

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR ENERGY UPGRADES TO
STEAM DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM (MILCON P222) AT NAVAL SUPPORT
FACILITY INDIAN HEAD, CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND**

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 5090.1C CH-1, the Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for energy upgrades to the steam distribution system (MILCON P222) at Naval Support Facility (NSF) Indian Head, Charles County, Maryland.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action would construct a decentralized steam distribution system consisting of two primary nodal steam generation plants with cogeneration of 4.3 megawatts of electricity to support critical energetics operations, along with nine secondary nodal plants to support smaller mission operations not served by the new primary nodal steam system. Natural gas would serve as the primary fuel source for the new system and would require the installation of a gas transmission line along MD Route 210 and Mattingly Avenue from Bryans Road to NSF Indian Head. In addition, the Proposed Action would construct a Utilities and Energy Management (UEM) Building to provide space for those functions currently located within and near the Goddard Power Plant. The Proposed Action would demolish 16 buildings (56,500 square feet), including the Goddard Power Plant, Steam B Plant, and support buildings, and demolish or cap and leave in place up to 10 miles of excess steam lines.

Purpose and Need: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to reduce energy consumption, decrease utility costs, improve the reliability of the steam distribution infrastructure, and eliminate reliance on the Goddard Power Plant for steam distribution. The action is needed because the Goddard Power Plant has surpassed its expected operational lifespan and is not meeting all air emissions standards. The existing steam distribution system has also exceeded its expected operational life span, is costly to maintain, and is inefficient and unreliable.

Alternatives Analyzed: In addition to the Proposed Action, one Action Alternative was analyzed in this EA. Similar to the

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Proposed Action, the Alternative Action would construct two primary nodal steam generation plants with cogeneration of electricity, construct a UEM Building, install a gas transmission line, and demolish the Goddard Power Plant, Steam B Plant, and support facilities. However, the Alternative Action would not construct any secondary nodal plants; thus, the steam distribution system would remain centralized and no steam lines would be demolished or capped and left in place. Compared to the Proposed Action, the primary nodal plants constructed under the Alternative Action would be larger and generate more steam to support all of the facilities currently connected to the steam distribution system. Under the Alternative Action, the impacts associated with the primary nodal plants would represent a minor increase relative to the Proposed Action due to their larger footprint; however, this would be offset by the lack of the nine secondary nodal plants and associated demolition and/or capping of the steam lines. While the impacts associated with the Alternative Action would be less than the Proposed Action, the differences are minor and the Alternative Action would not realize the full benefits of the Proposed Action relative to the overall steam distribution efficiency and long-term cost savings due to the retention of the existing, inefficient steam lines. Therefore, the Proposed Action was retained as the preferred alternative.

The No-Action Alternative would not implement the Proposed Action or the Alternative Action. The No-Action Alternative performs the important function of acting as an environmental baseline against which the environmental consequences of the other alternatives are measured. Under the No-Action Alternative, NSF Indian Head would continue to experience significant energy loss, the supported commands would continue to incur high utility costs, the Navy would not meet its goal of eliminating reliance on the Goddard Power Plant for steam and power generation, and NSF Indian Head would continue to be in violation of new air emissions standards.

Environmental Effects: The Proposed Action would result in minor improvements to explosives safety, worker safety, and stormwater quality at NSF Indian Head; moderate improvement to air quality; temporary improvement to income in the local community; and reductions in solid waste generation, groundwater withdrawals, and surface water withdrawals.

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Expected impacts would include temporary increases in noise, traffic, air emissions, and solid waste generation during demolition and construction activities, and a potential for fugitive dust and erosion/sediment from runoff. Additional impacts would include minor to moderate impacts to streams, wetlands, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and Maryland's coastal resources relative to site clearing and installation of the project infrastructure. These impacts would be addressed by applying best management practices and working in accordance with applicable permits and regulations. The Navy submitted a federal consistency determination to Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to demonstrate that the action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of Maryland's Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program. The Critical Area Commission concurred with the Navy's determination, provided that the project Environmental Site Design meets certain requirements for stormwater reduction. MDE did not respond to the Navy's consistency determination notification within 60 days.

Construction, demolition, and decontamination activities within certain areas of NSF Indian Head would result in temporary worker exposure to explosives safety hazards, surficially contaminated groundwater, and contaminated soils. Adherence to an approved site safety plan and Explosives Site Approval, developed in accordance with applicable regulations, would be expected to reduce all associated hazards to an acceptable level.

The Proposed Action would result in adverse effects to historic properties at NSF Indian Head, including the demolition of three buildings, up to 10 miles of steam lines, and up to 5,000 feet of railroad tracks that have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (the Register). In addition, the Proposed Action would result in visual impacts to five historic districts and remove heat from 27 buildings that are eligible or potentially eligible for listing on the Register. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Navy notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Maryland Historical Trust's State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and federally recognized tribes of these adverse effects. Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation is

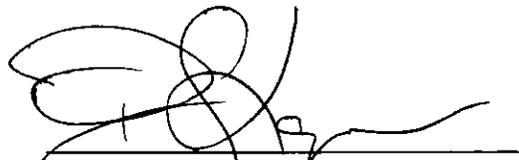
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underway to mitigate the adverse effects to historic buildings within the Naval Powder Factory and Extrusion Plant Historic Districts pursuant to a 2010 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Maryland SHPO for general demolition within these Districts. The Navy and SHPO have completed a MOA regarding MILCON P222 and a separate MOA for the disposal of excess railroad tracks associated with NSF Indian Head. These MOAs include appropriate stipulations to alleviate the remaining adverse effects to historic resources.

Finding: Based on the analysis presented in the EA and coordination with the appropriate federal and state resource agencies, the Navy finds that energy upgrades to the steam distribution system (MILCON P222) at NSF Indian Head would not have significant or controversial impacts on 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 Washington (Attn: William Sadlon), 1314 Harwood St., SE, Building 212, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5018.

2/5/09
Date


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