



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SHIPS

1333 ISAAC HULL AVENUE SE

WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, DC 20376-2020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5090

PEO(Ships) Ser/274

22 Dec 04

From: Program Executive Officer, Ships (PEO(SHIPS))
To: DD(X) Program Manager (PMS 500)

Subj: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR CONSTRUCTION AND
OPERATION OF THE DD(X) WALLOPS ISLAND DUAL BAND RADAR
(DBR) TEST FACILITY

Ref: (a) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA), DD(X) RADAR TEST
FACILITY, CONSTRUCTION AND USE AT SURFACE COMBAT
SYSTEMS CENTER, WALLOPS ISLAND, VA
(b) CNO (N456D) ltr 5090 Ser N456/N4U732535
(c) SECNAVINST 5000.2C, IMPLEMENTATION OF MANDATORY
PROCEDURES FOR MAJOR AND NON-MAJOR DEFENSE
ACQUISITION PROGRAMS AND MAJOR AND NON-MAJOR
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION PROGRAMS

Encl: (1) Finding of No Significant Impact
(2) Notice of Availability

1. The purpose of this letter is to document a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the construction and operation of the DD(X) Wallops Island DBR test facility. Reference (a) is the Environmental Assessment (EA) that supports a FONSI. Via reference (b), the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) has endorsed the EA. It has been determined that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Accordingly, it is considered that with implementation of the following paragraph and any mitigation measures described in enclosure (1), compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act has been effected and, in this regard, the project may be initiated.

2. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations requires public notification of the availability of the EA and of the decision not to prepare an EIS. Enclosure (2) is provided for your use in implementing this requirement, and should be published in the Wallops Island area local newspapers. Upon request, enclosure (1) should be mailed to any interested parties. The EA should be retained in project files for possible future use.

3. Requirements under reference (c) have been met with the development of reference (a) and the CNO endorsement, reference

(b). Questions regarding this FONSI may be directed to Mr. George Filiopoulos, PMS500 Environmental Manager, at 202-799-3007 (e-mail filiopoulosg@nswccd.navy.mil).

C. S. Hamilton
RDML USN

Copy to:
CNO (N45, N76)
NASA (205)
SCSC (M221)
REC
NAVSEA 00L, 04RE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE DD(X) RADAR TEST
FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND USE AT SURFACE COMBAT SYSTEMS CENTER,
A TENANT OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTIC AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION,
GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY, WALLOPS
ISLAND, ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Pursuant to section 102(2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 - 1508) implementing the procedural provisions NEPA, the Department of the Navy gives notice that an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for installation and operation of the DD(X) Radar Test Facility at the Surface Combat Systems Center, a tenant activity of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia (Accomack County).

The proposed action is to construct and operate a Dual Band Radar (DBR) test and evaluation facility with complete communications capabilities for the DD(X) series of surface combat ships. The DBR consists of an X-Band Multi-Function Radar (MFR) and an S-Band Volume Search Radar (VSR). To ensure the successful installation and testing of the new systems aboard ship, this program will require a shore based test facility where these radars and associated communications equipment can interact realistically with existing ship systems in a marine environment. The existing ship systems on Wallops Island include the Aegis Combat System and the Ship Self Defense System. Construction is expected to occur between January 2005 and the summer of 2006. The facility is expected to operate for a minimum of 20 years.

The following alternatives were considered: construction and operation of the DBR at Alternative 1 (Site W-40); construction and operation of the DBR at Alternative 2 (north of V-24); construction and operation of the DBR at Alternative 3 (north end); and Alternative 4, the no action alternative. Alternative 2 was considered but would result in significant limitations on radar operation and environmental requirements. Alternative 3 was considered but would require compromises to facility effectiveness, some extensive, as there are no utilities available in the area, significant limitations on radar operation and because it is just inland from wild dunes. While Alternative 4 causes no change to the existing activities or environment, not conducting initial testing in a controlled

environment prior to the introduction to the fleet will introduce undue safety, schedule and performance risk on the radar platform and fleet sailors. The proposed construction and operation of the DBR at Alternative 1 was selected because it provides the most flexibility for radar operation, building site placement, infrastructure support, and extensive and unobstructed interoperability.

