

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF MISSILE MAGAZINES AT NAVAL MAGAZINE INDIAN ISLAND, PORT HADLOCK, WASHINGTON**

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Navy regulations (32 CFR Part 775), and Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 5090.1D, the Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that an EA has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for the Construction and Operation of Missile Magazines at Naval Magazine (NAVMAG) Indian Island, Port Hadlock, Washington.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA was published in the Peninsula Daily News on January 12, 14, and 15, 2018 and the Port Townsend Leader on January 17 and 24, 2018. The Draft EA was made available for public review on the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest website. The public comment period on the Draft EA was from January 12, to February 12, 2018. A NOA of the Final EA and FONSI will be published in the Peninsula Daily News and Port Townsend Leader, and copies of the documents will be available at <http://go.usa.gov/tAr4>.

The Navy reviewed and considered all relevant comments that were received during the 32-day Draft EA comment period. Eleven comment documents were received. Relevant comments included concerns about tree clearing and its effect on wildlife, visual effects, air pollution, and sound buffering, as well as storing missiles on Indian Island. The Suquamish Tribe requested Government to Government consultation, which was conducted in March 2018.

As stated in the EA, the proposed action is not expected to have significant impacts to wildlife, air pollution or sound. The location of the proposed action is not visible from locations off base due to existing forest buffers around the site. Missile storage on Indian Island is consistent with the mission of NAVMAG Indian Island as the west coast ordnance storage center supporting the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet. Commanding Officer, Naval Magazine Indian Island promised the Suquamish Tribe during Government to Government consultation that native vegetation would be used to revegetate areas disturbed by construction where safety and security requirements allow.

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**Proposed Action:** The Navy proposes to construct and operate five new weapons storage facilities near Hoogewerf Street at NAVMAG Indian Island. The magazines would be cast in-place concrete structures with earth berm covers on grade. Site preparation would include clearing approximately 13 acres of second growth coniferous forest, grading, grubbing, constructing berms, landscaping, utility duct trenching, and erosion control. The Proposed Action includes the demolition of three existing ordnance storage magazines, Buildings 17, 18, and 19, and approximately 800 linear feet of Quinault Road. Paving and site improvements would include grading, roadways, curbs, and paved vehicle approach to loading areas, retaining walls, sidewalks, landscaping, signs, and storm water controls. Stormwater would be managed by full dispersion, which would use bio swales to maintain sheet flow water in permeable, naturally vegetated areas located down slope from the site of the Proposed Action. Construction would involve approximately 36,000 cubic yards of "cut" and approximately 38,000 cubic yards of "fill".

Facilities would meet or exceed the useful service life specified in DoD Unified Facility Criteria (UFC). Facilities would include features that maximize energy efficiency and reduce life cycle costs over its 32-year life cycle. The new facilities would include Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) features and comply with Department of Defense (DoD) Minimum Anti-Terrorism Standards for Buildings. Prior to construction, the Navy will obtain review and approval from both the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity and Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide safe storage of modern ordnance to support U.S. Pacific Fleet operations. The Proposed Action is needed because the existing magazines are not large enough for modern ordnance, and there are insufficient numbers of magazines to support U.S. Pacific Fleet operations.

**Existing Conditions:** NAVMAG Indian Island is located near Port Hadlock in Jefferson County, Washington, southeast of Port Townsend, at the northeast corner of the Olympic Peninsula. This island is approximately 5 miles long and 1.25 miles wide, and comprises approximately 2,716 acres. Development on the Island includes a security facility at the main gate entrance, explosive ordnance magazines, an industrial area, administrative support building, truck holding lots, warehousing facilities, station employee-only recreation facilities, ordnance renovation and maintenance facilities, sewage treatment plant, torpedo segregation & inspection shop, waterfront operations facilities,

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and ammunition handling wharf (the Ammunition Wharf). Approximately 26 miles of paved roadways are located throughout the island.

