transmission Line ROW Facility	Forested	1	—
Total		228	45

The proposed development areas at the sites have been selected to avoid wetlands. Areas for development have no negative impact to current base or tenant missions.

Scope of the EA

The EA will present the existing conditions at the proposed project sites and evaluate the potential consequences of the proposed action on the natural and human environment. The EA will evaluate potential impacts of the proposed action on the following resource areas: land use, visual resources, utilities and infrastructure, socioeconomics and environmental justice, cultural resources, air quality, biological resources, water resources, hazardous materials and waste, topography and soils, and public safety.

The Navy will be consulting on the proposed action with key agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Proposed Project Sites



The EA will analyze all parcels identified for potential development of a solar PV facility. However, the parcel boundaries may not be representative of the final project footprint. The project will be developed by the power utility provider and/or developer within the identified parcels.



Environmental Assessment for the Lease of Property to Support Construction and Operation of a Solar Photovoltaic System at Naval Support Activity Crane, Indiana

Solar PV Technology

Solar PV technology uses solar cells to convert energy from solar radiation into electricity. The ground-mounted facility to be constructed at one or more sites would include solar PV panels assembled in arrays, as well as electrical equipment (such as inverters, facility components, and electrical lines and wiring) to complete the generation of electricity and connect the solar PV facility to existing electrical infrastructure.

Ballasted Solar Arrays

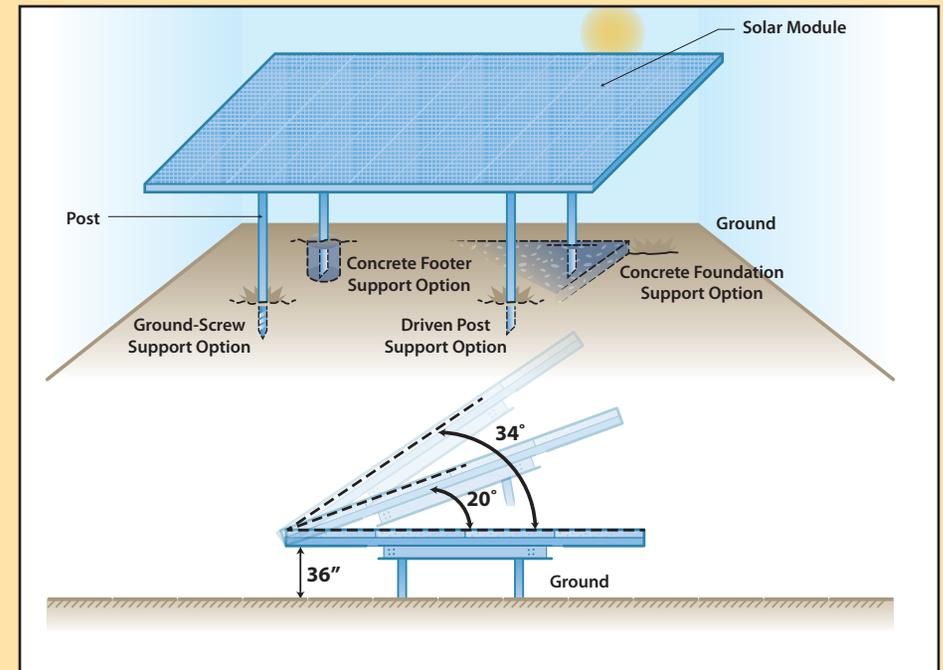


Federal Policies, Goals, and Standards for Renewable Energy

To enhance energy security, efficiency, and sustainability, the federal government has established rigorous policies, goals, and standards for the production and use of alternative and renewable energy by federal facilities, including:

- Secretary of the Navy renewable energy goals:
 - 1 Gigawatt (GW) Initiative: Deploy 1 GW of renewable-energy generating capacity Navy-wide by 2020.
 - By 2020, produce or procure at least 50% of electricity consumed by shore-based facilities from alternative energy sources, and 50% of Navy installations must be “net zero” (i.e., use alternative energy sources to meet or exceed the electricity they consume).
- Executive Order 13693, Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade (March 19, 2015): By 2025, increase the share of electricity the federal government consumes from renewable sources to 30%.
- Other Standards: Energy Policy Act of 2005; 10 U.S.C. 2911(e).

Fixed-Tilt Ground-Mounted Solar PV Construction



For more information on the proposed action, please contact:

Tom Kreidel • Public Affairs Officer

NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic
9742 Maryland Avenue
Building Z-140 Room 302
Norfolk, VA 23511

Office: 757-341-1410
thomas.kreidel@navy.mil

Please provide comments by August 14, 2015