The proposed action will have no effect on threatened or endangered species. There will be no significant impacts on critical habitat, wetlands and archeological or historic resources. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) has concurred with the Navy's determination that this project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the Virginia Coastal Resource Management Program, provided all applicable permits and permissions are obtained prior to action. The shore perimeter security floodlights will be shielded and directed downward as a best management practice to minimize potential impacts to any migratory seabirds and shorebirds that may be transiting the area. By maintaining a clear space around the building with no vegetation, impact hazard will be minimized. The windows will be tinted, not reflective. Since window impact is believed to be caused by reflections resembling sky or habitat, the tinted windows and the lack of nearby habitat to reflect should reduce this hazard. Wetlands do occur in the area of the proposed facility. It is the Navy's policy to comply with the national goal of no net loss of wetlands (OPNAVINST 5090.1). Accordingly, mitigation of the impact to wetlands will be required. Close cooperation with NASA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has facilitated the delineation of wetlands. A Joint Permit Application has been submitted to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and was granted by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the filling of 2.1 acres. Virginia DEQ issued its permit on December 7, 2004. USACE issued its permit on December 14, 2004. According to the permits, the scrub/shrub habitat being destroyed will require mitigation at a level of 1.5 to 1. A total of 3.2 acres is required, but 4.5 wetland acres are planned for creation since there is a probability that *Phragmites australis* (common reed, an invasive alien abundant on Wallops Island) will invade the site. The 4.5 acres of wetlands will assure that at least 3.2 acres are maintained to meet the requirements of the permitting agencies. Sufficient upland has been located and approved by NASA on the northern end of Wallops Island.

There will be no significant impacts from hazardous and regulated materials. All regulated or hazardous materials will

be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable state and federal regulations.

There will be no significant impacts to air quality, noise, or surface and groundwaters. The proposed action will occur in a designated attainment area that currently meets National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all critical pollutants. It is most likely that a hot water boiler will be used to heat the proposed building, which will require a change to NASA's air permit for the proposed boiler emissions of 1M BTU unit. The only anticipated impact is a slight increase in dust and engine exhaust during construction, and exhaust from employee and visitor engines, along with boiler emission levels during operation. There may be some tendency for erosion of the site during construction, but normal sedimentation controls required by the Commonwealth of Virginia should prevent pollution of the surrounding waters. An Erosion & Sediment Control Plan will be developed by the Contractor and submitted for approval before construction commences.

There will be a slight impact on traffic flow and on total consumption of electricity and sewage treatment capacity, easily absorbed by the existing facilities. There may be a slight socioeconomic benefit due to additional jobs, and a slight impact on local schools and housing markets due to skilled employees moving into the area. There will be no disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low - income populations, nor any disproportionate environmental health or safety risks on children.

Based on information gathered during preparation of the EA, the Navy with concurrence by NASA, finds that the proposed construction and operation of a DD(X) Radar Test facility at W-40, SCSC, a tenant of the NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Accomack County, Virginia, will not significantly impact human health or the environment.

The EA prepared for the Navy addressing this action is on file and may be reviewed by interested parties at either:

Mr. George Filiopoulos:

Commanding Officer
Attn: George Filiopoulos, Code 63
Naval Surface Warfare Center
9500 MacArthur Blvd.
West Bethesda, Maryland 20817-5700
(202) 799-3007
FiliopoulosG@nswccd.navy.mil

Dr. Marilyn Ailes

Commanding Officer
Attn: Marilyn Ailes, Code M221
Surface Combat Systems Center (SCSC)
Wallops Island, VA 23337-5000
(757) 824-2082
Mailes@SCSC.wal.nswc.navy.mil

A limited number of copies of the EA are available to fill single-copy requests.

Dated JOHN H. CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR OF SUBORBITAL AND SPECIAL
ORBITAL PROJECTS
NASA

Dated C.S. HAMILTON
RDML USN
Program Executive Officer (Ships)
(PEO(Ships))

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR DD(X) RADAR TEST FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND USE AT SURFACE COMBAT SYSTEMS CENTER, A TENANT OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTIC AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER, WALLOPS FLIGHT FACILITY, WALLOPS ISLAND, ACCOMACK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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