

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)  
FOR APPROVAL OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION  
FACILITIES MASTER PLAN PROJECTS AT TRANSPORTATION SAFEGUARDS  
TRAINING SITE IN FORT CHAFFEE, ARKANSAS**

## **1. Introduction**

The Arkansas Army National Guard (ARARNG) and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) have coordinated with the United States (U.S.) Department of Energy (DOE), National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Office of Secure Transportation (OST) on an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOE/EA-2085) prepared by the DOE/NNSA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of implementing the construction and operation of 12 new projects (Proposed Action) identified within the 2017 Facilities Master Plan at the Transportation Safeguards Training Site located on Army owned land at Fort Chaffee,<sup>1</sup> Arkansas. OST completed a Facilities Master Plan in 2017 outlining projected construction projects for the next 5 years to consolidate and modernize facilities within the Transportation Safeguards Training Site. The NNSA prepared the EA in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 United States Code [USC] 4321 et seq.), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500-1508), DOE's implementing procedures (10 CFR 1021), 32 CFR 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, and the 2011 Army National Guard (ARNG) NEPA Handbook.

As set forth in 10 USC §10501 and Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 5105.77, the NGB is a joint activity of the DoD, and as such must comply with the NEPA. At Fort Chaffee, where the U.S. Army is landowner and ARARNG is the installation licensee/operator, the NGB must satisfy an independent NEPA requirement related to DOE/NNSA's proposed federal action. The EA identifies, documents, and evaluates the potential environmental effects of implementing the 2017 Facilities Master Plan for the Transportation Safeguards Training Site at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, herein referred to as the "Facilities Master Plan." The EA also contains a floodplain assessment (in Appendix B of the EA) in accordance with 10 CFR 1022, *Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements*, for review and comment. All discussions and findings related to the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative are presented in the Final EA and Appendices.

## **2. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives**

**Proposed Action.** The Proposed Action for the ARNG includes granting the NNSA approval to implement construction and operation of 12 new projects identified within the Facilities Master Plan at the Transportation Safeguards Training Site located on 219 acres at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

**Alternatives Considered.** The EA considered a No Action Alternative, in which construction and operation of the proposed projects would not occur. Under the No Action Alternative, there

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<sup>1</sup> Fort Chaffee is approximately 65,000 acres in size.

would be no construction or operation of Projects 3 through 14 as listed in the 2017 Facilities Master Plan and in the Final EA. Under the No Action Alternative NNSA would continue to use existing facilities at Fort Chaffee and off-site facilities, which would not meet the current training needs of NNSA OST. The No Action Alternative is considered in the EA's environmental consequences analysis to provide a baseline for environmental conditions.

### **3. Environmental Analysis**

The EA examined the potential effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative on the following Fort Chaffee resource areas of environmental and socioeconomic concern: air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; geography and soils; greenhouse gases and climate change; infrastructure and utilities; hazardous materials and waste; land use and aesthetics; noise; socioeconomics, community services, and environmental justice; traffic and transportation; water resources; and cumulative impacts.

The NNSA conducted a Floodplain Assessment in accordance with 10 CFR 1022 (see Appendix B of the EA). The Floodplain Assessment concludes that placement of paved surfaces (operations support and surface parking lots) and the siting of the building in the Multi-Use Administration and Classroom Building (North Option or South Option) within the 100-year floodplain would not cause a detectable change in base flood elevations, and the facilities would not obstruct the flow of flood water as the floodplain within the area is currently developed. The existing elevations and flow paths of the area within the floodplain are not expected to change with any significance and the nature and extent of the flood hazard caused by the proposed project is not expected to change from the present conditions. No effects to lives and property associated with floodplain disturbance are anticipated. In addition, NNSA included a Finding of No Practicable Alternative (FONPA), per Executive Order (EO) 11988, Floodplain Management (1977), in its FONSI for this action.

### **4. Mitigation**

No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. The NNSA will implement appropriate Best Management Practices and applicable ARARNG conservation measures during the construction of the Facilities Master Plan projects (see Section 3.2.3.3 of the EA). Additionally, the NNSA will obtain all necessary permits and construction site approvals prior to on-site implementation of the Facilities Master Plan projects.

### **5. Regulations**

The Proposed Action will not violate NEPA, the CEQ Regulations, 32 CFR Part 651, or other Federal, state, or local environmental regulations.

### **6. Public Review and Comment**

The Final EA and Draft FONSI are available for public review and comment from 14 August to 29 August 2019 following publication of a public notice in the *Fort Smith Times Record*. The Final EA and Draft FONSI are also available on the NNSA NEPA website at <https://www.energy.gov/nnsa/nnsa-nepa-reading-room>. Comments received during the 15-day comment period will be considered in preparation of the Final FONSI and EA. For further

information on the DOE/NNSA projects, please contact Ms. Lisa Swift, U.S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of Secure Transport, P.O. Box 5400, Kirtland AFB East, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87185-5400, Lisa.Swift@nnsa.doe.gov, (505) 845-4738.

## **7. Draft Finding of No Significant Impact**

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action would not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. Per 32 CFR Part 651, the Final EA and Draft FONSI are available for a 15-day public review and comment period in which comments that are received will be considered in the preparation of the EA and Final FONSI.

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COL, GS  
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