
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Environmental Assessment for BRAC 05 Recommendations for Closure, Disposal, and Reuse of the Horsham Memorial US Army Reserve Center, Horsham Township, Pennsylvania

FAC ID PA046

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and 32 CFR 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions), as well as policy and guidance provided by the *Base Realignment and closure Manual for Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act*, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with the closure, disposal, and reuse of the Horsham Memorial United States Army Reserve Center (USARC), Horsham, Pennsylvania.

PURPOSE AND NEED

On September 8, 2005, the Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission recommended that the Department of Defense (DoD) close the Horsham Memorial USARC in Horsham, Pennsylvania; and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center with organizational maintenance facility at Willow Grove Joint Reserve Base, Pennsylvania. This recommendation was approved by the President on September 23, 2005 and was forwarded to Congress, and on November 9, 2005, the recommendation became law. The BRAC Commission recommendations must now be implemented as provided for in the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended. The BRAC Commission made the following recommendations concerning the Horsham USARC, Horsham, Pennsylvania:

*Close the Reese United States Army Reserve Center in Chester, PA, the United States Army Reserve Organizational Maintenance Shop in Chester, PA, the Germantown Veterans Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Philadelphia, PA, **the Horsham Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Horsham, PA**, the 1 LT Ray S. Musselman Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Norristown, PA, and the North Penn Memorial United States Army Reserve Center in Norristown, PA, and relocate units to a new Armed Forces Reserve Center with an organizational maintenance facility at Willow Grove Joint Reserve Base, PA. The Army shall establish an enclave at Willow Grove Joint Reserve Base, PA, to retain essential facilities to support activities of the Reserve Components.*

PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed action is the closure, disposal, and reuse of the Horsham Memorial USARC. Reuse of the surplus property made available by the closure of the Horsham Memorial USARC would occur as a secondary action resulting from disposal. The Horsham Memorial USARC, located at 936 Easton Road in Horsham, Pennsylvania, was built in 1959. This site consists of approximately 7 acres of developed land with two permanent structures, a 24,527-square-foot main administration building built in 1959, and a 3,710-square-foot Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) building built in 1959.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternative 1, No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is included as required by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations. The No Action Alternative would be to continue the missions at BRAC-affected installations as they were in April 2010. Because the law mandates closure and realignment of installations, this alternative would not be feasible. Nevertheless, it serves as a baseline alternative against which to compare the other alternatives.

Alternative 2, Caretaker Status

Under Alternative 2, the Army would secure the property after the military mission has ended to ensure public safety and security of remaining government property and environmental remediation actions. From the time of operational closure until conveyance of the property, the Army would provide for maintenance procedures to preserve and protect those facilities and items of equipment needed for reuse in an economical manner that facilitates redevelopment. If the property were not transferred within an agreed-to period of time, under this alternative, the Army would reduce maintenance levels to the minimum level for surplus government property.

Alternative 3, Demolish Administration Building, Reuse Organizational Maintenance Shop, and Construct Recreational Fields (Preferred Alternative)

Under Alternative 3, the Army would transfer the Horsham Memorial USARC to the Hatboro Horsham School District (HHSD). The HHSD proposes to utilize a portion of the OMS to store the HHSD's spare transportation vehicles (*e.g.*, buses and vans) to help reduce congestion at their existing facility. The HHSD would be able to house their tire and wheel inventory and spare parts in the OMS. In addition, the HHSD would be able to conduct light maintenance on vans. The HHSD also proposes to demolish the existing administrative building and use this portion of the property for additional playing fields.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN DETERMINING THAT NO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT IS REQUIRED

The EA analyzed 12 resource areas for each alternative: land use, aesthetics and visual resources, air quality, noise, geology and soil, water resources, biological

resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, transportation, utilities, and hazardous and toxic substances. The analyses in the EA concluded that there will be no significant adverse or significant beneficial environmental impacts resulting from the Proposed Action or alternatives.

As discussed in the EA, implementing any of the proposed implementation alternatives or the No Action Alternative is not anticipated to result in any significant impacts. Consequently, no mitigation measures are required as part of this EA to reduce impacts to non-significant levels.

CONCLUSION

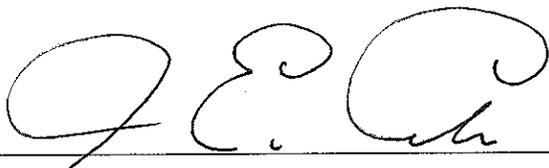
Based upon the EA, it has been determined that implementation of any of the alternatives will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. The Army is committed to implementing the Best Management Practices described in the EA. Therefore, issuance of a Find of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is warranted, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and will not be prepared.

Alternative 3 is the preferred alternative of the Army and the Local Redevelopment Authority, and will be the selected alternative as it satisfies the proposed action. This alternative would also allow future development in support of the need of the HHSD.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

The EA and draft FNSI have undergone an appropriate 30-day public comment period in accordance with requirements specified in 32 CFR Part 651.

The 30-day, public review period was initiated by placing a Notice of Availability of the final EA and a draft FNSI in *The Intelligencer*, and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The EA and draft FNSI were available at the Horsham Township Library, 435 Babylon Road, Horsham, Pennsylvania 19044, Warminster Township Library, 1076 Emma Lane, Warminster, Pennsylvania 18974; and on the BRAC website at http://www.hqda.army.mil/acsim/brac/env_ea_review.htm.



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