**Alternatives Analyzed:** The EA analyzes one action alternative and the No Action Alternative. Under the Preferred Alternative, the Navy would construct five new magazines specifically engineered for storage of missiles, construct a pre-engineered metal building to both store inert materials and provide a two stall charging station for two forklifts, and construct approximately 3,500 linear feet of new road along Hoogewerf Street. Under the No Action Alternative, the Proposed Action would not occur. The No Action Alternative would not meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action, but represents the baseline condition against which potential consequences of the Proposed Action can be compared.

The Navy considered four alternatives that were eliminated from detailed study: renovate existing magazines, store modern weapon systems at installations outside Navy Region Northwest, Makah Road site on NAVMAG Indian Island, and other NAVMAG Indian Island sites. The proposed action is the preferred alternative because it would: comply with Department of Defense (DoD) Explosives Safety Construction Criteria, comply with anti-terrorism/force protection regulations, locate new magazines in proximity to existing ammunition loading facilities, locate new magazines in areas compatible with future operations, and locate new magazines in areas compatible with future installation development.

**Environmental Effects:** The following is a summary of the environmental consequences of the Proposed Action:

Water Resources. The site of the Proposed Action consists of gently sloped well-defined vegetated channels and glacial till soils. Stormwater from impervious surfaces created by past construction flows within the channels in an easterly direction across the proposed site ultimately infiltrating into the ground. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan would be developed, submitted, and implemented prior to initiating the proposed construction. Implementation of the plan would minimize potential sediments from entering the stormwater. Stormwater would be managed through vegetative dispersion using bio retention and swales. Runoff would continue to flow easterly allowing for stormwater infiltration within vegetated swales.

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Category III and Category IV wetlands exist near the site of the Proposed Action. Wetland buffers will be marked in the field prior to construction and all construction activities, including equipment parking and laydown, would avoid the marked wetland buffers.

Cultural Resources. An archaeological investigation was conducted within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) in 2016 and no archaeological sites were discovered. Three historic ammunition storage facilities determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NHPA) occur within the APE. A program comment (PC) was issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation addressing ammunition storage facilities and provides a one-time DoD wide National Historic Preservation Act compliance act for all NRHP eligible ammunition storage facilities constructed between 1940 and 1974. Since these three ammunition storage facilities fall under the PC, no further consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA is necessary for these resources. The Navy determined that the Proposed Action would result in No Historic Properties Affected. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the Navy's determination in a letter dated June 26, 2017. The Navy also consulted with the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and Suquamish Tribe. Should any cultural resources be uncovered during construction, project work will be halted in the area of discovery and appropriate Native American tribes and the SHPO will be contacted for further consultation.

Biological Resources. The Preferred Alternative would permanently convert 13 acres of second growth coniferous forest dominated by Douglas fir, which is 0.6 percent of the forested area of NAVMAG Indian Island, to developed land and groomed grass surfaces. Groomed areas around the proposed magazines and roadways would be maintained to reduce the expansion of invasive, non-native plant species into those areas.

A bald eagle nest occurs near the Proposed Action site. Any tree cutting within the 660 foot secondary buffer around the eagle nest tree is restricted to September 8 to October 31 only. No threatened or endangered species occur or are likely to occur within the study area of the Proposed Action, so consultation between the Navy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not required.

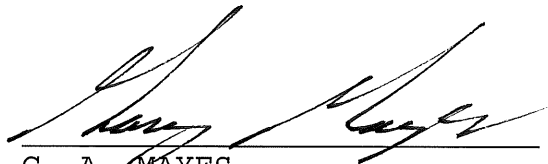
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**Finding:** Based on the analysis presented in the EA and coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and Suquamish Tribe, the Navy finds that implementation of the proposed action will have no significant impact to the quality of the human environment.

The EA prepared by the Navy addressing this action is on file and interested parties may obtain a copy from: Naval Facilities Engineering Command, 1101 Tautog Circle, Silverdale, WA 98315-1101 (Attention: Construction of Missile Magazines NEPA Planner).

4 JUN 2018

Date



G. A. MAYES

Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Commander, Navy Region Northwest

